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Detailed News On Page-07

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Sinner into Cincinnati Open final

Detailed News On Page-06



Party is getting stronger day by day Imran calls Faiz's arrest ploy to try him in military court

PTI founder says former spymaster is being made 'approver' against him: Court sends Imran, Bushra to jail on judicial remand in Toshakhana-II case

STAFF REPORT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Calling the arrest of former spymaster General (r) Faiz Hameed a drama staged to try him in a military court, former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan said on Monday that efforts were being made to make the ex-general an 'approver' in his case, reported 24NewsHD TV channel. In an informal chat with journalists at Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, the incarcerated leader said all this was being done to grant an extension to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa. "They fear that the Supreme Court's decision (reserved seats) might be implemented," he added. Responding to a question about whether the PTI would fall apart following his trial in a military court, he said that the people had given their verdict in the general elections held on February 8, and they stood firmly by it. "The party is getting stronger and stronger day by day. And whoever thinks it is weakening lives in a fool's paradise," he added. "They know all other cases against me have now hold no grounds, that's why they wanted to take me to the military courts," he said and added "They also want General Faiz to give some kind of statement that May 9 was a conspiracy." The PTI founder said Faiz Hameed would be used as an approver in his case, saying "If General Faiz had ordered his arrest and stolen the CCTV footage then he should be arrested. One who conspires never demands judicial commission. I was put in jail despite the fact that the regime changed took place against me." "They are saying Faiz Hameed was the mastermind behind the events of May 9 but he got me arrested. It's shameful that they are saying General Faiz used to issue directives to Bushra Bibi," Imran Khan said. The PTI founder maintained "They fear that if Justice Qazi

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£190m case: IHC bars trial court from announcing final verdict
Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi sent on 15-day judicial remand in new Toshakhana case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Approving a request by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) stopped the trial court from announcing the final verdict on the £190 million settlement case. A two-member divisional bench, comprising IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Babar Sattar, on Monday, heard a plea filed by the deposed prime minister, seeking the records for a past National Accountability Bureau (NAB) decision to close the graft case. The incarcerated PTI chairman is accused of causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer in a case also involving a property tycoon. During the hearing, Khan's counsel Salman Safdar maintained that the proceedings in the reference

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Chinese investment in Pakistan on 19 August 2024. - DNA

Another case of mpox reported in Islamabad

47-year-old man from AJK is under observation at PIMS for suspected monkeypox symptoms

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: A suspected case of monkeypox (mpox) has been reported at Islamabad's Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital, officials said on Monday. The patient, identified as a 47-year-old resident of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), recently returned to Pakistan from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. According to Dr Nasim Akhtar, the hospital's focal person, the man exhibited symptoms consistent with monkeypox and has been placed in a special ward designated for such cases at PIMS. Prior to the latest suspected case, Pakistan had reported three confirmed monkeypox infections with another suspected case pending confirmation. Meanwhile, the first monkeypox patient in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has gone missing from his home in Mardan. According to sources, the individual, who had returned from Saudi Arabia, was diagnosed with monkeypox. The health department reported that the diagnosis was made in Peshawar. However, when a medical team visited the patient's residence to provide guidelines, the house was found locked. Further inquiry with the District Health Officer (DHO) of the patient's native area in Dir revealed that the patient was not present there either. Global health officials on Thursday confirmed an infection with a new strain of the mpox virus in Sweden and linked it to a growing outbreak in Africa, the first sign of its spread outside the continent.

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IT exports up 30 %
IT Park in capital to boost exports to \$25b: PM Shehbaz

About \$13 billion foreign reserves from government's steps in IT exports, \$10 billion from country's digital transformation and \$2 billion foreign reserves in telecom sector were expected, the meeting was told

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the completion of Information Technology Park project in Islamabad would help boost country's exports in this sector and prove as significant milestone in achieving \$25 billion IT exports target. The prime minister while chairing a meeting to review the ongoing projects of Information Technology, digitization and steps to increase IT exports, termed the progress on IT project in Islamabad as satisfactory. He further directed for taking steps to reduce its completion timeframe after consultation with the Korean experts, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was attended by Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Deputy Chairman Planning Jehanzaib Khan,

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Bilawal orders swift relief efforts for rain-hit areas

PPP chairman also seeks report on rain damages

DNA

LARKANA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday directed Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to expedite relief operations in the rain-hit areas of the province and provide a comprehensive report on the damage caused by the recent downpours. The PPP chairman emphasized the urgency of addressing the situation,

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Briefs

Alvi says he is not scared of Article 6

Says the government instituted hundreds of cases against him

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Former president Dr Arif Alvi said on Monday the government should go ahead with its plan to impose Article 6 on him as he was not scared. "Let the government impose Article 6 on me; I am here and will go nowhere," the former president said in an interaction with journalist in the Islamabad High Court. Answering a question, he said: "They (government) should go ahead and fulfill their wish of imposing Article 6 on me." The government, he said, instituted hundreds of cases and it could add to these. This would afford him an opportunity (to plead his case), he added. He said he was born and bred in Pakistan, and would stay in the country.

MQM-P's Sattar calls power relief

People of Sindh are also entitled to Rs14 per unit of electricity relief

DNA

KARACHI: Muttahida Qami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader and MNA Dr Farooq Sattar has said it is a discriminatory move to extend power relief to Punjab only. Addressing a press conference on Monday, the MQM-P leader said Karachi paid the highest taxes and only Punjab had been given relief which was a discriminatory move. "People of Karachi and Sindh are also entitled to Rs14 per unit of electricity relief," he said, adding that people in Sindh paid Rs64 for per unit of electricity and there was not a single penny discount for them.

Rs 45 billion electricity package
Other provinces can offer electricity bill relief: Tarar

Tarar said Punjab will provide Rs 45 billion relief to consumers falling between 201-500 units

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar said that other provinces like Punjab can provide relief in electricity bills to their citizens. Talking to the media, the minister said that it was the top priority of the incumbent government to provide electricity relief to people under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif. He said that the federal government provided relief of Rs50 billion to the users consuming 1-200 units per month. Later, the minister said, that the Punjab government made further relief of Rs45 billion to consumers falling between 201-500 units. This was made possible after cutting the development funds. He said that instead of lauding the Punjab government's act of relief the Sindh government and the Jamaat-e-Islami started propaganda campaigns against it.



Ghani terms Punjab's relief a 'political stunt'

Saeed Ghani says it is federal govt's responsibility to provide cheap electricity to people

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Demanding permanent relief for citizens, Sindh Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani on Monday mocked the announcement about providing relief to people across Punjab for just two months, saying it was a political showoff. The provincial minister's comment came in response to the Punjab government's announcement of providing relief to the masses by slashing Rs14 per unit on

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Supreme Court stops IHC from proceeding in audio leaks case

IHC in the audio leaks case earlier ruled that any action of phone tapping without a legal mechanism was 'illegal'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) has issued an order halting further proceedings in the audio leak case at the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The ruling came during the hearing of an appeal filed by the federal government against the IHC's decision in the Bushra Bibi and Najam-ul-Saqib audio leak case. Additional Attorney General (AAG) Amir Rehman appeared before the court and argued that the IHC's May 29 order, which prohibited authorities from phone tapping, has severely impacted the operations of intelligence agencies. The IHC in its May 29 order said that prima facie no state official was authorised to surveil citizens and anyone doing so or aiding such an endeavour would be "liable for offences". "Any such unauthorised surveillance would also be in breach of fundamental rights of citizens guaranteed by Articles 9, 10A, 14 and 19 of the Constitution read with Article 4 and would cause irreparable harm to the liberty, dignity and privacy of the citizens being surveilled", the order stated. In today's hearing, while arguing the order, AAG maintained that "agencies like ISI and IB are unable to conduct counter-intelligence

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Gohar confident of 'clean sweep' in Islamabad local polls

Party chairman urges candidates to submit their nomination papers in 'large numbers' for the municipal polls

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan has announced that the party will participate in the upcoming municipal elections in Islamabad and is confident of a "clean sweep". Speaking to the media outside the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP) on Monday, Gohar urged the party's candidates to submit their nomination papers in large numbers for the municipal elections.

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Romina mobilizes resources for Urban environmental initiatives

PM's aide emphasized on setting up a dashboard that would also be linked with PM office, to review the progress and address the challenges to ensure fast tracking the projects & achieve objectives

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khursheed Alam on Monday stated that she was mobilizing resources for ongoing projects by engaging bilateral and multilateral donors as well as major banks to introduce Urban Environmental Initiatives and alternate energy sources in rural areas of Pakistan. She made these remarks during a meeting with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) delegation here at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, a news release said. In view of proactive communication and coordination, the PM's aide emphasized on setting up a dashboard that would also be linked with PM office, to review the progress and address the challenges to ensure fast tracking the projects & achieve objectives. To battle against air pol-

lution, the Ministry is kicking off Montreal Protocol Project nationwide in collaboration with UNDP that would fix out ozone and Hydro Chloro floro carbon (HCFC). This project is funded by Multilateral Fund Secretariat with budget worth \$594,748 and would be completed in 2027.

The meeting also discussed the GLOF-II project which was focusing on 10 districts of Gilgit-Baltistan and 08 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhah with budget worth \$37 million being funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF). This project is aimed to reduce flood risks and 696,000 community members are direct beneficiaries of the project. To combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gases emissions, the ministry is also initiating a fresh project "Promotion and Application of Sustainable Biomass Energy Technologies (PASBET) in the country with cost US\$ 28,724,726. This project

will be completed in 2028. To promote environmental sustainability and building climate resilience at both national and sub-national levels the ministry is working on its flagship "Climate Resilience Program". This climate promise initiative aims to enhance cooperation and resilience among local and regional stakeholders to address climate change threats and risks. The meeting also discussed "Global Shield Against Climate Risks" Project that was aimed to increase protection for vulnerable people by providing and facilitating substantially more and better pre-arranged finance against disasters. While assuring her fullest support to UNDP, PM's aide Ms. Alam directed the senior officers of the ministry to convene monthly progress review meeting about these projects adding that this government under the leadership of PM was committed to make the country climate resilient.



ISLAMABAD : PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Romina Khursheed Alam holds meeting with UNDP delegation to discuss ongoing projects.—DNA

DC directs for improvement in leanliness

PAKPATTAN : Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pakpattan, Sadia Mehr on Monday chaired a meeting regarding to control prices and improve cleanliness in the district.

The meeting was attended by the officers from relevant departments and district price magistrates, said the Chief Digital Monitoring Officer Punjab, Dr M Abdullah Tabassum. The meeting focused on measures to control the prices of essential commodities and prevent overcharging in the district. During the meeting, the DC instructed the officers to regularly monitor food prices and take swift action against any violations. She emphasized that the administration's top priority was to ensure that quality and affordable items were available to the public. On the occasion, Dr M Abdullah Tabasim, Chief Digital Monitoring Officer, highlighted the importance of this initiative in maintaining public trust. The meeting also covered the cleanliness campaign under the Suthra Punjab initiative. The DC urged all relevant institutions to collaborate in improving the city's cleanliness and environment. She called on citizens to actively participate in this campaign as well. He also stressed the need for immediate garbage disposal and the use of modern machinery to enhance the effectiveness of the cleaning efforts.—APP

CDA to launch online building plan approval system

DNA

ISLAMABAD : A meeting regarding the Online Building Plan Approval System was held on Monday under the chairmanship of CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa. Mr. Nauman Khalid, Technology & Digitalization gave a detailed briefing on the online system. The approval of building plans both for residential and commercial will be made through the Online Building Plan Ap-

proval System. The online system will enable citizens to process their cases regarding their houses and commercial building plans for approval from any corner of the world. Besides, citizens will not only be able to check the status of their cases online but also get updates of their case from the online system. Under the Online Building Plan Approval System, architects will also be registered on this system. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa directed that CDA's officers and

staff concerned should be imparted necessary training before the launching of this system. Besides, the necessary IT equipment should be provided to all concerned for successful operation of this online system. The Chairman further stated that CDA is striving hard to provide all related services to citizens at their doorstep. He added that CDA is launching a super app for the citizens of Islamabad through which more than 150 services can be accessed from home.

Rawalpindi launches app for public complaint management

RAWALPINDI : Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Engineer Aamir Khattak said that public service proves to be productive and meaningful for public actually when monitoring mechanism is strengthened. In this regard, an online app has been introduced by the Commissioner's Office, the purpose of which is to track public applications which have been submitted in Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, Revenue Officer and government offices. Where the status of the application can be seen online through the app, the commissioner and deputy commissioner will also be able to check the performance of their subordinate offices by observing that in how much time the application received in an office was processed. There are very strong rules for protecting consumers rights however public awareness is needed for exercising these rights. He directed that the officers receiving training should be given login immediately after giving complete training regarding app working so that public can enjoy its benefits as soon as possible.

He expressed these views while addressing the participants of training session of Complaint Management System held in Commissioner Office Rawalpindi. This training session was attended by Additional Commissioner Coordination Syed Nazarat Ali, Additional Commissioner Consolidation Majid Ali, DGP/HA Ahmed Hasan Ranjha, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars of Rawalpindi district. Besides, Deputy Commissioner Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum and Murree along with their team participated in this training program through video link. While giving a briefing on the occasion, it was said that this app will prove to be a great source of public relief.—APP

KP Govt making efforts to address industries' energy problem: SACM

Abdul Karim Tordher has said that the provincial government is making efforts to utilize 180 megawatt electricity of its own resources to address the energy problem of the local industries

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR : Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has said that the provincial government is making efforts to utilize 180 megawatt electricity of its own resources to address the energy problem of the local industries. He expressed these views while addressing an annual prize distribution function of Interlink Communication Private Limited, a mobile phone accessories manufacturing unit here on Monday. The best performing sales officers and other employees of the company were also given awards. Besides, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Interlink Communications, Ayaz Ali, Country Manager, Shoabuddin, General Manager (Sales) Saifullah and Chief Financial

Officer (CFO) Mohammad Saddique, sales officers and other concerned staffers also attended the ceremony. During the ceremony the Special Assistant awarded the best performing sales officers and other staffers with prizes including cash, shields and commendation certificates and appreciated their performance. Abdul Karim Tordher said that the province has started work on utilizing its own resources for the economic development and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minerals Development Company is being set up for the use of the mineral resources. He said that due to different unfavourable situations in past had born negative impact on the business activities. However, he said the region is blessed with precious natural resources and various sectors offers huge potential of development. The provincial government, he said is focusing

on the utilization of the available natural resources potential economic sectors to stand the province on its own feet. He said that the development of any institute or company depends on its marketing and sales department and when this section carries out its performance with best strategy take it forward towards development and achievement of the desired goal. The Special Assistant attributed the achievements of the Accessories Company to its sales department. Presenting a brief review of the measures taken by the provincial government for the economic development and promotion of industries and provision of conducive business environment, he said that a markup free credit scheme has been initiated through Akhuwat Foundation for the graduates of various technical trade courses of the technical education.

ISSI signs MoU with CSAI at Russian Institute of Studies

ISLAMABAD : The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Center for Scientific and Analytical Information (CSAI) at the Institute of Oriental Studies (IOS), Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) today. The signing ceremony was held virtually and marked the beginning of a new era of academic and research cooperation between the two institutions. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General of ISSI, and Prof. Dr. Nikolay Plotnikov, Head of CSAI, IOS, RAS, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions. The event was also attended by Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director of the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at ISSI, along with her research team and interns. Representing the Russian side, Mr. Alexey Marinin, Senior Researcher, was also present. In his remarks on the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the significance of this partnership, stating, "This signing today marks an important milestone in our joint endeavours to deepen academic and research cooperation. The world is witnessing unprecedented changes, and the dynamics of international relations are evolving rapidly. Platforms such as these can enable us to understand the fast changing environment as well as its impact on the global order." He also highlighted the importance Pakistan attaches to its relations with the Russian Federation, noting the expanding bilateral cooperation in various domains - including diplomacy, economy, energy, security, defence, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. He also underscored the fruitful Pakistan-Russia collaboration on regional issues such as Afghanistan and in multi-lateral fora including the SCO. Prof. Dr. Nikolay Plotnikov, in his remarks, underscored the extensive practical research work conducted by CSAI and the diverse areas and themes they explore, ranging from the Middle East to Japan in the Asia-Pacific region. He expressed confidence that collaboration with ISSI would open new avenues for joint research and dialogue. Dr. Neelum Nigar highlighted that this MoU is the first formal document concluded between ISSI and a Russian research institute, marking a historic moment for ISSI. She expressed optimism about the potential for future joint research projects and the exchange of ideas between the two sides. The MoU sets a framework for collaborative activities, including the exchange of researchers and data, joint events and programs, and the initiation of joint research projects. This partnership is expected to reinforce the intellectual efforts of both academic communities and contribute to a broader and deeper understanding of the regions they study.—DNA

Bangladesh unrest fueled by resistance to Indian influence

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The evolving situation in Bangladesh is driven by multiple factors. It goes beyond dissatisfaction with unemployment and administrative problems as there is also resistance to Indian influence. This unrest reflects a broader, ongoing process and it would be premature to consider it conclusive. Following the resignation and departure of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, with his international stature, faces a critical test in this environment. Whether he can develop a truly indigenous agenda to address these complex challenges remains to be seen. Meanwhile, it is crucial to recognize that the interests of Pakistan and Bangladesh are not mutually exclusive; both nations can benefit from cooperation. A prudent approach would be to stay cautious and closely monitor the unfolding events. This was observed during a session on "Transition in Bangladesh: Emerging Domestic and Regional Scenario," held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The session, chaired by

Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, was addressed by Ambassador (r) Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi, as the keynote speaker, and Ambassador (r) Rafiuzaman Siddiqui, both of whom have served as Pakistan's high commissioners to Bangladesh.

Shedding light on the recent developments, Ambassador Afrasiab noted that Pakistan now has an opportunity to reassess and strengthen its ties with Bangladesh. He observed that while Bangladesh may have grievances with Pakistan, there is no

deep-seated animosity. Meanwhile, resistance to Indian influence has been growing. Although the situation is still unfolding, it has sparked concerns in India, particularly about the potential resurgence of the Jamaat-Islami and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. On the other hand, it has also raised concerns in Bangladesh that India's strategic interests might lead it to employ various tactics aimed at influencing the country's political landscape, particularly to prevent the rise of these

groups due to their historical stances and perceived anti-India sentiments. Furthermore, as India, under the BJP and Modi, has been characterized by a radical nationalist agenda, its political direction and approach toward neighboring countries, including Bangladesh, are increasingly being questioned. Ambassador Rafiuzaman emphasized the need and importance of adopting a balanced and watchful approach in response to the emerging situation. He suggested that the new Bangladesh government could offer Pakistan opportunities for enhanced bilateral trade, cultural exchange, and youth interactions. In his concluding remarks, Khalid Rahman noted that various national, regional, and international factors are influencing the current situation in Bangladesh. He highlighted that while dissatisfaction among Bangladeshis is fueled by various issues, Sheikh Hasina's close association with India also significantly contributed to growing resistance against Indian influence. He said that India's policy influences had increased the dictatorial pressure in Bangladesh. As both Congress and the BJP share similar approaches on external issues.





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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
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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

Aga Khan Foundation launches \$7.2m Nutrition, immunisation programme

New initiative aims to support pregnant women mothers and children in particularly marginalised and underserved areas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) has announced the launch of a new \$7.2 million nutrition and immunisation programme in Pakistan. The new programme aims to support one million mothers and children in the most marginalised areas of four provinces. This programme is being implemented in partnership with federal and provincial governments, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and The Power of Nutrition (TPoN). Pakistan faces significant challenges in child health, with the third-highest burden of child mortality and ranking third globally for the most under-vaccinated children. Nearly 1.2 million children have not received essential immunisations. The hardest-to-reach populations, with the highest concentrations of undernourished, stunted, and wasted children, also have the largest numbers of "zero-dose" children—those who have not received any vaccinations. This correlation indicates that children at high risk of malnutrition are also the ones missing out on critical immunisation services. Delivering integrated immunisation and nutrition services can provide combined reinforcement benefits. Malnutrition and infectious diseases are key contributors to child morbidity and mortality, as malnutrition impairs immune responses, increases infection risk, and reduces vaccine effectiveness. However, despite targeting the same vulnerable populations, immunisation and nutrition programmes often oper-



erate in isolation. The \$7.2 million programme aims to support seven districts where the need is particularly high including Diamir, Astore, Gilgit, Sibi, Bolan, Usta Muhammad, Thatta, and Sajawal. Through an integrated approach, the programme incorporates strengthening health systems to address existing gaps in routine immunisation and

nutrition services, social behaviour change communication to generate demand for immunisation and supporting district and national governments in monitoring and reviewing data for evidence-based decision making and learning. The partnership aims to provide vital evidence on the importance of integration and real-life examples that demonstrate cost-effective ways

of joint delivery to improve health, nutrition and vaccination outcomes while simultaneously developing resilient health systems and communities. Akhtar Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer, Aga Khan Foundation Pakistan, said: "The strategic and innovative partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Power of Nutrition provides us a unique opportunity to contribute to SDGs by extending

an integrated package of immunisation, health and nutrition interventions for children living in some of the most marginalised districts in Pakistan. Through a close partnership with the Federal and Provincial Expanded Programme on Immunisation Directorates, and technical support of the Aga Khan Health Services and Aga Khan University,

the programme will generate data, evidence and learning to fill gaps and discover what works in this under-resourced area." Dr Tokunbo Oshin, Director, High Impact Countries, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, said: "With funding from the Aga Khan Foundation, The Power of Nutrition, and the FCDO Matching Fund, and in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, Gavi is pleased to be able to support this innovative programme, which responds to preferences expressed by parents to be reached with a package of interventions. Through health systems strengthening efforts, this will be a good opportunity to provide essential services in remote areas of Pakistan and learn how to better scale up integrated service delivery, including immunisation and nutrition." Dr. Alok Ranjan, Director of Programmes and Investments, The Power of Nutrition, said: "We're delighted to bring together partners Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Aga Khan Foundation for this vital project in Pakistan. For too long, nutrition and immunisation stakeholders have been working separately, despite the interventions reaching similar populations and being mutually beneficial. This programme promises not only real impact in Pakistan, it can help pave the way for more integrated programming worldwide." The programme is being jointly funded by all partners and centrally managed by The Power of Nutrition who convened the group using its unique matching model to create leverage and impact at scale.

New Swedish Ambassador arrives in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Sweden announced on Monday the arrival of the newly appointed Ambassador-designate to Pakistan, Alexandra Berg von Linde. Alexandra Berg von Linde has officially taken on her role as the Swedish Ambassador-designate to Pakistan, starting from August 15th. Before this appointment, Alexandra Berg served as Sweden's Ambassador to Bangladesh and has worked at the Swedish embassies in Kabul and New Delhi. Her experience includes various roles in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm. These roles include serving as Deputy Head of the Minister's Office and Chief of Staff to two Ministers of International Development Cooperation.



JazzCash transforms 350,000 businesses' smartphones

ISLAMABAD: JazzCash, Pakistan's leading fintech platform has launched its latest feature, "Tap-Pay for Businesses", enabling over 350,000 businesses across the country to accept payments through their Android smartphones. This cutting-edge feature allows businesses to seamlessly receive payments from any contactless debit or credit card or another smartphone with a simple tap on the businesses' NFC-enabled device, said a news release. The launch closely follows JazzCash's recent introduction of the "Tap-Pay" feature for customers, which allows customers to make payments directly from their phones. Together, these features will help establish an end-to-end contactless payment ecosystem in Pakistan. Murtaza Ali, President of JazzCash, said, "Our goal is to empower both customers and businesses. With Tap-Pay, we aim to enhance Pakistan's payment ecosystem with innovative solutions that are not only relevant but also accessible to all. This is a significant milestone as we continue to lead the way in digital financial inclusion and redefine how small businesses manage transactions." As of Q3 of FY 2023-24, over 47 million debit and credit cards are in circulation in Pakistan, and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported card purchases on POS machines totaling Rs. 394 billion during the same period. By enabling businesses using JazzCash to tap into this market, the fintech platform is opening new revenue streams for businesses and fostering greater financial inclusion. The introduction of the "Tap-Pay for Businesses" feature has been made possible through a strategic collaboration with Mastercard, technology partner Wizzit Holdings, and acquiring partner Bank of Punjab. —DNA

Soyabean, palm oil imports reduced

ISLAMABAD: Edible oil including soybean and palm into the country during the first month of the current financial year decreased by 93.20 percent and 13.99 percent respectively as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of the last year. During the month of July 2024 about 1,000 metric tons of palm oil costing \$1.017 million were imported as compared to the imports of 12,575 metric tons valued at \$14.995 million in the same month of the last year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, the palm oil im-

ports into the country during the first month of the current financial year were recorded at 256,460 metric tons valued at \$1.0717 million. The palm oil imports during the first month of last year were recorded at 277,801 metric tons costing \$278.939 million, it added. Food group exports from the country during the first month of the current financial year grew by 44.77 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding month of the last year. During July 2024, food commodities valued at \$475.767 million were exported as compared to the exports of 328.632 million

in the same month of the last financial year. However, the food group imports into the country during the first month of the current financial year went down by 18.30 percent and were recorded at \$510.449 million as against the imports of \$624.804 million of the corresponding period of the last year. The imports of other commodities, which posted negative growth during the period under review including milk, milk cream, and milk for infants decreased by 27.37 percent, tea by 26.68 percent, sugar by 44.90 percent, and pulses by 22.90 percent.—APP

ICCI President lauds PM's initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has appreciated the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's instructions to relevant authorities to prepare a strategy for gemstone mining in the Gilgit-Baltistan region within a month to minimize unnecessary wastage and enhance export revenue from precious stones, highlighting his government's interest in launching a pilot project in Gilgit-Baltistan to align the gemstone mining, cutting and value addition with international standards, assuring federal government's full support to GB government in this regard. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in a statement on Monday said that under his leadership, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is tirelessly working to promote economic activities in Pakistan, with a focus on ease of doing business and unlocking the country's vast tourism potential. He highlighted the success of the recent 2nd ICCI International Tourism Summit in Skardu, which brought together diplomats, business leaders and media representatives to explore opportunities in the sector.—APP

Internet disruptions trade activity

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: When the businesses are already facing several serious issues the slow and unreliable internet services are creating additional hurdles, severely affecting revenue streams and service quality. The internet disruptions not only impact large-scale businesses but also individuals running small enterprises who rely on stable connections to sustain their livelihoods. When the internet slows down, businesses experience major disruptions in daily operations. Key functions such as communication, order processing, inventory management, and customer service are all hindered. Small businesses, in particular, are vulnerable as they often depend entirely on mobile internet and Whatsapp to attract and serve customers.

ICT admin cracks down on plastic bags; fines Rs 20,000

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has started a firm campaign against the use of plastic bags in local markets of the Federal Capital, with a clear message: violations will not be tolerated. During a recent visit to the H-9 Sunday bazaar, Assistant Commissioner I-9 enforced the district's strict ban on plastic bags said the spokesman of the ICT administration. During the market visit, the AC accompanied by district administration teams confiscated plastic bags and the imposition of a Rs 20,000 fine on those found using them. This action is part of a broader effort to eliminate the use of plastic bags in Islamabad, as highlighted by the Deputy Commissioner. The district administration has adopted a zero-tolerance policy, meaning any violation of the ban would be met with strict legal action, the spokesman added. On the occasion, the Assistant Commissioner emphasized that the ban was comprehensive, and enforcement would be consistent across all markets. The district's commitment to this policy aimed to ensure that plastic bags were completely removed from circulation in the city.—DNA

AIOU launches tree plantation campaign

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has initiated a major tree plantation campaign to address climate change. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood inaugurated the campaign by planting a Moringa tree, emphasizing the university's commitment to environmental sustainability. Dr. Nasir Mahmood stated, "AIOU is dedicated to the national tree plantation effort, with plans to plant trees across all the 54 campuses and engage our students in this crucial cause." Deans, Professors, and other officials joined in.

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Briefs

Tarbela dam attains maximum water conservation level

ISLAMABAD: Tarbela Dam on Monday attained its maximum water conservation level of 1550 feet. Indus River System Authority (IRSA) released 380,400 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 417,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam has attained its maximum conservation level of 1550 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 256,400 cusecs and 235,600 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1213.80 feet, which was 165.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 25,800 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 289,800, 380,200, 381,000, and 371,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 66,400 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 45,400 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Filmmaker Shaukat Rizvi remembered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Legendary producer, director and actor Shaukat Hussain Rizvi was remembered on his death anniversary on Monday. Born in India in 1914, Rizvi is widely regarded as a pioneer of local cinema, having produced some of the earliest super hits in the sub-continental region. Shaukat Hussain Rizvi was born in Azamgarh, British India, in 1914. He was widely regarded as a pioneer of local cinema, he produced some of the earliest super hits in the sub-continental region. He directed his first film, Khandan, in 1942, which went on to become a super-hit at the time. He released hits such as Nokar in 1943, Dost in 1944, and 1947's Jugno, in which he launched the legendary singer Muhammad Rafi. After partition, Shaukat migrated to Pakistan. His famous films are Gulnaar and Jaan e Bahaar. Rizvi passed away on August 19, 1999, at the age of 86 years.—APP

ANF recovers 85 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 85 kg drugs worth Rs 25 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 1 kg ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Qatar at a courier office in Rawalpindi. In second operation, 250 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Faisalabad Airport. In third operation, 189 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain from Lahore Airport. 40 kg hashish and 14.4 kg ice were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near RCD Road Lasbela and an accused was arrested during the operation. 9.6 kg hashish was recovered from a woman arrested near M-1 Islamabad. 2 kg hashish was recovered from a motorcyclist rounded up on GT Road, Attock. In two operations conducted in Torkham, 7.4 kg hashish and 900 grams ice were recovered from the possession of an accused. 3 kg heroin was recovered from 3 drug pushers arrested near UET Gate-3 in Lahore. In 10th operation, 1 kg ice was recovered from an accused netted near Sher Shah Toll Plaza. In 11th operation, 300 grams ice was recovered from a woman arrested near Daska, Sialkot Road. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all arrested accused and further investigations are under process.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Members of the civil society lighting candles to pay homage to Dr. Moumita Debnath on the eve of World Humanitarian Day. — Online

Senate body takes notice of alleged malpractices in housing scheme

During the session, the Committee reviewed the implementation of recommendations from previous meetings, particularly focusing on actions taken against corrupt officials of the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) over the past five years

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas has ordered an inquiry into widespread power theft across Pakistan and took notice of alleged malpractice by a NESPAK consultant involved in the Park Road Housing Scheme under the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA). The meeting, chaired by Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani, scrutinized both the ongoing electricity theft concerns and the alleged corruption within the housing project. During the session, the Committee reviewed the implementation of recommendations from previous meetings, particularly focusing on actions taken against corrupt officials of

the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) over the past five years. Senator Shahzaib Durrani highlighted discrepancies in QESCO's disciplinary actions, criticizing the seemingly inconsistent grounds for the termination of certain individuals. He noted that while some individuals were dismissed for not showing enough interest in anti-theft initiatives, others received only minor penalties for more serious misconduct and corruption. Despite the removal of these allegedly corrupt officials, power theft in QESCO's jurisdiction persists. Consequently, the Chairman directed the Power Division to conduct a thorough examination of QESCO's disciplinary actions and submit a

detailed report within 30 days. The Committee also received updates on ongoing projects in less-developed areas. Managing Director NESPAK, Muhammad Zargham Eshaq Khan, briefed the Committee on NESPAK's supervision of the construction of 83 roads across 11 districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including seven districts in the former FATA region. The total length of these roads is approximately 872.65 km, with an estimated cost of Rs. 25.7 billion. The Committee instructed NESPAK to provide comprehensive details of projects related to the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The meeting also addressed allegations of malpractice by a NE-

SPAK consultant in the Park Road Housing Scheme of FGEHA. MD NESPAK disclosed that a Fact-Finding Committee had been formed to investigate the allegations, resulting in show-cause notices being issued to three officers and the suspension of four others pending the inquiry's completion. Senator Shahzaib Durrani questioned whether the Ministry of Housing had conducted an independent inquiry into the matter. The Director General of FGEHA informed the Committee that an internal investigation had been conducted, leading to the termination of the Project Director found guilty of the fraud. The case has since been forwarded to the Federal Investi-

gation Agency (FIA). Senator Shahzaib Durrani expressed concern that a single individual could orchestrate a fraud of Rs. 1.4 billion, suggesting that other officials might also be implicated. The Committee directed the Ministry of Housing to submit a full report of its internal inquiry. The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the briefing provided by the Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) and instructed both SEPCO and the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) to present a detailed report on unannounced load shedding and power theft in their respective areas, along with a comprehensive plan to address these issues, at the next meeting.—APP

CM's Advisor lauds RIC's health facilities

RAWALPINDI: Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Health, Major General (R) Azhar Mehmood Kayani on Monday termed Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC) an exemplary cardiology hospital having world-class medical standard. He appreciated the services rendered by the hospital management to the patients. "I appreciate the passion of the doctors, nurses and paramedical staff to serve the suffering humanity", he said while sharing his views during a surprise visit to RIC. The advisor instructed the medical officers to ensure attendance in their respective wards. He warned that carelessness committed by anyone would not be tolerated. The advisor said that CM Maryam Nawaz envisioned for provision of quality health facilities to the people. He maintained that treatment in RIC's emergency is completely free for all the patients. He further said that quality and timely treatment is the right of every patient for which all the staff should work as a team to improve the treatment services. Earlier, CM's Advisor was given a briefing on medical facilities and the operational work currently being done by the hospital. The advisor made a detailed review of the provision of health facilities in various departments of RIC. He also met with inquired about the treatment facilities from the hospitalized patients. He instructed to ensure timely attendance of the staff in the OPD.—APP

Naqvi expresses deep grief

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a collision between a trailer and a coach near Ghotki on M-5. He extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. Interior Minister prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the accident. He said that we share the grief of the bereaved families and our sympathies are with them. He prayed that May Allah Almighty grant patience and strength to the families of the deceased.—APP

Pakistan earns \$297 mn from IT services' export during July 2024

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$297 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first month of the current fiscal year 2024-25. This shows a growth of 32.46 per cent as compared with the US \$224.950 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding month of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the month under review, the computer services grew by 23.09 per cent as it surged from US \$187.470 million last year to US \$230.750 million during July 2024. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 24.53 per cent, from US

\$62.780 million to US \$77.262 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 189.32 per cent, from US \$0.067 million to US \$0.677 million. The export of repair and maintenance services however decreased by 6.06 per cent from US \$0.033 million to US \$0.031 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services also dipped by 13.36 per cent, from \$57.982 million to \$50.234 million. In addition, the exports of other computer services witnessed a growth of 52.65 per cent from US \$67.178 million to US \$102.546 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the month under review decreased by 80.39 per cent declining from US \$1.020 million to US \$0.200 million. Among the informa-

tion services, the exports of news agency services decreased by 89.03 per cent, from US \$0.939 million to US \$0.103 million whereas the exports of other information services rose by 19.75 per cent, from US \$0.081 million to US \$0.097 million. The export of telecommunication services increased by 83.79 per cent as these went up from US \$36.460 million to US \$67.010 million, the data revealed. Among the telecommunication services, the export of call centres services increased by 49.55 per cent during the month as its exports increased from US \$17.012 million to US \$25.442 million whereas the export of other telecommunication services also increased by 113.74 per cent, from US \$19.448 million to US \$41.468 million during this year, the PBS data revealed.

250 E-Rozgar centers to be established

ISLAMABAD: The government has announced the establishment of over 250 E-Rozgar centers across the country in collaboration with provincial governments and private institutions. These centers aim to provide essential facilities to hardworking and skilled youth in smaller cities, helping them access digital opportunities, according to an official from the Ministry of IT. The E-Rozgar centers will be established in every district of the country. The distribution of these centers is based on the population of each province, as well as data from 1.2 million freelancers registered with Ignite. Punjab leads the initiative with 149 centers, followed by Sindh with 51, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 28, and significant representation in other regions, including the federal capital Islamabad with 11 centers, Balochistan with 6, Azad Kashmir with 3, and Gilgit-Baltistan with 2.—APP

ICT admin intensifies monkeypox screening at airport

ISLAMABAD: In response to the growing threat of monkeypox, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration has intensified its efforts to ensure the safety of citizens. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon recently inspected the screening measures at the Islamabad Airport to prevent the spread of the virus, said the spokesman of the ICT administration. The DC arrived at Islamabad Airport to review the current screening procedures for passengers arriving from abroad. After the inspection, the DC directed health officials to speed up the screening process, ensuring that no passenger goes unchecked. On the occasion, the DC expressed his satisfaction with health department staff who were actively screening every passenger coming from foreign countries. He directed that if any symptoms of monkeypox were detected, the patient would be immediately isolated and transferred to PIMS Hospital for further care. He said that the PIMS Hospital has been prepared to handle monkeypox cases, with special arrangements made to isolate and treat affected patients.—APP

Capital and professionals are leaving the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that slow Internet is damaging the IT industry, online businesses, and hurting the masses. According to the general perception, the IT industry's and online businesses' future is at stake due to the government's efforts to control the Internet. Mian Zahid Hussain said that many businesses are affected and freelancers are losing their source of income. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that controlling the digital ter-

rorist group's misuse of social media is very important. The gang's activities are creating uncertainty and ruining the economy. He added that the policy of playing with millions of people's businesses to control the gang is wrong. The business leader said that companies doing business online are fleeing the country in large numbers, and Pakistan's reputation is also at stake. Mian Zahid Hussain said that many other countries have also controlled the Internet, but in Pakistan, those who do so are incompetent and sink the economy. He said that after the shocking revelation that Pakistanis invested eleven billion dollars in Dubai's property market, the Dubai Chamber of Commerce has said that 3968 Pakistani companies have registered in Dubai in the last six months.

In 2023, 8036 Pakistani companies were registered in Dubai, which was 71.2% more than in 2022, which means that capital is rapidly fleeing the country. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Dubai is the favourite destination of Pakistani software companies. There, electricity is cheap, the business environment is favourable, the payment system is better, and contracts are enforced. Foreign companies only like to deal with Pakistani companies registered in Dubai because the situation in Pakistan is uncertain, and doing business with Pakistani companies registered in Dubai provides a sense of security. Representatives of foreign companies don't like to come to Pakistan, but they are always ready to travel to Dubai for business. Pakistan's payment system is also very weak, while there

is no such weakness in Dubai. Corporate tax is only 9% on profits above 375,000 dirhams, while there is no tax on profits below 375,000 dirhams. The tax rate in Dubai is negligible compared to the facilities. Dubai does not have complex formalities, unnecessary documentation, and tedious laws like Pakistan. It does not have a culture of setting goals and making loud claims based on baseless assumptions. He further said that instead of giving better incentives to companies doing business in Pakistan, they are strangled. Such policies should be avoided, as they will deprive Pakistan of its talent and income, and the plan of increasing IT exports to 10 billion dollars in two years will remain a dream.



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New era of Bangladesh-Rohingya relations

THE appointment of Mohammed Yunus as the interim prime minister of Bangladesh has raised hopes and questions about how his administration will address the ongoing Rohingya crisis. With a background in humanitarian efforts and a history of advocating for marginalized communities, Yunus' approach to the Rohingya issue is likely to be shaped by his deep understanding of social justice and human rights issues. His foreword in my book on the Rohingya crisis highlights the gravity of the situation and suggests a potential roadmap for his leadership on this front. The Rohingya, a Muslim minority from Myanmar's Rakhine State, have faced decades of systematic persecution, culminating in what the UN describes as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." The military-led operations of 2017 forced nearly 1 million Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh, where they now reside in overcrowded refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. The situation remains dire, with little progress toward repatriation or integration, leaving the Rohingya in a state of limbo. Yunus' foreword to "The Rohingyas: Inside Myanmar's Genocide" paints a bleak picture of the atrocities committed against this group and emphasizes the urgent need for international intervention. His words reflect a deep empathy for the Rohingya and a commitment to their cause. As PM, Yunus is likely to prioritize the Rohingya crisis, recognizing it not only as a humanitarian issue but also as a matter of regional stability and security. Given Yunus' background and his emphasis on the protection of basic human rights, his administration is expected to advocate for a more robust and compassionate approach to the Rohingya crisis. In the past, Yunus has strongly condemned the ethnic cleansing in Myanmar and called for global action to prevent further atrocities. This stance suggests that, under his leadership, Bangladesh may take a more proactive role in rallying international support for the Rohingya. Yunus may seek to strengthen diplomatic ties with key international actors, including the UN, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to push for a comprehensive solution to the crisis. His administration could also prioritize the implementation of stronger safeguards for the Rohingya within Bangladesh, ensuring that they have access to basic rights and services while the international community works toward a long-term solution. However, Yunus will face significant challenges in addressing the growing Rohingya population and the cost. Bangladesh is already under immense pressure due to the economic and social burden of hosting nearly 1 million refugees. The prolonged presence of the Rohingya has led to tensions between the local population and the refugees, with concerns about security, resource allocation and environmental degradation. Yunus will need to navigate these complexities carefully, balancing the needs of the Rohingya with the concerns of the Bangladeshi population. His administration may need to implement policies that not only address the immediate humanitarian needs of the Rohingya but also promote social cohesion and economic development in the host communities.



The Mirage of ceasefire in Gaza

ISRAEL escaped a certain military retaliation last week when Joe Biden hastily called to start a new round of ceasefire negotiations—a ploy aimed at forestalling potential reprisals for Israeli attacks in Tehran, Yemen, and Beirut. The Palestinians have agreed previously to multiple revised American ceasefire proposals. Each time, however, Benjamin Netanyahu added new conditions forcing the negotiations to go back to the starting point. On May 31st, the US President announced what he called a comprehensive Israeli proposal, promising a "roadmap to a lasting cease-fire and the release of all hostages." Yet, in less than 24 hours, Netanyahu dismissed Biden's proposal as a "nonstarter," insisting that his terms for ending the war remain unchanged. Throughout its history, "Israel" has used the never-ending negotiations as a Sisyphean amaranthine. In 1992, Yitzhak Shamir told the Israeli newspaper Maariv that his strategy during the Madrid talks was to negotiate "for 10 years, and in the meantime, we would have reached half a million people (illegal Israeli settlers) in the West Bank." Three decades later, "Israel" has increased the population in the Jewish-only colonies in the West Bank far more than the half-million mark and still haggling with no end in sight, over the 1993 Oslo Framework. Today, there could be another 40,000 murdered Palestinian children while "Israel" negotiates Biden's Framework on the ceasefire in Gaza. Netanyahu's own negotiating team has accused him of undermining the ceasefire talks. According to "Israel's" Channel 12, a recent meeting between Netanyahu and his team escalated into a shouting match, with Netanyahu accusing them of being "weaklings" serving the interests of the Palestinian resistance. The Biden Administration, therefore, should focus on mediating between Israelis to establish a definitive Israeli position, rather than allowing Netanyahu to continually waste time introducing new conditions after the Palestinians have agreed to a proposal. As an Israeli official told AXI-OS, "Netanyahu wants a deal that is impossible to get." Zionist leader Nahum Goldman once remarked, "Diplomacy in the Middle East is the art of delaying the inevitable as long as possible." The outcome of last week's meetings in Doha has demonstrated, once again, how "Israel" has mastered this art. For "Israel", negotiation is an end in itself—each meeting becomes a new opportunity to dawdle and haggle to delay an agreement. Following the (failure) conclusion of the Doha talks, the White House announced that another meeting would take place in Cairo before the end of next week. Biden's office claimed that "the path is now set... (for) de-escalating regional tensions." In a move likely engineered by Washington, the Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs held a phone call with Iran's Acting Foreign Minister to discuss "the need for calm and de-escalation in the region." Possibly because Washington wants to convey a message—albeit a misleading one—to Iran about supposed progress in the talks, tangling the proposed round of ceasefire negotiations to delay a potential Iranian retaliation, one more week.

Leadership crisis

Bouthaina Shaaban

Furthermore, most of these countries hold accountable those who sympathize with the victims, those who are outraged by the sight of such atrocities, and those who call for an end to them. Meanwhile, the killer is encouraged to eliminate whomever he wishes and continue his deliberate and calculated genocide with no deterrent or fear. At the root of all this lies an ingrained racism in the literature, culture, and practices of Western countries, which have yet to overcome their colonial legacy that devalues the lives of non-Westerners compared to those of Westerners. Consequently, they denounce and hold accountable any Westerner who shows empathy with non-Western victims, as if these victims do not merit the same regard and dignity afforded to Westerners

THE world we live in today is experiencing an unprecedented political crisis for decades. This crisis is leaving profound impacts, with far-reaching consequences on people's lives, security, and future. Until the end of the last century, politicians constituted at least a clear cornerstone of political debates and realities. In the global arena, forces with different or conflicting ideologies are competing, each striving to clarify their agenda and objectives in order to attract followers, supporters, and allies. Political figures and their credibility play a crucial role in this polarization, which is why parties have always strived to develop their cadres and meticulously study every aspect of their leaders' personalities to ensure they surpass their rivals. Countries were often identified by the names, reputations, and presence of their leaders, who gained global recognition for their balanced stances, even among their adversaries. Today, however, statesmen who are mindful of their legacy have disappeared from the political scene. These were individuals who cared not only about their status while holding high office, but also about how they would be remembered by future generations, considering that their legacy extends far beyond their short lives. Today, it has become difficult to count even a handful of true statesmen in the world. As for those who remain, they severely dishonor the positions they hold, the titles they bear, and the responsibilities entrusted to them. They have left the governed masses stunned by the enormity of what is happening, shocked by the strangeness of events, and utterly dismayed by the complete inaction or blatant neglect in addressing these situations in a manner that aligns with reason, logic, and the basic principles of human behavior that should guide people's actions. All of this was painfully clear to me on the face of a Palestinian father pulling the remains of children from a school near al-Mawasi, which had been bombed by Israeli warplanes, turning the tender bodies of children into unrecognizable, nameless fragments. He held some of the remains and lifted others with his shattered body and hands, then looked aside and said, "What can we say? We have said everything, yet no one listens or sees. So, why should we say anything at all?" That is to say that words have lost their significance, effectiveness, and meaning because they fall on ears that do not hear and hearts that do not feel. And what is the stance of Western politicians toward such crimes against humanity? Their disgraceful position is to pump more money and weapons for the war criminals to kill more children under the pretext of self-defense.

One of the manifestations of this world, which can be described as a state of severe disarray where politics has lost its meaning and politicians have lost their status and credibility, is that politicians of Western industrialized countries have failed to condemn the killing of children whom God created in His image and endowed with His spirit. Moreover, after the killer has ravaged cities and capitals, perpetrated the most horrible massacres against innocents, and openly threatened to exterminate civilians, the leaders of these countries convene to express their fear of being unable to protect the killer from retaliation. At the same time, they release billions of dollars to facilitate the killer's continued atrocities, provide them with internationally banned bombs to sustain their slaughter, and enable the torture and abuse of detainees in prisons worse than the Nazi and American prisons of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. They shamelessly don't hesitate to flood the media with noise and clamor about safeguarding the security of the killer. Furthermore, most of these countries hold accountable those who sympathize with the victims, those who are outraged by the sight of such atrocities, and those who call for an end to them. Meanwhile, the killer is encouraged to eliminate whomever he wishes and continue his deliberate and calculated genocide with no deterrent or fear. At the root of all this lies an ingrained racism in the literature, culture, and practices of Western countries, which have yet to overcome their colonial legacy that devalues the lives of non-Westerners compared to those of Westerners. Consequently, they denounce and hold accountable any Westerner who shows empathy with non-Western victims, as if these victims do not merit the same regard and dignity afforded to Westerners. Just as they only recognized the threat of Hitler after the Soviet Union entered the war and made immense sacrifices to counter him, today they have yet to realize that the very racism on which they base their calculations will eventually knock on their doors and bring them all the deadly consequences they thought they were shielded from. Racism has begun to rear its head in some of their countries, and when it fully unravels, its poisons will not be limited to migrants and people of color; it will become a plague from which no one will be spared. As they continue to shirk their political, ethical, and international responsibilities, they ignite the flames of conflict through their brutal occupations of our countries and then ask their citizens to leave the region. They send warships, bombs, and funds to the perpetrators, provide them with endorsements and guarantees of security, and ensure they face no accountability for their actions. Then they urge their citizens to retreat to safe areas within their

own countries, away from the fires they themselves have ignited, in which they have sided with terrorism, terrorists, occupiers, settlers, killers, and criminals. In this context, media voices that strive to convey the truth are being silenced and assassinated, so that their messages do not escape the realm of fire and leave no mark on the consciences of those who cling to their humanity and strive to express it despite all threats, extortion, and targeting. Those who remain here, holding onto their principles and sacrificing their children and martyrs, while bowing on this sacred land and reaffirming their commitment to its sanctity, security, and defense, live by a set of values and ethics that are entirely disconnected from the practices of the West and its Zionist creations against them. They work for the legacy of future generations and for the continuity of the trust they have carried since their youth, believing that the justice of their cause will ultimately prevail against aggression and crime. How could it be otherwise, when this is their land, their history, and where they toil for the future of the remaining children? Do these politicians not feel any shame as they urge their citizens to leave the lands where they have ignited a war? Are they not embarrassed by the gaze of the people; children, elders, and inhabitants, regarding the wrongs they have committed against them, only to retreat to their own safe havens, indifferent to what might happen outside? There is no doubt that the political crisis and particularly the leadership crisis currently faced by the West is the root of all the crises we are experiencing today, whether economic, ethical, or societal. The problem today is that the West, which is indeed grappling with a profound structural crisis, is bypassing and ignoring it, stubbornly refusing to confront it. Instead, it uses weapons, money, and terrorism to assert its power and dominance, supporting terrorism and terrorists and intimidating anyone who dares to defy its authority. If we were to examine everything happening in our world today, from Gaza and Palestine to Venezuela, Colombia, countries of the African Sahel, the Maghreb, China Sea, and Ukraine, we would find that the root of these conflicts and wars lies in the desperate attempts of Western centrism to maintain its position of leadership, despite having lost all its political, ethical, and international credibility, and now relying only on its military superiority, possession of lethal weapons, and wealth, with a readiness to use all of these assets to preserve its continued dominance. However, history has repeatedly shown that empires cannot endure solely through wealth and military power. The moral, political, and societal decay of an empire is a clear precursor of its inevitable and imminent downfall.

Israel's war in the West Bank must be stopped

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

The Oslo Accords of the early 1990s gave Palestinians nominal administrative control over small areas of the West Bank, designated as Area A and Area B. This necessitated the transfer of some of the Civil Administration's responsibility to the newly formed Palestinian Authority, based on the understanding that the latter would essentially continue to prioritize Israel's security. This new arrangement allowed Israel to expand, unhindered, its illegal settlements in most of West Bank and East Jerusalem

PROMISES of "absolute victory" in Gaza are nothing but "gibberish," according to Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. Gallant's comments were not meant to be made public, but somehow they were leaked and published by Israeli media last week. The explanations of why Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pursuing a losing war in Gaza have been largely confined to his personal interests: avoiding the outcome of his corruption trials, preserving his extremist government coalition and avoiding early elections. Still, none of these rationales explain the absurdity of continuing with the war. What else could explain Netanyahu's motives? And why are his most crucial government allies, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, determined to prolong it? The answer may not lie in Gaza, but in the West Bank. While Israel is extending its failed military campaign in the Strip with no clear strategic objectives, its war on the West Bank is driven by clear strategic motives: the annexation of territory and the ethnic cleansing of large sectors of the Palestinian population. This is not only obvious through Israel's daily actions in the West Bank, but also because of the statements made by extremist government officials. These include a commitment by Netanyahu's own Likud party to "advance and develop settlement in all parts of the land of Israel—in the Galilee, Negev, Golan Heights, and Judea and Samaria (referring to the West Bank)." An audio recording obtained by the Israeli group Peace Now conveyed the following remarks by Smotrich at a June 9 conference: "My goal is to settle the land, to build it, and to prevent, for God's sake, its division... and the establishment of a Palestinian state." To do so, the far-right politician has assigned himself the job of changing "the system's DNA." This "system" was

put in place decades ago. Following its military occupation of the West Bank, Israel began the slow but determined process of illegally annexing Palestinian territories. This included the establishment, in 1981, of the so-called Civil Administration. This is essentially a branch of the Israeli military, but it was designated as "civil" as part of a greater government effort to convert a temporary military occupation into the permanent colonization of Palestine. This entailed the practical annexation and continued expansion of the illegal Israeli Jewish-only settlements built on Palestinian land after the war. The Oslo Accords of the early 1990s gave Palestinians nominal administrative control over small areas of the West Bank, designated as Area A and Area B. This necessitated the transfer of some of the Civil Administration's responsibility to the newly formed Palestinian Authority, based on the understanding that the latter would essentially continue to prioritize Israel's security. This new arrangement allowed Israel to expand, unhindered, its illegal settlements in most of the West Bank and East Jerusalem. It tripled both the size and population of the settlements between 1993 and 2023. As Israel's colonial plan in the West Bank reached its zenith, Netanyahu sought, in 2020, to reinforce Israeli gains with the annexation of more than 30 percent of the West Bank. Due to international pressure and growing Palestinian resistance, Netanyahu postponed his plan, though with the understanding that "annexation remains on the table." Without much fanfare, however, Israel swapped its hope of a sweeping de jure annexation of the West Bank for de facto control, through the rapid seizure of Palestinian land and the expansion of settlements. Though the Israeli military is faltering in Gaza, this war is being used as the perfect smoke-screen to finalize old colonial plans in the West Bank.

In 2017, this scheme was dubbed by Smotrich as "victory through settlement." Now in a position of power and with access to a massive budget, he is making his life's goal a reality. For Smotrich's dream to be realized, he needed to revitalize the once-central role of the Civil Administration. In May, he invented a new position of deputy head of the administration and granted it to his close associate, Hillel Roth. Now, both have unparalleled sweeping rights to expand the settlements. Netanyahu's government has already approved 12,000 new housing units for illegal settlements, while ordering the demolition of thousands of Palestinian homes and other civilian infrastructure. In the first three months of 2024, Israel declared nearly 6,000 acres of West Bank territory as "state-owned land" and therefore eligible for settlement construction. The decision was described by Peace Now as "largest West Bank land grab in 30 years." The ethnic cleansing of Palestinians is already underway. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council, in the first half of 2024 alone, at least 1,000 Palestinians were forcefully displaced, while nearly 160,000 were affected by home demolitions. The Israeli war on the West Bank has also come at a high price of blood. As of Sunday, at least 633 Palestinians had been killed and 5,400 wounded in the territory since Oct. 7, according to the Ministry of Health. When the war on Gaza is over, the war on the West Bank will grow more intense and bloodier, but with the clear strategic goal of annexing the whole of the area. The International Court of Justice last month resolved that Israel's "annexation and assertion of permanent control" in the West Bank was "unlawful." To avoid a greater war and genocide, the international community must use all available means to enforce international law and end the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Briefs

Imran calls
Faiz's arrest
ploy to...

FROM PAGE 01
Faez Isa is going then there 'election theft' will be exposed. General Bajwa stabbed me in the back after striking a deal with Nawaz Sharif for removal of Faiz Hameed as ISI chief. Imran Khan also discussed his efforts to combat terrorism in collaboration with the Afghan government, which were reportedly hindered by the removal of General Hameed and the appointment of a new ISI chief at the behest of Nawaz Sharif. He lamented the internal betrayal by Bajwa, which led to the fall of his government. "I'm not afraid if General Faiz turns an approver and gives statement against me," he said and added "About General Faiz, I can say he had been holding talks with Taliban for three years, so he should not have been shown the door. I also asked General Bajwa not to remove him."

£190m
case: IHC
bars trial...

FROM PAGE 01
against the former prime minister are still underway, and the last of the 35 witnesses are under cross-examination. He apprised the court that there were eight accused, six of which are absconders and the two are Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi. As per the allegations in the case, the petitioner of this plea, facilitated the settlement between the government and the property tycoon when he was the prime minister, the counsel added. Referring to the 190 million pounds received from UK's NCA in 2019, Safdar contended that NAB maintained in the case that the funds had to be transferred in the government's account but instead they were received in the Supreme Court's bank account and that the Al Qadir Trust is operational instead of a ghost project.

Ghani terms
Punjab's
relief a...

FROM PAGE 01
electricity bills for two months - August and September. In a presser on August 16, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supreme Nawaz Sharif said the Punjab government had prepared a relief package by cutting the power tariff by Rs14 per unit for people consuming up to 500 units of electricity. "The relief will be given in the bills of August and September," he had added. The move drew criticism from other provinces with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Muttabahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) decrying the 'use of provincial card' in electricity-related issues. It should be noted that the PML-N holds power in Punjab as well as in the Centre. Talking to journalists inside the Sindh Assembly premises, Ghani said it was the federal government's responsibility to provide people cost-efficient electricity.

Supreme
Court stops
IHC from...

FROM PAGE 01
and apprehend terrorists". Justice Aminuddin Khan inquired whether the high court had determined who was recording the audio. The AAG responded that the investigation is ongoing and "no conclusions have been reached yet". Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan expressed concern over the situation, he remarked, "Unfortunately, in this country, no one wants to uncover the truth. An inquiry commission was established to find the truth, but the Supreme Court stayed it". "The audio leaks case has not been scheduled again, and when Parliament attempted to seek the truth, it was also stopped". Court questioned how the truth could ever come to light if neither Parliament nor the courts are allowed to function. Justice Aminuddin Khan suggested that the audio leak might have been made by person being spoken to.

Indian Gymkhana vs Junaid
Legends match ends in tie

German hockey legend Stephen Bluscher said he was honoured to participate in the match, held for a noble cause

DNA

LONDON: The exhibition hockey match between Indian Gymkhana London and Khawaja Junaid All Stars Hockey Legends ended in a thrilling tie, with both sides scoring five goals each. The match, organized in collaboration with Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy, Al Mera Foundation and the Noor Project was aimed at promoting hockey and raise funds for orphans and underprivileged children. The match consisted of four 15-minute halves, showcased the skills of international hockey stars, including Dhanraj Pillay, Stephen Blocher, Juan Escarre, James Tyn dall, Pakistan's Olympian Khawaja Junaid and Rana Ghazanfar Ali, Faiz ur Rehman, Akram Raza, Adeel Ahmad, Throughout the match, the spectators were captivated by the legends' skills and techniques. Although the match ended in a draw, Rana Ghazanfar of Pakistan emerged as the top scorer with two goals, while Dhan Rajpala dominated the game with his exceptional performance. In his post match comments, Indian hockey legend Dhan Rajpala expressed his willingness to visit Pakistan to promote the sport and back the Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy. "I would be happy to come to Pakistan on a call for the promotion of hockey and to support the children of Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy," he said. Spanish star Juan Escarre shared his fond memories of Pakistan stating, "Whenever there is a hockey event in Pakistan, I will be the first to reach there."



the event and expressed his willingness to participate in future events in Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of strategic planning and funding for hockey, encouraging Pakistan to follow India's approach to the sport. The event highlighted the strong bonds of sportsmanship between the players and underscored the importance of promoting hockey globally.

None of our stadiums meet
int'l standards: Mohsin Naqvi

"There's huge difference in international stadiums and those of ours," says Mohsin Naqvi

DNA

LAHORE: With the preparations for Champions Trophy 2025 in full swing, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has justified the board's initiative to upgrade Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi venues, saying that none of the stadiums in the country meet international standards. "There's a huge difference in international stadiums and those of ours [...] none of our stadiums are of international standard," Naqvi said while speaking to the media persons on his visit to review Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium's upgradation work on Monday. The PCB chief's remarks come as the board has decided to renovate Karachi's National Stadium, Rawalpindi International Cricket Stadium along with Lahore's venue at the cost of Rs12.8 billion ahead of the Champions

Trophy 2025 which will be hosted by the aforesaid arenas.

Last week, the chairman approved the stadiums' designs during his visit to BDP Pattern's, a renowned architectural company based in the United Kingdom, London head office. Meanwhile, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has also approved a budget of around \$70 million for the tournament expected to be held in the February-March window next year. The amount will cover the expenses incurred during the support period which has been scheduled from February 12 to 18. A day earlier, the board had announced its decision to shift the second Test of the two-match series between Pakistan and Bangladesh from Karachi to Rawalpindi due to ongoing renovations and construction work at the National Stadium. Elaborating on the upgradation project, Naqvi highlighted that the construction work is being carried out at

a fast pace and expressed hope that the challenging task will be completed before Champions Trophy 2025.

"The Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) team is working day and night. [We] will make our stadiums one of the best in the world [...] providing basic facilities in stadiums is [our] first priority," the PCB chief added. Commenting on the Pakistan-Bangladesh Test being shifted to Rawalpindi, he said that security agencies had advised them to hold matches without spectators and the decision was made after due consultations and further remarked that more changes can be made in the future as well. Refuting any lack of coordination, Naqvi also underscored that the board has acquired a building near Gaddafi Stadium which will be converted into a hotel for teams. However, he added, the project is a complicated one and it would become clear in the next 10 days whether it will be completed before next year's mega event or not.

Jayasuriya urges SL
to show 'hunger'
in England Tests

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's interim coach Sanath Jayasuriya urged the team to show "hunger" in the three-Test series against England which is set to begin on August 21. The Test matches will be played as part of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 and both teams will give their all. Sri Lanka are placed fourth on the WTC points table with 50 PCT while England are ranked sixth with 36.54 PCT. Jayasuriya, in a conversation with ESPN Cricinfo, stated that he wanted to make sure that the players have the right mindset before the series begins. "I want to make sure there is that hunger," Jayasuriya said while stressing the importance of the upcoming series. "Playing three Tests like this is not an opportunity you will get easily again. "So, we have to take it while we can. Scoring runs here is challenging, because even if the pitches are flat, the ball can still start swinging, or seaming. We have to know how to adjust to that." Jayasuriya, during his days as a player, played six Tests in England where he scored 421 runs at an average of 42.1. The former batter's best of 213 runs also came at The Oval in 1998. "We have the personnel there, but we need to fight hard. If you play six or seven batters, only two or three will perform for sure. If they get a start they need to play big innings. "They know they have that responsibility on challenging wickets. Everyone should play their natural game, but once you get that start, there are places where you need to break things down a little, and either bat quickly, or slow down for a bit. "When the ball gets older, it can still seam here, which is the uniqueness of the Duke ball." Sri Lanka is yet to name their playing XI for the first Test against England. - Agencies

Mbappe and
Madrid denied in
Mallorca draw

PALMA, Spain: Kylian Mbappe was left frustrated on his Real Madrid La Liga debut on Sunday as a resilient Real Mallorca held the Spanish and European champions to a 1-1 draw in their title defense opener. The French superstar was thwarted by Mallorca goalkeeper Dominik Greif and after Rodrygo Goes sent Madrid ahead early on the hosts levelled in the second half through Vedat Muriqi's towering header. Madrid's star-studded side struggled to break down Mallorca, who came closer to winning the game in the final stages at Son Moix stadium. Los Blancos defender Ferland Mendy was sent off in stoppage time for a high challenge on Muriqi. "We went ahead, we had chances to score the second, and then in the second half we lacked balance," Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. "We conceded counter-attacks, it was not a good game, it was quite a clear game to see that we need to defend better and have better balance on the pitch." Ancelotti selected the same starting line-up which defeated Atalanta to win UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday, with Jude Bellingham in midfield behind the Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo attacking line. - Agencies

Pakistan's playing XI
announced for first BD Test

PAKISTAN confirmed their playing XI for the upcoming first Test against Bangladesh, set to take place in Rawalpindi from August 21. Shan Masood will be leading the national team in a home series for the first time. Joining Masood in the team are Saud Shakeel, Abdullah Shafique, and the prolific Babar Azam, who will bolster the batting lineup. The team's fast bowling attack will be spearheaded by Shaheen Shah Afridi, with Mohammad Ali, Naseem Shah, and rising star Khurram Shahzad completing the pace quartet. Wicketkeeper-batsman Muhammad Rizwan has also been selected, along with all-rounder Salman Agha who will be the only spinner. It must be noted it will be first game for Jason Gillespie as the head coach of the Pakistan cricket team. Pakistan's Playing XI for first Bangladesh Test Abdullah Shafique, Saim Ayub, Shan Masood (c), Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Ali, Khurram Shahzad Earlier, all-rounder Aamer Jamal was released from the squad as he is yet to recover from back injury. Jamal, 28, got injured while playing for Warwickshire in county cricket. He played three Tests and six T20s for the side after joining them in April. He was last seen in action for the county side on June 8 but was sidelined after that due to the diagnosis of his back injury. The PCB put him in the squad for the two-Test series against Bangladesh with his participation subject to fitness but the all-rounder could not get match fit and was ultimately released from the squad. "Right-arm fast bowler Aamer Jamal has been released from the Test squad ahead of the series against Bangladesh. Aamer, who was earlier included in the squad subject to fitness clearance, has been advised to work on his fitness at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore," the PCB said in a presser. "Aamer is recovering from a back injury which he sustained while playing county cricket this year." Series schedule: 1st Test: August 21 - 25 @ Pindi Cricket Stadium, 2nd Test: August 30 - 4 September @ Pindi Cricket Stadium. - DNA

Sinner overcomes Zverev to reach Cincinnati Open final
The Italian will now face Frances Tiafoe in the final

PARIS: Jannik Sinner defeated Alexander Zverev 7-6(9), 5-7, 7-6(4) in a three-hour-long battle to reach the ongoing Cincinnati Open final despite limping at times. Sinner, who won his first Grand Slam this year by winning the Australia Open, was struggling with his hip pain, which made him withdraw from the 2024 Paris Olympics, but the Italian displayed a great show of tennis and defeated the 2021 Cincinnati champion. Sinner will now take on Frances Tiafoe in the final on Monday. "Sometimes you have to play a bit with the gut feeling. And I think this today was, my strength," Sinner said in his on-court interview. "[There were] some up and downs, which can happen, especially when you play [for] more than three hours. It was a good match, I think for both of us. He served very, very well, so I can be very proud."



The Italian had not gone past the round of 16 before the ongoing edition at Cincinnati Open and now he is just one win away from winning his fifth title of the season. "It means a lot to me. It's a very different moment, what I'm going through, so I'm very happy about this result," Sinner said. "The physical aspect, of course, I have to improve, because if I want to win Grand Slams or a bigger title, I have to be, for sure, more in shape. But I just tried to stay there mentally, which I'm very proud [of], and let's see what's coming tomorrow. "[It was] a tough match, an exciting match. [The] atmosphere has been amazing throughout the whole match," Sinner said. "Many, many different conditions. We started off with [it] sunny, then after came the rain. Now [it] was night session, so we had a lot of tension for both of us. I'm very happy about this performance, and obviously very happy to be in the final."

Gohar
confident
of 'clean
sweep' in...

FROM PAGE 01
He expressed confidence that PTI would secure a sweeping victory. Commenting on a recent SC decision regarding four constituencies, Gohar expressed disappointment, saying, "Unfortunately, our concerns were not heard. Our valid votes were rejected, and there was no previous request for a recount in NA-79. We hope the Election Commission will address our concerns." Last week on August 13, the top court set aside by a majority vote a Lahore High Court (LHC) order, allowing a recount of votes at three National Assembly and one Punjab Assembly constituencies as sought by the ruling PML-N's runner-up candidates. Runner-up candidates from the PML-N filed requests with the ECP for a recount of votes, applications that the ECP later approved. The PTI-backed candidates challenged this decision in the LHC, which accepted the writ petitions of the returned candidates and annulled the ECP's decision.

IT Park
in capital
to boost
exports...

FROM PAGE 01
PM's Coordinators Malik Mukhtar Bharath, Rana Ahsan Afzal and relevant senior officials. The meeting was apprised that work on the IT park project was in full swing and the Korean company had reset its completion date to February 2025 from earlier June 2025. The Capital Development Authority's (CDA) teams were regularly visiting and monitoring the project site. The meeting was further briefed over the digital smart cities and the commencement of its pilot project from Islamabad, which would enable the residents of the city to get easy access to 150 government's services through City Super Application. Through this mobile application, the governmental and administrative services including CDA, Islamabad Police, health and educational services would be made available. The prime minister said that the citizens should be encouraged to use mobile application for availing of government's services.

Bilawal
orders
swift relief...

FROM PAGE 01
particularly in Sukkur and Larkana divisions, which he noted have once again borne the brunt of climate change-induced extreme weather. He urged the provincial administration to ensure the immediate drainage of rainwater from low-lying areas in these divisions to prevent further devastation. Expressing concern over reports of a breach in a dam in Khairpur district, the PPP chairman called for an immediate inquiry into the matter. He stressed the importance of minimizing damage and providing prompt assistance to the affected population. "The Sindh Relief and Rehabilitation Department, along with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), must take full responsibility for assisting those impacted by the rains," Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, instructing them to compile a detailed report on the extent of the damage and the ongoing relief efforts across the province, with particular focus on Sukkur, Larkana, and Khairpur.

Another
case of...

FROM PAGE 01
The WHO on Wednesday sounded its highest level of alert over the outbreak in Africa after cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo spread to nearby countries. There have been 27,000 cases and more than 1,100 deaths, mainly among children, in Congo since the current outbreak began in January 2023. The disease, caused by the monkeypox virus, leads to flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions. It is usually mild but can kill, with children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV, all at higher risk of complications.

Briefs

New monsoon system to hit Karachi from August 26

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Karachi is likely to remain cloudy with drizzle and light rain persisting over the next 24 hours, according to Sardar Sarfaraz, chief meteorologist at the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Sarfaraz noted that the low-pressure system causing the recent rain has left Sindh. "There will be a chance of cloudy skies, drizzle, and light rain in Karachi now," he said. The PMD chief also warned of another monsoon system that may impact lower Sindh, including Karachi, from August 26 or 27. For upper Sindh, Sarfaraz predicted rain on August 21. In Karachi, today's minimum temperature is expected to be 28°C, while the maximum could reach 30°C to 32°C, according to the PMD. The department also reported an 81% humidity ratio, with winds blowing from the southwest at 17 kilometres per hour. Regarding claims of a record-breaking 300 millimetres of rainfall in Sukkur, Sarfaraz refuted them as "wrong," stating that only 116mm of rain was recorded in 48 hours. Near-by Rohri received 134mm.

YouTuber Aun Ali reaches home safely

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: YouTuber Aun Ali Khosa, who was allegedly abducted on August 15, has returned home safely, his lawyers confirmed on Monday. On Friday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the Lahore police to recover Khosa by August 20. A day prior, his wife Binish Iqbal had filed a petition in the court claiming that her husband was "in the unlawful and illegal custody of the law enforcement authorities". Iqbal stated that the whereabouts of Aun were unknown and she feared for his "safety having strong apprehension that his husband has been a victim of enforced disappearance." According to the petition, Aun was a "digital content creator, a writer, and a dignified comedian/artist having a massive following of 137,000 subscribers on YouTube". It claimed that at 2am on August 15, a dozen police officials and "men with masked faces in plain clothes" barged into his apartment after breaking apart the entrance door. The heavily armed men confiscated Aun's phone, laptop, computer system, and digital camera, the petition further detailed. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) had said that it was alarmed by reports of Khosa's abduction, and concerned that the incident may be related to his work as a satirist and called for his immediate recovery.

Blinken urges Israel, Hamas to seize 'last opportunity'

"This is a decisive moment, probably the best, maybe the last opportunity to get the hostages home, to get a ceasefire and to put everyone on a better path to enduring peace and security," Blinken told

NEWS DESK

CAIRO/ JERUSALEM: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned on Monday that the latest push for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal was probably the best and possibly last opportunity, urging Israel and Hamas towards an elusive agreement. However, with Hamas announcing a resumption of suicide bombing inside Israel after many years, and with Israeli airstrikes still pounding Gaza, there was little sign of conciliation. Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were behind a blast near a synagogue in Tel Aviv on Sunday that killed the bomber and wounded one other person. Suicide bombings "will return to the forefront" while the Gaza war continues, Hamas said in a statement. The talks in Qatar last week paused without a breakthrough, but the negotiations are to resume this week based on a US "bridging proposal". Blinken met Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday morning. "This is a decisive moment, probably the best, maybe the last opportunity to get the hostages home, to get a ceasefire and to put everyone on a better path to enduring peace and security," Blinken told reporters before meeting Herzog. Months of on-off talks have circled the same issues, with

Hamas, PIJ claim responsibility for Tel Aviv attack

TEL AVIV: The Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups of Hamas and Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for a deadly bomb blast in Tel Aviv. In a statement on Monday, the al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing, said that it had carried out the operation, in cooperation with the Saraya al-Quds Brigades, the Islamic Jihad's armed wing, on Sunday evening. It also warned of "more retaliatory attacks" in the occupied territories, as long as Israel continues its policy of massacre, assassination and displacement of Palestinians. Earlier, Israeli police said they were "99%" sure that the deadly bomb blast in Tel Aviv was an attempted attack. Ayalon District Police Commander Haim Bublil made the claim on Monday regarding the explosion that killed a man, in his 50s, and moderately injured a passerby on an electric scooter. The man was carrying a bomb in a bag on his back while walking down Lehi Road in southern Tel Aviv when it went off. Bublil told Israel's Kan Radio that the assailant may have "planned to go to a synagogue nearby or maybe a shopping center. We can't understand yet why it exploded at that point." Meanwhile, Tel Aviv District Commander, Superintendent Peretz Amar, said at the scene that the identity of the man is critical to understanding the nature of the incident. - Agencies

Israel saying the war can only end with the destruction of Hamas as a military and political force and Hamas saying it will only accept a permanent, and not a temporary, ceasefire. There are disagreements over Israel's continued military presence inside Gaza, particularly along the border with Egypt, over the free movement of Palestinians inside the territory, and over the identity and number of prisoners

8 killed, 7 injured in Ghotki road mishap

GHOTKI: At least eight people were killed and seven others injured after a passenger bus rammed into a trailer truck on Sukkur-Multan motorway near Malook Wali village in Ghotki in the wee hours of Monday. According to the Motorway Police, the ill-fated bus was travelling from Mansehra to Karachi. The police said four people of the injured were in critical condition, adding that the deceased included women and children as well. The bodies and wounded were shifted to Tehsil Hospital Ghotki for medico-legal formalities and treatment, respectively. As per the initial information, Noor Elahi, Shagufta, Rozina, Uneeba and Hasnat were among the dead, whose bodies were kept at the hospital. Meanwhile, the heirs were not present with the deceased, the police added. The rescue officials faced immense trouble because of rain in rescue activity as well as identifying the bodies, they added. After the rescue activity, the wreckage of the bus and trailer were shifted to the rest area, said police. On the other hand, at least four people were killed and 11 others wounded when a passenger coach fell into a gorge in Mian Khan village of Katlang Tehsil, Mardan. - DNA

3 soldiers martyred as they foil infiltration by terrorists

Resultantly, 5 khwarij were sent to hell, while four got injured

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: On night 18/19 August 2024, movement of a group of Khwarij, who were trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the security forces in Bajaur District. Own troops effectively engaged and thwarted their attempt to infiltrate. Resultantly, five khwarij of Fitna al Khwarij were sent to hell, while four khwarij got injured. However, during intense exchange of fire, three brave sons of soil; Naik Inayat Khan (age: 36 years, resident of District Khyber), Lance Naik Umer Hayat (age: 35 years, resident of District Mansehra) and Sepoy Waqar Khan (age: 25 years, resident of District Peshawar), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. Pakistan has consistently been asking Interim Afghan Government to ensure effective border management on their side of the border. Interim Afghan Government is expected to fulfil its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by Khwarij for perpetuating acts of terrorism against Pakistan. Security Forces of Pakistan remain committed to secure its borders and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.



Faiz predicted Nawaz's NAB sentence: Siddiqui

Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui also claimed that Faiz Hameed offered him the position of Acting Chief Justice

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Former Islamabad High Court (IHC) senior puisne judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui made shocking revelations against the ex-Director General (DG) Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hameed. Speaking to a private news channel, Justice (ret'd) Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui claimed that then ISI chief had visited him before the verdict in the case against Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif. "Nawaz Sharif will be convicted, Faiz Hameed had informed me even before the verdict," Justice (ret'd) Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui added. The former IHC senior puisne judge claimed that the former ISI chief also asked him what would he decide if Maryam Nawaz's case came up for hearing before his bench. Justice (ret'd) Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui stated, "I replied that I cannot ruin my hereafter." Faiz Hameed, on the other hand, retorted, "Our two years of hard work will go to waste." "After a few days, Faiz Hameed came again and said I would have come earlier but went to Karachi to tighten screws of MQM," the former IHC senior puisne judge continued. Justice (ret'd) Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui while quoting the former DG ISI added, "My boss General Qamar Javed Bajwa said that I am unable to control our judge." Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui also claimed that Faiz Hameed offered him the position of Acting Chief Justice, "which I refused." Earlier on August 12, the former ISI chief was taken into military custody, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. According to the Pakistan Army's media wing, court-martial proceedings have also been initiated against former DG ISI. "Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by the Pakistan Army, to ascertain the correctness of complaints in the Top City Case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd).

Jl's Hafiz Naeem warns of nationwide long marches

Jamat-e-Islami would continue to watchdog on implementation on agreements, Hafiz Naeem

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeem Rehman has once again called for a reduction in electricity prices. Rehman warned that if the agreement was not implemented in the promised 34 days, there would be long marches from all parts of the country. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Rehman highlighted the presence of Karachi's town chairmen alongside him. He criticised MQM and PPP for efforts to prevent local body elections until the last moment. He said that local body institutions have been taken over by the government despite that JI had won in nine towns. He emphasised that Karachi was of great significance for job creation and contributed half of Pakistan's economic output. He further noted that provincial government collected 97% of its revenue from Karachi. Hafiz Naeem pointed out that it has been over a year since the local government was established, and in developed countries, local governments held significant powers including maintaining law and order. He further alleged that PPP had manipulated local body results in Sindh. JI Emir noted that promises made by PPP after the elections remain unfulfilled. He further criticised the PPP for taking control of local body elections and the city's resources. Rehman said that despite being elected over a year ago, Karachi's town chairmen still lacked authority. "The Karachi Solid Waste Management is under the Mayor-in-charge, yet cleanliness and attention to waste management are lacking," Rehman said. He condemned the PPP's performance, alleging it for corruption and mismanagement. He criticised the federal government's policies, particularly the imposition of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and their high costs. Hafiz Naeem demanded a reduction in tariffs, and rejected the receiving of capacity payments, which he said were harming industries. The JI would continue to watchdog on government's implementation on agreements, Rehman said.

Imran applies to be Oxford chancellor

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has applied to become the next chancellor of Britain's prestigious University of Oxford, according to the PTI. Imran has just marked one year in prison on various charges from corruption to inciting violence that he said are politically motivated and designed to keep him from power. "Imran Khan had given instructions that he would like to submit his application and now the application scrutiny will take place," Sayed Zulfikar Bukhari, the London-based PTI spokesman, told AFP. "It's a ceremonial

post but one with utmost prestige and importance and Imran Khan, being one of the larger or more popular names coming out of Oxford, it would be brilliant to see him as chancellor," he said. Conservative peer Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong, announced in February he was stepping down as Oxford's chancellor. The list of candidates for the 10-year term will not be made public until October, according to the university's website, with voting taking place at the end of the month. Imran graduated from Oxford in 1975 after studying philosophy, politics and economics. He led a playboy lifestyle during his career as one of the country's greatest cricket players, regularly gracing the pages of Britain's gossip magazines. Married three times, including to British socialite and filmmaker Jemima Goldsmith, he later turned to philanthropy and politics. He faced a backlash from women's rights groups while prime minister for linking Pakistan's high rates of sexual violence to the clothes that women wear.

Iraq Secy Defence calls on General Sahir



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Lt Gen Ahmed Dawood Salwan, Secretary of Defence of Iraq called on General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. Matters of bilateral interests including,

emerging security environment and enhancement of security and defence cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting. The visiting dignitary commended the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by people and Armed Forces of Pakistan in the war against terrorism.

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