



Islamabad POST

Monday, August 19, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Indonesian embassy celebrates Independence Day

Detailed News On Page-08

Yunus vows to hold polls after reforms

Detailed News On Page-08



Utd's plan for Jong signing suffer blow

Detailed News On Page-06



Vows to reduce line losses

Crackdown on power thieves ordered: PM

He also directed the provincial governments to maintain the number of police force and Tehsildars as per the DISCOs' needs

STAFF REPROT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed the government's resolve to stop electricity theft, reduce line losses, and improve the power distribution system across the country. He informed that recently the government had appointed new board chairmen and members in five power distribution companies (DISCOs) through a transparent process, hoping that these appointments would further improve the performance of DISCOs. Presiding over a meeting held here to review the matters of the Power Ministry, the prime minister directed the Power Minister and Secretary Power Division to coordinate with the provinces to halt the electricity theft, performance of DISCOs and other matters of the sector. "A whole of the government approach should be adopted to resist power theft across the country," the prime minister said. He also directed the provincial governments to maintain the number of police force and Tehsildars as per the DISCOs' needs. He also ordered the concerned authorities to deal with the corrupt elements in the power distribution companies with iron hand and take strict action against them. He directed DISCOs to make the kutchehri system more effective and result-oriented concerning public complaints. PM Shehbaz said the steering committee meeting that was formed in connection with shifting agriculture tubewells to solar energy in Balochistan should be called immediately. At the meeting, the Steering Committee was informed of

Continued on Page 06

Govt taking steps to increase investment in petroleum sector

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday said the government was taking steps to increase foreign investment in the petroleum sector by resolving the key issues of the sector. The Deputy PM, presiding over the first meeting of a committee, formed to consider the issues faced by the petroleum sector's E&P companies and to resolve issues of the industrial sector, resolved to take every possible step to provide all facilities to the foreign companies that would help attract further investment in the country. The meeting considered the recommendations to improve the financial system for off-shore exploration. Deputy PM also directed to prepare a framework to implement the recent amendments made in the Petroleum Policy 2012. Heads of local and foreign E&P companies, on the occasion,

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the matters related to power division, ministry of energy. - DNA

Nawaz, CM Maryam meet British HC

CM informed about the steps taken by Punjab govt to tackle climate issue

KHAYAM ABBASI

MURREE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif on Sunday met British High Commissioner Jean Meriat. The meeting took place in Murree in which matter of education, health and climate changes came under discussion. The chief minister informed about the steps taken by the Punjab government to tackle the climate change issue. Also, the high commissioner was informed about the PI system to monitor the provincial administration that would improve the standard of governance.

Continued on Page 06

'Jeopardising national integrity'

Tarar accuses PTI of anti-national agenda linked to Indian ties

Information minister alleges PTI of aligning with foreign adversaries to further its agenda against Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Ataullah Tarar criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, alleging that its connections with Indian elements have exposed its anti-national agenda. He accused PTI of aligning with foreign adversaries to further its agenda against Pakistan, specifically citing interactions between PTI leader Raouf Hasan and Indian journalists as evidence. Tarar claimed that the collaboration between PTI's founder and Faiz Hameed, along with the party's engagement with anti-Pakistan



Continued on Page 06

Internet neither blocked nor slowed by govt

"Turning VPN on slows down the phone"

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday denied the involvement of the government as the reason behind the recent internet slow-down across the country. Instead,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

New era of oppression is about to begin

Raja praised the people's unwavering loyalty to PTI

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Salman Akram Raja has said it seems a new era of oppression is about to begin in the country. Addressing a press conference, the PTI leader said the Feb 8 elections would never be forgotten. Despite the alarming state of affairs, Raja praised the people's unwavering loyalty to PTI. "This high time you stand up and eliminate fraud from the country," he said, adding that what was happening in the country was shameful.

'US ready for first Black woman president'

If Harris manages to beat Trump, she will become first woman and the second Black person to run America

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: US Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, has claimed that America is ready to elect its first Black woman president. "In my entire career, I've heard people say when I ran... people aren't ready, it's not your time, nobody like you has done that before," the Democrat, who will be officially confirmed as presidential nominee in Chicago next week, said in 2019 when she ran against Joe Biden in the primary presidential campaign. "I haven't listened and I would suggest that nobody should listen to that kind of conversation." But Harris's campaign never took off and she left the primaries race before Biden picked her as his running mate.

"Don't create more bitterness"

Imran 'decides' to hold power show in Islamabad

"We guarantee that there will be no law and order issue," says KP CM's Adviser Barrister Saif

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on Sunday revealed that incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has "decided" to hold a public rally in Islamabad on August 22. "We guarantee that there will be no law and order issue," Saif said during a press conference in Islamabad, adding that the party will try to avoid any violation of law on their part. The PTI leader's remarks come against the backdrop of its months-long struggle to hold a public gathering in the federal capital wherein authorities have time again denied it the permission to hold a rally citing security concerns. In June, Islamabad High Court's Justice Babar Sattar, while hearing a petition filed by the Imran Khan-founded party seeking permission to hold a rally, had directed the party and the city's administration to amicably sort out the issue after which the deputy commissioner allowed the PTI to

Continued on Page 06

Gilani urges stability and unity in Pakistan

DNA

LAHORE: Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Chairman Senate stressing the importance of economic and political stability in Pakistan has stated the nation must work together to overcome its challenges. During a conversation with the media on Sunday, Gilani remarked that the military is fulfilling its duties, and we should refrain from any criticism of the institution. Gilani paid tribute to Pakistan's national hero, Arshad Nadeem, and expressed his deep connection to the city of Mian Channu, which he holds close to his heart. "We are among those who contributed

Continued on Page 06

8 killed as heavy rains batter parts of country

Sukkur plunged into darkness after city received 180mm rains last night

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: At least eight people were killed and dozens others suffered injuries in separate rain-related incidents across the country, it emerged on Saturday night. According to details, heavy monsoon rains wreaked havoc in Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Toba Achakzai, Qilla Abdullah, Ziarat, Pishin, Chaman, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Khairpur and other areas of the country.

Continued on Page 06

HR abuses in Afghanistan; double standards of the int'l community

Their ignorance or reluctance towards an inclusive government would definitely enable no other than IS-K militants who are already engaged in waging of proxies. It is the time for Taliban leaders to get rid of abroad patronage and let the representative leadership to decide destiny of war affected and war scattered people

SHAMIM SHAHID

AMIDST continuous role on the part of international community, especially UN gun-toting Taliban militants have celebrated what they called "victorious return" into power corridors of war Afghanistan couple of days back. Giving a deaf ear response to international community's appeals of "honouring and respecting HR," Taliban rulers on that particular occasion also demonstrated its inhuman and immoral acts of punishing and victimising innocent civilians especially those who remained part of previous regimes or believe in other religious faith. Instead of listening to cries of war affected Afghans who are passing through miserable conditions throughout the world and HR defenders, one of Taliban office holder has defended, "denial of education rights to women" by saying, "similar is the situation in Israel where civilians are subjected to worst kind of violence." On that particular day, instead of answering to stock of queries regarding women and children rights, the Taliban leader Zabih U-

lah Mujahid through X page message "has stressed on the implementation of justice in Afghanistan and warned if justice not implemented the regime will be collapsed." Such remarks on the part of Zabih Ullah Mujahid also confirm that Afghan Taliban duly fear threats to their regime, imposed on Afghans through guns and bullets. No one can deny the fact, that since long the UN and other international organs are helpless before US lead allies who giving preference to its own purposes and interests in war like situations especially prolonged Afghan Conflict, Ukraine and others. Instead building up pressure against Taliban regime as it did against former USSR backed regimes from December 1979 till April 1992, the US has admitted releasing a huge amount of 239 million US dollars to Kabul authorities. Amidst this confession, senior most Pakistani politician Afrasiab Khattak is known for his words, "in according to Doha Qatar agreement, US making payment to Kabul on weekly basis." According to UN statement, "the Taliban's deliberate subjugation of

Continued on Page 06

MURREE SPARKLETTS
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Adeel Butt 03334131756	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------

Naqvi : Prosperity in Balochistan linked to sustainable peace

Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that all stakeholders must come together for the sustainable development of Balochistan

DNA

QUETTA : Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday said that the prosperity and development of Balochistan are linked to sustainable peace. During his visit to Frontier Corps South Balochistan, he praised the Frontier Corps for their exemplary services in maintaining peace under challenging circumstances. Inspector General of Frontier Corps South, Major General Bilal Sarfraz Khan, accompanied the minister. During his visit to the Frontier

Corps South headquarters, the minister paid his respects at the Martyrs' Memorial, laid a wreath, and offered prayers for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks. He also paid tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs of the Frontier Corps. Earlier, he chaired a meeting wherein he was briefed on operations against the Khawarij and anti-smuggling efforts. He was told that over the past six months, illegal goods worth 4.7 billion rupees have been seized. Frontier Corps South is on the front line in thwarting the malicious intentions of the Khawarij.

The minister emphasized that the officers and soldiers of Frontier Corps South are playing a pivotal role in maintaining peace in Balochistan. He expressed pride in their professional skills and bravery, and assured that their needs would be met within available resources. He reiterated that the prosperity and development of Balochistan are tied to sustainable peace, and stressed the need for comprehensive measures to empower the youth of Balochistan. Furthermore, he emphasized that all stakeholders must come together for the sustainable development of Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi laying floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada in Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) Headquarters.—DNA

Political uncertainty fuels economic vulnerability: APBF

DNA

ISLAMABAD - The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) president Syed Maaz Mahmood has said that the economic vulnerability now looms with political uncertainty at its core, as the Moody's Investors Service has recently given a 'credit negative' signal to Pakistan in the face of prolonged political ambiguity and social tensions over election results, which had made it tough for IMF a new program, weaken external economy and make liquidity management more challenging.

The APBF President said that economic and fiscal discipline of the country will be driven under the direction of IMF now, leaving little room for the government to make its way, which has not come up with any plan to fix the economy and provide relief

to the trade and industry. Higher inflation, rising utility tariffs, growing unemployment and, above all, the malaise and despondency among the masses are likely to continue unattended. APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said that the privatization commission of Pakistan is struggling since months to effectively put in place the privatization of loss-making public sector enterprises; notably, the Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan International Airlines despite the urgency and concern expressed, time and again, by the IMF. The election held on Feb 8 in Pakistan threw up a number of surprises with a significant shift in the country's political landscape.

Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the decision-making processes and any constitutional amendment has now been driven and influenced more

by conflicting self-interests of the coalition partners, watering down the key objectives. This is not what the country needs in these unprecedented times of political and economic challenges confronting the nation. Pakistan's government liquidity and external vulnerability risks will remain very high until there is clarity on a credible longer-term financing plan. Experts said that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves remained very low at \$10 billion, sufficient to cover only about nine weeks of imports and well below what was required to meet external financing needs for the next three to four years. Based on the IMF's report, Moody's said Pakistan's external financing needs were about \$22 billion in the next fiscal year and about \$25 billion annually in fiscal 2026 and 2027. The country will need a longer-term financing

plan to meet its very large financing needs for the next few years, after its current IMF program ends in 2024. At present, Pakistan has been assigned a stable rating of "Caa3" by Moody's. It said prolonged delays in the formation of a government would increase policy and political uncertainty at a time when it faced very challenging macro-economic conditions. Hopefully, the coalition government will be sensitive to the social, economic and fiscal issues of the state, which in the meantime have exacerbated further. Pakistan's debt-to-GDP ratio is already above 70 percent and the IMF and credit rating agencies estimate that interest payments on its debt will soak up 50 percent to 60 percent of the government's revenues this year. Debt exceeds legal limit by Rs14.5 trillion.

Parents struggle with rising school supply costs

Hamid karzai greets countrymen on I-Day

SHAMIM SHAHID

ISLAMABAD : As back-to-school essentials shopping is picking up pace with re-opening of the educational institutions in the country after summer vacations, parents are grappling with the higher prices on all the essential school items. Most of the private schools start their new academic session after the summer break and it is a common practice for many parents to buy the back to school essentials for their kids prior to the opening of the schools by physically visiting the designated stationary stores or ordering through the online suppliers. The price of school supplies from glue, color pencils, markers, lunch box, water bottle, geometry box, school bags, and cut box to textbooks, notebooks and uniforms has registered a significant increase which made it difficult for families, especially salaried class, to manage the educational expenses. "I have spent around Rs 20,000 to purchase the textbooks and notebooks for my son promoted in Grade-III while the stationary, uniform and other essential stuff are still to be purchased which I will buy on weekend as the students can wear colored clothes during the first week", Hammad Ali, a parent of two said. Although it has become difficult to bear the expenses of my one school going son who is studying in private schools but we have no option left when the government institutions lack facilities and educational standards, he lamented while talking to APP on Thursday.—APP

PESHAWAR: Dear countrymen! Hearty congratulations to all the countrymen wherever you are on the occasion of the 105th independence anniversary of the country. Dear countrymen, sisters and brothers; Afghans gained independence from their unity and great courage eleven five years ago and became a clear example of freedom to the countries under colonialism. Having independence is a great pride, it needs to be maintained and it can be maintained by freeing yourself from the need of others and developing yourself. The people of Afghanistan have joined hands to protect their country with full

unity and unity throughout the history. Now we should all work shoulder to shoulder to get rid of the need, to get knowledge and understanding and to develop. Our bright future is undoubtedly dependent on the education of the young generation and it is essential that we all strive to contribute to the growth of education. On this proud occasion and in a real sense for a stable and self-established Afghanistan, I once again shout out to the guardian Islamic government that opens the doors of schools and universities for girls in the country as soon as possible, so that girls are equipped with the jewel of knowledge can be used for their own. Along with your brothers, you should contribute

to the development of the country and to get rid of the need. Education and national unity are the strength that will keep our country strong. As Afghanistan is the common home of all Afghans, I hope that every citizen of my country has a place to work and work hard for the development of the country with a sense of ownership and freedom. All the countrymen should come together on one mountain. She and the country should make a way of national understanding to ensure permanent peace and stability. May the souls of all the martyrs and ghazis who made the country's independence rest in peace. Dear Afghanistan, may your head be high.

Efforts being made to extend relief to masses: Gilani

MIAN CHANNU: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, stated that every possible effort was underway to extend relief and basic facilities to the masses and they should be relieved of inflation. He expressed these views while addressing a convocation as the chief guest at a private college. "We are giving the incumbent government the right advice, and I am hopeful that we will soon steer the country out of crises and set it on the path to progress. All political parties should play their role in the country's development and prosperity", he maintained. Gilani congratulated the students who completed their degrees, especially their parents. He said that the youth should make the nation proud with their education and skills and

it must become an essential part of the country's economic development along with their families. The educated youth needs to bring about significant change in society with their acquired education, he said and added that they should introduce new research and innovations in their respective fields. "Our youth is second to none in terms of talent and capability", Chairman Senate observed. Later, speaking to the media, he said that Arshad Nadeem was a national hero and he commended him for winning a gold medal for the country in the Paris Olympics. He said that efforts would be made to establish a university campus in Mian Channu.—APP

1973 constitution given by the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was a monumental achievement while differences of opinion were the beauty of democracy, he informed. "Each one of us should work together for the national interest, he said adding that all political leaders must set their direction with the country's interests in mind", Gilani suggested. He said that the current situation demands that all political parties put aside their differences, come together on one platform, and play their role in solving the public's problems and working towards the country's development and prosperity. Chairman Senate said that efforts would be made to establish a university campus in Mian Channu.—APP

Heavy rain lashes Sukkur

SUKKUR : Heavy rain lashed Sukkur and adjoining areas till Saturday night to filling this report. The rain started after 9pm and continued lashing for a while. It turned weather from hot to little cold and pleasant. The electricity supply was suspended to the city soon after rain started lashing. Speedy gusty winds were also reported before rainfall which was also followed by thunderstorm. Rainwater accumulated on city roads. Reports reaching here suggested that rain also lashed in Khairpur, Ghotki and other areas including Shikarpur, Jaccababul and others.—APP

06 illegal arm holders arrested

RAWALPINDI : In a significant crackdown, Police have arrested six illegal arm holders and recovered arm, ammunition from their possession here on Sunday. According to police spokesman, Gujjar Khan police held Amir, Naem, Sarfraz, and Yasir, each found with a 30-bore pistol. Similarly, Wah Cantt police apprehended Wajid with a 30-bore pistol, while Kalar Syedan police recovered a same weapon from Qasim.—APP

'Selling unregistered medicines is offence'

DNA

ATTOCK: District Drug Controller Ms. Uzma Khalid has said that the District Quality Control Board decides the cases of chemists and pharmacies entirely on merit. Under the Pharmacy Act, it is the responsibility of pharmacy, medical store owners

to provide high quality medicines to the public within the ambit of the law. She expressed these views in a meeting with officials of the Tehsil Chemist Union on the occasion of his visit to Pindi Gheb. Deputy Drug Controller Pindi Gheb Saddam Hussain, Chairman PCDA Attock Aslam Naqash, Patron General Pindi Gheb Chemist Union Haji Nazir

Ahmad Awan, President Chemist Union Pindi Gheb Shaikat Mahmood Bhatti, Senior Vice President Nazir Awan, Senior Vice President Shahid Haider, Vice President Naseer Hussain, General Secretary Syed Zaman Abbas Naqvi, Additional Secretary Asad Mehmood and Executive Member Waqar Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

Kundi concerned over KP's worsening law situation

PESHAWAR : Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday emphasized the critical issue of maintaining peace in the province. He said that the situation was dire when judges themselves were not safe, highlighting the deteriorating conditions in the province. The Governor said this during a meeting with the Peoples Lawyers Forum led by Sardar Hashmat Nawaz Khan Saddozai. The meeting included key figures such as Shah Fahad Ansari Advocate Supreme Court and Divisional President of Peoples Lawyers Forum, Sardar Adnan Saddozai District President, Sardar Hizbullah Khan Gundapur Divisional General Secretary, Sardar Qaiser Zaib District General Secretary, and Abid Awan Advocate District General Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party. Also present were Gohar Rahman Khattak, Provincial President of the People's Lawyers Forum, and Lajbar Khan Khaleel, Provincial General Secretary, Advocate. Kundi assured that he would contact the Chairman of the State Life Insurance Corporation regarding benefits for lawyers. He also proposed that land be identified for a lawyers' colony in Dera Ismail Khan. In addition, he suggested that a judicial complex be established in the Tank area, discussing the matter with the Federal Minister for Law. The Governor proposed allocating a quota for young lawyers in the Judicial Academy that would address the issue of starting LL.M. classes at Gomal University. He also mentioned plans to discuss with relevant authorities regarding the establishment of a Narcotics Court in Dera Ismail Khan. Shah Fahad Ansari, the Divisional President of the Peoples Lawyers Forum, expressed gratitude to Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, acknowledging his role and performance as a significant contributor to the province and particularly to the Peoples Lawyers Forum, of which they are proud. Meanwhile, the delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Hazara Division, led by President Malik Farooq Khan, called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House in Peshawar. The discussion focused on the challenges faced by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in the Hazara Division. During the meeting, Governor Kundi assured the delegation of his commitment to fulfilling the trust placed in him by the party leadership. He emphasized that resolving issues related to federal departments is a top priority, and he will not tolerate any negligence in this regard. The Governor highlighted his focus on promoting sports, engaging youth, and empowering women as key priorities.—DNA

Aggressive tree planting mitigates Pakistan's heatwaves, ecosystem

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan, one of the most affected countries by climate change, faces severe challenges due to escalating heatwaves and widespread deforestation. Although numerous tree planting campaigns are active across the country, these efforts are insufficient to address the scale of the crisis.

Tree planting is not just a strategy but a crucial tool in managing climate challenges, improving public health, and protecting agriculture and the environment. As highlighted by the Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan's vulnerability to climate threats underscores the urgent need for intensified and consistent tree plantation initiatives. According to the Global Forest Watch, Pakistan had 648,000 hectares of tree cover in 2010, accounting for 0.74% of its land area. However, by 2023, the country lost 148 hectares of tree cover, releasing 60.2 kilotons of CO2. Since 2001, Pakistan has lost 9,940 hectares of tree cover, representing a 1% decrease since 2000, and emitted 2.88 million tons of CO2 equivalent. Deforestation, driven largely by

human activities, has been a major issue, with 4.1% of tree cover loss occurring in areas affected by such activities. In 2024, Pakistan has reported 1,534 high-confidence VIIRS fire alerts, a significant increase compared to previous years. The highest number of fire alerts recorded in a year was 1,869 in 2018. From July 5, 2021, to July 1, 2024, there have been 59,835 VIIRS fire alerts. Forest fires, primarily caused by human negligence, are the leading driver of deforestation in Pakistan. Recent fire incidents in June, particularly in Margalla Hills National Park—which spans 12,605 hectares and is managed by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB)—highlight the severity of the situation. These fires, often exacerbated by heatwaves, have become increasingly frequent and intense due to climate change and human negligence. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts. Public awareness campaigns and more educational seminars are essential to emphasize the importance of tree planting and

the need to avoid practices that could trigger fires, such as cooking and smoking in forested areas. Naseer Memon, a renowned climate change and natural disaster expert, stresses that sustainable plantation involves choosing the right species. Ecologically harmful and invasive species should be avoided, and post-plantation care must not be overlooked in the pursuit of high planting targets. Dr. Ghulam Raza Bhatti, a botanist at the Botanical Garden, Biodiversity & Conservation, notes that Pakistan's diverse terrain—from the coast to the K2 Mountains—supports a variety of ecological zones and forest types. This diversity necessitates a variety of vegetation suited to different ecological zones. In Islamabad, the city's undulating landscape offers several areas suitable for tree planting, including avenues, major and emerging arteries, parks, green belts, residential areas, educational institutions, and government offices. Urban tree cover is crucial for enhancing the city's environmental quality. Dr. Ghulam Raza highlighted the need to seek expert advice

before planting saplings, as not all trees are suited to every region or ecosystem. Choosing the appropriate species for the specific environmental conditions is essential for ensuring successful growth and maximizing the environmental benefits. Additionally, Pakistan is grappling with a severe energy crisis, with rising power consumption putting immense pressure on the national grid. To address this, promoting extensive tree plantation—especially of fast-growing species suitable for biomass energy—can serve as a pivotal strategy. By diversifying its energy sources and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, Pakistan can move towards a more sustainable energy future. To sum up, prioritizing large-scale tree plantation is more than just a conservation initiative; it's a holistic approach to tackling Pakistan's environmental, social, and economic issues. This strategy not only helps in disaster resilience and public health improvement but also contributes to energy conservation and sustainable development.—DNA

The Smooth Moving Connection

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92-51) 2825132, 2274227.
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Branch Offices

Karachi Plot No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Kalkhathar Road, Main Sarg Road, 17D Block 2, P.E.C.H.S. Karachi. Tel: (+92-21) 3630008, 34319478. Fax: (+92-21) 34321747. Email: karachi@freelinemovers.com	Lahore F-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92-42) 3579881, 3579108. Fax: (+92-42) 3579142. Email: lahore@freelinemovers.com	Peshawar Office No. C-8, 2nd Floor, Zafar Plaza, Laff Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92-91) 2825778. Fax: (+92-91) 2825920. Email: peshawar@freelinemovers.com	Kabul House #4, Street #4, Charahi Anvari Road, Shahr-e-Nau, Kabul - Afghanistan. Tel: (+92-902) 177, 63 79756 658, 63 77940 208. Email: kabul@freelinemovers.com
---	---	---	---

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 Exchange.....9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

August 19 declared black day in Parliamentary history: Ayaz

Speaker praised the bravery and perseverance of all the parliamentarians, staff and security personnel of the Parliament, for defending the Parliament under such hostile circumstances

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Sunday said that August 19 will always be remembered as the darkest day in the parliamentary history of the country. The speaker said, "Ten years ago, on this day, a conspiracy against democracy was hatched, and the Parliament House was besieged and ransacked by the workers of so-called political parties." "Shameful act is highly condemnable in every sense of the word. Parliament, being the supreme institution, deserves respect and dignity", he expressed these views in his message on the eve of completion of 10 years of

the attack on the Parliament. He also underscored that protecting the sanctity of the Parliament is a collective responsibility and violating the sanctity of Parliament is unimaginable for any democratic individual. He lamented that the heartbreaking memories of the day would remain etched in the minds of the people and keep reminding them of the attack on democratic values and principles. He also noted that the attack on the parliament was not only an attack on democracy but also a blow to the basic pillars of the State. The Speaker praised the bravery and perseverance of all the parliamentarians, staff and security personnel of the Parliament, for defending the Parliament under such hostile circumstances. The



Speaker also appreciated the role of the leadership and MPs of the then government, the largest opposition party in the Parliament including the Pakistan Peoples Party and other political parties

as they played an active role in thwarting the attack on the Parliament and the heinous conspiracy against democracy. He said that during the heinous attack on Parliament in August 2014 the passage of the MPs was blocked off and attempts were made to paralyze the democratic process. He also said that an abortive attempt was made, but the Members of Parliament bravely foiled this nefarious conspiracy. He also said that the 2014 protests and sit-ins compromised the image of Pakistan around the world. He said that because of sit-ins outside the Parliament, the President of China had to cancel his visit, and as a result, Pakistan lost foreign investments worth billions of dollars.

He remarked that such attacks have further strengthened our determination and resolve to protect democratic institutions. The Speaker urged the people to unite and keep on playing their constructive role to protect democracy in the country. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah in his message said that the attack on Parliament during 2014 was a tragic incident. He said that these attacks indicated the ill intentions of those involved in sit-ins, which were tantamount to weakening the democratic institutions and democratic system. The Deputy Speaker stressed the need for all political parties to take essential steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

PTI severely damaged country's political landscape: Talal

ISLAMABAD : Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Senator Talal Chaudhry said on Sunday that the Pakistan Tehreek

e-Insaf (PTI) government, during its four-year tenure, severely damaged the country's economic and political landscape. Reacting to an

alleged chat with an Indian journalist by Raof Hassan, Talal Chaudhry claimed that Hassan had been in contact with anti-Pakistan foreign

journalists, including those from India. He further alleged that PTI's team was advising the IMF against making deals with Pakistan

at the time, and that Hassan was sharing sensitive material with anti-Pakistan journalists. He said that the chaos and divisive politics in Pakistan were not the result of a single individual, but involved various politicians, political parties, and even individuals within institutions. Chaudhry alleged that efforts to weaken Pakistan were orchestrated by multiple actors. He as-

serted that now, there will be zero tolerance for anti-state elements. Stressing the need to improve the quality of life for ordinary citizens, Talal Chaudhry said, "Pakistan is here to stay, and we must strengthen its economy once again." He urged other political parties and institutions to engage in the process of accountability, insisting that it is vital for the country. —APP

Economy cannot grow in the presence of IPPs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that it is a worthy endeavour to provide relief to energy consumers in the province of Punjab. He said the provincial government's announcement to give consumers a relief of 14 rupees per unit on electricity bills is a laudable move. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that other provinces should also follow Punjab and give relief to the people. Provinces can manage resources using surplus funds or cutting assembly members' development budgets. The business leader said in a statement today that provinces can also cut expenditures in various sectors, reduce development funds, and divert the money for the badly needed relief program as almost half of the developmental funds

are wasted. Electricity bills have troubled people across the country. The bills have increased house rents, and most of the country's population has been unable to pay them and the increased tariffs is bankrupting the masses and the businesses. Since power bills are bankrupting businesses, it is also contributing to unemployment, reduced taxes, sluggish production and overall economic downturn, he observed. He said that in these disappointing circumstances, the historic electricity relief package for Punjab by the leader of Muslim League (N) Nawaz Sharif is certainly a people-friendly initiative. According to this initiative, those using 500 units per month will get a relief of Rs 14 per unit, provided in August and September bills. Up to 500 units, the introductory tariff rate is Rs 37 to Rs 38 per unit. After Rs 14 relief, it will be Rs 24, he informed. In this regard, PML-N leader Nawaz Sha-

rif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said in a press conference that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should also reduce electricity prices. Appreciating the relief package, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that work is being done to find a lasting solution to the reduction in electricity prices. Shahid Rashid Butt said that heavy electricity bills, indirect taxes, and IPPs agreements have made life difficult for people. Currently, 49 billion dollars are paid to IPPs that run only 85 hours. Employees of electricity companies are given free electricity worth 15 billion rupees annually. The government of Punjab has decided to continue the relief and provide the people with cheap electricity through solar panels worth seven hundred billion rupees. According to Shahid Rashid Butt, the government must take into consideration the plans that the electricity

bureaucracy is attempting to carry out against the solar industry. In countries that have civilized societies, the government provides three to four times the benefit to people who generate surplus electricity through solar power. However, in this country, one unit is returned to the consumer for three units, which can be called daylight robbery. There is not a single place in Pakistan where the authorities of the energy company do not permit the installation of solar panels without first accepting a bribe and the Islamabad Electric Supply Corporation is at the forefront of this bribery, making life difficult for the people, he informed. He said that it is common knowledge that a solar company must first bribe the DISCO officials to get their projects approved in order to operate in the market. Top officials are aware of this, but they have chosen to remain silent and promote this practice.

Punjab Speaker emphasizes power of unity

Speaker Urges Public to Fight Plastic Pollution

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan has called upon citizens especially students and educated individuals to join forces in the fight against plastic pollution, emphasizing that it is a collective responsibility that requires immediate attention and action. By treating plastic pollution as a national duty, we can work together to create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for ourselves and future generations, he said while talking to PTV news channel. He appealed to the public to adopt eco-friendly alternatives and make conscious choices in their daily lives to reduce plastic usage. Khan's call to action underscored the critical need for a paradigm shift in our behavior towards plastic use, recognizing the intrinsic link between environmental conservation and national responsibility. He stressed that schools and universities must incorporate environmental education into their curricula, empowering students with knowledge and skills to become eco-warriors. By instilling a sense of environmental stewardship in the younger generation, we can create a ripple effect of change that can help mitigate the plastic pollution crisis, he mentioned. Furthermore, Khan emphasized the need for community-led initiatives to tackle plastic pollution. —DNA

Youth urged to take lead in shaping Pak destiny

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Sunday emphasized the crucial role of Pakistan's talented young generation in driving the country towards development, stressing that their energy, creativity, and innovative ideas were essential for propelling the nation forward. Talking to a private news channel, Khan highlighted the significance of empowering and engaging the youth in the development process, as they possess the potential to bring about transformative change and shape a brighter future for Pakistan. The Chairman also

highlighted the need for youth to adopt a positive mindset, focusing on hope, resilience, and optimism. He believed that by spreading positivity, the youth could create a ripple effect, inspiring others to work towards a brighter future for Pakistan. Mashhood also emphasized that the PM's pro-women initiatives are a testament to his dedication to creating a more inclusive and equitable society. He noted, "Government is working tirelessly to address the challenges faced by women and to provide them with the resources and support they need to succeed." The Chairman also highlighted the im-

portance of women's participation in the country's development, stating that empowering women is essential for achieving sustainable growth and prosperity. He urged women to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the government and to play an active role in shaping their own futures. "By supporting women's empowerment, the government aims to create a brighter future for all Pakistanis," Mashhood added. He expressed his optimism that the PM's initiatives would bring about positive change and pave the way for a more gender-inclusive society. —APP

RWMC sanitation drive in full swing during rains

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) had deputed additional sanitary workers to clean and dredge major drains to avoid urban flooding. According to the RWMC spokesman, the company was making all-out efforts to clear the city of any problems and carrying out the cleanliness of nullahs and choked drains during continued intermittent rainfall. He said that additional staff had been assigned duties in three shifts to ensure cleanliness around the clock so that some sanitation-related problems could not become hurdles in the smooth flow of water. He said that complaints received on social media platforms were also being addressed promptly. Meanwhile, the communication teams of RWMC were carrying out its anti-dengue awareness campaign in various areas of the city to create awareness about the growth, incidence, treatment, and prevention of dengue. The teams also distributed waste bags and leaflets among the masses and educated them about the importance of cleanliness and the prevention of dengue. In a message, RWMC has requested the people to keep an eye on junkyards, schools and under-construction buildings which lead to the spread of dengue larvae and also make sure to leave no place wet or with stagnant water.—APP

Railways to restore Sir Syed Express on Sep 1

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Railways has decided to restore Sir Syed Express (35UP/36DN) between Karachi Cantonment to Rawalpindi from September 1 under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). The Sir Syed Express (35UP) will depart from Karachi Cantonment at 9:00 PM via Hyderabad, Khanpur, Khanewal, Faisalabad, Sangla Hill, Wazirabad, Gujrat, and Jhelum, before arriving in Rawalpindi at 8:55 PM the following day, an official told APP. Likewise, he said the Sir Syed Express (36DN) will leave Rawalpindi at 1:30 PM and follow the same route, reaching Karachi Cantonment at 1:50 PM the next day. He said the train will comprise one AC Sleeper, one AC Business class, one AC Standard class, four Economy Class coaches, a Dining Car, a Brake Van, and a Power Plant. The official said that the scheduled stops include Drigh Road, Hyderabad, Rohri, Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Faisalabad, Sangla Hill, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Gujrat, and Jhelum. Additionally, he said that on its journey from Rawalpindi to Karachi, the train will make a stop at Landhi Railway Station.—APP

AIOU expands its network worldwide

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is receiving global recognition due to its digitalization and considering that the university has expanded its reach worldwide. In addition to Pakistanis residing in any country, the university offers 60 educational programs for international students, said a press release yesterday. In the Spring 2024 semester, 1,003 international students have been enrolled from 36 countries, with 47% being male students and 53% female students. These countries include Australia, Russia, South Korea, Japan, China, the USA, the UK, Ireland, Canada, France, Spain, Sweden, Greece, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Turkey, Taiwan, Botswana, South Africa, Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Qatar, Iraq, Kurdistan, Jordan, Oman, and Kuwait. Admissions for the Fall 2024 semester are going on. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has set a target to increase the number of international.—APP

NOW OPEN AT BHERA SERVICE AREA (NORTH)

WIDE VARIETY OF LIVE FOOD STATIONS
OFFERING QUICK SERVICE & CONVENIENCE



75+ ITEMS BELOW
RS. 250 PER HEAD

50+ MEAL DEALS BELOW
RS. 550 PER HEAD

TIMINGS: 12PM TO 12AM DAILY
CONTACT US: 0308 2108000 / 0309 2108000

Briefs

Ghulam
Ahmed
Chishti
remembered

ISLAMABAD: Renowned music composer Ghulam Ahmed Chishti also known as Baba Chishti was remembered on the occasion of his birth anniversary on Saturday. Born on August 17, 1905, in Jalandhar, Chishti became fond of music in his childhood. He was later noticed by a stage play director Agha Hashar Kashmiri when Chishti came to Lahore in 1934 and hired his services to assist him with his work. Under Kashmiri's influence, Chishti began learning the intricacies of the music industry and trained with him. Upon Kashmiri's death, Chishti joined a recording company and began composing on his own. Amongst his first records were those for Jaddanbai and Amirbai Karnataki before partition. Chishti had introduced Noor Jehan to the Lahore stage when she was nine years old in 1935. He started his career composing music for the films with Deem-o-Dunya in 1936. Once he got some recognition, he was offered to compose music for L. R. Shori's film Sohni Mahal in 1938. He became known for his compositions both in Urdu and Punjabi languages. In Chishti's career, things took a drastic turn for the better, after the independence of Pakistan. He decided to migrate to Pakistan in 1949 and offered his services as a musician to the Pakistani film industry. He composed music for three films in 1949. His initial compositions for Sachai, Mundri and Pheray (1949) were simultaneously produced. Pheray (1949) became a blockbuster hit and earned plaudits for the composer. It is reported that the six songs in the film were written, composed and recorded in a single day. Later in 1955, the Punjabi film Pattan (1955) came along and became a musical hit film for Baba Chishti and boosted his career and he became a well-sought-after music director by the film producers after the box-office success of this film. Chishti excelled at Punjabi compositions and had great influence on filmmusic. With almost 5,000 tunes to his credit, he composed scores for over 140 films and was the first musician to reach the '100 films' threshold in newly independent Pakistan after 1947. Being a poet, he had written lyrics for 12 of the most popular Pakistani film songs besides writing hundreds of other film songs during his career.—APP

Hundreds flock to the Indonesian Expo 2024

The Indonesian Expo aims to provide a vibrant cultural backdrop to the business-oriented events as well as programs related to people-to-people contact. Among schedules on the stage are traditional and cultural shows including Indonesian martial arts called Pencak Silat, creative and religious performances by Indonesian students in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad has been successfully attracting more public attention through the Indonesian Expo 2024 at the Centaurus Mall, 16-18 August 2024. The Expo is the first of its kind ever held in the iconic shopping center in Islamabad, as part of a series of events to commemorate the 79th Anniversary of the Indonesian Independence Day. The Indonesian Expo aims to provide a vibrant cultural backdrop to the business-oriented events as well as programs related to people-to-people contact. Among schedules on the stage are traditional and cultural shows including Indonesian martial arts called Pencak Silat, creative and religious performances by Indonesian students in Pakistan, and theme-based discussions on crucial issues to bring Indonesia and Pakistan closer in trade, tourism, and investment as well as education and religious moderation. Many options are available



during the Expo to elevate public awareness about Indonesia. Thousands of enthusiastic visitors look enjoyed the Expo atmosphere by visiting photo booths designed in an iconic Indonesian heritage background such as Rumah Gadang from West Sumatera Province and the Embassy's vehicle in Pakistan's truck art with Indonesian motifs. Moreover,

the curious visitors also seem interested in reading the Indonesian short history through a miniature museum and historical display. During the main session of the Indonesian Independence Day celebration on 17 August 2024, the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires (CDA) Mr. Rahmat Hindiartha Kusuma highlighted the Embassy's two priority

areas of diplomacy in Pakistan; stronger economic relations and closer people-to-people contact. The Expo is designed as a fusion of commerce and culture to portray Indonesia's dynamic economic growth and cultural diversity. "We have cordial political and diplomatic relations. In turn, we need to translate it into more concrete works. In-



donesia has huge potentials and opportunities in many sectors that the Pakistani counterparts can further explore. The Centaurus as our option for current Expo aims to bring peoples of the two brotherly countries closer," he said in front of Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas, CEO Centaurus as the Expo's Chief Guest, and hundreds of visitors in the biggest Mall in Islama-

bad. In his remarks, Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas expressed his appreciation to the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad for selecting the Centaurus Mall as the venue for the Indonesian Expo 2024. "Everyone should learn from the Embassy of Indonesia for very active diplomacy in bringing peoples of the two brotherly countries even closer. We make the Centau-

rus Mall as a perfect place for other foreign missions in promoting their respective countries in Pakistan. So it is expected that all Pakistani people can learn from other countries such as Indonesia in successfully reaching its great achievement," he said both in English and Urdu to transfer as more insights as possible to the audience.

Pakistan a Bridge between China and the ME

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Speakers deliberated on the synergy between the needs and interests of China, Middle Eastern states and Pakistan. The speakers expressed their respective views while participating in an event titled "China, Middle East, and the Role of Pakistan" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). Ms. Nabila Jaffer, Research Analyst, leading China program at the IRS in her introductory remarks highlighted the changing regional economic and security dynamics due to China's relations with the Middle East beyond energy sources. The session discussed and explored the growing engagement of China in

the Middle East, backed by aligning interests and values. This was complemented by how Pakistan can facilitate integration, collaboration and cooperation by leveraging pivotal location. The key speakers included Prof. Azhar Ahmad, senior professor of IR, an author and commentator; Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, CEO of Asian Institute of Eco-civilization, Research, and Development (AIERD); and Dr. Munawar Hussain, faculty member at Quaid-i-Azam University. The event was attended by diplomats, researchers, academics, journalists and students. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Azhar Ahmad began by emphasizing the historical and anti-imperialistic foundations of China's foreign policy, he highlighted

that China's role as a mediator for the Global South. He highlighted remarkable examples such as its mediation efforts for Saudi-Iran rapprochement in 2023 and recent initiative to unite 14 Palestinian factions for bringing peace and stability. Prof. Ahmad noted that China's trade with the Middle East has seen significant growth, surpassing that of the United States. He proposed that Pakistan, with its strategic importance, could help elevate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a broader regional initiative linking China with the Middle East, Africa and beyond. According to Prof. Ahmad, Pakistan, with its cheap labour and understanding of both Chinese and Middle Eastern cultures, can help align

these interests effectively. Dr. Munawar Hussain provided an in-depth analysis of China as a key international actor, elaborating on its Middle East policy and exploring the potential role that Pakistan can play in this context. He portrayed China as an 'old wise man' highlighting its patience in foreign policy, its history of avoiding colonialization, adhering to a non-interventionist policy since the era of Mao Zedong, and its primary foreign policy aspiration of achieving economic wellbeing. Dr. Hussain discussed China's foreign policy shift from socialism to neoliberalism, aimed at fostering a multipolar world. He also noted China's consistent pro-Palestinian stance and its position as the largest oil importer from the Middle East.

Pak honors Chinese scientist with Tamgha-i-Quaid-e-Azam

ISLAMABAD: Prestigious Tamgha-i-Quaid-e-Azam award was bestowed upon Chinese scientist Liu Xinmin for his outstanding contribution to bilateral relations and scientific advancement. Announcement to this effect was made at a ceremony held on the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. Professor Liu, the Chief Scientist of the Institute of New Drug Technologies at Ningbo University and Co-Director of the Sino-Pakistani Co-operation Centre on Traditional Chinese Medicine (SPCCTM) received this national honor in recognition of his pivotal role in fostering Sino-Pakistani cooperation in traditional medicine. The announcement highlighted Professor Liu's pioneering achievements since he spearheaded the establishment of the SPCCTM in 2021 – the first of its kind in Pakistan at the national level. This center has catalyzed fruitful international collaborations between over 30 Chinese and Pakistani enterprises engaged in research and development, education, medical services, and production of traditional medicine products, particularly in the fields of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Unani Tibb. With Professor Liu's efforts, partnerships were forged between Chinese institutions such as the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development and Laboratory Animal Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the Institute of Agricultural Products Processing, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, and the Xinjiang Uygur Medical and Pharmaceutical Research Institute, among others. These institutions collaborated with Pakistani counterparts like the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) at the University of Karachi, Hamdard University, etc. Together, they have accomplished remarkable feats, including authenticating the origins of over 20 Pakistani herbal medicines, evaluating the pharmacological effects of more than 50 components, and publishing over 30 academic papers in international journals.—APP

Gwadar Free Zone inks agreement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a fresh strategic move, Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ) has inked a comprehensive economic agreement with Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone (XPFTZ) to build a new pattern of interactive development for logistic, trade, and commercial growth under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Gwadar Free Zone signed the economic pact and forwarded it to the administration of Xinjiang Pilot Free Trade Zone for needful action, Gwadar Port Authority official told Gwadar Pro. China Industry Overseas Development Association is also part of the agreement to expedite coordinated development of the two regions, he added. "It has been agreed by the contracting parties to jointly promote the economic development of the two trade zones. Cooperation in the fields of energy, textile, agricultural products, trade,

Governor Kundi Leads 2024 Independence Day Celebrations in Peshawar Diplomats

HUMERA AMBAREEN

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi made a significant and strategic move during Pakistan's 77th Independence Day celebrations in Peshawar by bringing together diplomats from the United States, Iran, and Afghanistan. This wasn't just a ceremonial gesture but a calculated decision highlighting Kundi's understanding of global politics and his commitment to positioning Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as a critical player in regional diplomacy. By facilitating this gathering, Kundi demonstrated that even amid challenging global relations, Pakistan can be a platform for dialogue, cooperation, and peace. Why This Gathering Matters The United States and Iran have long had a tense relationship, marked by disagreements over nuclear policy, regional influence, and a history of mutual suspicion. Afghanistan, caught in the middle, has been a battleground for these and other powers, struggling to find stability and peace. Given these dynamics, bringing representatives from these three nations together in Peshawar was no small feat. Governor Kundi's decision to host these diplomats during Independence Day sent a clear message: Pakistan is ready to engage with all sides, even those often at odds. This event showed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a region frequently associated with conflict and security issues, is also a place where critical international discussions can begin. The gathering wasn't just about celebrating Pakistan's past; it was about showcasing the country's potential role in shaping a more peaceful and cooperative future for the region. What This Means for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has long been at the crossroads of regional conflict, particularly because of its proximity to Afghanistan. For years, the province has been seen primarily through the lens of security—dealing with the spillover effects of war, the challenges of refugee influxes, and the impacts of terrorism. However, Governor Kundi's initiative shows that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can be much more than a frontline in these struggles—it can be a hub for diplomacy and international cooperation. By bringing together diplomats from the U.S., Iran, and Afghanistan, Kundi



highlighted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's strategic importance not just within Pakistan, but on the global stage. This event has the potential to shift how the province is perceived internationally. Rather than being seen solely as a region affected by conflict, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can now be viewed as a place where meaningful discussions and peace-building efforts can take place. For the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, this shift in perception is crucial. Increased international attention could lead to more investment in the province, boosting its economy and creating new opportunities for its residents. The province's enhanced status could also lead to greater political influence within Pakistan, giving its leaders more leverage in national and international decision-making processes. Kundi's actions have opened the door for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to play a key role in shaping the future of the region, particularly about Afghanistan. The Bigger Picture for Pakistan From a national perspective, this gathering reflects Pakistan's strategic interests in maintaining and enhancing its role in international relations. In a world where global alliances are constantly shifting, and regional tensions remain high, Pakistan's ability to engage with major global powers is crucial. The presence of U.S., Iranian, and Afghan diplomats at the same event underscores Pakistan's potential to serve as a mediator, a neutral ground where important discussions can take place. This is especially relevant in the context of Afghanistan. As Afghanistan continues to seek stability, Pakistan's role as a facilitator of dialogue among the key players will be vital. Governor Kundi's initiative sends a clear message that Pakistan is ready to support peace efforts and to help bring stability to the region. This aligns with Pakistan's broader foreign policy goals of maintaining balanced relationships with global powers while advocating for peace and stability in its neighbourhood. Furthermore, the involvement of the United States and Iran—two countries with a long history of enmity—adds another layer of signif-

icance to this event. By hosting representatives from both nations, Kundi demonstrated Pakistan's commitment to engaging with all relevant parties, regardless of their bilateral conflicts. This approach aligns with Pakistan's broader diplomatic strategy of being a neutral player capable of facilitating dialogue between nations with divergent interests. The Power of Symbolic Gestures While some might view this event as merely symbolic, it's important to recognize that in diplomacy, symbolism often precedes substantive action. The fact that U.S., Iranian, and Afghan diplomats were willing to come together in Peshawar indicates a willingness to engage, however tentative that engagement might be. Such gatherings can pave the way for more serious talks in the future, and that's where real progress can be made. Governor Kundi's ability to bring these diplomats together shows his understanding of how diplomacy works. Relationships between countries often start with small, symbolic steps that lead to bigger, more meaningful discussions. By facilitating this meeting, Kundi has created an opportunity for dialogue that could have significant impacts down the road. This event was not just about the optics; it was about setting the stage for potential diplomatic breakthroughs that could benefit the entire region. Long-Term Implications for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa The long-term implications of Governor Kundi's diplomatic efforts extend far beyond the immediate context of Independence Day celebrations. By positioning Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a venue for international diplomacy, Kundi is laying the groundwork for the province's future role in regional and global affairs. This move could attract further international attention to the province, potentially leading to increased investment, development, and cooperation. For the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, this redefinition of their province's role on the global stage could lead to tangible benefits. Increased international attention and investment can translate into economic growth, job creation, and improved infrastructure. Moreover, the province's enhanced status could lead to greater political influence within Pakistan, giving its

leaders more leverage in national decision-making processes. In the context of Pakistan's overall diplomatic strategy, this event highlights the importance of engaging with all relevant stakeholders in the region. As Pakistan continues to navigate its relationships with global powers, the ability to bring together diverse and often conflicting parties will be crucial. Kundi's actions demonstrate that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can be more than just a security buffer—it can be a proactive participant in shaping the region's future. Building Bridges for a Better Future Governor Faisal Karim Kundi's decision to host U.S., Iranian, and Afghan diplomats during Pakistan's 2024 Independence Day celebrations in Peshawar was a significant diplomatic achievement. It wasn't just about celebrating Pakistan's past—it was about shaping its future. By hosting this gathering, Kundi has shown that even in a region often associated with conflict, there is space for dialogue, understanding, and cooperation. This move benefits not only Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also strengthens Pakistan's position as a key player in international relations. Through his leadership, Kundi has demonstrated that Pakistan, and particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, can be a place where important international conversations begin. This is a win for the province, for Pakistan, and for the hope of a more peaceful and cooperative future in the region. Governor Kundi's actions have elevated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's status on the global stage, positioning it as a region where important international conversations can and should happen. As Pakistan continues to navigate the complexities of global diplomacy, the significance of this event will likely be remembered as a pivotal moment in the country's efforts to build bridges in an increasingly divided world. Through his leadership, Kundi has shown that even in a region often defined by conflict, there is room for dialogue, understanding, and progress. This move not only benefits Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also strengthens Pakistan's position as a key player in international relations, capable of facilitating meaningful conversations between global powers.



General Practice
HEALTHCARE CENTRE

				
General Practice	General Surgery	Neurology	Plastic Surgery	Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation
Medicine	Podiatry & Child Health	Ophthalmology & Sports Medicine	Ear, Nose & Throat	Laboratory Services
Gynaecology & Women's Health	Cardiology	Dermatology	Paediatrics & Vascular Health	Nursing Services
Dentistry & Aesthetics	Psychiatry	Pulmonology	Ophthalmology	Diagnostic Radiology
Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle	Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery	Gastroenterology & Hepatology	Neurology	Preventive Health Screening





Keeping you Healthy!

Welcome to Islamabad's finest private medical centre, where your complete wellbeing is our top priority. Keeping you healthy and in good physical condition is at the heart of everything we do. Our aim is to establish long-term trusting relationships with our patients and their families, offering them easy accessibility to health and continuity of care.

+92334 7474701 | +9251 8900 682
28, Ground Floor, Executive Complex,
G-8 Markaz, Islamabad

www.generalpractice.com.pk

The Supply Lines War

SINCE the beginning of the genocide, questions have been raised about the motives of the actors involved. On the Resistance side, Hamas claims it is motivated by the desire to release Palestinian prisoners, demand the full lifting of the siege imposed on Gaza, and secure concessions from the Israeli occupation regarding access to Al-Aqsa Mosque. "Israel" states it aims to destroy Hamas and eliminate any potential for its re-emergence. However, these local demands are subordinated by broader strategic regional and international agendas. Internationally, in September 2023, Biden announced the United States' new vision for the region, dubbed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). This initiative builds on the normalization accords, signed in 2020, which aimed to normalise "Israel's" relations with several Arab countries. The corridor aims to enhance connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Gulf, and Europe. Specifically, the IMEC comprises two corridors: one connecting India with the Gulf and the other linking the Gulf with Europe. These corridors will include a maritime shipping route, a railway land route, connectivity pipelines, and data cables. The corridors are expected to secure regional supply chains and increase trade accessibility. The key partners in this deal are the US, the EU, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, India, "Israel", and Jordan. Beneath the IMEC façade lies a US attempt to redesign the region's security and trade architecture, ensuring its continued control over trade routes and the stability of its military supply lines in the region. Just a few weeks after this announcement, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in China and declared a strategic partnership between the two countries. This came just a year after Syria joined the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As part of this partnership, China will support Syria in reconstruction, counter-terrorism capacity building, and promoting a political settlement of the Syrian issue, following the "Syrian-led, Syrian-owned" principle. The partnership is seen as China's response to the IMEC, aimed at securing its access to the Mediterranean Sea and connecting Syria to the BRI trade routes, thereby preventing the US from choking China's maritime access to Europe. Syria supports the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, and will actively participate in them. The Syrian war was intended to block the supply lines of Syria and the Axis of Resistance by ensuring the route was obstructed by terrorists in Iraq and Syria. Hezbollah's involvement in the war stemmed partly from its desire to secure its supply lines, which it has succeeded in doing in cooperation with the Syrian state, despite relentless Israeli attempts to sabotage these efforts through airstrikes on the supply line route in Syria and Iraq. The partnership with China provides Syria with an additional lever to secure its supply lines and maintain connectivity with the rest of the world, in light of continuous Western sanctions that have accompanied over 10 years of destructive war. A few months before the announcement of the IMEC, an earlier competing regional trade arrangement called the Iraq Development Road (IDR) was announced in May. The IDR is an ongoing project aimed at connecting Asia with Europe by establishing a network of railways, roads, ports, and cities.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 230

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



US protectionist craze

IT was during Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign that Jim Carville, his campaign strategist, stole the show with his immortal quip: "It's the economy, stupid." Carville may have been right at the time. The US was, after all, struggling to recover from a recession, and the quip helped Clinton win the election. But, more often than not, economics and trade seem to play a small – even peripheral – role in election outcomes. That's a pity, because much economic harm might otherwise have been avoided, and the present battle between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris seems set to be no exception. In truth, neither Trump nor Harris have spent much time focused on economic issues. Inflation is an abiding concern, but as it slips back below 3 per cent, and as the long-predicted recession remains elusive, electoral attention could well be distracted elsewhere. But, when they have turned to trade and economics, many of their ideas seem at best mistaken and at worst potentially harmful. Most worrying is what Maurice Obstfeld at the Peterson Institute recently called "a deep distrust of economic openness" – a bipartisan consensus that the open trade which has been nurtured by the US for the past seven decades is doing more harm than good to the nation. Trade liberalisation is no longer recognised as a massive contributor to economic growth and poverty reduction worldwide, but perceived as a net negative that is harming US manufacturers and workers, as well as the country's best interests. Trump and his trade adviser Robert Lighthizer promise that, if returned to power, they would double down on the tariff protections launched in 2018 and then mainly targeted at China. Meanwhile, Democrats around President Joe Biden and his aspiring heir Harris are rallying to protect US workers and rebuild America as a manufacturing superpower – even though the impact is likely in net terms to be negative. As a Carnegie Endowment paper published in May concluded, "irrespective of whether prioritising manufacturing optimises American economic growth, there is strong political support for doing so." Studies have shown that Trump's tariff war – not just against China – has not only cost the US economy dearly, but has failed in its overall objective to reduce the US trade deficit, and in particular to eliminate the deficit with China. As the US Tax Foundation noted: "Even though trade with China fell after the imposition of tariffs, it did not fundamentally alter the overall balance of trade." US Census Bureau data reveals that America's global deficit in goods trade amounted to US\$1.06 trillion in 2023 – down slightly from US\$1.18 trillion in 2022, but sharply up from the 2016 deficit of US\$750 billion. While direct exports from China are down, exports from Indonesia have jumped by 80 per cent, the Philippines by 61 per cent and Vietnam by 200 per cent, while China's exports to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) as a whole have soared. China accounts for 15.6 per cent of Asean trade, compared with 9.8 per cent in 2010, with Asean overtaking the US and the European Union to be China's leading export market in 2023. In short, it seems that tariffs have had almost no impact on the overall balance of US trade, but have complicated the route Chinese exports follow before they arrive in the US. Trump acolytes would argue that the tariffs have generated an important new source of revenue and helped to encourage a regeneration of domestic manufacturing, but data does not yet support this.

Army Committed to Restoring Order at All Costs

Qamar Bashir



Some politicians are taking this opportunity to argue that there has been accountability for army officers, civil servants, and politicians, and that now it is time to hold judges accountable, bringing to justice those who have violated their oaths and judicial codes of conduct. Others are expressing their desire to invoke Article 6 against the PTI chairman for allegedly fomenting mutiny within the armed forces and calling for the PTI former chairman trial under the army courts. Amongst these speculative and mostly unvalidated observations and imaginary scenarios, let us try to get the clarity...

THE focus of the national discourse, for better or worse, has shifted from the civilian leadership—PML(N), PPP, JUI, and most importantly, Imran Khan—to the army after the high-profile arrest of Lt. General (Retd.) Faiz Hameed and his accomplices. These arrests were related to charges outlined in a short but fully loaded press release by the ISPR, which stated that, in connection with the FGCM proceedings of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Faiz Hameed, three retired officers are also in military custody for actions prejudicial to military discipline. Further investigations into certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of, and in collusion with, vested political interests are ongoing." This press release opened up an entire Pandora's box and unleashed a genie that engulfed the entire nation, reverberating around the globe. It immediately took center stage in the national discourse, dominating media discussions and shifting focus, which had previously revolved around the judiciary and PTI on one side, and the parliament and establishment government on the other. The high-profile arrest and its repercussions triggered a storm of rumors, hearsay, speculation, and the crafting of numerous scenarios by every analyst and commentator. One analyst, in a moment of emotion, rushed to link the May 9 incident with the arrest, claiming that the PTI Chief had been instrumental in promoting and encouraging mutiny within the army by inciting junior officers to rise against the senior leadership. He demanded accountability for all serving and retired army officers, as well as the former PTI chairman, seemingly forgetting that the former chairman's accountability had been initiated in August and is ongoing without any end in sight. Another commentator argued that the allegations leveled against General Faiz and his accomplices carry no political weight, as it is not a crime for a retired army officer to meet or establish connections with any incarcerated political figure. A third analyst painted an even more alarming scenario. He suggested that the entire plan was masterminded by Lt. General Hameed, who identified military targets around the country. According to this theory, he had cultivated serving officers of the armed forces manning these installations and

planted his own trained people among the mobs that attacked them. The idea was to create chaos from both inside and outside, leading to the replacement of the army leadership loyal to the army chief and the establishment of a new order. Politicians, in their individual capacities, are also trying to settle personal vendettas and advance their agendas. Some are attempting to link the entire issue of military indiscipline to former Army Chief General (Retd.) Qamar Javed Bajwa, demanding his accountability above all else. They are also speculating, with no solid evidence, that since Gen. (Retd.) Bajwa was not invited to a recent dinner hosted by the army chief for retired officers, he may be next in line to face consequences. Some politicians are taking this opportunity to argue that there has been accountability for army officers, civil servants, and politicians, and that now it is time to hold judges accountable, bringing to justice those who have violated their oaths and judicial codes of conduct. Others are expressing their desire to invoke Article 6 against the PTI chairman for allegedly fomenting mutiny within the armed forces and calling for the PTI former chairman trial under the army courts. Amongst these speculative and mostly unvalidated observations and imaginary scenarios, let us try to get the clarity of the army's standpoint by decoding the ISPR's Press Release. It used the acronym "FGCM" which stands for "Field General Court Martial". It is a type of military court used to try members of the armed forces who are accused of serious offenses. The Field General Court Martial is the highest level of court martial in the military justice system, typically dealing with grave charges such as mutiny, treason, desertion, or other severe breaches of military law. The proceedings are conducted by senior military officers, and the court has the authority to impose significant penalties, including imprisonment and even the death penalty, depending on the jurisdiction and the nature of the offense. The Press Release used the phrase that "three retired officers are in military custody for actions "prejudicial to military discipline," it means that these officers are being held by military authorities because they are suspected of engaging in activities or conduct that undermined or harmed the discipline, order, or integ-

riety of the armed forces. Even though they are retired, these officers are subjected to military law if their actions are deemed serious enough to warrant it, especially if those actions took place while they were still in service or if the offenses are linked to military matters. Being in military custody suggests that they are being investigated or possibly facing legal proceedings within the military justice system for these alleged offenses. The last para indicated said that, "Further investigations of certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests are continuing". This means that ongoing investigations are being conducted into the actions of certain retired military officers and their accomplices. These investigations focus on their alleged involvement in creating or promoting instability, such as disorder, unrest, or challenges to the established order. The phrase "at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests" suggests that these retired officers and their accomplices are believed to have acted under the direction or influence of specific political groups or individuals who have a particular interest in causing instability for their own benefit. "Collusion" implies that these parties worked together, likely in a secretive or deceptive manner, to achieve this shared goal of destabilizing the situation. Now that we have deciphered the press release to a large extent, let's try to put it in proper perspective. The entire episode was triggered by the events of May 9. The army took action against many serving and retired officers soon after the incident. This fresh wave of arrests, coming nearly a year later, reflects the ongoing investigation. According to the press release, all individuals—whether civilian or military, retired or serving—who masterminded the events of May 9, along with those who aided in fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, will eventually be arrested and subjected to punishment commensurate with the severity of their crimes.

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

From unity to division: East Pakistan's legacy in the creation and fragmentation of Pakistan

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, made remarks acknowledging India's involvement in the independence of Bangladesh during a visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh, on June 7, 2015. While speaking at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Modi recalled India's support for the Mukti Bahini, the Bengali nationalist forces, during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. He specifically mentioned that many Indian soldiers fought alongside the Mukti Bahini and acknowledged the role India played...

THE Indian Sub-Continent's history is closely linked with the independence struggle, nation-building, and ensuing complex relations. The contributions of East Pakistan to the Pakistan Movement, the establishment of the All-India Muslim League, and ultimately, the founding of Pakistan are sources of immense pride. The journey from the concept of a separate Muslim state to its actualization was marked by the significant efforts of East Pakistani leaders and citizens. Their sacrifices, intellectual and political guidance, and steadfast resolve were crucial to the movement's success. A long and illustrious roster of East Pakistani personalities and leaders made pivotal contributions to this cause, working in concert with their West Pakistani counterparts to fulfill the vision of Pakistan. Prominent leaders from East Pakistan, including Khawaja Nazimuddin, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, A. K. Fazlul Huq, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Khawaja Salimullah, Jogendra Nath Mandal, Abul Hashim and others were central to the founding of Tehreek-e-Pakistan, the All-India Muslim League, and the realization of Pakistan. Khawaja Nazimuddin, a key figure in the Muslim League, held the positions of both Governor-General and Prime Minister of Pakistan, representing the political ambitions of Bengal's Muslims. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy played a vital role in garnering support for the Pakistan Movement and subsequently served as Prime Minister. A. K. Fazlul Huq, known as "Sher-e-Bangla," contributed to the Lahore Resolution, which was pivotal for Pakistan's foundation. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, initially a supporter of the Muslim League, Khawaja Salimullah was instrumental in establishing the All-India Muslim League, uniting the Muslims of Bengal around the concept of a separate nation. Jogendra Nath Mandal, advocating for marginalized communities, ensured the Pakistan Movement was inclusive. Abul Hashim's organizational prowess strengthened the Muslim League's presence in Bengal. These leaders, among others, played crucial roles in Pakistan's creation, molding its initial political scene and ensuring East Bengal's voice was heard in the independence struggle. However, the tragic division of Pakistan into East and West, culminating in the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, was not

merely an unfortunate series of events but the result of a deliberate conspiracy. India's role in this conspiracy cannot be understated. From the very beginning, India saw the nascent state of Pakistan as a threat and worked tirelessly to weaken it from within. The presence of India, like a hanging sword, constantly threatened Pakistan's integrity, exploiting any opportunity to divide and destabilize the country. India, from the very beginning, proved to be a formidable adversary. The seeds of discord were sown early on, as India took advantage of the geographical and cultural differences between East and West Pakistan. It skillfully exploited these differences, poisoning the hearts and minds of the people of East Pakistan against their brethren in the West. The Indian intelligence agencies were active in East Pakistan, fomenting unrest and fueling separatist sentiments. India's strategy was multifaceted. Through propaganda, political maneuvering, and direct intervention, India succeeded in creating a rift that, over time, became irreparable. The Indo-Pak war of 1971 was the culmination of years of subversive activities and overt hostility. Both sides exhibited remarkable military prowess, but the outcome was tragic for Pakistan. The country was cleaved in two, with East Pakistan becoming the independent state of Bangladesh. A poignant symbol of this division is the image circulated by India and Bangladesh after the war, depicting General A.K. Niazi of Pakistan surrendering to Indian General Jagjit Singh Aurora. This photograph, which became iconic, was not merely a record of the event but was used as a tool of psychological warfare, intended to demoralize Pakistan and cement the narrative of Indian superiority and the inevitability of Bangladesh's independence. In Dhaka, a significant statue was erected to commemorate a pivotal moment in its history—the surrender of Lieutenant General A. K. Niazi, the commander of the Pakistani forces, to Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora, the commander of the Indian and Bangladeshi forces, on December 16, 1971. It was a constant reminder of the defeat and the division that had been imposed on Pakistan, a symbol of India's triumph and Pakistan's loss. Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, made remarks acknowledging India's involvement in the independence of Bangladesh during a visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh, on June 7, 2015.

While speaking at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Modi recalled India's support for the Mukti Bahini, the Bengali nationalist forces, during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. He specifically mentioned that many Indian soldiers fought alongside the Mukti Bahini and acknowledged the role India played in supporting the struggle for Bangladesh's independence. This statement was widely interpreted as an admission of India's involvement in the events leading up to Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan. Modi's remarks were part of his broader speech where he emphasized the historical ties and cooperation between India and Bangladesh. Now the destruction of the statue based on the image of General Niazi's surrender is a symbolic act that reflects the changing attitudes towards this chapter of history. The monument, which once stood as a testament to the division of Pakistan, has now been vandalized, and the walls of hatred that it represented have crumbled like sand. This act of destruction is not just a physical dismantling of a structure, but also a metaphorical breaking down of the barriers of mistrust and animosity that have long separated the people of Pakistan and Bangladesh. The story of East Pakistan's role in the creation of Pakistan and its eventual separation is a complex one, marked by both pride and pain. The people of East Pakistan played a crucial role in the establishment of Pakistan, and their contributions should never be forgotten. However, the division of Pakistan was a tragic outcome, one that was fueled by external interference and internal divisions. As we reflect on this history, it is important to recognize the lessons it offers. The unity and strength of a nation depend on its ability to overcome internal differences and resist external pressures. The story of Pakistan's creation and division is a reminder of the importance of national unity and the dangers of external interference. Today, as we look back on this chapter of history, we must remember the sacrifices of those who fought for the creation of Pakistan and strive to build a future where the mistakes of the past are not repeated. The walls of hatred that once divided the people of East and West Pakistan have crumbled, and it is up to us to ensure that they are not rebuilt. Instead, we must work towards fostering understanding, cooperation, and unity among all the people of the region, so that the tragic events of 1971 are never repeated.

Briefs

SA deports
95 Libyans
from military
camp

JOHANNESBURG: Ninety-five Libyans found at a suspected military camp in South Africa's northeast in July would be deported back to their country on Sunday, the home affairs ministry said. The Libyan men have been detained since July 26 when police raided the remote training camp near the town of White River about 360 kilometers (220 miles) east of Johannesburg. "They are scheduled to leave South Africa from the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport this morning in a flight that has been paid for by the Libyan Government," the home affairs ministry said in a statement. Police had said the men entered South Africa in April on visas issued for training as security guards. However, police suspected they were receiving military training. The government then canceled the visas which were "irregularly acquired" in the Tunisian capital Tunis based on "misrepresentation.—DNA

Protests across
Venezuela
as election
dispute goes on

CARACAS: Opposition supporters have gathered across Venezuela to protest against Nicolas Maduro's disputed victory in last month's presidential election. Opposition leader María Corina Machado joined thousands of protesters in the capital, Caracas, and urged them not to be afraid. Ms Machado, who had been in hiding after being accused of insurrection, said there was nothing above the voice of the people, and that the people had spoken. Police and the army were deployed in force as supporters of Mr Maduro also held a demonstration. "We won't leave the streets," Ms Machado told protesters, with many of them waving copies of election records from their voting stations as proof of victory. Ms Machado, who was banned from running in the election, had called for nationwide protests to intensify pressure on Mr Maduro to concede.—Agencies

Albanese rejects call to
ban Palestinian migrants

Opposition leader had called for stop to migration from Gaza, contending arrival of people from war zone 'putting security at risk'

NEWS DESK

SYDNEY: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese once again has rejected the opposition's call to ban Palestinians fleeing Gaza from entering Australia, saying it aims to "whip up fear". Opposition leader Peter Dutton had called for a stop to migration from the besieged Palestinian coastal enclave, contending the arrival of people from a war zone to Australia was "putting national security at risk." Albanese, who has already criticized Dutton for his calls, said the rhetoric from the coalition is causing community division at a time when security heads were calling for "social cohesion," local broadcaster SBS News reported. "What does Peter Dutton do? He doesn't talk about issues of concern to Australians, what he does is try and whip up fear," Albanese told reporters in Sydney. "The fact is that the borders at the moment are closed, of course, through the Rafah crossing," he was quoted as say-

Only 11 percent of Gaza
remain safe zone :UNRWA

GENEVA: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees says Israel's new evacuation orders in the Gaza Strip have shrunk to only 11 percent of the so-called humanitarian zone for Palestinians in the besieged territory. UNRWA released the figure in an X post on Saturday, a day after the Israeli military gave Gaza residents sheltering in the safe zone in north Khan Yunis and east Deir al-Balah an order to leave in just a few hours. The occupation's army also issued another evacuation order for Maghazi and Zawayda refugee camps in central Gaza. "Thousands of families continue to be displaced in Gaza as Israeli authorities issue new evacuation orders," UNRWA said. "The so-called 'humanitarian zone' has shrunk to just 11% of the Gaza Strip, causing chaos and fear among the displaced. They have nowhere safe to go." The UN agency for Palestinian refugees also renewed its call for an immediate ceasefire in Israel's genocidal war on Gaza. Separately on Saturday, UNRWA Communications Officer Louise Wateridge said in an X post that Israel's repeated displacement orders have left people "trapped in this endless nightmare." Meanwhile, rescue services in Gaza estimated that Israel's latest shrinking of the safe zone in Gaza puts the lives of some 450,000 displaced Palestinians at risk amid a worsening humanitarian disaster there. Senior Hamas official says the Israeli regime is using displacement as a weapon to escalate collective punishment against civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Hamas resistance group called the Israeli evacuation orders "a direct continuation of the policy of collective punishment of Gazans," saying Israel is using dispossession as a weapon against civilians. People in Gaza say that everywhere designated a safe place has already been hit by the Israeli military and that there is no safe place in the Palestinian territory. Israel waged its brutal Gaza onslaught on October 7, 2023, after Hamas carried out its historic operation against the occupying entity in retaliation for the regime's intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people. So far, the Tel Aviv regime has killed at least 40,074 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 92,537 others.—APP

ing. So far, some 2,922 visas to approved, of them 1,300 have Department of Home Affairs fig- fleeing Palestinians have been arrived "safely" in Australia, ures showed. Whereas, the data

showed, 7,100 visas from Palestinian territories have been rejected. Dutton on Sunday repeated calls for visa ban until security vetting processes could be "guaranteed." "We cannot tell who's who, unless through background checks are done," he said in an opinion piece published on Sunday. Dutton's comments have invited criticism from Labor, the Greens, some crossbenchers, and Palestinian groups. Israel, flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire, has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7 attack last year by the Palestinian resistance group, Hamas. The Israeli onslaught has since killed nearly 40,100 people, mostly women and children, and injured over 92,500, according to local health authorities. More than 10 months into the Israeli onslaught, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine. Israel is accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which ordered it to immediately halt its military operation.

Antonio
praises
Sudan's
decision to
reopen Adre
border

WASHINGTON: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday commended a decision by Sudanese authorities to reopen the Adre border crossing between Chad and Darfur. Guterres underscored the importance of "concrete and sustained" measures to facilitate humanitarian access and protect civilians amid Sudan's civil war, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. "Humanitarian organizations must have full, safe and unhindered access to reach all civilians in need across Darfur, and across the country as a whole," he added. The UN remains fully committed to working with all relevant stakeholders to help end the conflict and alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people, he stressed. Sudan's sovereign council announced on Thursday that it will reopen the Adre border crossing for three months to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to those affected by the ongoing 15-month civil war.—APP

Somalia
rejects
talks with
Ethiopia over
sovereignty

MOGADISHU: Somalia refuses to negotiate with Ethiopia until it recognizes it as an independent and sovereign state, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said on Saturday. "We will not negotiate with Ethiopia on any issue until it recognizes our full sovereignty," Sheikh Mohamud said during a press conference, the SONNA news agency reported. Sheikh Mohamud stressed that Addis Ababa's non-recognition of Somali sovereignty led to the "recent breakdown of negotiations" in Ankara. The leader's statements came amid the second round of negotiations between the two countries held in the Turkish capital on Monday and Tuesday. Earlier this year, Ethiopia signed a memorandum with the breakaway region of Somaliland, enabling Ethiopia to gain access to the Red Sea in exchange for recognition.—APP

Azerbaijan pledges support
to Türkiye amid wildfires

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Azerbaijan, a brotherly nation with a history of deep ties with Türkiye, has offered its support in battling the ongoing wildfires that erupted around the country. In a phone call with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday, İlham Aliyev conveyed his wishes for a speedy recovery and expressed readiness to assist, including the deployment of a firefighting aircraft. The conversation also covered bilateral relations and regional developments, according to a statement from the Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications. Erdogan expressed his gratitude for the support, emphasizing the deepening bond between the two nations during difficult times. The Turkish Foreign Ministry, in a statement on X following the



phone call, also expressed the nation's thanks to Azerbaijan for its valuable support. Fires under control Türkiye has been fighting over 70 wildfires across the country, 69 of which have been brought under control, while six remain active. Latest reports from Turkish Agriculture and

Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumakli indicated that the intensity of the forest fire in Türkiye's western Izmir province had been reduced, with no immediate threat to the city. Speaking to reporters in Izmir, he reassured that the current situation does not warrant an inter-

national call for assistance. Azerbaijan has been a devoted supporter of Türkiye, previously aiding in search and rescue, as well as rebuilding efforts, when magnitude 7.7 and 7.6 earthquakes struck Türkiye on February 6, 2023, claiming the lives of over 53,000 people.

Thai king endorses
Shinawatra as PM

WEB DESK

BANGKOK: Paetongtarn Shinawatra was endorsed as prime minister by Thailand's king on Sunday, two days after parliament elected her, paving the way for her to form a cabinet in the coming weeks. Paetongtarn, 37, becomes Thailand's youngest prime minister just days after ally Srettha Thavisin was dismissed as premier by the Constitutional Court, a judiciary central to Thailand's two decades of intermittent political turmoil. Daughter of divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Paetongtarn won by nearly two-thirds in a house vote on Friday, to become Thailand's second female prime minister and the third Shinawatra to take the office, following Thaksin and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra. The approval by King Maha Vajiralongkorn,

a formality, was read out by House of Representatives Secretary Apat Sukhanand at a ceremony in Bangkok on Sunday. Dressed in official uniform, Paetongtarn knelt in homage to a portrait of the king before giving a short speech thanking the king and the people's representatives for endorsing her as prime minister. "As head of the executive branch, I will do my duty together with the legislators with an open heart," she said. "I will listen to all opinions so together we can take the country forward with stability," she said. Paetongtarn, who has never served in government, faces challenges on multiple fronts, with the economy floundering and the popularity of her Pheu Thai party dwindling, having yet to deliver on its flagship digital wallet cash handout programme worth 500 billion baht (\$15 billion).

Geopolitical conflicts: A quest to understand the struggle of influence

DR. M. AKRAM ZAHEER

THE book "Geopolitical Conflicts: A Quest to Understand the Struggle of Influence" represents an extensive collection of topics related to global geopolitics and international relations, encompassing major powers like the U.S., China, Russia and significant regional players such as Pakistan, India, Iran and Saudi Arabia. This analysis will critically assess the overarching themes, key points and possible implications presented in these articles. The collection of articles, which have already appeared in a diverse array of both national and international newspapers, now finds itself assembled in this volume. The intent of this book is to furnish the reader with a broad and deep comprehension of the geopolitical conflicts that are currently unfolding across the globe. By bringing together these writings into one singular compendium, the book aspires to be a definitive resource, offering insights into the intricate and often volatile nature of global power struggles. It is designed to serve as an indispensable guide for those seeking to grasp the complexities of international relations, providing a unified narrative that elucidates the causes, developments and implications of these conflicts. Whether the reader is a student of history, a scholar of political science, or simply an informed citizen, this work aims to illuminate the undercurrents of global discord, all within the confines of a single, accessible volume. Here is short review of these articles.

AUKUS Alliance and China The AUKUS alliance, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, is a strategic move aimed at countering China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. This alliance reflects the intensification of the U.S. strategy of containment towards China. The alliance's focus on military cooperation, particularly in submarine technology, signals a shift towards more direct military counterbalances to China's maritime expansion. While AUKUS aims to maintain a balance of power in the region, it could exacerbate tensions with China, leading to a more polarized Indo-Pacific. Additionally, the alliance might push China to strengthen its military alliances, potentially destabilizing the region further.

Pak-Russia Relationship The evolving relationship between Pakistan and Russia marks a significant shift in

the geopolitical landscape of South Asia. Historically, these two countries had minimal cooperation due to Cold War alignments. However, recent developments, including joint military exercises and energy deals, highlight a growing partnership. While this relationship could provide Pakistan with strategic leverage, especially given its strained ties with the U.S., it could also complicate its relations with other key players like India and China. Russia's balancing act between India and Pakistan will be crucial to observe. Chinese Foreign Policy towards Pakistan & India China's foreign policy towards Pakistan and India is characterized by a delicate balancing act. With Pakistan, China maintains a "strategic partnership" largely driven by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a cornerstone of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In contrast, with India, China's relationship is marked by competition and periodic tensions, particularly over border disputes. China's dual approach risks pushing India closer to the U.S. and other Quad members, potentially leading to a more robust anti-China coalition in Asia. Moreover, China's deepening ties with Pakistan could further strain Sino-Indian relations, especially in the context of military and economic competition. Twisting of US Foreign Policy The article likely discusses the evolving nature of U.S. foreign policy, which has seen significant shifts, particularly under recent administrations. The U.S. has moved from a focus on global leadership to a more isolationist or transactional approach, depending on the administration. This inconsistency in U.S. foreign policy can lead to uncertainty among allies and rivals alike, undermining long-term strategic objectives. The "twisting" of policies might result in a loss of global influence for the U.S., especially if allies perceive the U.S. as an unreliable partner. China-Russia: A Strange Case in Central Asia The relationship between China and Russia in Central Asia is complex, with both countries having significant but sometimes conflicting interests. Russia sees Central Asia as its traditional sphere of influence, while China has been expanding its economic footprint through initiatives like the BRI. The Sino-Russian partnership in Central Asia is often characterized as one of convenience rather than genuine strategic alignment. The competition for influence could eventually lead to friction, particularly as China's economic power grows in a region historically dominated

ed by Russia. Strategic Vista of Gwadar Gwadar, a deep-sea port in Pakistan, is a key component of the CPEC and holds strategic importance for both Pakistan and China. It provides China with direct access to the Arabian Sea and is intended to be a major hub in the BRI. While Gwadar's development is touted as beneficial for Pakistan's economy, it also raises concerns about Pakistan's increasing dependency on China. Moreover, the militarization of the port could heighten tensions with neighboring countries, particularly India and the U.S. Arab Gulf States and the United States The relationship between the Arab Gulf states and the U.S. is one of mutual dependence, primarily centered on energy security and military cooperation. However, recent years have seen some Gulf States, like Saudi Arabia, exploring foreign policies that are more autonomous. The evolving dynamics in this relationship could lead to a recalibration of U.S. influence in the region. As Gulf States seek to diversify their international partnerships, the U.S. might find its traditional leverage in the region diminishing.

The Balance of Power between Iran and the Arab World The balance of power between Iran and the Arab world, particularly Saudi Arabia, is a central theme in Middle Eastern geopolitics. The rivalry is characterized by proxy conflicts in countries like Yemen, Syria and Iraq. The persistent rivalry between Iran and the Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, threatens regional stability. Efforts to shift this balance, whether through military means or diplomacy, could have far-reaching implications for the broader Middle East. Saudi Arabia and Iran: Eager to Reduce Bilateral and Regional Tension This article likely discusses recent diplomatic efforts between Saudi Arabia and Iran to reduce tensions, possibly including the China-brokered agreement to restore diplomatic relations. While these efforts are a positive step towards regional stability, deep-seated mistrust and conflicting interests could undermine long-term peace. The success of these initiatives will depend on sustained diplomatic engagement and mutual concessions. China-India Military Tension The ongoing military tension between China and India, particularly in regions like Ladakh, has been a significant issue for years. This section likely discusses the strategic and geopolitical implications of these tensions,

including the potential for conflict, the impact on regional stability and the role of other powers, such as the United States and Russia, in mediating or exacerbating the situation. The historical context, including the 1962 Sino-Indian War, may also be relevant in understanding the contemporary dynamics. The Growing Influence of SCO The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become increasingly influential in the Eurasian region. This section likely explores the SCO's role in promoting regional security, economic cooperation and political alignment among its member states, including China, Russia and several Central Asian countries. The analysis might consider how the SCO's growing influence affects global power structures, especially in relation to Western powers.

Central Asia: Potential and Opportunities of Investment Central Asia is rich in natural resources, making it an attractive region for investment. This section likely discusses the potential economic opportunities in countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and the challenges that come with investing in these markets, such as political instability, corruption and underdeveloped infrastructure. The role of major powers, particularly China and Russia, in shaping the investment landscape might also be examined. The Elusive Strategy of China China's foreign policy and strategic objectives are often perceived as opaque and multifaceted. This section likely investigates into China's strategic moves on the global stage, including its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), military modernization and diplomatic engagements. The analysis might focus on how China's strategies are perceived by other global powers and their implications for global stability. Geopolitical Reality of Major Powers This section likely discusses the current geopolitical realities faced by major powers, such as the United States, Russia, China and the European Union. The analysis might cover topics such as power projection, military alliances, economic influence and the challenges posed by emerging powers and non-state actors. The Hybrid Geopolitics and Contemporary Geopolitical Landscape of the World Hybrid geopolitics refers to the blending of traditional military power with non-military tools, such as cyber warfare, economic coercion and information manipulation. This section likely

explores how these tactics are reshaping the global geopolitical landscape, making conflicts more complex and multifaceted. The discussion might also consider the role of technology in modern warfare and the challenges of addressing hybrid threats. Palestine Issue and World The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains one of the most protracted and contentious issues in international relations. This section likely examines the ongoing struggles for Palestinian statehood, the role of major powers in the conflict and the broader implications for Middle Eastern stability and global security. The analysis might also touch on the humanitarian aspect and the impact of the conflict on regional politics.

Tajikistan is flourishing Tajikistan, one of the smaller and less economically developed Central Asian countries, has seen some growth in recent years. This section likely discusses the factors contributing to Tajikistan's development, such as foreign investment, infrastructure projects and regional cooperation. The challenges facing the country, including political instability and economic dependency, might also be addressed. Violation of Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is a highly sensitive and controversial issue, particularly in the context of India-Pakistan relations. This section likely discusses alleged human rights violations in the region, the impact of India's policies on the local population and the international community's response. The analysis might also consider the historical context and the role of regional and global powers in the conflict.

The Hindu Nationalist Regime & the Muslim Minority in India The rise of Hindu nationalism in India has raised concerns about the treatment of the country's Muslim minority. This section likely explores the political and social dynamics of Hindu nationalism, its impact on India's secular fabric and the implications for communal harmony and human rights. The analysis might also consider the international community's response to these developments. An Evaluation of US Strategy Towards Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan Following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the subsequent Taliban takeover, the US strategy towards Afghanistan has been under scrutiny. This section likely evaluates the effectiveness of US policies, the challenges of engaging with the Taliban and the

broader implications for regional security and counterterrorism efforts. The analysis might also consider the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the role of other regional powers. Taiwan: Potential Flashpoint between China and US Taiwan remains one of the most sensitive and potentially explosive issues in US-China relations. This section likely discusses the strategic importance of Taiwan, the potential for conflict between China and the US and the broader implications for regional stability and global security. The analysis might also consider the role of other regional actors, such as Japan and South Korea, in the Taiwan issue.

Iran-Saudi Deal: A New Dawn Breaks in Persian Gulf The reconciliation between Iran and Saudi Arabia has the potential to reshape the geopolitics of the Persian Gulf. This section likely explores the motivations behind the deal, its implications for regional security and the impact on global energy markets. The analysis might also consider the role of external powers, such as the US and China, in facilitating or reacting to this development. China's Increasing Role in Persian Gulf: Implications for Regional Security China's growing presence in the Persian Gulf, particularly through its economic investments and diplomatic engagements, has significant implications for regional security. This section likely discusses how China's involvement affects the balance of power in the region, the responses of traditional powers like the US and the potential for conflict or cooperation. Pakistan in the Era of Global Geopolitical Shifts Pakistan finds itself at a crossroads in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. This section likely discusses Pakistan's strategic challenges and opportunities, its relationships with major powers like China, the US and Russia and its role in regional security, particularly in relation to Afghanistan and India. The analysis also considers Pakistan's domestic challenges and how they intersect with its foreign policy. Conclusion The various sections of the book are highlighting the interconnectedness of global and regional geopolitics. It might emphasize the complexity of contemporary geopolitical challenges and the need for nuanced and strategic approaches to address them. The conclusion could also offer recommendations for policymakers on how to navigate the evolving geopolitical landscape.

Briefs

SC delists election tribunal case

CJP Isa-led larger bench scheduled to hear the case today

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Sunday delisted the election tribunal case. A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, was scheduled to hear the case on Monday, August 19. PTI's lawyer Salman Akram Raja filed a request for postponement, stating that senior lawyer Hamid Khan is abroad until Sept 6. The request asked for the case to be postponed until Hamid Khan returns, as he has also submitted a leave application.

PTI announces executive council for Lahore

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced its 43-member Executive Council for Lahore. PTI Lahore President Sheikh Imtiaz issued the notification for the new Executive Council, which included members of the assembly, ticket holders, and senior party leaders. The council featured notable members such as Sardar Latif Khosa, Aaliya Hamza, Shehzad Farooq, and Usman Hamza. Other members included Ali Ijaz Butar, Afzaal Azim Pahat, Rana Javed, Javed Umar, and Malik Tauqeer Abbas Khokhar. Yasir Gilani, Owais Anjum, Ali Imtiaz Waraich, Hafiz Farhat Abbas, Salman Akram Raja, and Dr. Yasmin Rashid have also been included in the council. Additionally, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Chaudhry Asghar Gujjar, Ahmer Bhatti, Azam Khan Niazi, and Azeem Ullah Khan were part of the Executive Council. Farukh Javed, Shabbir Ahmad, Yousaf Meo, Khalid Gujjar, Nadeem Abbas Bara, and Haroon Akbar were also named as members.

Famine looms in 4 Yemeni districts

CAIRO: Famine is looming in four Yemeni districts after instances of hunger have rapidly surged among children in areas controlled by the internationally recognized government, a report by international experts said. All 117 districts in government-controlled areas are expected to suffer from "serious" levels of acute malnutrition. Among them, the four districts – Mawza and Mocha in Taiz province, and Hays and Khawkhah in Hodeida province – are projected to slip into famine between July and October this year, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC. The report reflects the worsening food insecurity in the poorest Arab nation that plunged into civil war in 2014, when Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis took control of the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south. – Agencies

Indonesian embassy celebrates the Independence Day in style

Flag Hoisting Ceremony Solemnly Held at the Indonesian Embassy to Celebrate 79th Independence Day; dignitaries invited to witness the flag hoisting ceremony



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia held the Flag Hoisting Ceremony to celebrate Indonesia's 79th Independence Day this morning at the Embassy's premises, led by the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma. It was the culmination of a series of pre-events in welcoming the auspicious day to keep maintained unity and mutual respect among Indonesians, as well as strengthened patriotism to the Homeland. Embassy's officials along with their families and hundreds of Indonesian Diaspora based in different cities of Pakistan, attended the ceremony in Indonesian traditional fervor. Besides, guests of

honor from prominent religious leaders, journalists and experts from reputable think tanks, and representatives of the dynamic business community were also present on the special occasion. A moment of silence was observed to pay tribute to the national heroes, followed by the reading of the text of proclamation of Independence. The ceremony concluded with the special prayers for the Country and renewed commitment to avidly make Indonesia prosperous, harmonious, advanced, and invincible. At the Flag Hoisting Ceremony called in Indonesian language by "Upacara Bendera", the Embassy's Flag Hoisting Team which consists of a smartly turned-out group of Indonesian students had the honor to receive the Indonesian flag from the

Chargé d'Affaires as an Inspector of the Ceremony. The Team subsequently raised the red-white flag solemnly with the playing of the Indonesian National Anthem, "Great Indonesia," or "Indonesia Raya". Right after the Ceremony, the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires escorted all guests of honor to the Embassy's Hall for small and simple reception by serving Tumpeng, the cone-shaped rice dish as an inseparable part of celebrations and other important events in Indonesia. "On behalf of the Indonesian Embassy, I express my sincere gratitude and high appreciation to all of you for joining us at the very special moment of Indonesian Independence Day. Indonesia and Pakistan, the two largest Muslim countries in the world, dosti zindahad!", he said in the spirits



of freedom and friendship between the two brotherly countries. Moreover, as appreciation on their great achievement, the Chargé d'Affaires honored a group of Indonesian students in Pakistan with the certificate of appreciation for pursuing their higher level academic programs with distinction. "Enjoy a lot! Thank you for having me. Looking forward other invitation from the Indonesian Embassy," Mr. Tariq Ullah Sufi, CEO Hamza Veg, Oil Refinery, & Ghee Mills (Pvt.) Limited. "I appreciate the way you organize this special event. My prayers are always on you and the Embassy," said H.E. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali, Chairman Muslim Institute. "Thank you for inviting all of us. Always miss this event. Proud of you!", said Mía, an Indonesian national from Gujrat.

Power relief to be funded by Punjab's budget

LAHORE: Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb stated on Sunday that the Rs14 subsidy provided by the Punjab government would be funded through the province's own budget. After months of public outcry and opposition's criticism over rising electricity prices, the Punjab government announced on Friday that customers using up to 500 units will get a subsidy of Rs14 per unit in August and September. The move, largely seen as an attempt to placate PML-N's vote bank in Punjab, was announced by the party's president, Nawaz Sharif. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad today, Aurangzeb said she was speaking to "put an end to the propaganda" spread by those responsible for the current economic crisis. "[Due to the propaganda], they are inciting conflicts between provinces, so it was important to clarify today that the Punjab government is providing relief from its own budget," Aurangzeb said that the Punjab government was funding the subsidy by reducing expenditures and reallocating funds from various programs where possible. The energy department has been providing estimates to help the provincial government meet its targets, she added. "He [Nawaz Sharif] also requested other provinces to cut back on their expenditures and provide relief to their people too," she said. "And we would be delighted if similar relief could be provided in provinces such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan." She stated that with improved governance and policy adjustments, the Punjab government was now able to offer affordable roti to its people. "[But instead of appreciating] the power tariff reduction, falsehoods and propaganda are being spread and the matter is being politicised," she lamented. Aurangzeb, like Nawaz Sharif, blamed PTI's tenure for the exorbitant electricity prices, and exonerated the incumbent federal government of all blame. She listed down "achievements" of the Punjab government after coming into power, which included providing a Ramzan relief package and laptop scheme and asked other provinces to follow suit. Amid rising electricity bills, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Neptra) last week announced an increase in electricity tariffs by Rs2.56 per unit, marking the second consecutive increase, as there was a Rs3.33 per unit rise for fuel adjustment in May. – DNA

US not willing to achieve ceasefire in Gaza: Hamas

The top Hamas official also said the US is trying to give the occupying Tel Aviv regime enough time to perpetrate more atrocities and mass killings

NEWS DESK

BEIRUT: A senior member of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement says there is no real will on the part of the United States to establish a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Osama Hamdan, who represents Hamas in Lebanon, stated that the United States' new ceasefire proposal does not include a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Hamdan noted that while the ongoing ceasefire negotiations have not yet mentioned which Palestinian prisoners would be released, the potential deal must guarantee clear criteria including Palestinian inmates' freedom. The top Hamas official also said the US is trying to give the occupying Tel Aviv regime enough time to perpetrate more atrocities and mass killings. Egyptian sources, requesting anonymity, were quoted as saying on Saturday that indirect negotiations between representatives from Hamas and Israel on a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip will resume on Wednesday in Cairo.

Hezbollah attacks Israeli settlement in response to Nabatieh massacre

BEIRUT: Hezbollah said on Saturday that it struck the Ayelet Hashahar kibbutz in northern Israel in retaliation for a new massacre in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military said that two soldiers were wounded in a rocket attack from Lebanon, adding that a total of 55 rockets had been fired in the latest strikes. Hezbollah said that its attack came in response to "the Israeli army's assaults on the Kfour village in Nabatieh, north of the Litani Line, earlier on Saturday, killing 10 people, including Syrian children and their mother, and injuring others, including Sudanese workers." Hezbollah said that it added Ayelet HaShahar to its firing schedule and struck the settlement with Katyusha rockets for the first time. According to Hezbollah's military media, the settlement "is located northeast Safad in the upper Galilee and some 10 km from the Lebanese southern border." In another statement, Hezbollah announced "targeting a gathering of Israeli soldiers in the Al-Burj site with two attack drones, hitting it directly." Israeli media outlets said that "the barrage of rockets fired from Lebanon toward the north landed in areas that weren't evacuated, causing fires to erupt." They added that "violent explosions were heard in Safad and its surroundings, in addition to heavy shelling with dozens of rockets launched from Lebanon toward the upper Galilee, causing casualties. – Agencies

Irked Imran summons party leaders amid rift rumours

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Irked by rift rumours and differences between party leadership, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has summoned Atif Khan and Junaid Akbar for a meeting at Adiala jail. Adviser to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information Barister Muhammad Ali Saif, while speaking to a private news channel on Sunday, confirmed the development and noted that the incarcerated PTI founder has expressed concern over the "impression" of grouping in the party. Saif's confirmation comes as the former ruling party has been facing internal turmoil after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Communication and Works Shakeel Ah-

mad Khan resigned over alleged corruption and bad governance by the CM Ali Amin Gandapur-led government in the province. The resignation came after Shakeel, during his meeting with Khan in Adiala jail complained about embezzlement in various departments of KP following which the ex-prime minister warned members of his party's government in KP that they would be held accountable for corruption and governance issues in their departments. The party then constituted a three-member committee to monitor corruption and governance in KP. Sources privy to the matter said that Shakeel alleged that he was unable to perform his duties properly due to the corruption and bad governance in the province and alleged that CM Gandapur's interference in his department was affecting his performance. In response, the KP chief minister revealed that he had signed a summary seeking Shakeel's de-notification on the committee's recommendation. The issue has caused a rift among party leadership with Atif Khan and Junaid Akbar putting their weight behind Shakeel which apparently didn't sit well with the KP government which has denoted the latter as CM Gandapur's focal person, a Pakistani newspaper reported on Sunday. Elaborating on the issue, Barrister Saif said that the PTI founder had directed Akbar's name to be included in the accountability committee and who was removed from the body at a later stage. Sources say that both the PTI leaders are expected to meet Khan next week after the KP government had complained of the duo. Speaking to the media in Islamabad earlier in the day, the KP CM's adviser recalled that "some people" had complained of corruption in KP to Khan after which the former premier held meetings with Gandapur and various others and conveyed a message stressing no tolerance for corruption.

Yunus vows to hold election after reforms

FOREIGN DESK

DHAKA: Prof. Muhammad Yunus, the chief of Bangladesh's interim government, vowed on Sunday to shortly restore normalcy and introduce a series of reforms in the country after PM Sheikh Hasina quit and fled amid violent protests calling for her to be ousted. Yunus, an 84-year-old Nobel prize laureate, took charge of Bangladesh on Aug. 8 as the chief adviser of its caretaker administration. He was nominated for the role by the student movement that led the weeks-long nationwide demonstrations, in which hundreds of protesters were killed and thousands injured and arrested. The interim government will prepare the country for new elections after a series of reforms, Yunus said during a special briefing in Dhaka, where he addressed foreign diplomats for the first time since taking office. "We will hold a free and fair participatory election as soon as we can complete our mandate to carry out the vital reforms in our Election Commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces and media," he said. "We will undertake robust and far-reaching economic reforms to restore macro-economic stability and sustain growth with priority attached to good governance and combating corruption and mismanagement." An economics professor, Yunus is a social entrepreneur and banker who was awarded the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for his pioneering micro-finance work that helped alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. It has now been widely adopted around the world.

Tessori urges Sindh govt to provide Punjab-like relief

Kamran Tessori's call comes after Maryam Nawaz-led Punjab govt had announced Rs14 per unit subsidy in power bills for two months

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Fearing a 'sense of despair' among the people of Sindh, Governor Kamran Tessori on Sunday asked Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to announce the Punjab government-like relief in electricity bills. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif announced the two-month power subsidy relief for Punjab citizens two days ago which would be given to consumers using up to 500 units in August and September bills. The move drew criticism from other provinces with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Mutahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P)

decriing the 'use of provincial card' in electricity-related issues. The PML-N president, patting the shoulder of her daughter CM Maryam, thanked her that she slashed flour prices when she assumed power in the province. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also welcomed the "historic" relief package for electricity consumers by the Punjab chief minister. Addressing a press conference here, Governor Tessori cited the Punjab government's example and asked CM Shah to allocate funds from the provincial budget for relief to the people. "Sindh CM [Murad Ali Shah], like Punjab, should provide a relief of Rs14 per unit in electricity bills," he said, saying that its denial may lead to a sense of despair among the people.

Meanwhile, Tessori also expressed concern over the catastrophic consequences following the torrential rain in parts of Sindh, noting that the people have been deprived of their homes due to the destruction. "We are sending ration bags for the rain-hit people in parts of the province," Tessori said, announcing that he would also undertake a visit to such areas. However, he clarified, that not a single penny of the provincial government was spent on the functions at the Governor House. Even the cash prize given to Arshad Nadeem, who won a gold medal in the Javelin Throw, didn't include funds from the Sindh government. On July 15, PM Shehbaz Sharif-led government jacked up the base tariff for domestic consumers to up to Rs48.84 per unit.

AUGUST 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165