



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Malaysian PM backs Turkiye's proposal for OIC Gaza Session

Detailed News On Page-07

Pak reaffirms commitment to CICA's vision

Detailed News On Page-08

Aryna emerges victorious at Cincinnati

Detailed News On Page-06



Palestinian envoy meets PM PM reiterates Pakistan's support for Palestinians struggle for freedom

In a meeting with outgoing Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad A.A. Rabei at the Prime Minister's House on Tuesday, Shehbaz expressed deep concern over Israel's actions since October 7, 2023

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. He strongly condemned Israel's actions against innocent civilians in Gaza. In a meeting with outgoing Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad A.A. Rabei at the Prime Minister's House on Tuesday, Shehbaz expressed deep concern over Israel's actions since October 7, 2023. "Israel's barbarism has resulted in the heart-wrenching deaths of over 40,000 innocent Palestinians, including women and children, with more than 90,000 injured," Sharif stated. The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to finding a just and lasting resolution to the Palestinian issue through a two-state solution. He emphasised that the creation of an independent state of Palestine, with pre-1967 borders and Al Quds as its capital, is the only viable solution in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. "Establishing an independent Palestinian state with Al Quds as its capital is the sustainable solution," he added. Ambassador Rabei expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Sharif for Pakistan's steadfast support for the Palestinian cause and for the hospitality extended to him during his five-year tenure. He praised Pakistan's historic and consistent stance on Palestine and its contributions to international efforts for peace and stability in the region. Rabei also thanked the Government of Pakistan for providing much-needed humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people and for offering scholarships to Palestinian medical students to complete their studies in Pakistan. The prime minister wished Ambassador Rabei success in his future endeavours and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian cause on all international platforms.

Cabinet approves Prime Minister's skills development company

The establishment of the above company is to collect funds for technical and vocational training, fund management and implementation of various training programs under this fund

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif presided over a meeting of the federal cabinet at Prime Minister House in Islamabad. The cabinet was briefed on the recent decision of the Supreme Court regarding the Mubarak Sani case. It was told that an additional petition was filed in the Supreme Court on August 17 on the instructions of the Prime Minister. There was a detailed discussion in the National Assembly regarding this case and the matter was referred to the Standing Committee on Law and Justice of the National Assembly, the cabinet was told. In the meeting of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice of the National Assembly, the government and the opposition parties unanimously

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Palestinian Ambassador Ahmed Jawad A.A. Rabeicalls on Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DAN

'Imran faces possible military trial'

Attacks on over 200 military sites could only be conceived by a military-minded individual, says PML-N senator

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui, leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate and head of the Foreign Affairs Committee, has suggested that former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan's fears of being tried in a military court might be justified following the arrest of ex-spy-master Lt-Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed. In an interview with a private television channel on Tuesday, Siddiqui stated, "This is not just a concern; it's a certainty because the entire story revolves around the

Continued on Page 06

Maryam tells Sindh CM Giving people relief better than doing corruption in govt

She announces launch of scholarship programme worth Rs25 billion

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday awarded cash prizes worth Rs58.6 million among 138 position-holders from nine educational boards. She lauded the excellent performance of students who have achieved great honour academically and made their parents and the country proud. She made these remarks at the special ceremony organised at the Chief Minister's House to honour top achievers from across Punjab. The chief minister said, "The position-holder students are the crown of our heads." She also mentioned that for the government, health of students is also very crucial and milk would be provided to students from nursery to fifth class. The students were also presented a guard of honour as an

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan has highest power tariff in region, admits energy minister

Awais Leghari says poor consumers being provided subsidy in power bills "with others bearing the burden"

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Energy Minister Awais Leghari on Tuesday admitted that the electricity tariffs in Pakistan were the highest in the region but added that

Continued on Page 06

Pak conducts training launch of Shaheen-II

ISPR says launch aimed at evaluating sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy, enhanced survivability

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan on Tuesday successfully conducted a training launch of surface-to-surface Shaheen-II ballistic missile making the country's defence even more impregnable. The launch was aimed at training troops, validating various technical parameters and performance evaluation of different sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy and

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

JUI-F to operate without alliances

He emphasised that the party does not wish to embarrass itself or others further

SHAMIM SHAHID

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Jamaat-e-Islami (JUI-F) has decided to advance its movement independently, without forming any political alliances. In a media briefing at his residence in Dera Ismail Khan, JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman stated that his party would continue its activities without joining any political coalition, citing previous experiences with alliances as unsatisfactory. He emphasised that the party does not wish to embarrass itself or others further.

Ji chief demands justice for Balochistan

He said "only the families of the missing persons know how they were going through mental agonies"

DNA

QUETTA: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has demanded that Baloch missing persons issue should be resolved on permanent basis and all missing persons should be provided right to justice. Talking to media in Quetta, Ji chief said that the government itself has admitted that 2500 people were missing and it was the responsibility of the government to produced them in front of the courts. He said Balochistan was seething in anger. We should uphold the constitution which is unifying force in a country.

Long walk to release

NAB files fresh Toshakhana reference against Imran, Bushra

Fresh reference against couple filed in case pertaining to jewellery set gifted by Saudi crown prince

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday filed a fresh Toshakhana reference against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in a case pertaining to a jewellery set gifted by the Saudi crown prince. The development comes after the anti-graft body interrogated the former prime minister and his wife at the Adiala jail, as per the reference. The reference - which consists of two volumes - was filed by NAB investigation officer Mohsin Haroon and case officer Waqar Hassan in an accountability court. The fresh reference will now be reviewed by the registrar of the accountability courts. After removing the objections, the reference will be sent to the administrative judge of the accountability court. The administrative judge will then decide whether to conduct hearing himself or transfer it to another accountability court. It should be noted that administrative Judge Nasir Javed Rana is already hearing the £190 million reference against the PTI founder. The couple was arrested in

Continued on Page 06

Marwat warns of Bangladesh-like unrest

FAISAL SHEIK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat issued a stern warning on Tuesday, cautioning govt against attempting to obstruct the party's planned rally on August 22. "Any interference could lead to violence akin to the unrest during the Bangladesh crisis," he said while talking to the media in Islamabad. He noted that the five-kanal land allocated for the event would be insufficient to accommodate the anticipated turnout. "The gathering will stretch from Tarnol towards Sangjani," Marwat announced. Emphasizing the unique

Continued on Page 06

Taliban denounces Pakistan special envoy remarks terming it provocative

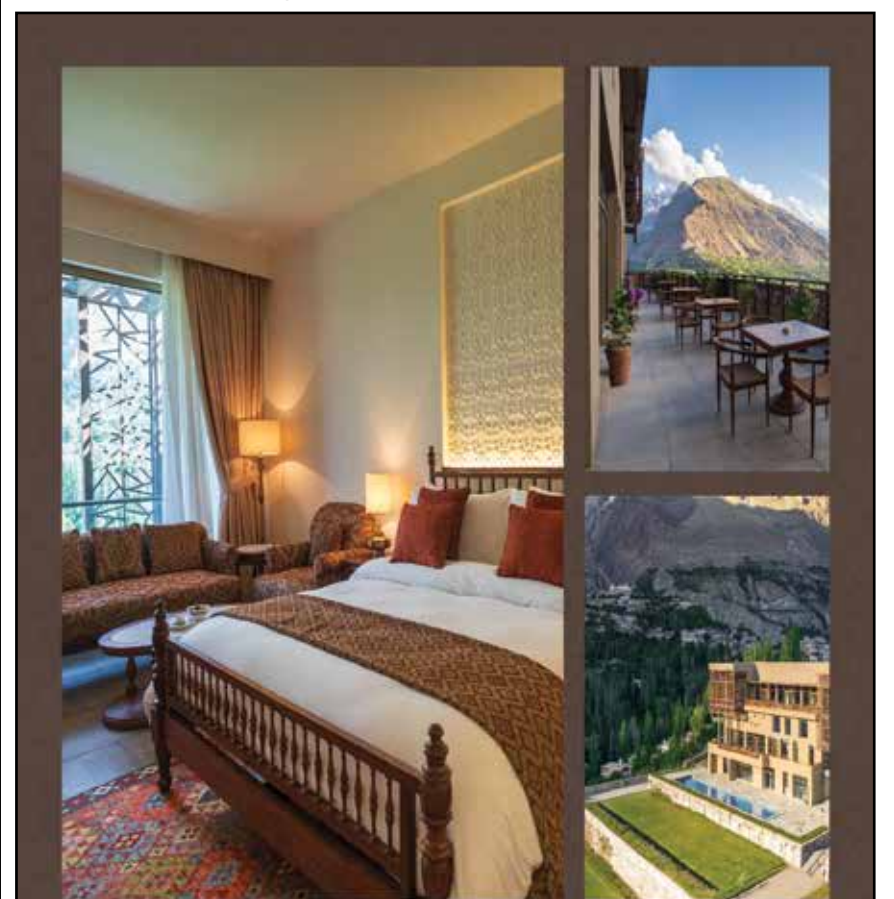
Zia Ahamd Takal the Taliban deputy spokesman for foreign ministry in a statement issued at Kabul on Tuesday, said "Mr. Durrani should know that it is the responsibility of diplomats to ensure that provocative media statements do not jeopardize the relations of two countries"

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR. Afghanistan's ministry for foreign affairs in a statement has reacted strongly to the Asif Durrani's recent remarks on the repeat of 9/11, as world turn back to Afghanistan, terming a move of provocation and jeopardising relations between the two countries neighbours to each others. Zia Ahamd Takal the Taliban deputy spokesman for foreign ministry in a statement issued at Kabul on Tuesday, said "Mr. Durrani should know that it is the responsibility of diplomats to ensure that provocative media statements do not jeopardize the relations of the two countries". The Taliban leaders governing Kabul, issued the strong worded reaction at the time when skirmishes, closure and exchange of hot words between security personnel of both the neighbouring countries at Torkham and other crossing points is the routine matter. Bilateral trade is on decline whereas Pakistan is accused Afghanistan of providing sanctuaries to militants who are carrying out deadly terror acts especially attacks against security forces. The statement said that the recent comments made by Pakistan's Special Representative Asif Durrani, concerning Afghanistan's security and economic situation are both provocative and misaligned with the ground realities, seemingly aimed at misleading the public perception regarding

Afghanistan. "In fact, the issues and concerns he attributed to Afghanistan are more likely to be present in Pakistan. Afghanistan is now a safe and stable country, focused on achieving economic self-sufficiency by utilising its own resources rather than being reliant on foreign loans and aid. The Afghan government has successfully neutralized the ISIS-KP, insurgent group, within Afghanistan", the statement said "However, addressing ISIS-kp hideouts along the theoretical Durand Line could lead to the complete elimination of this threat. It's worth noting that the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) issue is an internal matter of Pakistan, requiring a domestic solution", the statement further said. The Afghan government has already shown its goodwill to by taking tangible actions to foster positive relations. Thereafter, Pakistan's effective agencies should adopt rational and pragmatic approaches to address this issue. Mr. Durrani should know that it is the responsibility of diplomats to ensure that provocative media statements do not jeopardize the relations of the two countries. According to Pakistani media Asif Durrani the special envoy of Pakistan to Afghanistan in a meeting with former Pakistani ambassadors said on Sunday that after the Ukraine war and Palestinian genocide, the priorities of the international players changed. "In fact, Afghanistan is no more in

Continued on Page 06



Discover Serenity and Unmatched Comfort

Experience ultimate comfort with breathtaking views, your serene escape amidst the stunning landscapes of Hunza Valley awaits.



For more information, please contact: 03555997984 | reservation.hsb@serena.com.pk

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi. 5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pak, Netherlands cement ties with focus on human trafficking

Ambassador de Vries congratulated Minister Naqvi on his nomination for the presidency of the Asian Cricket Council and underscored the importance of sports diplomacy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Henny de Vries, on Tuesday at the Ministry of Interior to discuss issues of mutual interest. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation across various sectors, with a special emphasis on combating human trafficking and strengthening cricket ties between the two nations. Naqvi emphasized Pakistan's commitment to deepening relations with the Netherlands, particularly in areas such as human trafficking prevention, where he highlighted the importance of collective international action. "Human smugglers are a powerful mafia, and no country can tackle them alone," Naqvi remarked. The discussion also covered the upcoming visit of an Italian team to Pakistan, aimed at furthering these collaborative efforts. Additionally, both sides agreed on the need to bolster support for Afghan refugees, with Pakistan reiterating its long-standing commitment to hosting displaced populations. The conversation also extended to the realm of sports, where plans to promote cricket between the two countries were discussed. Ambassador de Vries



congratulated Minister Naqvi on his nomination for the presidency of the Asian Cricket Council and underscored the importance of sports diplomacy.

He expressed hope that closer cricket ties would provide the Netherlands team with valuable learning opportunities from Pakistan's experience. The meeting

concluded on a positive note, with both sides agreeing to further enhance cooperation in various fields, reinforcing the strong and growing relationship between Pa-

kistan and the Netherlands. Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Ali Agha and Additional Home Secretary Rifat Mukhtar Raja were also present at the meeting.

United efforts, Youth's hard work inevitable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that the nation's united efforts and youth's excellence in education and innovation were inevitable to develop Pakistan as an economic power. "I believe that Pakistan was created in the name of Allah. This can never fail. It has to prosper. It has to develop and lead Muslim Ummah one day. You have the potential...If we put in our efforts, we can become an economic power. Once we become an economic power, we will lead Muslim Ummah," he said addressing the Youth Convention

held here. Advising the youth to avail education opportunities in classrooms as well as outside, opt for new technologies, and explore new avenues, he also asked the youth to beware of the enemies within which were poised to destroy the country. "The world knows that being a missile power, you can lead the 57-state Muslim world. Pakistan as a nuclear power is not acceptable to some global powers. They can't defeat Pakistan through conventional methods but they can patronise and promote their stooges to destroy Pakistan," he commented. He told the gathering of vice-chancellors, students and educationists that during the 2013-2018 PML-N government, Pakistan was

projected to become a member of G-20 nations as the country was taking off that time with 2% food inflation, 3.7% consumer price index, 6% growth and the most stable currency in South Asia. He said the PDM government was aimed at saving Pakistan as its enemies desired to see it default. Ishaq Dar said Pakistan's youth had the potential to become change makers but it required unity, a continuous learning process and setting aside hatred, extremism, and personal biases. The deputy prime minister said during his visit to Balochistan on Independence Day, he was told that some disgruntled Baloch youth were involved in terror activities. "I believe, no one can be disgruntled with

his own motherland. We should resolve the issues amicably. There is no room for terrorism in the name of disgruntlement. This is not acceptable," he remarked. The deputy prime minister said that the government was extending facilities to the youth and Special Investment Facilitation Council was also focusing on their empowerment as they could become a source of investment in education, skill development and technology. He said during his four terms as finance minister, he always prioritized funding projects aimed at youth empowerment. Recalling Pakistan's journey of becoming a nuclear power in 1998, he said that the government did not compromise the national defence.

AIOU releases admission schedule for matric, FA

ISLAMABAD: The Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad has released an admission programme regarding Matric and FA for Autumn semester 2024 here on Tuesday. Regional Director Open University Dr Zubair Iqbal told media that the last date for admission in Autumn semester was September 5. The admissions are going on in the semester 2024 for matriculation, FA, ICOM, Dars-i-Nazimi programmes and various other online courses. Dr Zubair Ahmad said that the last date for admission without late fee was September 5 and prospectus were available on the university website as candidates could submit their admissions online. He said that Pakistanis living abroad (international students) could also take admission in matriculation, FA and I Com as this programme was being offered by the university under the online management system while examinations for international students were also conducted online. Dr Zubair Ahmad said the Allama Iqbal Open University also provided financial assistance to the deserving students to pay fees and also provided free education to the jail inmates, transgender and persons with special disabilities. He said the Allama Iqbal Open University Regional Office Sargodha had also provided online admission facility to students through its WhatsApp number 0308-0918621. —DNA

ECP sets Aug 26 as deadline for postal ballot applications in NA-171 bye-election

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission has fixed the last date for receipt of applications for postal ballot papers for Bye-Election in NA-171 R.Y. Khan-III, as 26th August, 2024. This facility, under the law, has been extended to the persons in Government service, members of Armed Forces, their wives and such of their children as are registered voters and ordinarily reside with them provided they are stationed at a place other than the place in which their constituency is situated, persons with any physical disability who are unable to travel and hold a National Identity Card with a logo for physical disability issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). Persons who are detained in prison or held in custody are also entitled to vote by postal ballot. persons appointed by the Returning Officers, including police personnel, for the performance of any duty in connection with an election at polling stations other than the one at which they are entitled to cast their vote are advised to apply for postal ballot to the Returning Officers within three days of their appointment. Applications for Postal Ballot should be made on the prescribed Form with the Returning Officer concerned of the constituency. Application Forms for Postal Ballot can be obtained from Mr. Waqas Zafar, Assistant Commissioner Rahim Yar Khan Contact No. 068-9230271. The application Form may also be downloaded from ECP's website www.ecp.gov.pk. The voters to whom postal ballots are issued will not be entitled to vote in person at the polling stations. The application should be forwarded/ endorsed by the office/ department of the voter concerned to guard against unauthorized person applying for postal ballot. —DNA

\$3.2bn IT export at stake as country remains in grip of slow net: BMP

Anjum Nisar says disruption a direct, aggressive assault on trade, industry

DNA

As the whole country is in the grip of slow internet speed and continuous disruptions for the last one month, losing at least \$300 million, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has asked the authorities to address the issue and restore the full internet services in the country. FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the disruption is a direct and aggressive assault on the industry, estimating the financial loss of \$300 million, which may escalate further if the situation persists. He said that the internet slowdown is causing

substantial financial losses in the IT and e-commerce sectors, as over \$3.2 billion in annual IT and freelancing exports, and a \$5 billion domestic e-commerce ecosystem is now at stake. He said that when the internet slows down, businesses experience major disruptions in daily operations, as 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. These challenges have made it difficult for the trade and industry, including freelancers to meet project deadlines and secure

future business, leading to significant revenue losses. According to industry experts, Pakistan is the fourth-largest freelancing industry having more than 2.5 million freelancers and if the issue continues the online freelancing platforms may not stand further. Quoting the Economic Survey of Pakistan, they said that the freelancers have generated \$350 million in 2023-24, reporting 40% annual increase in revenue, underscoring the rapid growth and importance of the freelancing industry to national economy. The FPCCI former president said that the internet freedom is declining in the country, with increased censorship across social media, e-commerce

platforms, and search engines. Interestingly, many countries with strict internet regulations are also popular tourist destinations, highlighting the global challenge of balancing security with connectivity. After months of speculation, Pakistan's IT minister recently confirmed that the government is indeed upgrading its web management system to address cyber security threats. The government has stressed the importance of protecting the country's interests in the face of these challenges. Anjum Nisar said that the growing anxiety within the business community reflects the broader implications of these internet disruptions.

NPO to organize workshop on 'Green Productivity for SMEs'

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) regional office in Faisalabad is going to organize an online workshop on "Green Productivity for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)" on August (22). The workshop aimed at to promote and enhance green productivity culture in the country, said an NPO document shared here on Tuesday. The workshop provides information about green productivity and its strategies, as well as assesses environmental impact and implements green productivity initiatives. It also highlights the financial aspect of green productivity, regulatory compliance and standards, technology and innovation, building a culture of sustainability, and scaling up and continuous improvement.—APP

ICT admin moves to digitize public payments

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration is set to introduce a new digital payment system, making it easier for residents to pay fees and fines through mobile apps. The initiative, launched in collaboration with a private bank, marks a significant step towards streamlining transactions, said the spokesman of ICT administration. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, chaired a meeting to discuss the digitization of public payments in the capital. The meeting was attended by officials from the Food Authority and the Excise Department, along with representatives from private sector bank. The new system will enable residents to pay all fees and fines related to the Excise Office through a mobile application. This includes fines and license fees imposed by the Food Authority, which will also be handled digitally. Additionally, permit fees and fines under the Transport Authority will now be easier to pay, as they too will move to the digital platform. Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz highlighted that Price Control Magistrates would also benefit from a digital solution for managing fines.—APP

NOW OPEN AT BHERA SERVICE AREA (NORTH)

WIDE VARIETY OF LIVE FOOD STATIONS
OFFERING QUICK SERVICE & CONVENIENCE



75+ ITEMS BELOW
RS. 250 PER HEAD

50+ MEAL DEALS BELOW
RS. 550 PER HEAD

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

Motorway Service Area, Bhera (Northbound)

UAN: 051 111 777 778

Briefs

Bilawal felicitates scientists, engineers on successful test of Shaheen-II missile

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday felicitated the scientists and engineers on the successful test of the Shaheen-II ballistic missile. According to a press release issued here by the party secretariat, Bilawal Bhutto said "Our missile technology reflects the expertise and dedication of our scientists and engineers." Chief PPP said that the successful test of Shaheen-II is a message of fear for Pakistan's enemies.—APP

ECP extends last date for submission of nomination papers for LG polls in ICT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday extended the last date for submission of nomination papers for the Islamabad Local Government Elections which was ending today. The last date for submission for nomination papers has been extended up to 28th of August after receiving applications from various political parties besides facilitating the participation of various political parties, said a press release issued here by ECP.—APP

Edu ministry announces "Anemia-Free schools" campaign in Islamabad

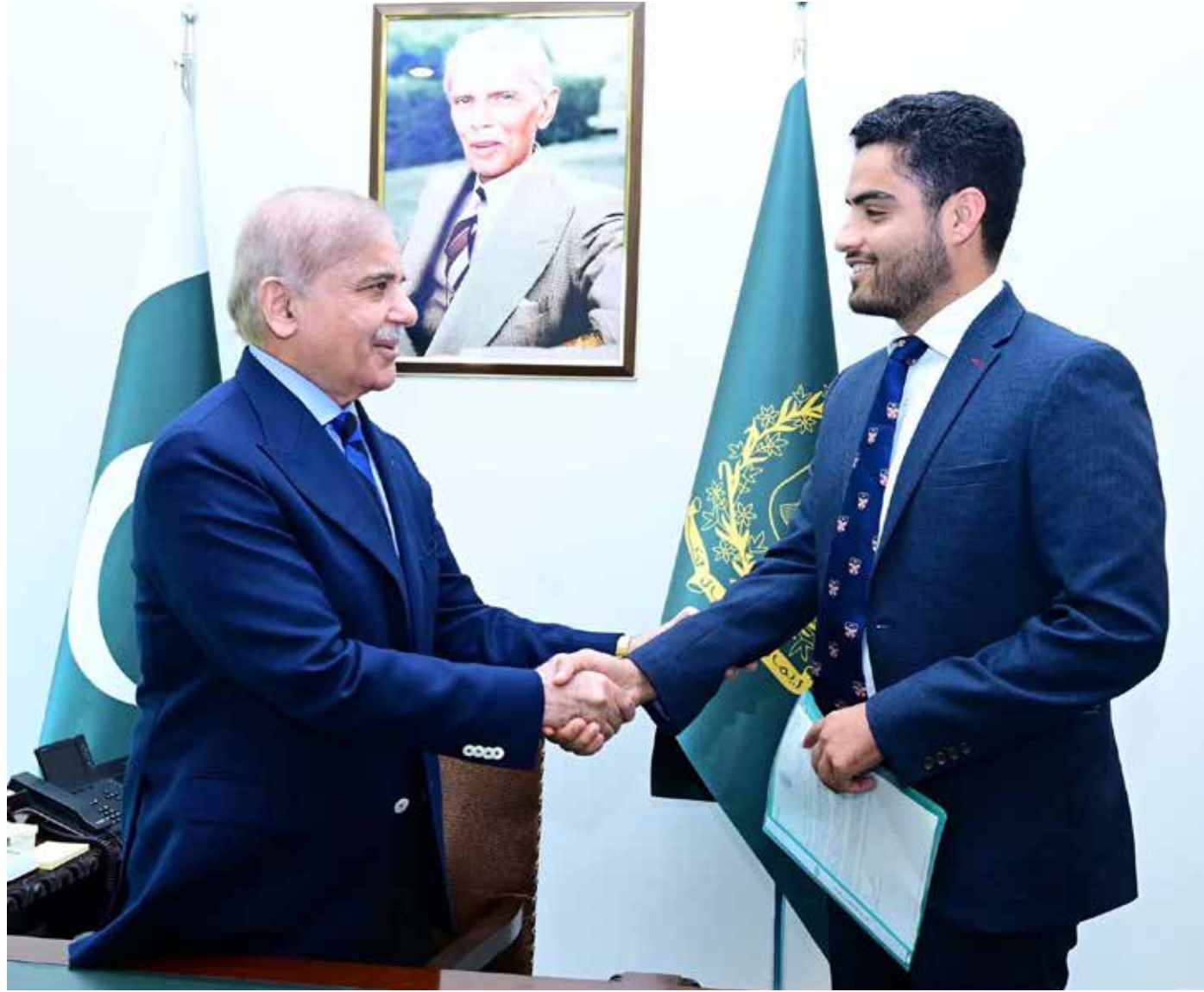
ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training under PM's Educational Reforms Programme, has announced the launch of "Anemia-Free Schools" campaign in Islamabad, starting with higher secondary schools. To the Official sources from the Education Ministry, this initiative in collaboration with Allah wala Trust aims to combat anemia among students, ensuring they receive the necessary nutrients for optimal health and academic performance.—APP

Education endowment fund to support higher education

He lauded Kakar for contesting and winning the Oxford Union election as a manifestation of his steadfastness and firm resolve. He expressed the hope that Pakistani youth like Israr Kakar would continue to bring laurels to Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government had established the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund to support children from low-income families to obtain higher education. The prime minister, in a meeting with Israr Khan Kakar, the newly elected President of Oxford Union of UK's Oxford University, said that a 20% quota had been allocated for the youth of Balochistan under the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund. Prime Minister Shehbaz warmly welcomed Israr Kakar at the PM House, appreciated him for bringing fame to Pakistan, and viewed that talented youth like him could guarantee a bright future for Pakistan. He lauded Kakar for contesting and winning the Oxford Union election as a manifestation of his steadfastness and firm resolve. He expressed the hope that Pakistani youth like Israr Kakar would continue to bring laurels to Pakistan. "Winning scholarship throughout the academic career and then his election as president of a great body like Oxford Union by a youngster coming from a backward area of Balochistan is a matter of pride," the prime minister remarked. Inviting him to address the Oxford Union, Israr Kakar appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz for his government's measures for youth empowerment and providing them equal opportunities. "All of the youth like me, are resolved to offer all-out services for Pakistan's progress and prosperity," Kakar remarked.



Easypaisa unveils enhanced credit score to elevate financial literacy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Easypaisa has launched an enhanced credit score visibility feature designed to elevate financial awareness and empower users in managing their financial health. This cutting-edge feature provides unprecedented access to users' credit scores directly within the easypaisa app, addressing a critical gap in Pakistan, where understanding of credit scores is limited. A major challenge in our financial industry has been the lack of availability of credit score information

for users. easypaisa's new feature enhances the credit score facility by empowering users to take control of their financial well-being while simultaneously educating them on how their transaction, credit, and deposit behaviors impact their credit score. The feature is enriched with a dynamic credit score dashboard, providing users with a clear view of their current credit score and its trends over the past 12 months. This in-depth analysis offers a transparent and detailed financial perspective that supports informed decision-making. The feature also empowers users to understand the key

factors influencing their easypaisa credit score, encompassing critical aspects of their financial health such as spending habits, loan management, savings, and in-app subscriptions. For instance, the feature analyzes customers' digital payment behaviors—including money transfers, bill payments, mobile top-ups, and QR payments—enabling them to better comprehend their financial habits. It encourages users to increase financial transactions in areas where they may be less active and raises awareness about their transaction patterns. Loan management is another significant factor, allowing users to track their borrow-

ing history with easypaisa, including the amount borrowed, frequency of borrowing, on-time repayments, and any late payments over various time frames (1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months). Savings also play a crucial role in the credit score, helping users understand their deposit patterns, including the total amount saved, frequency of deposits, average balance over specific periods, and any days with zero balance. This comprehensive approach provides users with a detailed understanding of their financial behavior, encouraging more informed and proactive financial management.

MoHR to review implementation of laws, policies

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) is working with mandate to review human rights and protection of labour rights situation in the country including implementation of laws, policies and measures. Talking to APP, an official said that the Ministry was also formulating various programmes for teaching of human rights at educational institutions. He said that the Ministry was also working to implement the "Rules and Regulations for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Senior Citizens Act, 2021". The development of the Rules and Regulations for the ICT Senior Citizens Act is an important step in this process. "Number of senior people is exceeding. It is thus critical to create an enabling and healthy environment to ensure that every human being, irrespective of age, was able to fulfill their potential with dignity and equality. The year 2024 marked the 34th anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons as well as the initiation of the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030), he added. He added that despite the Social Welfare Department setting up several old homes across the country to provide shelter to old people abandoned by their families, no senior centres exist for offering integrative recreational facilities and socialization opportunities to millions of elderly citizens in the country. He further added that the legislation to protect the rights of elderly people living a less empowered social life. The discussions focused on the draft rules and regulations for three key areas of Senior Citizens Card, Establishment of Old Age Homes and Privileges provided to senior citizens under the Act; (20% discount on the medical facilities and retirement benefits for the older people).—APP

President pays tribute to Rashid Minhas Shaheed' valor, sacrifice

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday paid tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed (Nishan-i-Haider) lauding his bravery and sacrifice to safeguard the country. The president, in his message on Rashid Minhas Shaheed's martyrdom anniversary, said that the pilot officer had sacrificed his life for the country's security. "The whole nation salutes Rashid Minhas Shaheed for his patriotism and passion for martyrdom. The nation feels proud of the soldiers like him," he remarked. The nation owes to its martyrs and will always remember their sacrifices, he said and prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyred in paradise.

ANF seizes over 10 kg drugs; arrests a drug dealer

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation in Sialkot managed to recover over 10 kg drugs, weapons and arrested a drug dealer, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in a joint operation conducted in Tehsil Daska, Sialkot by ANF and Punjab Police, 10.2 kg drugs, two motorcycles and weapons were recovered. The accused who tried to escape during the operation opened fire on the ANF team with AK-47 and 30 bore pistol. However, the ANF team managed to arrest the drug dealer. This is a major achievement of the ANF team in the fight against drug trafficking, ANF spokesman said.—APP

PR to outsource more trains through transparent bidding process

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has planned to outsource the commercial management of additional trains to private entities under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model through a transparent and competitive bidding process. "The basic purpose of outsourcing the trains is to provide better facilities to the passengers and generate more revenue for the department, official sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP. The department initially invited tenders for this outsourcing initiative, but only three companies participated, offering bids below the benchmarked amount, they added.—APP

Role of Mercantilism in the Foreign Policy of Pakistan

SYED LAIQUE HAIDER

Economic and political factors have had a profound influence on Pakistan's foreign policy. On the international scene, Mercantilism has always been a decisive and major part of development and trade. According to this economic theory, Pakistan is able to leverage outer world markets through exporting surplus; it stores wealth; and, finally, it is always the protection of the domestic market. All these factors play a huge role in shaping the trade agreements, diplomatic relations, and international economic policies of Pakistan. From the beginning of its existence, Pakistan has always been a promoter of Mercantilism. In this way, the initial economic plans of the country drive to the fast growth of economy and expansion of the export sector, which are necessary to set this vision in or out of the country. The last seven decades, Pakistan's foreign policy has attached the export-led growth path as its primary priority to increase output flow and promote trade diversification. The government has put in place protectionist measures including tariffs, quotas, and subsidies giving priority to domestic industries. Not only defensive, but these treaties also join hands with the countries from the Middle East like China, Turkey, and the Gulf states who come together in search of resources, markets, and investment. Regional economic cooperation has been realized via a number of trade and economic organizations like SAARC and ECO. Mercantilism has been the engine of economic growth in Pakistan, materialising the goal of industrialization and job creation along with the ex-

ports. Trading has now been more diversified thereby, to a very big degree, decreasing the dependence in US and EU markets. Hence, Mercantilism has allowed Pakistan the space to engage in responsible, mutually beneficial military partnerships, as well as to pursue an independent foreign policy. However, difficulties like trade deficits, balance of payments issues and over-reliance on some few export commodities have crept in. Pakistan's strength lies in global trade, and it lies in regional economic cooperation and in supporting it also by competitive skills, regional value chains, and regional production networks. The country with the broadest network of good and service exports but not only (low-value products) is more likely to be successful. Moreover, productivity is a major driver of innovation and job creation. The sharing of good practices and experiences among them can accelerate the growth process in the different countries of the region. Along with India, Pakistan is on the same development path with more or less the same levels of development in various sectors. A great deal of infrastructure has been built in the last 70 years, but not much of it can be shared with other sectors rather than have a discussion on whether Mercantilism is responsible for Pakistan's economic growth and its ability to possess strategic autonomy, it would be preferable to keep away from such traps. For Pakistan to achieve its goals, it is very important to change its current policy and embrace an inclusive trading regime where the benefits cascading from the growth process are distributed pro-poor. Pakistan should diversify

its goods and adhere to the Code of Conduct proposed by the United Nations Framework Agreement on the Regional Economic Cooperation in South Asia (India, 1990). Furthermore, multilateral trade pacts such as the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the Central Asia Free Trade Area (CAFTA), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the Kellogg-Briand Pact will definitely be successful. Rigorous policies are the hallmarks of Pakistan's foreign policy which enables a sound economy and a strategic position. However, one can't ignore the difficulties and drawbacks that are a result of these approaches. Through proper reformation in the world, the country could constantly achieve sustainable economic growth and strategic autonomy, as pledged. The main focus of the Mercantilist concept in foreign policy is the use of protectionism. The global economy is a kaleidoscope of both successful and broken countries. Prognosticating the winners from the losers of globalization depends on how the future dynamics of the market economy will evolve. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) had even outlived the Biden administration and was still in force. The accomplishment of making Pakistan's foreign policy sustainable through the promotion of mercantilist has been the main source of its economic dominance and strategic freedom. Moreover, in recent years, these problems have become even more important in evaluating whether this approach is really justified and whether it

is even effective. The record-high trade deficits of Pakistan have prompted queries regarding the viability of its mercantilist policies. The country's exports have lagged behind the imports, resulting in a trade deficit that has grown and put pressure on foreign exchange reserves. Along with that, Pakistan's exports still rely on a few commodities, such as textiles and cotton, a situation that leaves the country in the hands of the ever-changing global demand and prices. The entire protectionism outbreak and ensuing trade wars in the global sphere rearranged trade patterns, so Pakistan had to review and make amendments to its mercantilist strategy. The state has to handle the flow of global value chain and stay in cooperation with its partners and find access to new markets. Moreover, the political differences and lack of mutual economic features are still the reasons why Pakistan did not succeed when it comes to the regional economic organizations, such as SAARC and ECO. The Chin-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has brought huge inputs and the infrastructure has benefited tremendously but there have also been worrying questions about the debt burden as well as the local industries' condition. Pakistan has to make sure that CPEC enhances the whole economy and that it does not create an undesired level of reliance. Also, the claim that has been repeated is that usually, the pursuit of economic growth through mercantilism comes at the expense of environmental and social aspects. Mercantilism is expected to take a leading position in

the foreign policy of Pakistan as it sails through the whirlpools of the world economy. This economic course, which is mainly directed at exports, strategic trade agreements, and investments in local industries, is a definite mainstay of Pakistan's foreign policy throughout its history. On the other hand, Mercantilism predicted to be the most influential factor for having Pakistan as a thriving economic hub, it may also opt for self-determined policies, and it may be instrumental in initiating eco-sustainability. The Mercantilist strategy of Pakistan will mainly consist of the expansion of their trade partnerships and development in the newer markets. Apart from looking for opportunities in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, Pakistan can utilize these avenues as its channels of trade with the rest of the globe. Besides rendering assistance to the US and the European Union as they cope with these crises, the country will likewise reinforce its connection with regional economic entities like SAARC, ECO, and SCO and pursuit of regional trade, investment, and economic growth. Investment hard infrastructure will be the driving force in Pakistan's economy; that will also be accommodated by new factory startups and AI in all, Mercantilism will be the main propeller towards the foreign policy of Pakistan in the future, the engine which will drive the economic growth, the wheel which will ensure strategic autonomy, and the glue which will bind the sustainable development. While, the economy is walking through the storm, the Mercantilism will be the central steering wheel for the dynamic economic growth, the flourishing, and the protection of the national interests.



General Practice
HEALTHCARE CENTRE

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





Keeping you Healthy!

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

+92334 7474701 | +9251 8900 682

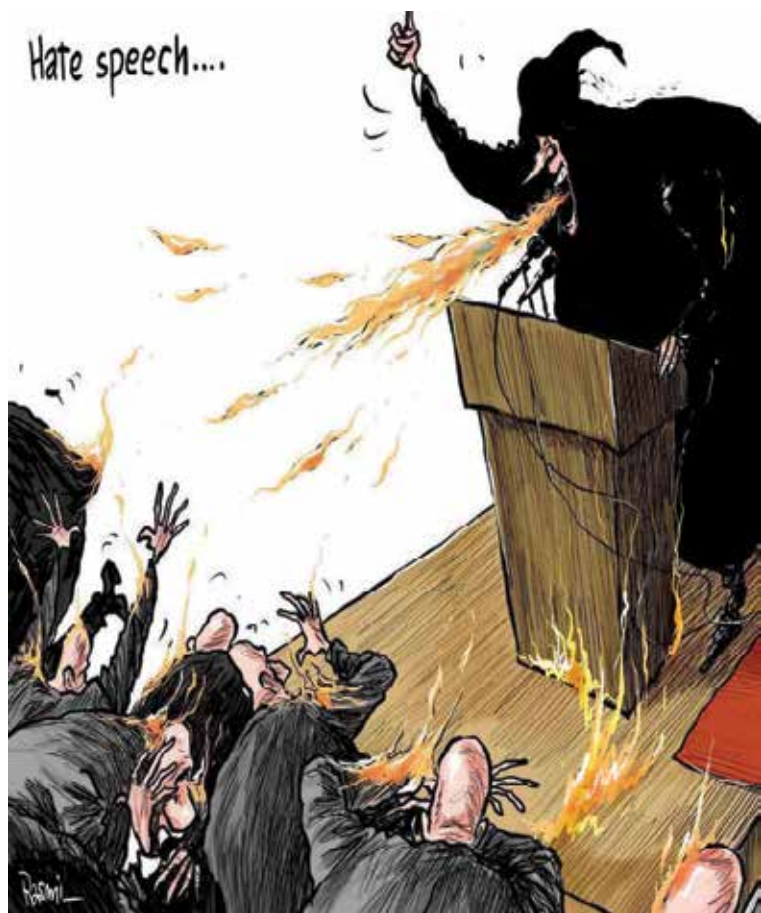
28 Ground Floor, Executive Complex,
G-8 Markaz, Islamabad

f @ /generalpracticeislamabad

www.generalpractice.com.pk

Divesting from Genocide

As the genocide in Gaza continues relentlessly and images of unimaginable horror and sorrow fill our social media daily, it is important to reflect on the recent small victories emerging from Canadian institutional and political quarters. First, there was the announcement that the Canadian government was officially revoking the charity status of the Jewish National Fund (JNF). Earlier this week, it was revealed that Scotiabank further reduced its investment in Israeli arms company Elbit Systems. Canada Palestine Association in Vancouver posted the following statement on August 15: "On June 3, 2023 Vancouver activists held a march and flash action at Scotiabank headquarters, to help launch a national campaign to demand that Scotiabank divest from the Israeli arms maker Elbit Systems. Since then, Scotiabank's asset fund has reduced its half a billion dollar investment in Elbit 3 times, but still owns 1.44% of Elbit shares (worth approx. \$113 million). Many groups and individuals have been part of the campaign to say #ShameonScotiabank for funding Israeli genocide; it is this collective pressure that produced results. A special shoutout to allies in the artists and writers community who embraced this issue, and helped increase the visibility of the campaign in new and creative ways. However, although Scotiabank is no longer the largest foreign investor in Elbit, it is still one of the "top ten". Any funding of genocide is too much. We will not rest until Scotiabank divests completely from Israeli war crimes." In fact, over the last three fiscal quarters, Scotiabank's asset fund has progressively reduced its investment in Elbit Systems. This gradual 'incremental divestment' is less dramatic than a complete withdrawal of funding at once and allows the bank to argue that the decision was based on 'investment merit'. But activists are not buying it. In fact, Elbit Systems says its revenues have actually increased over the last year. What arms company doesn't do well during a genocide? However, Scotiabank may be paying a bigger price on the homefront in huge negative publicity and lost credibility, which is also a factor in doing business. Canadian Press reported on August 14: "Elbit noted in its most recent results that it had a 12 percent increase in revenue compared with a year earlier as it saw high demand for its products, including 'material increased demand' from the Israel Ministry of Defense." But the cost of slipping trust and reputation - crucial for a financial institution - weighed heavier than Elbit's increased profits. The campaign demanding that Scotiabank stop funding Israeli genocide has reached new popular heights. The combination of a big bank in alliance with an arms company ruthlessly making money by eradicating a whole civilian population in Gaza is not good publicity. And activists in Canada, from coast to coast, took up the issue. Pickets, flash actions inside, multiple petitions, and as noted already, the added spotlight brought to various artistic and literary events funded by Scotiabank. Allies in the arts community were pivotal in this campaign, targeting the Scotiabank Giller Prize and disrupting its live awards ceremony, as well as the Hot Docs Festival. Toronto writers against the war on Gaza said in comments on Scotiabank's latest piece-meal divestment: "Artists have drawn a red line for our cultural institutions. Our power as culture workers lies not only in what we create but in the collective power we exercise toward Palestinian liberation. The time is past for pins and public statements as the end point of our resistance. This win was achieved through the withdrawal of labor, through direct action, and through organizing.



Harris-Walz pick for US-China ties

THERE has been a lot of chatter and misinformation online about Tim Walz and his connection to China since US Vice-President Kamala Harris named the Minnesota governor, former congressman, teacher and football coach as her running mate. Republicans, led by Donald Trump, a convicted felon who clocked up a reported 30,573 false or misleading statements during his presidency, have swallowed the orange Kool-Aid and are painting a weird and false portrait of Walz. Typical drivel includes the post on X by Trump acolyte and potential secretary of state Richard Grenell: "Communist China is very happy with @GovTimWalz as Kamala's VP pick. No one is more pro-China than Marxist Walz." It reminds me of the hilarious ways in which Republicans successfully demonised legendary Florida congressman Claude Pepper in 1950, including by calling him "Red Pepper" for his liberal views, during the anti-communist "red scare". Let's try to set the record straight for Walz. It is true that young Walz was a high school teacher of American culture and hi tory as well as English in southern China on a programme founded by Harvard students in the momentous 1989-1990 period, and was among the earliest cohort of American teachers in China. It is also true that he has made more than 30 trips to China and even honeymooned there, giving rise to unsubstantiated accusations that he must have been a spy, based on the weak argument that overworked and underpaid teachers could never have afforded such luxuries. Critics are also incensed that years ago, Walz had the temerity to suggest that the US and China did not need to have an "adversarial relationship". As a football coach at Mankato West High School in Minnesota, Walz took his team from a bunch of losers to state champions in 1999. In China, Walz's young students at Foshan No 1 High School nicknamed him "Fields of China" for his kindness. While friendly with the Chinese people, Walz is no fan of China's Communist Party and has criticised the government. From 2007 to 2018, he served on the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, which monitors its legal and human rights developments, and was described as a "stalwart" member by the chairman. He was a frequent critic of China's human rights record - his photo with the Dalai Lama is well-known. My view is that electorally, Walz's China affinity will have a modestly negative effect at worst, especially if he and Harris can win over the moderate voters in the swing states. As a Jew, I don't believe that Walz will seriously imperil the ticket's chances in the way that Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro, an observant Jew whom Harris reportedly considered for running mate, would have. If Harris-Walz can win the November 5 election - widely seen as a virtual toss-up - it will be a net win for US-China relations, as Walz has a genuine affection for China and its people. Michael Hayden, a former director of the CIA and National Security Agency, has said of Walz's knowledge of China: "So he knows a lot about it. That's great." If Harris wins, Walz would be in a prime position to influence policy in an administration whose leader lacks foreign policy experience, especially with China.

A traveler's paradise: Surveying the Ethiopian tourism

Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula



ETHIOPIA has a vast tourism potential due to its natural, cultural, religious, historical and archeological gifts. Ethiopia is often dubbed in the international community as the "Cradle of Humankind" due to its prominent position and important role in studying human evolution and human beginning on earth. Several pieces of evidence prove the country's valuable contribution to understanding early human history and pre-history under different phases. The country's rich archaeological heritage can be measured on various lines, like the discovery of Lucy in 1974 at the Hadar site. The Lucy title is given to the Australopithecus collection of several pieces of centuries-old fossilized bones discovered in the Awash Valley of Ethiopia. The Lucy skeleton has been marked internationally as one of the most completed early hominid discoveries to understand the origin of human evolution. Akin to Lucy, the Ardi (Ardipithecusramidus), Homo Erectus, and Homo Habilis provide further validation to the considerable contribution of Ethiopia in the history of mankind. In addition to Hadar, Afra Depression and Melka Kunture and Balchit are known globally as important areas enriched with fossil deposits, and they offer a greater deal to people interested in visiting archeological and Paleoanthropological sites. The country's unique position in the region has made it an epicentre of early human civilizations, providing a wide range of ancient sites and fascinating international visitors concerning archeology studies. The country's archaeological tourism contains profound insights into human history, which offers immense opportunities to explore the depths of human origin and its evolution on Ethiopian land. Furthermore, religion always remained an important aspect of Addis Ababa's cultural and historical heritage, where the local population has a centuries-old history of diverse religious practices. The varying indigenous religious practices across the country have highlighted Addis Ababa internationally as one of the prominent lands of pilgrims and an interesting place where visitors can learn about the history of religions and their transcontinental spread. Ethiopia's deep-rooted association with ancient religions has made it a historical center of ancient Christian and Islamic

values without upsetting the positions of other sacred ideologies in society. The famous town of the Lalibela, has 11 rock-cut monolithic churches, which have been established in contrast to the early monolithic churches of the country. The presence of spiritual Christian sites introduced innovative architecture in the historical buildings, and these buildings attract thousands of pilgrims and visitors annually. Regarding Islamic history, HararJugol-the, the old walled city, is one of the ancient places of the Muslim world, and presently, it is internationally famous for its ancient mosques and rich Islamic knowledge. The city's unique architecture is globally known for its Harar Walls, which presents a brief overview of Islamic culture and ancient Muslim traditions. This walled city is well-known for its distinctive interior designs, including 82 mosques and 102 shrines, largely contributing to Ethiopia's national cultural heritage. Moreover, Sof Omar natural and cultural heritage is another fascinating religious and cultural sites of Ethiopia. As a sacred place of worship Sof Omar cave system is believed to be the Caves of Mystery where the ancestral cult of Sheik Sof Omar Ahmad, his families and descendants is observed and practiced annually. Each and every cave structures are assigned and designated to diverse ritual practices. Annual festive events with comprehensive Islamic religious processions and traditional beliefs and practices are conducted in the cave shrines and mosques of this underground karstic limestone caverns Both cities of Ethiopia, Lalibela and Harar, and Sof Omar Cave are on the UNESCO World Heritage List due to their rich cultural and religious heritages and sacred associations with the Christian and Muslim communities. UNESCO has added many Ethiopian sites to its World Heritage List, such as the ancient cities of Aksum and Tiya (famous for their massive obelisks (stelae) and tombs), and Awash Valley (due to the discovery of Lucy), the Lower Valley of the Omo (having a wealth of fossils), and Konso cultural landscape (due to anthropomorphic wooden statues). UNESCO has formally recognized two national parks in Ethiopia as potential places for its World Heritage List: the Simien Mountains National Park and the Bale Mountains National Park. The Simien Mountains Park is the largest national park in the country, and its territory covers the two highest points of Ethiopia, Simien Mountain and Ras Dashan. The Bale Mountains National Park is famous for its diverse Afromontane habitats and striking landscapes, whereas other national parks contain varying exceptional features. In addition to having a wide range of wildlife and biodiversity, the Semi-arid landscapes of Awash National Park, the white grass of NechSar National Park, the Mursi and Nyangatom tribes of Omo National Park, Nile River Basin ecosystem of Gambella National Park, and the savannah landscapes of Mago National Park are the mainstream points of Ethiopian tourism. These parks reflect the country's diverse ecosystems, critical for protecting Ethiopian natural culture, attractive landscapes, and rich biodiversity. Moreover, the semi-desert ecosystem of Yangudi Rassa National Park, the twin lakes of Abijatta-Shalla Lakes Nation-

al Park, the South Sudanese-Nile ecosystem of Gambella National Park, and the dense forests and magnificent river flows of the Chebera Churchura National Park contain interesting tourist offerings. The various attractive points of these parks enabled Ethiopia to attract many visitors from diverse backgrounds. These national parks' unique cultural and ecological offerings have enabled the Ethiopian nation to commendably support the broader context of African tourism in the world. It is pertinent to mention here the highest points of Northeastern Africa, the Ethiopian highlands, and sometimes they are called the Roof of Africa. This is due to the country's high elevation and distinctive mountainous terrain. The country has some of the internationally known highest peaks of the continent, and these peaks give the Ethiopian nation a towering position in the continent parallel to making it an inimitable home of deep valleys, rugged mountains, and extensive plateaus. The Roof of Africa sometimes recalls Addis Ababa's historical resilience and independence efforts, contrasting other African nations colonized by several external powers. In this way, Roof of Africa enhances the scope of Ethiopian tourism in the world while containing adequate fascination for travellers interested in trekking, mountain climbing, and witnessing the unmatched natural stunning landscapes. In addition to the country's topology, the Ethiopian cultural diversity is internationally recognized as an essential feature of its tourism potential. This diversity is based on different ethnic groups' languages, traditions, norms, and cultural practices. The Omo Valley is famous in the region for its dissimilar cultural practices consisting of different Indigenous tribes such as Mursi, Hamar, Kara, Nyamantong, Kuegu, Arbore, Ari, Daasanach, and Turkana. These diverse social patterns of Ethiopia formulate a unique music comprised of characteristic pentatonic scale and exceptional traditional dances of more than 80 domestic ethnic groups have their own peculiar musical pattern and melodies. The exciting part of Ethiopian music is associated with its unique instruments. These instruments create different tunes of Christian Zema and Muslim Sufi music, along with folk and popular melodies. In this way, music represents a vibrant component of the country's cultural identity, which the Ethiopian nation has recognized as a primary source of pride. International tourist communities could consider it a gateway to understanding and enjoying Ethiopian culture, whereas travellers from diverse countries can enjoy the exciting music scenes in Addis Ababa. International travellers can enjoy a mixture of traditional music and contemporary pop under the interesting tunes of Ethio-Jazz in various live public music venues. Besides social and cultural music events, religious festivals like Timkat and Meskel annually receive many visitors from different countries to experience Ethiopian spiritual music which are UNESCO intangible World Heritages. Moreover, the Harari People Shuwalid Festival attracting a huge Muslim community that also registered as Intangible World Heritages. Thus, there is no harm in saying that the music has become essential to Ethiopian tourism while offering a

matchless blend of classical and modern beats. The discussion on Ethiopian tourism can only be completed by mentioning the role of local cuisine, which is an integral part of national cultural identity, in attracting international visitors. The growing tourist attraction for Ethiopian taste is due to its exclusive flavours, distinctive dining manners, traditional cooking styles, and rich culinary traditions. The gluten-free Injera, spiced clarified Niter Kibbeh, chilli-based Berbere, Mitmita, muqmad, chuko, qocho represent different local ingredients' tastes and potentially attract visitors from different countries. The communal dining styles support a sense of togetherness, and breaking Injera together contains cultural significance more than eating. Such cultural norms foster the values of hospitality, friendship, and community thinking, which enable international travellers to enjoy the memorable cuisine culture of Ethiopia. Coffee is a gravitational point of Ethiopian cuisine because the country is the birthplace of coffee, and it has been socially associated with various formal ceremonies and cultural events. The roistering, grinding, and brewing of coffee beans also encompass fascinating Ethiopian heritage, whereas the tourist communities could visit the coffee forms of Harar, Jimma, Limu, Yirgacheffe and Sidamo, providing practical experiences of coffee cultivation and its further processing. Moreover, the country's coffee tours involve fascinating and immersive experiences, letting travellers gain exciting facts about the Ethiopian coffee industry and its global reputation. Therefore, the country has several tourist offerings and compelling destinations for visitors. The abovementioned information provides a glimpse of Ethiopian potential in the international tourist industry parallel to securing a prominent position in regional tourist reviews. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the country's present government is highly determined to boost Ethiopian tourist potential by upgrading the country's tourist infrastructure like Wanchi ecotourism, Chebra Churcura elephant logo, and Gorgora and promoting the indigenous tourism industry. The central vision of Abiy Ahmed's government concentrates on cultural preservation, sustainable practices, digital transformation, and diversification in the national tourism sector. The Addis Ababa-based formal political authorities aim to transform Ethiopia into a leading tourist destination with regional and global recognition the case in point is Addis Ababa Corridor development and beautification projects. The country's substantial dynamism in upholding the national vision of tourism, which contributes to regional economic growth, employment enhancement, and glorifying national pride at the regional and international levels. Therefore, the leading circles of global tourist communities could find Ethiopia to be a promising and leading tourist destination in the future. The validation of this argument could be attained from the multileveled efforts of the current government and its commitment to making Ethiopia a middle-income economy with the support of several structural reforms and development plans.

National security in American political discourse

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



AMERICAN political discourse has an issue of "national security" fundamentally amplifies its importance, often bringing it to the forefront of policy discussions and public concern. The term itself carries a weight that surpasses ordinary political or social issues, signaling a matter of utmost priority for the nation's well-being. Within the specialized field of foreign policy analysis, national security concerns are typically classified under "high politics," a category reserved for the most critical and existential threats to a nation. This includes matters such as the regulation and control of weapons of mass destruction, which are seen as pivotal to a country's survival and sovereignty. Conversely, issues like human rights, although important, are often relegated to the realm of "low politics," considered secondary in terms of immediate national survival. However, the designation of what constitutes a national security issue is not universally agreed upon. The boundaries of national security are fluid and have shifted over time, reflecting changes in the geopolitical landscape, technological advancements and evolving perceptions of what threatens a nation. In the American context, the concept of national security has seen significant variation throughout history, influenced by both external threats and internal developments. Historically, American leaders have invoked the concept of national security without always providing a precise definition. During

the Revolutionary era, figures like George Washington and Alexander Hamilton used the term, but its exact meaning remained ambiguous. The concept of national security as we understand it today began to take shape in the mid-20th century. The onset of the Cold War marked a significant expansion of the national security agenda. The passage of the National Security Act in 1947 was a pivotal moment, establishing the framework for America's national security apparatus, including the creation of institutions like the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency. Yet, even then, the act did not clearly define what national security entailed. As the Cold War progressed, the scope of national security concerns fluctuated. During periods of intense tension with the Soviet Union, such as the early years of the Cold War, national security concerns were broad and all-encompassing. However, as détente—a relaxation of tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union set in during the late 1960s, the focus of national security began to narrow. This shift was temporary, as new challenges, such as the 1973 oil embargo, soon emerged, once again broadening the scope of what was considered a national security issue, particularly with regard to energy security. The 1980s saw further expansion of the national security concept, reflecting the global strategic competition of the time. However, the end of the Cold War in 1991 brought about a period of relative ambiguity. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States found itself without a clear, existential threat, leading to a period of debate and uncertainty among scholars and policymakers regarding the definition and scope of national security. This uncertainty persisted until the attacks of September 11, 2001. The events of 9/11 and the subsequent "war on terror" led to a dramatic and rapid expansion of the national security concept. In the post-9/11 world, a wide array of issues began to be framed as matters of national security. Today, national security encompasses not only traditional military and intelligence concerns but also a diverse range of issues such as climate change, cybersecurity threats like ransomware, the security of critical minerals, the development and deployment of artificial intelligence and even public health challenges like personal protective equipment during pandemics. In the contemporary American

context, the term "national security" has become so expansive that it can be applied to almost any issue. This broadening reflects the complexity of the modern world, where threats are increasingly diverse and interconnected. Consequently, the line between "high politics" and "low politics" is increasingly blurred, as issues once considered peripheral are now recognized as central to the security and stability of the nation. The ongoing process of economic globalization and the rapid pace of technological advancement have undeniably amplified the number of unconventional threats that the United States faces today. These new challenges arise from various sectors, including cybersecurity, global financial systems and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence. However, there is a noticeable trend within the U.S. foreign policy establishment: an accumulation of concerns that never seem to be fully addressed or resolved. Instead of removing old concerns from the national security agenda, new ones are added, creating a growing list of issues that demand attention. In the complex landscape of global politics, problems rarely disappear on their own. At best, they fade into the background but never truly go away. Even when crises seem to be under control, they often linger, only to re-emerge later when left unattended. These issues, once considered peripheral, can quickly move to the forefront, demanding urgent attention. This dynamic creates a challenging environment where policymakers must constantly juggle a multitude of concerns, both new and old. Within this context, policy entrepreneurs individuals or groups who advocate for specific policy changes play a significant role. They come from various political backgrounds and push the administration, Congress and other key actors in U.S. foreign policy to prioritize their particular issues as matters of national security. Their goal is to secure greater focus and resources for these concerns, which they believe are critical to the nation's safety. Among these voices, American populists and nationalists are particularly vocal. They tend to view a wide range of issues as threats to national security, often advocating for aggressive measures to address them. A notable example is the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, which outlines potential policies for a second Trump administration, should Donald Trump win the up-

coming election. This project highlights concerns about both domestic big tech companies and foreign firms like TikTok, labeling them as potential national security threats that require regulation. The influence of these political interests and the structural incentives within the foreign policy establishment lead to an ever-expanding list of national security issues. Rarely are concerns removed from this list, which results in a situation where almost anything can be framed as a national security threat. However, this broad and ever-growing definition of national security creates a significant risk. When too many issues are labeled as national security priorities, it becomes difficult to determine which threats truly deserve the most attention and resources. Without a more focused and deliberate discussion among policymakers about what truly constitutes a national security issue, there is a real danger that Washington will spread its resources too thin. By attempting to address too many concerns simultaneously, the U.S. may end up effectively addressing none of them. This dilution of focus can lead to genuine threats being overlooked or inadequately addressed, ultimately compromising the nation's safety and security. As the next president takes office in January, a critical task will be to reassess and redefine the fundamental principles that guide national security policy. This reassessment is essential to narrow the scope of national security concerns to those that genuinely pose the most significant risks. Without such a reevaluation, there is a considerable danger that the U.S. will continue to overextend itself, attempting to tackle too many issues at once and failing to adequately protect the nation from real and pressing threats. The concept of national security in American political discourse has evolved significantly over time, expanding to encompass a wide array of issues beyond traditional military and intelligence concerns. This broadening reflects the complex and interconnected nature of modern threats, from cybersecurity to climate change. However, this expansion also poses challenges, as the growing list of concerns risks diluting focus and resources. It is crucial for policymakers to carefully assess and prioritize what truly constitutes a national security issue, ensuring that the most critical threats receive the attention they require to safeguard the nation's well-being.

Briefs

Taliban
denounces
Pakistan
special...

FROM PAGE 01
the news. Forget about front or back pages, even in the inner pages Afghanistan is absent." I think it can push back Afghanistan to pre-9/11 conditions and which in fact then give birth to 9/11," Durrani warned. Pakistan's special envoy Asif Durrani in response to a media query regarding his assessment on the Taliban rule and their possible international acceptance, Durrani was of the view that they were moving in that direction. "We should not forget that they are faced with tremendous challenges. Number 1, they are not recognised by any country, secondly, when they came to power, their coffers were empty, thirdly, they were not expecting of a meltdown of Ashraf Ghani government.", "On the balance, if you look at it during the past 3 years, I think the security situation in Afghanistan has improved, there is less corruption, which is internationally acknowledged," he further said.

NAB files
fresh
Toshakhana
reference...

FROM PAGE 01
new Toshakhana case on July 13 hours after a district and sessions court in Islamabad acquitted them in the iddat case – also known as the un-Islamic nikah case – which was the last hurdle in the couple's release from jail before the filing of the new cases. A day earlier, accountability court had sent the PTI founder and Bushra to jail on a 15-day judicial reference after completion of the probe by NAB. During the hearing of the other reference on Monday, the couple submitted the responses to the questionnaire by NAB. The hearing on August 19, held at the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, was conducted by Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana.

Marwat
warns of
Bangladesh-
like unrest

FROM PAGE 01
nature of the event, Marwat mentioned. "We won't have a traditional stage at our rally." He confidently declared that under the leadership of Ali Amin, a massive crowd from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is expected to join the rally. Marwat urged party workers not to travel alone but to move in caravans to ensure safety and solidarity. "When there are hundreds of thousands of people, no one can arrest them," he asserted. Marwat dismissed concerns about legal actions, saying, "We already have numerous FIRs against us; a few more won't make a difference." He predicted that the upcoming rally would outshine the recent Swabi rally, both in scale and significance.

Giving
people relief
better than..

FROM PAGE 01
acknowledgement of their sheer dedication and hard work. The chief minister shared that despite immense difficulties in the past which included her time in jail, she did not shed tears, but the pride and achievements of the students had made her emotional. She also announced the launch of a scholarship programme worth Rs25 billion. Additionally, she also said the laptop scheme would be revived which was aimed at equipping students with technology. She also said for those tehils which did not possess any transport facility, 61 buses would be given. She also touched upon the topic of power bills on which her government announced a relief of Rs14 per unit. She said the move, despite being aimed at helping the public, was ridiculed by some people as ridiculous.

Sinner and Sabalenka win titles in Cincinnati Open

Sabalenka defeated Jessica Pegula 6-3, 7-5 for her first title since the Australian Open in January

SPORTS DESK

MASON: Top-ranked Jannik Sinner and women's No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka earned straight-set victories in the finals of the Cincinnati Open, the first titles at the tournament for both players. Sabalenka defeated Jessica Pegula 6-3, 7-5 for her first title since the Australian Open in January. Sinner, who turned 23 on Friday, beat American Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (4), 6-2 to become the youngest Cincinnati champion since 21-year-old Andy Murray won in 2008. "I'm very happy to be in the position where I am," Sinner said. "I'm just trying to keep going this way mentally. It's important to recover to be ready for New York. That's the most important thing." The U.S. Open begins on Aug. 26 in New York. Sinner and Tiafoe were both playing in their first Cincinnati finals with their previous best results being the third round. Tiafoe forced a tiebreak in the first set, but three straight errors led to a 7-6 defeat. Sinner had a 5-1 lead in the second before Tiafoe saved three match points to make it 5-2 before Sinner was able to serve out for the win. Tiafoe



had a less conventional path to the final. He won the first set in the quarterfinals on Saturday before Hubert Hurkacz retired with a calf injury then saved two match points to defeat Holger Rune in three sets in the semis. Sabalenka moved up a spot to No. 2 in the rankings before the match, then didn't lose a set en route to her 15th WTA

title. She had never gotten past the semifinals at Cincinnati, losing three times in that round. The 26-year-old Sabalenka can now be considered a favorite at the U.S. Open. The Belarusian missed Wimbledon with a shoulder injury, then returned to the tour at Washington two weeks ago. "I would say that I'm really playing great

tennis," Sabalenka said. "Probably not the best tennis I can play but I'm definitely getting there. Hopefully at the U.S. Open I can reach even higher levels." Against Pegula, Sabalenka took 17 minutes to build a 4-1 lead in the first set. Pegula, who double-faulted five times, broke serve for the first time to tie the second set at 5-all, but Sabalenka won the next two games to finish off the 1-hour, 14-minute match. "She was playing at a high level and never really came down," Pegula said. "When she's serving really well, it's tough, especially on these fast courts." The sixth-ranked Pegula had a challenging road to the final. After defending her title at Toronto, the American played two matches on Friday because of weather-related postponements and had three matches go three sets. Her time on the court exceeded Sabalenka's by more than two hours entering the final. "I'm proving to myself that I can play a lot of matches and overcome a lot of challenges," Pegula said. "I'm looking forward to not doing anything for a few days." Sabalenka joined top-ranked Iga Swiatek as the only players with 10 or more WTA titles since 2020. She beat Swiatek in the Cincinnati semis

Naseem Shah ready for Bangladesh challenge

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pacer Naseem Shah is all set to make a comeback after a year-long layoff in the Test cricket against Bangladesh on August 21 in Rawalpindi. The emerging pacer returned to red-ball cricket for Pakistan Shaheens last week in a four-day fixture against Bangladesh 'A'. However, the weather conditions interrupted the match, but he delivered 15.3 overs across both innings. "That match was very important for me because you need that match practice," Shah told Cricbuzz. "The load of bowling in a match and being in the ground is a lot different than how you train in nets. So, that first day was very important for me to get my rhythm going." Naseem further added the challenges a player has to face while playing a Test cricket. "It is called 'Test' because it tests you physically and mentally. You get frustrated when you don't get a wicket and have to spend considerable amounts of time on the ground. So, the preparation is simple: increasing the bowl-

ing load and staying in the ground for longer. Just be in the ground from 10 am until 5 pm. Be more disciplined and consistent with the ball. The actual test is to be repetitive and bowl on the same spot repeatedly," he said. "It is not easy to dismiss batters in Tests. You get wickets in white-ball cricket because they go for slogs and end up making mistakes. You may go for runs, but you know wickets are around the corner," he added. Despite sharing the challenges the players encounter during Test cricket, Naseem, 21, shed light on the importance of taking wickets in this series. "But, you don't forget the wickets that you get in Test cricket. You remember them for your whole life, because you have earned them with your hard work. It is only you who know how consistent you have been to get those wickets. You relish those dismissals when you watch them on TV and they bring back the memories of the setups that you had laid to get them. So, that's the difference, you need a lot of passion in Test cricket," he added. The right-hand batter further added by mentioning the two options the play-

ers have while playing Test cricket, either to play according to your plan or as per your plan. Naseem prioritises bowling according to the team's plan so that by the end of the day, the team carries more benefits. "When it comes to Test cricket, you have two options as a fast bowler. Either bowl according to the agreed team plans or bowl according to your plan, which may get you wickets but will definitely cost you runs. I follow the former. I tell myself to bowl according to the plan that has been agreed as a team and the conditions of the pitch so it benefits the team. At times, you have to deviate from your strengths for the benefit of the team and I am happy to do that," he said. Naseem was asked about how he feels being considered as the backbone of his team. To which he replied that he sees it as a positive pressure by the expectations people have due to his past performances. "This is a positive pressure as there are expectations of people from me because of the hard work I have put in in the past. I enjoy taking the responsibility upon myself to deliver," he concluded.

PCB advertises coaching positions for white-ball side

The PCB has announced plans to appoint a special skills coach specifically for the white ball team

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has begun the process of recruiting several key coaching positions for their men's white-ball cricket team. Among the roles being sought are a fielding coach and a mental performance coach, both crucial for the team's success in upcoming tournaments. In addition to these positions, the PCB has announced plans to appoint a special skills coach specifically for the white ball team. To attract suitable candidates, the PCB has issued an advertisement calling for applications. Previously, Simon Helmut served as the fielding coach during the T20 World Cup, while David Reid was brought on as the mental performance coach for the same event. Both roles are now open, and interested individuals have until September 4th to submit their applications. Tim Nielsen from Australia is currently serving as the high-performance coach for Pakistan's red-ball team. The decision to bring in new coaches for the white ball team was made in consultation with head coaches Gary Kirsten and Jason Gillespie, who oversee the white and red ball teams, respectively. Simultaneously, the PCB has started their search for a head coach for the women's cricket team. An advertisement has been released, inviting applications for this position as well. Muhammad Wasim is the current head coach of the women's team, but the PCB is seeking new leadership. Candidates interested have until September 4th to submit their applications to PCB. – DNA

Cabinet approves Prime Minister's..

FROM PAGE 01

decided that the National Assembly would instruct the federal government that the Supreme Court would review the factual and legal aspects of the case and the opinion of the scholars and an application should be filed on behalf of the government According to the instructions of the Prime Minister, the Attorney General will appear in the hearing of the revision petition in the Supreme Court on the 22nd of August and along with his team will give arguments in the light of the opinion of the Ulama and the Standing Committee on Law and Justice of the National Assembly. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, the Federal Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan on the promotion of cooperation in the field of electronic commerce (e-commerce). The Federal Cabinet approved the establishment of the Prime Minister's Skills Development Company under the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Training in light of Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Federal Education and Vocational Training. The establishment of the above company is to collect funds for technical and vocational training, fund management and implementation of various training programs under this fund. In the light of the Prime Minister's directive, the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Training is being set up to separate the operational and regulatory affairs of this company, after which the Prime Minister's Skill Development Company for Technical and Vocational Training is being established. will look after the operational matters of training while the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Training will look after regulatory matters.

Ilkay Gundogan retires from int'l football

BERLIN: Germany captain Ilkay Gundogan has announced his retirement from international football. The 33-year-old announced his decision in a statement on social media, just over a month after leading his country at the European Championship, where hosts Germany were eliminated in the quarter-finals by eventual winners Spain. The former Manchester City midfielder made 82 appearances for his nation having made his international debut in 2011. "After a few weeks of consideration, I have come to the conclusion that it is time to end my national team career," he said. He added: "My highlight was definitely the huge honour of being able to lead the team as captain at our home European Championships last summer! After all these years, we finally managed to make the nation proud again – I'm very happy that I was able to play a part in that." – Agencies

Women's T20 WC to be relocated from BD to UAE

DUBAI: The ICC Women's T20 World Cup is expected to be relocated from Bangladesh to the UAE, following indications from a recent virtual International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meeting held on Tuesday, media reported. The consensus among Board members was that the event could not be hosted in Bangladesh under the present conditions. It is understood that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has consented to the move but will remain the official host of the tournament. The tournament, starting from October 3, is scheduled to be held in Bangladesh but the ongoing political turmoil, which also included the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has made things difficult for the International Cricket Council to go with the plan. Earlier, it was reported that Bangladesh's chance of hosting the Women's T20 World Cup this October depends on the withdrawal of travel advisories from four participating teams: India, Australia, England, and New Zealand. "Being the host nation, we are regularly communicating with the ICC [International Cricket Council] regarding this issue, and even in our last communication yesterday [Friday], they expressed concern over the travel advisories from four participating nations," a BCB official told The Daily Star. "See, if these countries don't withdraw their travel advisories, there is no chance for us to host this event. While Australia initially advised reconsidering travel plans to Bangladesh, it now suggests 'do not travel to Bangladesh.' So, you can understand the situation," he said. "Time is running out, and the ICC will not wait long because there is a huge risk of financial setbacks if we ultimately fail to host the tournament due to security reasons." Meanwhile, the pitches used for the first two matches of the men's T20 World Cup 2024 at Nassau County Stadium in New York, as well as the surface for the semi-final between Afghanistan and South Africa at the Brian Lara Academy in Tarouba, have been deemed "unsatisfactory" by the ICC. This assessment was made nearly two months after the conclusion of the tournament, which saw India triumph over South Africa in the final. In the New York matches, Sri Lanka were dismissed for 77 by South Africa on June 3, and Ireland were bowled out for 96 by India two days later. In the second match, several players from both teams were struck on the body due to the unpredictable bounce of the pitch. Rohit Sharma was forced to retire hurt as a precaution after being struck on the upper arm by Josh Little. Rishabh Pant also took a blow from Little, while Ireland's Harry Tector was hit on the finger by a short ball from Jasprit Bumrah. At the time, Andy Flower described the pitch in New York as "bordering on dangerous," while former England captain Michael Vaughan labelled it "shocking." – Agencies

BD captain hopes Shakib shines despite political setback

Bangladeshi all-rounder was member of now dissolved parliament led by for prime minister Sheikh Hasina

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh's captain on Tuesday was confident that ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will compete at his best in a Test against Pakistan this week, after protests over the former lawmaker's inclusion. Shakib, 37, was a member of the now-dissolved Bangladesh parliament led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who was forced to flee the country at the start of the month following mass protests. Last week, the interim government permitted Shakib, who has not commented on the political crisis, to feature in the two Tests against Pakistan, the first of which starts Wednesday. "He has played this game for so long so he knows his role and how to prepare himself. I am not thinking about his political career," Bangladesh skipper and captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said at a press conference. Asked if the political setback would affect Shakib's performance, Shanto said: "I don't think so because he is a professional cricketer, we all treat him as a cricketer, to be honest." "I hope he will do something special in this series," he added.



Shakib is Bangladesh's key allrounder with 4,505 runs in 67 Tests and as a spinner got 237 wickets – the most of any Bangladeshi bowler in Test cricket. Bangladeshis in Dhaka protested over Shakib's continued inclusion in the team, with former Bangladesh Cricket Board member Rafiqul Islam criticising him for staying silent as protesters died in clashes with security forces. Shakib joined the squad in Pakistan last week, after featuring in the Global T20 League in Canada, where Bangladeshis also chanted slogans against him. The unrest in Dhaka stopped the team from assembling for practice sessions. The tourists got some reprieve after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) invited them to arrive four days early to make up for their lack of preparations. Still, Shanto hoped that Bangladesh could overturn a dismal Test record against Pakistan, having lost 12 of the last 13 Tests, with just one draw. "We have a balanced side and I hope we play some good cricket," said Shanto. "I think the record can be changed, it's not easy but we believe that we can do some special things." The Rawalpindi Test is under threat from bad weather, with rain predicted on all five days. The second Test will be played in the same stadium from August 30.

Pakistan has highest power tariff in region...

FROM PAGE 01

the poor were being provided subsidy in power bills. "No doubt, we're providing the most expensive electricity in the region, but poor consumers are getting at subsidised rates with others bearing the burden," the minister said while addressing the National Youth Convention in Islamabad. Due to the high cost of electricity, the minister said, industries across the country were shutting down but the government was "now providing electricity to the industries at lower rates, bearing the additional costs." Meanwhile, Leghari also asked the nation to endure "two-hour of loadshedding" which according to him, could result in significant savings of up to Rs50 billion. "Another measure to save electricity is switching fans to energy efficient," he said, adding that the government has chalked out new power plan to eliminate loadshedding. The power minister further said that earlier, the cost of electricity for the consumers was Rs10 per unit, but it has increased due to the depreciation of local currency against US dollar. "The current average electricity cost stands at Rs44 per unit", he added. Leghari noted that the nation would receive a "good news" regarding independent power producers (IPPs) soon. "We secretly began work on IPPs, but the news leaked from the ministry," he said. He also announced that the government is planning to establish new power plants to address the issue of loadshedding in the country. The minister said the task force has been constituted, in which the law enforcement agencies' officials have also been included. On July 15, PM Shehbaz Sharif-led government jacked up the base tariff for domestic consumers to up to Rs48.84 per unit.

'Imran faces possible military trial'

FROM PAGE 01

events of May 9. What happened, who was involved, where the planning took place, and which messages were sent – all of this is known." He added that while others might have doubts, Khan himself has none. "The mention of [former chief justice] Saqib Nisar's name after Faiz Hameed is significant. The continuous flow of news suggests that Saqib Nisar played a role somewhere. We have clear evidence that Faiz Hameed had a personal interest in preventing Gen Asim Munir from becoming the army chief, for which he made significant efforts." Siddiqui further claimed that ex-CJP Saqib Nisar played a key role in destabilising the country, removing Nawaz Sharif from office, and bringing another individual to power. "His audio tapes have also surfaced, showing his influence over NAB courts to ensure Nawaz Sharif's conviction before the elections, even ordering hearings on holidays," Siddiqui said.

Pakistan conducts training...

FROM PAGE 01

enhanced survivability, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The military's media wing also noted that the launch was witnessed by senior officers from the Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, scientists and engineers of strategic organisations. Reacting to the Shaheen-II launch, the director general Strategic Plans Division appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of scientists who contributed towards this landmark achievement. Furthermore, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamsud Mirza and the three services chiefs also congratulated the scientists and engineers on this accomplishment. Today's training launch comes as the country's security forces often carry out routine test launches of various missiles in its arsenal.

Briefs

Mpox is not
the new
COVID: WHO
official

BERLIN: A World Health Organization official stressed on Tuesday that mpox, regardless of whether it is the new or old strain, is not the new COVID, as authorities know how to control its spread. "We can and must tackle mpox together," said Hans Kluge, WHO regional director for Europe, in a UN media briefing. "So will we choose to put the systems in place to control and eliminate mpox globally? Or will we enter another cycle of panic and neglect? How we respond now and in the years to come will prove a critical test for Europe and the world," he added. Mpox, a viral infection that causes pus-filled lesions and flu-like symptoms, is usually mild but can kill. The clade 1b variety has caused global concern because it seems to spread more easily through routine close contact. A case of the variant was confirmed last week in Sweden and linked to a growing outbreak in Africa, the first sign of its spread outside the continent. The WHO declared the recent outbreak of the disease a public health emergency of international concern after the new variant was identified. Kluge said that the focus on the new clade 1 strain will also help in the fight against the less severe clade 2 variety that has spreading globally since 2022, allowing Europe to improve its response through better health advice and surveillance. About 100 new cases of the clade 2 mpox strain are now being reported in the European region every month, added Kluge. —APP

World's
oldest person
dies in Spain
at 117

MADRID: The world's oldest living person, Spain's Maria Branyas Morera, who was born in the United States and lived through two world wars, has died at the age of 117, her family said Tuesday. "Maria Branyas has left us. She died as she wished: in her sleep, peacefully and without pain," her family wrote on her account on social network X. "We will always remember her for her advice and her kindness," they said. Branyas, who had lived for the last two decades in the Santa Maria del Tura nursing home in the town of Olot in northeastern Spain, had warned in a post on Tuesday that she felt "weak." —DNA

UNRWA loses
touch
with many
staff in Gaza

GENEVA: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has lost contact with several of its Gaza Strip staff members and is gradually learning of their deaths, UNRWA Chief of Staff Ben Majekodunmi told media reporters. According to the official, the agency does not know how many workers are missing because it is "impossible" to contact them, citing over 13,000 staff members in Gaza. He explained that "communication is very limited. Many of our employees can not work, in particular, because all schools are closed since October 7, or because they are taking care of their children." "Over 205 UNRWA employees have died in Gaza as we are gradually receiving information on casualties. For instance, recently we have learned about the death of our colleague killed in January," the official said. Majekodunmi added that 135 children of UNRWA staff have been murdered in Gaza. He explained that although there is usually no count of such specific numbers, "every time we receive data on the death of an employee, we learn that they were killed together with their children," adding that the agency does not know exactly how many other children of other UN staff have been killed. —Agencies

Malaysian PM backs Turkiye's
proposal for OIC Gaza Session

Malaysia Prime Minister said that our conversation focused on several crucial efforts aimed at achieving a ceasefire and ensuring lasting peace in Gaza

NEWS DESK

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Tuesday backed Türkiye's proposal to convene an emergency session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) over the Gaza cease-fire. In a statement posted on X, Premier Ibrahim said he also spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and Basem Naim, a member of the Hamas Political Bureau, on Monday before his departure for India. "Our conversation focused on several crucial efforts aimed at achieving a ceasefire and ensuring lasting peace in Gaza. I reiterated Malaysia's commitment to support such initiatives to achieve the objectives under the guidance of key countries including Türkiye, Qatar and Iran," he said. He added that one of the key points of discussion was Türkiye's proposal to convene an emergency session of the OIC to mobilize the leaders of the Islamic world in exerting intensified pressure on the US and its allies, urging them to compel the Zionist Israeli regime to immediately cease its attacks and bombings in Gaza. "Alham-

US, Israel use starvation as
political weapon :Gaza

GAZA: Gaza's Government Media Office says Israel and the United States are using the policy of starvation as a tool to exert political pressure on the Palestinians, condemning the practice as "a war crime and a crime against humanity." In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Government Media Office "condemned in the strongest terms" the Israeli use of the policy of starvation against civilians in the Gaza Strip and depriving them from food as "a means of political pressure", with the "declared" approval of the US administration. Referring to recent remarks made by US President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, the statement categorically rejected linking the delivery of humanitarian aid and food to civilians, including women and children, to reaching a ceasefire agreement between the Israeli regime and Palestinian resistance factions in Gaza. "Linking the two issues to each other is a clear crime that requires a condemnation from the international community, the international and UN organizations, and all the countries of the free world." The statement noted that the Israeli army, given a green light from the US, has been closing the Rafah border crossing between Palestine and Egypt for 105 days as part of "the crime of genocide committed by the two sides against civilians in the Gaza Strip." The closure of the border crossing is a crime that violates the international law, the international humanitarian law and all the international agreement and "has exacerbated the humanitarian disaster" in Gaza in "an unprecedented way", the Office said. "The crime of blocking the entry of all kinds of aid, medical supplies, medical delegations and medications [into Gaza] seriously contributes to worsening the health and humanitarian situation," the statement warned. The statement held Israel and the US fully responsible for the "catastrophic" repercussions of their use of starvation as a weapon against Gazans and the closure of Rafah crossing. —APP

dullillah, the Iranian government and Hamas are in agreement and expressed their support for this initiative, including a shared consensus on extending invitations to non-Muslim nations that stand for justice and human rights for the

Palestinian people, such as South Africa, Brazil, Spain, Ireland, and Portugal," said the Malaysian prime minister. "Additionally, Dr. Masoud, Dr. Basem, and I believe that any meaningful progress toward peace must begin with the

unconditional cessation of all military actions and acts of aggression against the Palestinian people by the Israelis," he concluded. Meanwhile, The Israeli army killed 34 more Palestinians in attacks in the Gaza Strip, taking the

overall death toll to 40,173 since last Oct. 7, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Tuesday. A ministry statement added that some 92,857 others have been injured in the ongoing assault. "Israeli forces killed 34 people and injured 114 others in three 'massacres' against families in the last 24 hours," the ministry also said. "Many people are still trapped under rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them," it added. Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian group Hamas. Over 10 months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water, and medicine. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

Australian PM defends his
govt over visas to Gazans

WEB DESK

SYDNEY: Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday defended his government issuing visas to those fleeing from Gaza and declined to respond to opposition in parliament which called for a ban on the arrivals from war-torn Gaza. Opposition leader Peter Dutton and his party members raised the issue of arrivals from Gaza and asked Premier Albanese to share details with the parliament, according to ABC News. However, Albanese declined to answer the opposition and said he trusted his security agencies who are always involved in the process. "I remind the leader of the opposition that the Rafah border crossing is controlled by the Israeli and Egyptian authorities.

Let's be clear about what is happening here," he said. "Israel closed the Rafah border crossing in May. They're not letting people out," he added. On Sunday, Prime Minister Albanese once again rejected opposition's call to ban Palestinians fleeing Gaza from entering Australia, saying it aims to "whip up fear." Earlier, Dutton had called for a stop to migration from the besieged Palestinian coastal enclave, contending the arrival of people from a war zone to Australia was "putting national security at risk." However, Albanese, said the rhetoric from the coalition is causing community division at a time when security heads were calling for "social cohesion." So far, some 2,922 visas to fleeing Palestinians have been approved, of them 1,300 have arrived "safely" in Austral-

ia, Department of Home Affairs figures showed. Whereas, the data showed, 7,100 visas from Palestinian territories have been rejected. Israel has killed more than 40,100 Palestinians since an Oct. 7 cross-border attack by Hamas. Israeli actions have triggered a humanitarian disaster and an ongoing genocide trial at the International Court of Justice. Meanwhile, The Israeli army killed 34 more Palestinians in attacks in the Gaza Strip, taking the overall death toll to 40,173 since last Oct. 7, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Tuesday. A ministry statement added that some 92,857 others have been injured in the ongoing assault. "Israeli forces killed 34 people and injured 114 others in three 'massacres' against families in the last 24 hours," the ministry also

said. "Many people are still trapped under rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them," it added. Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian group Hamas. Over 10 months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water, and medicine. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

Azerbaijan
officially applies for
BRICS membership

BAKU: This announcement comes after a high-level meeting in Baku between Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. The confirmation was made through an official BRICS social media post. BRICS, which originally included Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa and has now expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, is experiencing increased interest from other nations looking to join the bloc. Meanwhile, last month, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar bin Ibrahim announced on July 28 that Malaysia has officially applied to join the BRICS organization. The application was sent in a letter to Russia, the current BRICS rotating chair, expressing Malaysia's openness to participate either as a member country or a strategic partner. BRICS surges to 35.7% of global GDP in 2023. It is worth noting that in 2023, the BRICS countries collectively accounted for a historic 35.7% share of the global GDP in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), marking an increase of 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous year. Since its establishment in 2006, the bloc has seen its global economic share rise by 10.2 percentage points, according to Sputnik's analysis based on World Bank data. Conversely, the G7 nations saw their economic indicators decline to 29%, the lowest in 30 years, losing 0.4 percentage points year-on-year. Since 2006, the G7's global GDP share has decreased by 9.7 percentage points. Overall, global GDP in PPP terms reached \$184.7 trillion in 2023, reflecting a 7% increase from the previous year. —DNA

Kenya
'psychopath'
serial killer
suspect
escapes
from custody

NAIROBI: Kenyan police launched a major manhunt on Tuesday after a man they claim has confessed to murdering and dismembering 42 women escaped from a Nairobi police cell, along with a dozen other detainees. Collins Jumaisi, 33, described by police as a "vampire, a psychopath," was arrested last month after the horrific discovery of mutilated bodies in a garbage dump in a slum in the Kenyan capital. "Investigations have been launched and a major security operation is under way to get the 13 suspects," Kenya police spokeswoman Resila Onyango told AFP. Police said in a separate statement that they discovered the breakthrough when officers made a routine visit to the police station cells at around 5 am to serve the prisoners breakfast. "On opening the cell door, they discovered that 13 prisoners had escaped by cutting the wire mesh in the basking bay," it said, referring to an area in the station where detainees could get access to fresh air. Those who fled were Jumaisi and 12 other people that police said were of Eritrean origin and were in custody for being "illegally present immigrants." The police station is located in the up-market Nairobi district of Gigiri, home to the regional headquarters of the United Nations and numerous embassies. It is the second time in barely six months that a suspect in a high-profile case has escaped from custody. Kenyan national Kevin Kangethe, who is accused of murdering his girlfriend in the United States last year and leaving her body in an airport car park, fled a police station in February before being caught about a week later. —APP

UAE
ramps up
humanitarian
aid to Sudan

LONDON: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said it has significantly expanded humanitarian efforts to support the Sudanese people amidst the ongoing conflict in Sudan. In a statement, the Strategic Communication Department of the UAE said that in response to the escalating crisis, the UAE has launched a series of emergency relief operations, including the dispatch of 159 relief flights carrying over 10,000 tons of food, medical, and relief supplies to Sudan. This aid has been critical in addressing the urgent needs of the Sudanese population facing severe shortages of essential supplies due to the conflict. Over the past decade, the UAE has provided substantial aid, amounting to \$3.5 billion, with a sharp increase in assistance since the outbreak of the conflict in 2023, it added. "The UAE has also played a pivotal role in supporting Sudanese refugees who have fled to neighboring countries. As part of its comprehensive humanitarian strategy, the UAE has constructed two field hospitals in Chad, which have provided vital medical care to those displaced by the conflict. The Amdjarass Field Hospital has treated 24,741 cases, while the Abeche Field Hospital has provided care for 21,761 individuals, underscoring the UAE's commitment to delivering life-saving medical assistance," according to the statement. During the International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan and Neighboring Countries held in Paris in April, the UAE pledged more than \$100 million in aid, further demonstrating its leadership in international humanitarian efforts. This includes contributions of \$70 million to UN humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan, along with a direct donation of \$30 million to support refugees in the region. "The UAE's swift and substantial response reflects its longstanding commitment to humanitarian principles and its solidarity with the Sudanese people during this challenging time. As the situation in Sudan continues to evolve, the UAE remains a key player in the global effort to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the conflict, providing both immediate relief and long-term support," it added. —Agencies

Venezuela opposition
candidate asks Maduro
to 'step aside'

CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who has claimed he defeated Nicolas Maduro in last month's election, said Monday he was ready to negotiate a transition - and asked the incumbent to "step aside." "Mr. Nicolas Maduro, respect what all Venezuelans have decided... You and your government should step aside... I am ready for dialogue," Gonzalez Urrutia, a retired diplomat, said in a video message posted on social media. "Every day that you hinder the democratic transition, Venezuelans suffer from a country in crisis, and without freedom. Clinging to power only makes the suffering of our people worse. Our time has come." Since the contested election, Gonzalez Urrutia and fellow opposition leader Maria Corina Machado - who was barred from running herself - have been in hiding as prosecutors have opened an investigation against both of them. Gonzalez Urrutia has not been seen publicly in weeks, while Machado appeared at an opposition rally in Caracas on Saturday. Saturday's protest was the latest since the July election, in which Maduro claimed a third, six-year term. The country's CNE electoral council declared Maduro the victor within hours of polls closing, giving him 52 percent of ballots cast, and ratified the vote in early August. It did not provide a detailed breakdown. The opposition says its own tally of polling-station-level results showed Gonzalez Urrutia, 74, had won more than two-thirds of votes. Officials sources have reported 25 people have been killed, 192 injured and 2,400 arrested in election-related protests. —APP



ISLAMABAD: view of heavy tree fell on a school children pick and drop vehicle at super market due to heavy storm in morning hours in the Federal Capital. —ONLINE

Indonesia ,Australia finalize new bilateral defense treaty

The bilateral relationship is becoming increasingly important to
Australians in face of growing tensions with China

FOREIGN DESK

MELBOURNE: Indonesia and Australia on Tuesday finalized a new bilateral defense treaty that will enhance the neighboring nations' ability to operate their militaries in each other's territory. The agreement was reached as Indonesian president-elect Prabowo Subianto, who also serves as defense minister, met with Australian officials at the country's Parliament earlier Tuesday. The bilateral relationship is becoming increasingly important to Australians in face of growing tensions with China. New Australian prime ministers typically make Jakarta one of their first overseas destinations. The pact will be signed within days, when Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles visits Jakarta. Marles said the successful conclusion of negotiations after two years was significant for both countries' national security.

"What this agreement will do is provide for much greater interoperability between our defense forces, it will provide for much more exercises between our defense forces, it will see us working together the global commons to support the rules-based order

and, importantly, it will allow us to operate from each other's countries," Marles told reporters. "And in that sense, this agreement will be the deepest, the most significant agreement that our two countries have ever made," Marles added. Subianto described the

agreement as "ironing out some legalistic details" and said that it achieved "great progress" in the two countries' defense cooperation. Euan Graham, an analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute think tank, questioned the pact's strategic value to Australia. Subianto made clear that Indonesia would remain non-aligned under his leadership, Graham said. This means Indonesia will remain among a group of countries that don't want to be officially aligned with or against any major power bloc such as the United States. "The issue is that Indonesia doesn't share the same threat perception as Australia towards China," he added. With around 275 million people, Indonesia has 10 times the population of Australia, which has fewer than 27 million people. Subianto's overnight Canberra visit was his first to Australia since he was elected president in February. He noted that Australian Prime Minister An-

thony Albanese was the first foreign leader to congratulate him on his election victory. "We have had our ups and downs as the political situation and the geopolitical situation of course evolved, but I think we are very happy today to have several decades of very close cooperation," Subianto told reporters and added he was determined to continue "this good neighbor relationship." Albanese said he looked forward to attending the president's inauguration in October. Albanese was elected prime minister in 2022 while Indonesian President Joko Widodo was in power. "There is no more important relationship than the relationship between our two great nations," Albanese said. "The strides that President Widodo and I have made together toward a deeper economic relationship will be the foundation of the work that I know will continue under your administration," Albanese added.



Briefs

IHC seeks clarity on internet speed issue

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday sought responses from the government and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) over senior journalist Hamid Mir's petition against the nationwide internet slowdown. Internet speeds have witnessed a considerable decline over the past few weeks, and users are facing difficulties in sending or down-loading media and voice notes through WhatsApp when connected to mobile data, and experiencing slow browsing speeds, even on broadband. The business community and internet service providers (ISPs) had alleged that the government's efforts to monitor internet traffic – including a so-called 'firewall' – had caused the slowdown of digital services, resulting in economic losses. While the country's information technology minister, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, had confirmed that the government was upgrading its "web management system" to cope with cyber security threats, she has categorically denied reports of the government "throttling" the internet. In a petition, filed through Advocate Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir on Friday, Mir had sought redressal for the glaring violations of citizens' fundamental rights due to the apparent installation of a firewall, drastically reduced internet speeds, routine network disruptions, and the federal government's denial of these issues.

Postal ballot applications open in NA-171

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission has fixed the last date for receipt of applications for postal ballot papers for Bye-Election in NA-171 R.Y. Khan-III, as 26th August, 2024. This facility, under the law, has been extended to the persons in Government service, members of Armed Forces, their wives and such of their children as are registered voters and ordinarily reside with them provided they are stationed at a place other than the place in which their constituency is situated, persons with any physical disability who are unable to travel and hold a National Identity Card with a logo for physical disability issued by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). Persons who are detained in prison or held in custody are also entitled to vote by postal ballot. 2. The persons appointed by the Returning Officers, including police personnel, for the performance of any duty in connection with an election at polling stations other than the one at which they are entitled to cast their vote.



Islamabad : PM Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet. DNA

Pak future hinges on reforms and decentralisation: Experts

Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed stressed the immediate need for action and the pivotal role of think tanks in fostering foresight and developing a balanced perspective

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan nears its centennial year of independence, engaging in thoughtful discussions to envision a prosperous future becomes imperative. This Catalyst Conversation, organised by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, was designed to facilitate such discourse. The session was guided by insights and expertise of Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman Sanobar Institute and former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. Air Marshal Zahid Mahmood (Retd), moderator for the session and Director at CASS, initiated the discussion by reflecting on the creation of Pakistan – a saga marked by struggle and sacrifice under the guidance of visionary leaders. He stressed that as Pakistan approaches its centenary, it is crucial for all Pakistanis to learn from the past 77 years and chart a forward-looking course aligned with the original vision of its founders and the aspirations of its people. He also highlighted that the responsibility for Pakistan's development extends beyond policymakers and national leaders to every citizen. On the main subject 'Pakistan of 2047,' Distinguished Speaker, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry (Retd), discussed the formidable challenges and potential strategies for envisioning a prosperous future for Pakistan. During his talk, he noted the difficulty in predicting the nation's future given the current political and economic climate and regional conflicts. Ambassador Chaudhry stressed the importance of having a clear vision and long-term socioeconomic development plans, similar to those implemented by nations like the United

States, China, and Singapore. He outlined several critical challenges facing Pakistan today, including inadequate devolution of power; substantial portion of the population not contributing to the tax base; excessive reliance on donor aid to balance economic shortfalls; and lackluster export growth. Additional issues highlighted included weak economic growth; water and food insecurity; bureaucratic barriers for the private sector; non-competitive knowledge economy, and insufficient development of human resources. Despite these challenges, Pakistan's potential was underscored by its young population, rich natural resources, and strategic geographic location. Ambassador Chaudhry advocated for a citizen-centric approach, as originally championed by the country's founder – Quaid-i-Azam.

Ambassador Chaudhry outlined several key reforms needed to transform Pakistan's potential into reality, including stable political governance through decentralisation; economic self-reliance; living within means; continuity of economic policies; and ease-of-doing business to facilitate the private sector. He also called for streamlining regulations; enhancing tax compliance; non-partisan accountability; and significant investments in human development, particularly in education and skill development for youth in emerging technologies such as AI. The speaker concluded by stating that with these reforms, Pakistan could look forward to a peaceful and prosperous future by 2047, marking the centennial of its independence. Conversely, without such reforms, the future remains uncertain. In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed, President of CASS, Islamabad, pointed out dual nature of the challenges Pakistan faces, with both known and unknown elements.

6 more detained for facilitation of Imran Khan

Woman staff members also involved in communication between Bushra and Imran Khan

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Six more staff members from Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi have been detained on allegations of facilitating Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. Among those detained were three women, including a female sweeper, two lady wardens, and three staff members responsible for monitoring CCTV cameras. Sources indicated that the female staff members were involved in communication between Bushra Bibi and Imran Khan within the jail. Additionally, the mobile phones of the detained employees have been confiscated for investigation. The sources also reported that additional personnel have been deployed to enhance surveillance within Adiala Jail. Previously, security agencies had earlier also detained Deputy Superintendent of Adiala Jail, Mohammad Akram, for his alleged role in facilitating Imran Khan, and questioned Assistant Superintendent Bilal.

Suspect arrested in Lahore for 'triggering UK far-right riots'

DIG Faisal Kamran says Farhan Asif works for a news platform based in Pakistan

BUREAU REPORT

LAAHORE: Weeks after a fake news sparked anti-migrant riots in the United Kingdom, a Pakistani man allegedly involved in spreading the false information was taken into custody in Lahore, DIG Operations Faisal Kamran confirmed on Tuesday. During the last few weeks, Britain witnessed widespread riots after misinformation spread about the identity of the alleged perpetrator of the knife attack that left three

minor girls dead on July 29 this year. The recent riots saw numerous mosques, asylum centres and immigrant homes being attacked in several regions of Britain. Sharing an update on X, formerly Twitter on August 14, the UK police authorities said that they had arrested over 1,000 people in connection with the weeks-long riots in England. The UK police further said that at least 575 people have been charged, as courts continue to deal with those involved in the disorder, which occurred across dozens of towns and cities in England and Northern Ireland. The Lahore police official said that the suspect identified as Farhan Asif was arrested last night in the provincial capital's DHA area and was handed over to the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime wing for interrogation. Farhan Asif works for a news platform based in Pakistan, DIG Kamran said, adding that the individual has been charged with spreading "fake news" regarding the identity of the killer of three children who were stabbed to death. The police official added that fake news caused violent riots and protests in Britain, adding that the accused was probed and was found involved in disseminating fake news. The FIA sources told media that the investigating agency's Additional Director Cybercrime Chaudhry Sarfaraz is leading the investigation. The FIA sources further said that Farhan had confessed to interrogators that he once published a story on his news website without knowing that the post would go viral.

12 killed in Israeli airstrikes on school

NEWS DESK

GAZA: At least 12 Palestinians have been killed and dozens of others injured as the Israeli military attacked a Gaza City school, the eleventh deadly strike against schools in the war-ravaged territory in August alone. According to Gaza's civil defense agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal, the bodies of the victims, including children, were pulled out of the building "after an Israeli plane dropped a bomb on the second floor of the Mustafa Hafiz School building housing thousands of displaced people." The Israeli military claimed it targeted fighters in the school sheltering Palestinian refugees. Israel's military has repeatedly targeted Gaza's civic infrastructure including schools housing displaced people during the war, often claiming without evidence they are linked to Hamas, to evade international criticism. Earlier, some media outlets reported that at least 20 people had been killed in the school attack. The attack on Mustafa Hafiz School comes as the Israeli military has carried out at least 10 strikes against Gaza schools since the start of the current month, killing close to 180 Palestinians. The attack against the Al-Tabieen School in Gaza City on August 10 was the deadliest of Israeli school attacks this month. At least 100 people, who had been performing dawn prayers, most of them women and children, were perished. Three US-made bombs, some weighing about two thousand pounds, reduced the victims' bodies to "shredded pieces" and "burned parts", according to various reports.

Pakistan DPM reaffirms commitment to CICA's vision

Secretary General Sarybay appreciated Pakistan's active and constructive role in CICA and briefed the DPM on the ongoing activities and the future outlook of CICA

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, who is currently on a visit to Pakistan, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar today. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to CICA's vision for a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security in Asia. He emphasized the need for conflict prevention; addressing the root causes of endemic dis-



putes; and finding sustainable solutions for lasting peace and development in the CICA region. He also emphasized the significance of preventive diplomacy, multilateralism and regional collaboration in addressing emerging global challenges. Secretary General Sarybay appreciated Pakistan's active and constructive role in CICA and briefed the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on the ongoing activities and the future outlook of CICA.

AUGUST 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pk

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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

