

Pro-PTI statements British HC Jane likely to face Pak demarche

The public perception was that Jane's views on the elections diverged sharply from those of the government. Commentators and analysts suggested that Jane's statements likely echoed the sentiments of the majority of the Pakistani populace. However, many critics argued that she overstepped her bounds by commenting on Pakistan's internal affairs

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In an unprecedented move in the diplomatic arena, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott, is likely to face a strong demarche from Pakistan over her alleged support for the PTI and its leader, Imran Khan. Sources familiar with the matter reveal that Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already raised this issue with the British government. The British authorities have reportedly assured a thorough investigation into the allegations.

Tensions escalated when High Commissioner Marriott delivered a speech at the Asma Jahangir Conference, criticizing the Pakistani judiciary and the Election Commission for what she described as "flawed and rigged" general elections, which she claimed facilitated the installation of the PML-N government. In May this year, Chief istice of Pakistan, Justice Qaz Isa, addressed a strongly worded letter to the British High Commissioner. The letter emphasized the judiciary's role in ensuring that elections were held within 90 days of the national and provincial assemblies complet-

Briefs

Alvi heads

PTI body

to resolve

party issues

Arif Alvi will meet

leaders who have

differences and listen

to their concerns

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has

formed a committee to re-

solve internal differences

within the party. According

to sources, former Presi-

dent Dr Arif Alvi will lead

the panel aimed at address-

ing these disputes. Party

insiders stated that Dr Alvi

will provide recommen-

dations within a week to

bridge the internal gaps. To

this end, he will meet with leaders who have grievances and listen to their concerns.

Anti-state people face

terrible fate Stresses on Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif's efforts to

restore the economy

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Deputy Prime

Minister and Foreign Min-

ister Ishaq Dar stated that

those who betray the na-

tion face dire consequenc-

es. During a media talk at

Data Darbar, he empha-

sised that Pakistan was

founded on the principles

of faith, recalling the pain-

ful history of the country's

division, and noted that

those responsible for the

disintegration of Pakistan

met unfortunate ends. Dar

underscored his commit-

ment to serving Pakistan,

mentioning that he has never sought after positions.



ing their terms. However, this did not occur due to disagreements between the then-President Arif Alvi and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over who had the authority to announce the election date. The letter also highlighted the Elections Act of 2017, which mandates intra-party elections to prevent autocratic practices within political parties. The Supreme Cor rt's deci n to unhold this law was, according to the registrar, unjustly criticized by Marriott. Recently, the British High Commissioner reportedly gave the impression during meetings with various Pakistani political leaders, including

Building 'false narrative'

members of the PTI, that the British government supported the release of Imran Khan. This was perceived by many as interference in Pakistan's internal affairs, prompting the Foreign Office to consider lodging a formal complaint against Marriott. Adding fuel to the fire, a renowned Pakistani TV host and veteran journalist recently claimed on air that Jane Marriott was actually working for the British intelligence agency MI5, which allegedly had a soft corner for the PTI and supported Imran Khan's release. Despite the growing diplomatic strain, some sources believe that the Pakistan government may ultimately seek an amicable resolution, given the complexity of its relations with the UK, particularly considering the significant assets that Pakistani

politicians have in Britain. The public perception was that Jane's views on the elections diverged sharply from those of the government. mmontators and analysts



RAWALPINDI: Bangladeshi players celebrating historic first-ever Test match win against Pakistan. - DNA

Modí to 'skíp' Shehbaz invite to SCO summit

Prime Minister extended invitations to all heads of government of the SCO member states

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian media claimed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will likely skip the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the Shanghai Corporation Summit (SCO) to be held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended

Bangladesh stun Green Shirts Win first-ever Test match against Pakistan

The Tigers beat Pakistan in red-ball cricket for the first time after 13 matches

Adil Shaheen / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh defeated Pakistan by 10 wickets in the first Test of the two-match series which was played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing the 30-run target after bowling Pa-

kistan out for 148 runs during their second

innings, the visitors had no trouble as Zakir

Hasan (15) and Shadman Islam (9) guided

the visitors to the target in just 6.3 overs.

This was the first time Bangladesh defeat-

ed Pakistan in a Test match as the previous

ed that Jane's statements likely echoed the sentiments of the majority of the Pakistani populace. However, many critics argued that she overstepped her bounds by commenting on Pakistan's internal affairs.

invitations to all heads of government of the SCO member states, including the Indian Prime Minister, following the SCO protocol three days ago. A Pakistani news channel reported as of now, there has been no confirmation or denial from India **Continued on Page 06**

DNA

lice encounter in Taunsa,

Punjab, on 24 August, au-

thorities confirmed. The

confrontation occurred near

13 meetings between the two sides ended in 12 victories for Pakistan and one match was drawn. The two sides will now once again lock horns in the second Test at the same venue from August 30 to September 3. Earlier today, the hosts began day Two terrorists five while trailing by 94 runs with skipper Shan Masood (9) and Abdullah Shafique (12) on the crease. Soon after the play Ahmad Shahzad says current PCB management, including Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, responsible for defeat

Pak loss blamed

on overconfidence,

poor management

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Cricket experts on Sunday dissected Pakistan's dismal performance against Bangladesh in the Test match that the hosts lost by 10 wickets. Bangladesh registered their first ever Test win over Pakistan in the series opener in Rawalpindi on Sunday. Pakistan, who declared their first innings on 448-6,

Continued on Page 06

Asif castigates 'coward' PTI for postponing rally killed by police in Taunsa "Imran Khan would not have postponed Police neutralised two August 22 rally, if it was meant to be terrorists during an successful," insists defence minister operation based on received intelligence in PTI scraps August Punjab's Taunsa district 27 rally in Lahore New date for Lahore power show to be TAUNSA: Two terrorists were killed during a po-

SIALKOT: Minister for Defence Khawaja

Asif on Sunday claimed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had postponed the August 22 rally in Islamabad over "fear of rejection" from the masses. The Imran Khan-led former ruling party put off its public gathering in the federal capital and rescheduled it for September 8 as the local administra-

STAFF REPORT

Continued on Page 06

announced after Islamabad gathering on September 8, says Shaukat Basra

tion revoked the no-objection certificate ISLAMABAD: In what could be con-(NOC) and sealed roads leading to Islama- sidered successive blows, Pakistan bad. PTI leaders Gohar Ali Khan and Azam Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), after shelving Swati had claimed that the gathering was its Islamabad public gathering three deferred on instructions of the PTI found- days ago, has now called off its August er after they met the incarcerated former 27 power show in Lahore. The former prime minister at 7am in Rawalpindi's Adi- ruling party's Secretary of Informaala Jail ahead of the much-hyped public rally. tion for Punjab, Shaukat Mahmood

25 dead as passenger bus falls into ditch in Kahuta

Bus was travelling with 30 passengers from Haveli Kahuta to Rawalpindi

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: At least 25 people lost their lives while one person sustained injuries after a passenger bus fell into a ditch. The bus was travelling with 30 passengers from Haveli Kahuta to Rawalpindi, the sources said, adding that the accident took place near Pana bridge. However, the cause of accident - which occurred in a mountainous area in Kahuta tehsil of Rawalpindi - is not yet known. Kahuta's Station House Officer (SHO) Muhammad Zaka, while speaking to Geo News, said the accident took place near Azad Pattan Road which is in the limits of Kahuta. The police, administration and the rescue teams are present at the site of incident and the bodies have been retrieved from the bus and moved to district headquarters hospital. The law enforcers said that some of the people have been identified. President Asif Ali Zardari expressed sorrow over the loss of lives in the accident, offering his condolences to the families of the deceased. "In this hour of sorrow, my sympathies

11 pilgrims die after bus plunges into ravine

More than 30 people have been injured in accident which occurred due to brake failure, say police

DNA

HUB/LASBELA: In another heart-wrenching tragedy, a bus carrying pilgrims plunged into a ditch at the Makran Coastal Highway leaving 11 dead and wounding more than 30 others, police told Geo News on Sunday. Providing details of the accident, Lyari Station House Officer Qadir said that the pilgrims - belonging to Lahore and Gujranwala, as per the

Continued on Page 06

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FAISAL SHEIKH

the City Food Club in the jurisdiction of the City Police Station, where officers acted on intelligence about a group of extremists from Fitanat al-Khawarij planning a major terrorist attack. According to police sources, **Continued on Page 06**

Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Monday, August 26 , 2024

AJK hill station becomes captivating destination for nature lovers. tourists

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nestled in the majestic mountains of AJK, a picturesque hill station has emerged as a captivating destination for tourists, offering a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of city life where its breathtaking landscapes, lush green forests and tranquil atmosphere has become a favorite among travelers seeking a rejuvenating experience. "The Azad Jammu & Kashmir hill station is also home to several historical landmarks and cultural attractions, showcasing the region's rich heritage," a report aired by a private news channel. "With its pleasant climate and warm hospitality, the AIK hill station is an ideal destination for families, couples and solo travelers alike," said a tourist. The hill station's stunning vistas and picturesque landscapes made it a photographer's paradise. Every turn revealed a new and breathtaking view, from the misty valleys below to the towering peaks above, said a women tourist. "The locals were so friendly and welcoming. They made me feel like part of the community, and I left with a heavy heart and a promise to return", a foreigner tourist from Canada. "The hill station offers a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and adventure activities. We are committed to preserving its charm and ensuring that tourists have a memorable experience,' PTDC tourism officer commented. "We are thrilled to see the hill station gaining popularity among tourists", said a local. "We are constantly looking for ways to improve the tourist experience, whether it is through infrastructure development, training for local guides or promoting new attractions. Our goal is to make the hill station a world-class destination." PTDC Development Officer

FBR excessive tax notices spark panic among traders

Anjum Nisar says BMP, PIAF fully back traders' shutter-down call against unjust taxation

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Warning the government of observing a shutter-down strike countrywide, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) and the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) have asked the FBR to stop harassing the traders and delay the implementation of the so-called tajir scheme, as the undue and excessive tax notices of the FBR have sparked panic among the business community. The Businessmen Panel (BMP) chairman and patron-in-chief of PIAF Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the traders are being issued undue notices to submit monthly tax of Rs60,000, which is totally unaffordable and unjustifiable, as the tax department has been ignoring what it has agreed with the traders. He urged the government to introduce special measures broadening the tax base by taking the business community on board, besides forming joint committees at district levels to address the challenges faced by local trade and investment. He said that the BMP and PIAF will fully back the shutter-down call given by the traders' organization on

August 28 (Wednesday) against unjust taxation and government anti-traders policies. Mian Anjum Nisar strongly opposed the collection of double taxes on imports and demanded to immediately withdraw it. He presented these demands, which were unanimously approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the PIAF through a resolution here in PIAF office on Sunday. The FPC-CI former president said that the notices have been issued to shopkeepers across various markets, irrespective of their registration status, causing widespread concern. We strongly oppose this unjust tax demand, which is inappropriate for both registered and unregistered individuals. He appealed the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to acknowledge the challenges faced by shopkeepers, whose businesses are already struggling due to diminished purchasing power and inflation. He urged the FBR to halt its demands for such an unrealistic tax. He said that tax officials are intentionally undermining the tajir scheme by issuing notices to everyone, regardless of their registration status. Despite promises that small shopkeepers would only face a tax of Rs1,000 to Rs1,200, notices have instead

demanded an unmanageable Rs60,000, which many shopkeepers find impossible to pay. He emphasized that the Tajir Dost scheme, which currently suffers from significant flaws, needs a thorough review in consultation with all stakeholders. This is crucial to prevent further difficulties for shopkeepers already strug-

gling amid rising inflation. He further noted that the severe inflation and high utility tariffs have already made it difficult for shopkeepers to sustain their livelihoods. In such circumstances, demanding an excessively high tax of Rs60,000 per month could force shopkeepers to shut their businesses permanently, exacerbating public and economic problems, he warned. He also demanded the immediate withdrawal of two percent tax imposed on exports by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. He asked for the abolition of fixed tax Rs1,000 on commercial and domestic consumers in the electricity bills. The BMP chief also called for immediate withdrawal of the fixed tax imposed by FBR on shopkeepers ranging from Rs10,000 to Rs45,000. He termed the Tajir Dost scheme as an anti-trader initiative and said that the budget proposals presented by the chamber should

be implemented with true spirit. He, while presenting the suggestions to increase mutual trade, export and transit trade said that there is a need to deregulate the country's economy. He said that the BMP had initiated an organized struggle against the IPPs contracts in which they have gained success because these wrong agreements are damaging the national economy. He said that for the development and stability of the country's economy, it is very important to provide facilities and incentives to the business community because the business community can play its full role in putting the economy in the right direction. HE paid tribute to the sacrifices made by the people, business community and security forces of the country for peace. He said that for the improvement of business, trade and economy, it is the need of the hour to provide a peaceful and conducive environment for investors. He called for establishing good relations with neighboring countries including the promotion of Pakistan-Afghan mutual trade. He said that the government should fully pay attention to the provision of youth and women social and economic empowerment, and provision

of health, education and basic facilities. He said the business community of the country was aware of the significance of the tax for economic development and it always remained at the forefront for ensuring full tax compliance for documenting the national economy and social prosperity. The FPCCI former president termed the track and trace system as imperative to check those involved in tax evasion and underlined the need for large-scale reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue, besides privatisation of lossmaking government entities and promotion of exports to initiate a journey towards economic stability. Demanding incentives to allure investors for strengthening the economy, he said the National Tax Number must be declared mandatory for opening of bank accounts and for the sale and purchase of properties, adding that supplies to retailers having no NTN should be stopped henceforth. He urged for introducing a proper reward system to acknowledge outstanding business leaders and encourage them as well as to promote and develop the tax compliance cul-

ture in the country for achieving

sustainable economic growth

carried out

DNA

purpose of snap checking

is to maintain law and or-

der in the district.

and social development.

DPO holds open court

ATTOCK: District Police Officer (DPO) Dr Sardar Ghias Gul Khan held an open court in Sader Police Station in attock and issued orders to officers concerned for immediate redress of citizens' problems. According to police, the DPO issued orders to officers to resolve public issues on the basis of merit and send a report to him. He said that the purpose of holding open courts is to provide speedy justice to citizens, restore trust between citizens and police and make Attock district a cradle of peace -DNA.

Police conducts search operation against criminals

ATTOCK: Police have launched a search operation against anti-social elements who were involved in various heinous crimes in order to maintain law and order in the district. According to details, Police have carried out a search operation in the district on the special instructions of District Police Officer (DPO) Attock Dr Sardar Ghias Gul Khan. A search operation was carried out in Attock Khurd of Attock police station and Bahter village of Bahter Police station –DNA.

Live stock affected by breach of Rohri canal vaccinated

SANGHAR: The Livestock of District Police Officer Department of Sanghar (DPO) Dr Sardar Ghias is continuing its efforts Gul Khan , snap checks to treat and vaccinate were carried out at varlivestock affected by the ious places across the breach of the Rohri Canal. district to make Attock Under the guidance of Depdistrict safe, while police uty Commissioner Sanghar, were placed on high alert Imran-ul-Hassan Khwaja, at the entrances and exthe Livestock Department, its of the district. In view led by Deputy Director Dr. of the orders issued by Dost Akbar Mari, is run-District Police Officer ning a camp at the Public Attock Dr Sardar Ghias School Tando Adam and in Gul Khan, snap checking adjacent areas to provide was carried out at varitreatment and vaccination ous places in the district to prevent diseases in aniwhile police was alerted mals.-DNA at the entrances and exits

> Rubella causes mental retardation, behaviour, language disorders in children by Tareen



President grieved over loss of lives in bus accident on Makran Coastal Highway

added.

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday expressed his grief and sorrow over loss of lives in a bus accident on Makran Coastal Highway, carrying Zaireen. The president expressed condolences with the bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls. He also wished quick recovery of the injured passengers, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The president directed for prompt assistance and caring of the injured in the accident. According to media reports, a bus carrying Zaireens fell into a ravine on the Makran Coastal Highway, resulting in a number of deaths and injuries to other passengers.-APP

ISLAMABAD: Central procession of Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) started from the Imambargah G-6/2 Asna Ashari, pass through its designated routes, and conclude. More than 500 officers of the Islamabad Traffic Police performed their duties in a professional manner. -ONLINE

HVACR pledges to stand with PPP Alliance in LCCI polls in Sept

DNA

LAHORE: The Heat Ventilation Air Condition Refrigeration Society Pakistan (HVACR-Lahore Chapter) has announced to support the newly-launched the PPP Alliance (PIAF Pioneer Progressive Alliance) in the LCCI polls being held in Sept 2024. The delegation of Heat Ventilation Air Condition Refrigeration Society Pakistan arrived at PPPA to show the solidarity with the Alliance, holding a meeting with pattern-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar and Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol. The executive committee members Malik Khalid Gujjar, Ahsan Shahid, Rana Nadeem Abbas and

other businessmen participated in the meeting. Coordination duties were performed by Executive Committee member Mian Muhammad Nawaz. While addressing the meeting Secretary General Safdar Ali Mughal, Ahmed Naeem and others said that Heat Ventilation Air Condition Society will support PPPA in Lahore Chamber Election. It is to be noted that the biggest alliance of the three strong groups of LCCI has been established first time in the history of Lahore business community to contest Lahore Chamber's election. In the meeting, other issues including the Lahore Chamber election campaign were discussed. Speaking on this occasion, Pattern-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar and Chairman Fahimur Rehman Saigol thanked the delegation and said that we have been working for the rights of traders. He said that HVACR has a very important role in the country's economy. It will be easy to convey the problems of the related sector to the government from this platform. Fahimur Rahman said that said that we always raised its voice for early solution of various issues being faced by the business community. He said Alliance would continue its efforts. Hafeez Centre trade body's newly-elected office-bearers paid rich tributes to the alliance leadership in general and Mian Anjum Nisar in particular. Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that HVACR has always played an important role in the elec-

tions of the Lahore Chamber. In the biggest election of the business community of Lahore, we will be successful once again with the confidence of businessmen and industrialists. After two years, the chamber elections are taking place for which we all have to work very hard. Our leadership always active in solving the problems of the business community on all forums and will not spare any effort in the future. This time also PPP Alliance will win all the seats with the support of all the markets of Lahore. The participants of the meeting said that the role of business community is vital for the economic uplift and stability of the country. They appreciated the role being played by the Alliance in the country's economic

development. They said at present, tough economic conditions called for taking difficult decisions but the government should improve the economy. The participants called for taking all steps to ensure a business and investment-friendly environment as it was imperative for economic progress and prosperity of the country. Pointing out the problems being faced by the trade and industrial sectors, he stressed the need for providing a level-playing field to the business community. The government should also reduce the cost of doing business by ensuring supply of energy at concessional tariff especially for SMEs sector, he added.

MULTAN: Rubella is an acute mild exanthematous (skin eruption or rash occurring as a symptom in a disease such as measles) infection of children and adults resembling mild measles but with the potential to cause fetal infection and birth defect. Nishtar Medical University (NMU) Senior Medical Officer, Dr Imran Rafiq, told APP on Sunday that unlike measles, rubella is only moderately contagious and prior to vaccination (MMR) incidence was the highest in the spring among children aged 5 to 9 years. Once termed third disease, measles and scarlet fever being the first and second exanthematous infections in childhood, he said adding that after infection, through Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccination, most people develop life long protection against this disease. - APP

Attabad Lake - a calamity driven tourist heaven

SULTAN SHOAIB

GILGIT-BALTISTAN :In 2010 a massive landslide triggered by an earthquake damaged Attabad village in breathtaking Hunza Valley, some 150 km away from Gilgit city. The disaster unleashed a torrent of boulders that badly affected the village and four neighboring settlements - Ainabad, Shishkat, Gulmit, and Gulkin. The tragedy claimed 20 lives and left over 6,000 villagers homeless. However, from the ashes of this devastation, a stunning natural wonder emerged. The landslide blocked the flow of Hunza River, creating a new lake that stretched 21 km long and 100 meters deep. Although the flood affected 170 houses and 120 shops yet the lake's crystal-clear waters now flow through the narrow valley, creating an enchanting spectacle attracts thousands of tourists and nature lovers. No matter that the losses were painful, but the emergence of Attabad Lake has transformed

ist hub, creating hundreds of jobs for local people. "Once a source of pang and losses, the landslide created lake has become a blessing for our community," says Muhammad Ali, owner of the Lake View Hotel. "We've seen a significant increase in tourism that has created new opportunities for employment and economic growth." "Our hotel is always fully occupied during peak season, and we're planning to expand our facilities to accommodate more guests," he informed. The lake offers a diverse range of activities like boating, jet-skiing and fishing besides winter sports when its water is frozen, attracting large number of tourists. Its unique blue color presents an eve-catching view for tourists with the barren treetops in its middle giving an insight into what led to its creation. "It is now a vital source of depicting this region internationally as a tourists heaven," remarked Farman Kareem Baig a famous Gilgit Baltistan based photographer. "Photographs

the region into a thriving tourof the lake have been exhibited around the world, showcasing this natural wonder to global audience." "It's a truly special place and I feel lucky to have been able to capture its essence through my lens," Farman said, "This is one the great bounties of nature offering absolute leisure and pleasure to visitors.

He said it will also be becoming a blessing for local people as the federal government has approved a 52-megawatt power project on Attabad Lake. "On its completion, this project will provide much-needed relief to domestic electricity consumers and businesses, ending the region's power woes and promoting sustainable development." The soothing light of setting sun mixing with a deep shade of turquoise presents a bright contrast of orange hue penetrating the mighty mountains surrounding the 25-kilometre-long lake. The beauty continues to persist even after the sunset as the moon rising present a whole new level of mesmerizing grace to the sight.

AUGUST 2024

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Islamabad POST EXTRACIONAL STREET 03 Monday, August 26, 2024

National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

AUGUST

Aug 01/China **Armed Forces Day**

Aug 01/Switzerland National Day

Armed Forces Day Aug 01 /Syria **Armed Forces Day**

Aug 01/Lebanon

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 Repub-Independence Day

> Aug 31/Malaysia National Day



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ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister and Senator Talha Mahmood, along with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov, and other distinguished guests, inaugurated the state-of-the-art 'Red Maple' Montessori and School in Islamabad's Sector F-7. The school provides a range of educational and care services, including Toddler, Casa, Daycare, and After Care facilities. During the event, the Head of School and Managing Director, Maleeha Hammad, gave an overview of the various facilities and services available to students and parents at the school.-DNA

Five-day anti-polio drive set to launch on Sept 9

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration is set to launch a comprehensive five-day anti-polio campaign starting on September 9. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Sunday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for upcoming anti-polio drive. According to an ICT spokesman, the meeting was attended by District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Zeem Zia, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) East and others. The campaign will target vaccination of 421,455 children against polio across the region. The primary phase will run from September 9 to September 13, with additional rounds on September 14 and 15 to ensure that any remaining children are vaccinated. A key focus of the meeting was the security of the polio teams, who will conduct door-to-door visits to cover every area and household in the city. Citizens are urged to cooperate with the teams and ensure their children receive the necessary polio drops. - APP

Briefing on Chevening scholarship, other programs run by BHC

DNA ISLAMABAD :A

Journalism

alumna, shared her personal experience, describing it as a "wonderful chance to adteam from the British High Comvance your career." She exmission, accompanied by plained the course structure senior journalists, visited and the challenges one faces the National Press Club in while visiting the United Islamabad to empower the Kingdom. Another SAJP journalism community and alumnus, senior journalist Shabbir Hussain, elaboratenhance their careers. The ed on how to become part initiative aimed to guide journalists on Chevening appliof the programme and its cations and the South Asian benefits for one's career. He detailed the process Programme (SAJP), highlighting the of the one-year Chevening benefits and opportunities fellowship programme and these programs offer. During the requirements candithe visit, Deputy Communidates must keep in mind while applying. Both jourcations Officer Senah Lala nalists assured their full briefed the journalists on support regarding the apthe Chevening programme, encouraging them to seize plication process and guid-

senior journalist and SAJP On the occasion, President of the National Press Club Azhar Jatoi thanked the team and emphasized the need for such initiatives to continue at the club for the betterment of journalists. Similarly, Secretary of the NPC Navyar Ali endorsed the president's views, requesting the British High Commission team to continue their support for journalists. This collaborative effort between the British High Commission and the National Press Club in Islamabad aims to uplift journalists and provide them with opportunities to grow professionally. By sharing their experiences and expertise, the team

journalists in Pakistan. With the guidance and mentorship offered by Shumila Noreen and Shabbir Hussain, journalists can now navigate the application process with confidence. The British High Commission's continued support will undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping the future of journalism in Pakistan.

ANF arrests female drug dealer; recovers six kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a raid managed to arrest a female drug dealer and seized six kg drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Sunday. He informed that ANF successfully conducting operations across the country against drug pushers to make educational institutions drug-free. A female accused involved in supplying drugs to the students in educational institutions was arrested red-handed. The arrested drug dealer was involved in supplying drugs to a well-known educational institution in Islamabad. The spokesman informed that acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted and the accused was arrested with drugs near an educational institution. During the search of the arrested accused, 4.8 kg hashish and 1.2 kg opium were recovered, he said. The preliminary investigation revealed that the accused used to smuggle drugs from Peshawar to supply to the students of the educational institutions. The accused also disclosed selling drugs to university students.-APP



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

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Hospitals

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| Cantt Hospital9270907-11 |
| DHQ5556311-4 |
| RGH9290301-7 |
| Holy Family9290322-7 |
| PIMS9261170-79 |
| Polyclinic9218300-09 |
| Shifa International 4603666 |
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Departments

| CDA | 9221334-43 |
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| CDA | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office | 9250360-6 |
| RDA | 5555864 |
| ТМА | 5770886 |
| Cantonment B | oard 9270151-3 |

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480 this opportunity to advance their careers. She emphasized how the programme spotlights mid-career journalists, providing them with a chance to excel in their field. Shumila Noreen, a

ance for the journalists. They also agreed to continue visiting the National Press Club to provide guidance and mentorship to fellow journalists, ensuring the initiative's sustainability.

hopes to inspire and motivate journalists to take advantage of these programs and enhance their careers. The event marked a significant step towards fostering a supportive community of

Punjab healthcare reborn under CM's visionary leadership

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir Sunday acknowledged Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz's commitment to healthcare reform, which has been yielding lasting impacts, setting a new standard for healthcare delivery in whole

Punjab. Talking to PTV News, he said Punjab's healthcare sector has undergone a remarkable transformation under the visionary leadership of CM Maryam Nawaz. With a steadfast commitment to reform and innovation, the CM has spearheaded a comprehensive overhaul of the province's healthcare infrastructure, policies, and services, he added. Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir credited Maryam Nawaz' s leadership for pioneering healthcare initiatives, including the 32 field hospitals and Clinics on Wheels project which are driving lasting change in the province's healthcare landscape. These state-of-the-art mobile hospitals have brought quality medical care to the doorstep of thousands, ensuring timely interventions and saving countless lives, he mentioned. Similarly, the 'Clinics on Wheels' project has revolutionized access to primary healthcare services, particularly for women and children, he mentioned. He said that by leveraging technology and innovative service delivery models, Maryam Nawaz' s leadership has ensured that Punjab's healthcare system is more inclusive, responsive and effective. The impact of her initiatives is evident in the improved health outcomes, increased access to healthcare services and enhanced patient satisfaction, he said, adding, "we are proud to be part of this transformative journey and we look forward to continuing this momentum under her guidance" Responding to a query, the minister said the upgrade of OPDs and emergencies is part of a broader strategy to strengthen the province's healthcare infrastructure. Khawaja Imran Nazir emphasized that this initiative will help reduce wait times, improve patient flow, and enhance the overall healthcare experience. Furthermore, it will enable healthcare professionals to diagnose and treat patients more efficiently, leading to better health outcomes, he added. By investing in its healthcare infrastructure, the government is demonstrating its dedication to the well-being of the people of Punjab, he concluded.

Gender diversity is shaping new frontiers

ISLAMABAD: In recent highlighted the ongoing years, society has wittensions between emerging nessed a paradigm shift in policies on diverse identithe understanding of genties and traditional sporting der identity, moving beyond categories in India. Similarly, Kenyan runner Beatrice the traditional binary framework to embrace a spec-Chepkoech, who identifies trum of identities. This evoas non-binary, was initially lution is not only reshaping selected for the women's personal experiences but marathon but faced disgualalso influencing major inification due to challenges dustries and global events. regarding her gender clas-From the sports field to the sification. The situation fashion runway and the conraised questions about the troversies surrounding the fairness of IOC policies and Paris Olympics, the movethe complexities of intement towards inclusivity is grating non-binary athletes sparking both innovation into established categories. and debate. The inclusion Caster Semenya, a South of non-binary and transgen-African der athletes in competitive runner with intersex traits, has faced significant con-

sports has sparked heated debates. At the Paris Olvmpics, Manu Bhaker, an Indian transgender weightlifter, faced disgualification from the women's category due to scrutiny over the International Olympic Committee's

(IOC) regulations on testosterone levels. This incident

transgender swimmer from the University of Pennsylvania, also made headlines for competing in women's collegiate swimming. Her participation ignited debates about balancing fair competition with inclusion, highlighting the challenges of integrating diverse gender identities into traditional sports categories. The fashion industry, traditionally known for its rigid standards, is increasingly celebrating inclusivity. Designers and brands are redefining conventional notions of masculinity and femininity, creating more middle-distance inclusive collections. In 2023, Harris Reed made waves with gender-fluid designs that challenge tratroversy over her natural ditional fashion norms. testosterone levels. Semenya's legal battles against Reed's collections, charsports regulations designed acterized by flowing fab to ensure fair competition rics and ornate embellishunderscore the compleximents, are designed for all ties and challenges faced by genders, reflecting a growing athletes with varied gender trend towards androgyny and identities. Lia Thomas, a self-expression.-APP

Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO), a Power Distribution Company invites sealed bids from original manufacturers / authorized distributors / suppliers / contractors / stockist registered with income tax and sales tax department, and who are on active taxpayers list of the Federal Board of Revenue and complying qualification & experience criteria as laid down in the bidding document and for free delivery at consignee's store (FCS) Regional Store HESCO Hyderabad / Nawabshah without involving foreign exchange element.

| Tender # | Description | Unit | Quantity |
|---|---|-------|------------|
| M.R Form (General) | | Sheet | 960,000 |
| | Bill Form (General) A5 Size | Sheet | 13,920,000 |
| 074/2024 | Bill Form (General) DCN A5 Size | Sheet | 2,640,000 |
| | Bill Form (MDI) | Sheet | 720,000 |
| 075/2024 | Part-I Plain Continuous Paper (15"x11") | Sheet | 6,240,000 |
| | A4 Paper (80gsm) | Sheet | 96,000 |
| 076/2024 | Genuine Toner for Printer Model Canon IR Advance 8595i III or equivalent | No. | 216 |
| | Toner Canon Model (LBP-226dw) or equivalent | No. | 20 |
| 077/0004 | RIBBON P-7000 Printronix or equivalent | No. | 250 |
| 077/2024 | RIBBON P-300 Printronix or equivalent | No. | 300 |
| | Dry Batteries (12v5AH) VRLA Lead Acid Battery | No. | 95 |
| 078/2024 | Dry Batteries (12v100AH) VRLA Lead Acid Battery | No. | 16 |
| 079/2024 Desktop Computer Core i7 Pre-Installed Licensed Windows 11 Professional | | No. | 80 |
| 080/2024 | Printer with Scanner | No. | 40 |
| 081/2024 | Cell Phone for Mobile Meter Reading | No. | 500 |
| 082/2024 | Biometric Attendance Machine | No. | 60 |
| | Screw Wrench 200mm | No. | 500 |
| 083/2024 | Screw Wrench 300mm | No. | 500 |
| 084/2024 | Disconnecting Stick | No. | 200 |
| 085/2024 | Lineman Safety Harness with Lanyard | No. | 500 |
| 086/2024 | Lineman Tool Bag | No. | 850 |
| 087/2024 | Lineman Rain Coat 54" | No. | 650 |
| | Lineman Rain Coat 50" | No. | 400 |
| 088/2024 | Lineman Safety Boot 8" | Pair | 200 |
| | Lineman Safety Boot 9" | Pair | 300 |
| | Lineman Safety Boot 10" | Pair | 300 |
| | Lineman Long Shoes 8" | Pair | 294 |
| 089/2024 | Lineman Long Shoes 9" | Pair | 369 |
| 000/2021 | Lineman Long Shoes 10" | Pair | 365 |
| 090/2024 | Lineman Rubber Insulated Hand Gloves | Pair | 2900 |
| 091/2024 | Lineman Rubber Insulated Sleeves | Pair | 2500 |
| 092/2024 | Lineman Working Gloves | Pair | 2900 |
| | Side Cutting Pliers | No. | 500 |
| 093/2024 | Bolt Cutter | No. | 50 |
| | Chargeable Torch | No. | 850 |
| 094/2024 | Clipon Ampere Meter | No. | 100 |
| 095/2024 | First Aid Box | No. | 550 |
| 096/2024 | Tree Trimmer (Motorized) | No. | 50 |
| 097/2024 | High Voltage Detector (11kV) | No. | 40 |
| 098/2024 | Stand Board | No. | 09 |
| 099/2024 | Foldable Ladder | No. | 21 |
| 100/2024 | Insulated Bucket Mounted Vehicles | No. | 2 |
| 101/2024 | Insulation Resistance Tester (Megger 10KV) | No. | 2 |
| 102/2024 | High Voltage (VLF Hi-pot Instrument) Portable DC Test Set | No. | 1 |
| | Earth Resistance Tester Set | No. | 5 |

| Tender No. | Submission date & time | Opening date & time |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 074/2024 to 077/2024 | 19.09.2024 at 11.00 am | 19.09.2024 at 11.30 am |
| 078/2024 to 082/2024 | 24.09.2024 at 11.00 am | 24.09.2024 at 11.30 am |
| 083/2024 to 089/2024 | 26.09.2024 at 11.00 am | 26.09.2024 at 11.30 am |
| 090/2024 to 099/2024 | 01.10.2024 at 11.00 am | 01.10.2024 at 11.30 am |
| 100/2024 to 103/2024 | 08.10.2024 at 11.00 am | 08.10.2024 at 11.30 am |

Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, method of procurement procedure of submission of bids, bid security, opening of bid, evaluation criteria, clarification / rejection of bids, performance guarantee etc, are available for the interested bidders at Room No.237, 2nd floor, office of the Manager (Material Management) HESCO, WAPDA Offices Complex, Hussainabad Hyderabad. Price of the bidding documents is Rs.3,000/- for each tender (non-refundable). No bid document will be issued on the date of opening of tenders. The bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding document, must reach at Room No.237 2nd floor, office of the Manager (Material Management) HESCO, WAPDA Offices Complex, Hussainabad Hyderabad on or before above mentioned closing date and timing. Bids will be opened on the same day at aforesaid date & time. The advertisement is available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk



TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Monday, August 26 , 2024

Briefs

RDA accelerates operation against encroachments

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpin di Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General (DG) RDA, Kinza Murtaza has ac celerated its ongoing operation against encroachments across the city. According to the RDA spokesman, the authority on the special directives of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, had formed a special enforcement squad to encroachments. remove He informed that the DG formed a special Enforcement Squad to take strict action in accordance with the law against encroachments. The squad, comprising six Inspectors and other staff members, would launch operations under the supervision of the Assistant Director Building Control, RDA, he said adding that the team has been directed to take strict action against encroachments in all areas without any discrimination. The spokesman further informed that the DG also instructed the Additional Director General RDA to monitor the squad's performance daily. He added that the squad would be held accountable for their effectiveness in dealing with encroachments, ensuring that prompt and decisive action is taken. The spokesman informed that the DG said that encroachments were a blot on the city's beauty and vowed to clear the city of them. RDA would not tol erate encroachments that cause inconvenience to the citizens, the spokesman added. - APP

AIOU hosts workshop on EdTech skills

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to align the teaching profession with the demands of the modern era, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice-Chancellor, Allama Open University Iqbal (AIOU), has urged teachers to transform themselves by leveraging modern technological tools. Addressing the closing ceremony of a two-day training workshop on 'EdTech Skills for Content Development', Dr. Nasir highlighted the rapid shift from traditional education methods to online learning, emphasizing the importance of teachers mastering these new technologies to shape their students' futures effectively. Dr. Nasir called on teachers to move beyond the conventional role of mere instruction and to take on the mantle of wisdom providers. He stressed the need for educators to stay updated with contemporary technical and social demands, as well as the latest trends, to enhance both their personal growth and teaching effectiveness. In response to a proposal for another workshop on EdTech skills, Dr. Nasir assured that AIOU was committed to the professional development of both teachers and students, with regular training workshops being a key focus. He encouraged students and faculty members to select topics of interest, promising that the university would provide continuous support and training in those areas. The workshop was organized by the university's Secondary Teacher Education Department, under the Faculty of Education, in collaboration with the ORIC. Governor Kundi expresses grief over Makran traffic incident ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Sunday expressed deep sorrow over the tragic bus accident on the Makran Coastal Highway, which resulted in the deaths of 12 pilgrims. In his condolence message, the Governor extended his condolences to the families of the deceased, offering heartfelt sympathy and prayers for the elevation of the souls of the departed. He also conveved his best wishes for the speedy recovery of the injured in the accident. Governor Kundi expressed solidarity with the grieving families, describing the incident as extremely tragic. He prayed to grant them patience and strength during this diffi cult time. – APP

Zero-tolerance policy on corruption, human trafficking

With this modernized approach, FIA Lahore is now better equipped to combat human trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and other sophisticated crimes, ultimately ensuring a safer and more secure environment for citizens

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Director, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Lahore, Sarfraz Khan Virk on Sunday announced a comprehensive overhaul of the system, vowing to take stringent measures against perpetrators of human trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and unregistered online pharmacies, in line with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's directives.

In an exclusive Interview with PTV News, the Director said that FIA Lahore has revolutionized its operations by integrating cutting-edge IT-based information systems and research-based methodologies, enabling the agency to tackle complex crimes with precision

Director Sarfraz Khan Virk revealed that this technological upgrade has significantly enhanced the agency's capabilities, allowing for real-time data analysis, swift identification of patterns, and effective tracking of criminals. With this modernized approach, FIA Lahore is now better equipped to combat human trafficking, corruption, money laundering, and other sophisticated crimes, ultimately ensuring a safer and more secure environment for citizens. Director Sarfraz Khan Virk acknowledged that human trafficking remains a formidable challenge, necessitating a multi-faceted approach to combat this heinous crime. He emphasized that FIA Lahore

and efficiency.

is steadfast in its commitment

to eradicating human trafficking, recognizing its devastating impact on victims and their families. The agency is working tirelessly to identify and dismantle trafficking networks, arrest perpetrators, and provide support to survivors, he added. Director Virk also highlighted FIA Lahore's zero-tolerance policy towards illegal immigration, revealing that the agency is taking stern actions against individuals and networks involved in this illicit activity. He emphasized that FIA is working diligently to identify and apprehend human smugglers, while also assisting victims of illegal immigration. The agency's crackdown on illegal immigration has already yielded significant results, with numerous arrests and deportations taking place in recent

to a query, he said in a bid to combat the nefarious practice of illegal human organ transplantation, Director Sarfraz Khan Virk announced that FIA Lahore has launched a comprehensive crackdown on organ trafficking syndicates. Moreover, the agency has established a stateof-the-art laboratory to detect and prevent illegal organ transplants, he added. This specialized lab, equipped with advanced forensic technology, will enable FIA to conduct thorough investigations and bring perpetrators to justice, he added. By targeting the root causes of this illicit trade, FIA Lahore aims to protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation and ensure that medical procedures are conducted ethically and legally, he mentioned. While

months, he added. Responding warning against the dangers of unregulated online pharmacies, Director Sarfraz urged the public to exercise extreme caution when purchasing medicines online. He advised citizens to avoid unregistered and uncertified online pharmacies, emphasizing that these platforms often sell counterfeit or substandard medicines that can pose serious health risks. Instead, he recommended using only online pharmacies registered with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), ensuring that medicines are genuine, safe, and effective, he stressed. By taking this precaution,

individuals can protect their health and well-being, while also supporting the efforts of FIA Lahore to combat the illegal online pharmacy trade, he concluded.

Significant challenges faced by women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD: Experts highlighted on Saturday the significant challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in Pakistan during the launch of a new report on financial inclusion. According to the statement the report, titled "Advancing Financial Inclusion for Women Entrepreneurs in Pakistan," was presented by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF).

Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director of SDPI, emphasized that the research reveals a crucial need to improve financial literacy and shift societal attitudes towards women in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). He pointed out that while the report addresses known issues such as credit and regulatory hurdles, a broader approach involving both government and private sectors is needed to address these challenges effectively. Birgit Lamm, FNF Country Head, said that women face unique barriers, including societal biases and difficulties in accessing capital. She stressed the importance of policy changes and educational initiatives to support female entrepreneurs, who make up 22% of Pakistan's labor force but often encounter systemic obstacles. Faeyza Khan from SDPI said that the report's findings, which include the limited access women have to networks, information, and mentorship compared to their male counterparts. The study highlights that only 1% of SMEs in Pakistan are women-owned, a stark contrast to higher percentages in neighboring countries, he added. Gulalai Khan from the ReMIT Programme and Murium Hadi from the Asian Development Bank both stressed that the regulatory environment and societal attitudes significantly impact women's ability to start and grow businesses. Thev called for a systemic change in perception and support mechanisms to help women overcome these barriers. Fareeha Armughan from SDPI and Salman Shahzad from the National Institute



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking interest in photo exhibition held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. The exhibition showcased works

DFP concerned over plight of Kashmiri prisoners

ISLAMABAD: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) has expressed serious concern over the plight of Kashmiri prisoners languishing in Indian jails outside Kashmir. In a statement issued on Sunday, the DFP spokesman Advocate Arshad Iqbal said that hundreds of Kashmiri prisoners lodged in prisons outside Kashmir have been suffering terribly due to highly unfavourable weather conditions and lack of basic amenities including access to clean and drinkable water, hygienic food and medicines. "Many of them have developed acute ailments due to limited access to food, sunlight and medical care", Iqbal said, adding that it was quite unfortunate that the Kashmiri detainees have now been barred from their rightful weekly phone calls with family members. The new restrictions imposed on the Kashmiri prisoners, he said, have further exacerbated depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder among prisoners living thousands of kilometres away from their families. "Weekly phone calls with family used to be the only way for Kashmiri prisoners to stay in touch with loved ones who are unable to travel long distances", Iqbal said.-APP

Vehicles' battery thieves target CDA facilitation centre with impunity

of us." Similarly, Qasim, ISLAMABAD: The Capital Authority another employee, echoed (CDA) Facilitation Center Kamran's frustration. "It's Sector G-7/2, Islamnot just a sudden loss; it's abad, found itself at the a constant worry. Every center of a growing crisis. day, we're hearing about For weeks, the facility has new thefts, and it's becoming unbearable." The sitbeen plagued by a series of vehicle battery thefts, uation has grown so dire casting a shadow over its that Idrees, the second reputation and sparking shift security in-charge, confirmed the daily ocoutrage among employcurrences of thefts from ees and visitors alike. The most recent theft, which vehicles parked at the facility. "We're all deeply occurred on Wednesday, highlights the severe seconcerned," Idrees adcurity deficiencies and inmitted. "The thefts are adequate parking facilities relentless, and our office at the Center. Victims of the thefts, including both workers are increasingly anxious about their private and government personal property." The employees as well as memproblem is compounded bers of the general public, by the slow progress of are voicing their frustration a new parking lot under and concern over the escaconstruction across the lating situation. Kamran, a road. The project, intend-CDA employee, recounted ed to alleviate the parking his distressing experience crunch, has been stalled to APP. "I had my Mehran's due to encroachment by battery stolen from right in local political figure Alamfront of my office," he said. gir Khan, who has set up "It's been days, and there's an office in a container still no sign of recovery. on the plot. Adding to The lack of security is palthe chaos, reports surpable, and it's affecting all faced of a motorcycle be-

Development

in

longing to staff members being stolen along with an alarming count of ten vehicle batteries being robbed in a single day. The mounting thefts have fueled demands from citizens and employees for immediate action from the CDA and ICT management. In response, affected employees have formally notified higher authorities and lodged a complaint with the police, urging them to address the security lapses. Despite multiple requests for comment, Director State Management-I, Asad, has yet to provide an official statement on the matter. As the crisis unfolds, the community is left to ponder the effectiveness of current security measures and the urgency of addressing these critical issues. With tensions running high and frustration mounting, the CDA Facilitation Center stands at a crossroads, facing mounting pressure to restore safety and trust among its users.-APP

How technology is transforming international diplomacy ISLAMABAD: In an era

sensitive information while marked by rapid globalitrying to understand other zation and technological countries' positions. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 advancement, diplomacy is undergoing a profound serves as a stark example transformation. The 21st cenof the difficulties faced in tury has ushered in a digital pre-digital diplomacy. The revolution that is reshaping high tensions and potential how nations interact and enfor miscommunication highgage with one another. This lighted the critical need for timely and effective commufeature explores how digital tools are revolutionizing dipnication tools, which were lomatic communication, the lacking at the time. Today, role of Artificial Intelligence digital tools have revolution-(AI) in decision-making, and ized diplomacy. The rise of new technologies has led to the ethical considerations asa shift in international comsociated with these advancemunication, diminishing the ments. Historically, diplomatic communication was slow traditional 'gatekeeper' role and cumbersome. Diplomats of foreign ministries. Foreign relied on letters, face-to-face policy communication is now meetings, and time-consummore transparent and publicing travel. Espionage and ly engaged. Communication intelligence gathering were is no longer solely under the control of diplomats, reflectsignificant challenges, with diplomats needing to protect ing a broader trend towards

transparency and public engagement. Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) have brought revolutionary changes to diplomatic practices. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of virtual meeting platforms, demonstrating their potential to enhance diplomatic interactions. For example, the United Nations utilized VR to simulate crisis scenarios and train peacekeepers, paving the way for broader adoption of immersive technologies. AR, which overlays digital information onto the real world, has also proven valuable, enhancing productivity and efficiency in diplomatic settings by providing real-time guidance and information.-APP

BISP tranche to commence from Aug 29

ISLAMABAD :Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Lodhran district Director Irfan Malik said that the new financial year quarterly tranche will start from August 29 and 120,000 beneficiaries would get financial aid across the district. Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said that arrangements were underway for the disbursement of the tranche.-APP

(NIBAF) emphasized the need for comprehensive financial literacy programs and innovative solutions to improve women's financial inclusion. The report underscores the necessity of addressing both structural and perceptual barriers to empower women entrepreneurs and enhance their contribution to the economy.–APP

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A war of attrition

N August 22, Israeli Brigadier General Yitzhak Brik wrote an article for Haaretz news, in which he predicted the collapse of the Zionist regime within a year if the war continues. As it now becomes clear that the occupying entity is in an existential crisis, which some Israeli officials recognise, it is important to look at the underlying issues that have made this situation inevitable. The Zionist Entity had sold the world on the idea that it was the most powerful military regime in West Asia, it boasted undeniable supremacy in its weapons capabilities and its roots appeared to be unshakable. However, as the Secretary General of Lebanese Hezbollah, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, said in 2006: the Zionist entity is like a spider's web. When we look at almost every war that the Zionist Entity has been involved in, they either briefly took place inside the borders of occupied Palestine or occurred in neighboring countries, with the exception of 1948. Even the brutal assaults on Gaza in 2008/9, 2012 and 2014 were all reduced to a relatively limited exchange of fire where neither side were forced to commit all they had to the battle. The reality is, the Israelis had prepared themselves with the weapons capabilities to pulverize entire nations and the technology to deal with limited projectile threats, while boasting a military that when combined with reservist soldiers could amount to over a force of over 500,000 people. On paper, armed with a nuclear arsenal, the Zionist regime was capable of somewhat deterring its opposition and even attracted collaborators from across the Arab and Muslim World who were drawn to its material powers and influence. Inevitable Defeat: The Zionist regime has to be understood in its proper context. Emerging as a settler-colonialist movement, led by irreligious Jews from Europe who sought to replicate the experience of other persecuted or economically disadvantaged Europeans, Zionism emerged as the answer to the "Jewish Question". Without going into too much detail, the Europeans had historically attacked, killed, ethnically cleansed and wiped out entire swathes of populations that did not agree with or prescribe to their dominant religious beliefs or identifying cultural/ethnic markers. One of the escape methods for some of those persecuted peoples, or those that were economically disadvantaged was to travel to the colonies of the dominant nations. If we take the British example, those who would not have fared quite as well in their mother country, had the opportunity to travel to India or what was then Burma for instance, earning themselves small fortunes to enjoy. In such an environment, where colonization was not a dirty word, but instead the norm, the idea of traveling to an occupied land in order to set up a new life and even form a State, was not frowned upon at all. In fact, if we take a look into the early history of Zionism, it was French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte who recommended there be a Jewish State in Palestine to begin with. Napoleon was also the man credited with birthing Nationalism. So, for the early Zionists, the idea of traveling to a foreign land to set up a State for their European minority group was one of many obvious options that presented itself. At the time of Theodore Herzl and other foundational figures within the Zionist movement, these were the days of pseudo-race-science and orientalist philology, when a pernicious Darwinian ethno-supremacist doctrine was so prevalent that it was just accepted as "fact" that non-Europeans were inferior beings.

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New professions arise in Gaza

ALESTINIANS are known for their resourcefulness, finding ways to survive amid a harsh and painful reality imposed by the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, which has been relentless for almost 11 months. Faced with the severity of the situation, many Palestinians have turned to new professions to earn a living, strengthen their resilience, and thwart the Israeli plans to spread despair and destroy the means of life. The genocide has forced Palestinians to adopt various kinds of professions and fields of work to support their families in the midst of continuous killing and brutal bombing for 11 months. Throughout the streets of Gaza, charging stations have become common. These stations allow Palestinians to charge their phones and batteries for a small fee. This unprecedented profession in Gaza arose due to the complete power outage in the Strip since October 10, when Israeli forces cut the electricity lines on the first day of the war. This was coupled with a severe blockade that halted fuel supplies to the only power station, causing it to shut down within days of the war's onset. Mohammed Al-Masari, a resident of Deir al-Balah camp, told a reporter from the Palestinian Information Center (PIC) that the war has increased the demands of life on him, with rising prices hitting hard. He thought of setting up a charging station using solar panels he had on hand. Al-Masari mentioned that his work charging phones and batteries has improved his ability to cope with the demands of life amidst the genocide in Gaza. He noted that his neighbors appreciate the service, as it saves them the effort of searching for power sources in distant areas. With the internet and electricity being deliberately cut off by Israeli attacks, internet centers have sprung up across Gaza to provide this essential service to residents. Ahmed Ibrahim set up a tent on the beach of Khan Younis, supplying it with electricity and a high-quality internet connection. He told our reporter that the idea came to him after the internet was cut off for many residents, who couldn't do without this important service, especially students and business owners. e explained that his tent provides a place to sit, electricity, and offers both cold and hot drinks. He emphasized that the goal of his project is to provide high-quality internet for students, business owners, and others. Israeli forces first completely cut off communications and the internet in Gaza for two days on October 27, coinciding with their ground invasion. They repeated this later, destroying most of the telecommunications infrastructure, which caused a near-total collapse of internet networks, leaving residents scrambling for alternatives through electronic cards or internet services available at specific locations. The charging and internet stations have not been spared from Israeli attacks, with many being bombed, killing those inside and further complicating daily life in Gaza. Due to the cooking gas shortages and the closure of bakeries, primitive mud ovens have spread across the area for bread-making. Mohammed Abu Hania mentioned that he built a mud oven to bake bread using firewood. He added that these primitive mud ovens were a suitable alternative in the absence of cooking gas and electricity, providing people with a way to make bread amidst the dire circumstances they are living in.

'Israel' cannot afford a war with Lebanon

Hassan Fakih

The Zionist army faced many humiliating losses throughout the multiple battles that occurred in the 2006 July war, most famously in the battle of Bint Jbeil, where 5,000 Israeli soldiers failed to occupy the South Lebanese town protected by 100-150 Hezbollah fighters (per Israeli figures). Israeli state-owned media harassed the army for this embarrassing failure. denouncing the operations as "idiotic military maneuvers." By all accounts, the Israeli army was undertrained and unprepared for what they faced in Lebanon. Hezbollah was no longer the same group of young fighters cutting their teeth at resisting what was once considered an unbeatable force. It had evolved into a battle-hardened resistance. with new technology, weapons, and tactics to confront the invading enemy

INCE Hezbollah decided to fire the first round of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) against "Israel's" military positions in northern occupied Palestine on October 8, hot smoke has been blowing out of the ears of the Zionist entity ad nauseam. The threat of war has been looming over both Lebanon and "Israel" since then, with Zionist leaders threatening to bomb Beirut back to the Stone Age or to make Lebanon's south resemble Gaza. In other words, if Lebanon continues to support the Palestinian Resistance, "Israel" will implement a scorched earth policy in the revolutionary Lebanese villages.

These threats were nothing but hot smoke being blown out of puffy-faced Zionist officials who feared Hezbollah attacks against their northern settlements since pulling out of the previous war fought against Lebanon. Now, their blood pressure has only risen as their forces have been left weakened and barking with no bite, as we will show. The fact of the matter is that after "Israel's" defeat in two previous bouts against Lebanon, during which Hezbollah was still in the early stages of developing its capabilities, "Israel" now struggles to prove itself after 10 months of war against guerilla fighters in Gaza. With an exhausted army, a damaged public image, and a weakened economy, "Israel" cannot afford to open up another front against Hezbollah.

Zionist forces invaded Lebanon in July 1982 in the midst of Lebanon's bloody Civil War as part of its "Peace of the Galilee" operation. Publicly, the objective was to protect their northern settlements from their main rivals at the time, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). However, given the PLO's lack of capabilities during the invasion, "Israel" went on a rampage all the way to the Lebanese University campus in Hadath, on the outskirts of Beirut, where they would set up base in the campus's science building. The invading army would clash with Resistance fighters from the Amal Movement, Palestinian fighters, the Lebanese National Movement, and Syrian forces who oversaw the Aramoun area. Sheikh Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's second-in-command, wrote in his 2005 book Hezbollah: The Story From Within: "Beirut lived its toughest, most grueling days under destructive Israeli aerial bombardment. The capital's numerous points of entry fell under siege, supplies grew scarce; life came to a halt; a great number of people were displaced, died or were injured, and many a building collapsed on those inside." Following a US-brokered deal between the PLO and "Israel" following the invasion of the Lebanese territory, Yasser Arafat's party departed Lebanon, taking with them small arms. This would be the first of a number of knots that the PLO leadership would later tie with "Israel". On August 12 of that year, US, French, British, and Italian troops arrived in Lebanon to oversee the implementation of the deal. The other objective of "Israel's" operation, not outright spoken of, was to prop up its allies in Lebanon, namely their proxy, the South Lebanese Army (Lahad), and to see that their allied Kataeb Party candidate Bashir Gemayel succeeded as president. The situation in Lebanon continued to escalate rapidly, Gemayel was elected as the Lebanese Republic's seventh president under the supervision of the invading Israeli forces on August 23. After 22 days, on September 14, the Israeli ally was assassinated, leading the Zionist army to expand its invasion of Beirut, and taking over the Sabra and Shatila camps. Zionist troops would later invade Palestinian camps and allow allied Lebanese Forces troops to enter, leading to the massacre of the Palestinian and Lebanese civilians residing there. Throughout this invasion and crimes perpetrated by Zionist forces, and coming off the victory of Imam Khomeini's Islamic revolution in Iran three years prior, a small group of revolutionaries viewed the cancerous Zionist cell in the region as a goliath that needed to be struck and taken down by David's humble slingshot. This was the birth of Hezbollah. The term "humble" isn't used to belittle the early days of Hezbollah, but rather to reflect the conventional military perspective of the time. The group was relatively small, a barely-trained group of men with modest Soviet weapons. They came together driven by their religious values, love of the land, and a sense of duty to protect their people against the invading oppressors.

Since the start of their battles against the Zionist entity, Hezbollah knew that attacking the minds of the enemy would help them crack the foundation of the army, which had beaten the great armies of the Arab nations in years prior. On November 11, 1982, following these prompt developments, the Resistance would carry out its first martyrdom operation against an Israeli barracks in Tyr, South Lebanon. This operation shook the Israeli invader to the core. A Peugeot 504, packed with explosives, drove into the 11-story Israeli base and exploded, leveling the building and killing 74 Zionist troops stationed there. It was later revealed that the driver was Martyr Ahmad Qasir. Hezbollah took credit for the operation in the following years when they went public with the details. "Israel" kept the incident under wraps for 45 years, claiming that the explosion was caused by a gas leak. Tel Aviv waited until global attention was focused on the developments of Al-Aqsa Flood before secretly announcing that Hezbollah was responsible for the attack. Many operations under the Hezbollah flag would be carried out against the Israeli enemy who was occupying South Lebanon. After 20 years, the party succeeded in expelling the occupying force along with their allied Lahad army who, as Sheikh Qassem writes, "fled after realizing they had been left behind by the Israeli forces with their food still steaming on dinner tables". In his Victory Day speech, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah declared that the villagers who fought against the most advanced army in the region, guided by their trust and faith in God's plans, had triumphed. He proclaimed that David had conquered Goliath, striking a decisive blow against the colonial beast. Israel, which owns nuclear weapons and the strongest air fleets in the region is, by God, weaker than a spider web", Sayvid Nasrallah said. Battered and humiliated while coming off the back of the Second Intifada from 2000-2005, the Israeli Army was itching to restore its image and retake the spot of the undefeated regional power. On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah carried out Operation True Promise. This operation used tactics similar to what we are witnessing today in Al-Aqsa Flood, including disabling the Zionist's video surveillance systems to blind them before launching the attack. Hezbollah's 2006 operation featured an ambush of Israeli soldiers patrolling the border area, under the pretext of

initiating a prisoner swap with Tel Aviv. After a less than 10 minute-ambush, the Resistance captured two Israeli soldiers and killed 8 others. Hezbollah's attack on the initial Humvee, combined with the Israeli army's misguided attempts to bring back the captives, led to further exposure to IEDs and mortar fire. "Israel" went ballistic following the successful operation launched by the Lebanese Islamic Resistance, invoking their Hannibal Directive in an attempt to limit Hezbollah's movements with the kidnapped soldiers. This protocol dictates that the Israeli army would do everything to limit the movement of an opposing force if their soldiers are captured, even if it means killing their own personnel. Speaking about the incident in which soldiers were kidnapped by Hezbollah fighters, a senior Israeli official said, "If we had found them, we would have hit them, even if it meant killing the soldiers.

The Zionist army faced many humiliating losses throughout the multiple battles that occurred in the 2006 July war, most famously in the battle of Bint Jbeil, where 5,000 Israeli soldiers failed to occupy the South Lebanese town protected by 100-150 Hezbollah fighters (per Israeli figures). Israeli state-owned media harassed the army for this embarrassing failure, denouncing the operations as "idiotic military maneuvers." By all accounts, the Israeli army was undertrained and unprepared for what they faced in Lebanon. Hezbollah was no longer the same group of young fighters cutting their teeth at resisting what was once considered an unbeatable force. It had evolved into a battle-hardened resistance, with new technology, weapons, and tactics to confront the invading enemy. After 33 days of resistance from guerilla fighters against trained military personnel, Hezbollah achieved victory against the Zionist entity, once again raising their heads against the spoiled child of Western colonialism, humiliating it. The Israeli regime has been attempting to redeem itself against Hezbollah for showing the world that the IOF are vulnerable, and could have their heads cracked open through the faith of revolutionary men. "We are the children of that Imam who said: Do you threaten me with death? Death is normal for us and our dignity from God is martyrdom", Sayyid Hassan said during his Victory Day speech on September 22, 2006. "Today, we celebrate the significant historic divine and strategic victory", Sayyid Hassan reiterated. "How can the human mind fathom that a few thousand of your sons from the Lebanese resistance... would stand in the open ground for 33 days, exposed to the open skies without air cover, facing the strongest air force in the Middle East, aided by an air bridge to deliver smart bombs from America, via Britain to 'Israel', facing 40,000 officers and soldiers, four brigades of elite forces, three battalions from the Army Reserve and challenging the strongest tank in the world and the most powerful army in the region." The 2006 war would remain a nightmare for the Israeli soldiers, with severed limbs and psychological scars lasting a lifetime. Recorded evidence shows that Zionist soldiers know that another war against Lebanon since 2006 would be fatal, as the hand of Hezbollah was pressing the Zionist entity's throat. The images of overturned, burning Merkava tanks remain engraved in the minds of Israeli foot soldiers.

US-Iran conflict and Russia's strategic gambit

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The possibility of a war involving Iran on one side and Israel and the United States on the other is increasingly becoming a credible threat. This potential conflict carries significant risks, especially for the U.S., which stands to lose more than it might gain. The United States has little incentive to engage in another major war, particularly in a region...

VER the past few days, two notable statements have significantly influenced the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. Interestingly, these statements did not come from Israel or Hamas, the primary actors in the ongoing conflict in the region. Instead, they originated from the key players in a conflict occurring more than a thousand miles away-the war in Ukraine. The first statement came from Moscow, where Russian officials declared that the conflict in Ukraine would reach a resolution by the end of 2024. Shortly after, Kyiv responded with a similar timeframe for a potential resolution. The significance of these statements lies in their potential to reshape global political dynamics, particularly in the Middle East, which has long been a region of strategic importance for global powers. The Russia-Ukraine war has already had far-reaching consequences, not only for Europe but also for other parts of the world. The conflict has drawn in resources, attention. and diplomatic efforts from major global players, including the United States, European nations, and, crucially, Russia. Russia's involvement in the Middle East has been substantial, particularly in Syria, where it has supported the Assad regime. A resolution to the Ukraine conflict would likely allow Russia to refocus its efforts and resources in the Middle East, potentially altering the balance of power in the region. Moscow's statement about resolving the conflict by the end of 2024 suggests that Russia is preparing for a strategic shift, possibly aiming to reassert its influence in the Middle East once the war in Ukraine is concluded. On the other hand, Ukraine's similar statement indicates its confidence in achieving a resolution within the same timeframe. This could imply a forthcoming change in the international order, where Ukraine might emerge stronger and more aligned with Western powers. Such an outcome could influence Western strategies in the Middle East, especially in terms of how they engage with both Russia and Middle Eastern nations. The timing of these statements is crucial. The Middle East is currently a region of heightened tensions, particularly with the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. The statements from Moscow and Kyiv serve as

a reminder that the Middle East is deeply interconnected with broader global conflicts. As the war in Ukraine progresses towards its potential resolution, the outcomes could have a ripple effect, influencing not only European security but also the strategic calculations of Middle Eastern countries. For the Middle East, the implications of these statements are profound. A resolution in Ukraine could lead to a reconfiguration of alliances and rivalries in the region. Russia's potential re-engagement in Middle Eastern affairs, coupled with a strengthened Western-aligned Ukraine, could lead to shifts in power dynamics, impacting ongoing conflicts and diplomatic negotiations. The possibility of a war involving Iran on one side and Israel and the United States on the other is increasingly becoming a credible threat. This potential conflict carries significant risks, especially for the U.S., which stands to lose more than it might gain. The United States has little incentive to engage in another major war, particularly in a region as volatile as the Middle East. However, the stakes are different for Russia, which sees the prospect of such a war as an opportunity to regain its strategic footing after its setbacks in Ukraine. Russia supports for a conflict between Iran and several strategic interests drive the U.S.-Israel alliance. First, such a war would entangle the United States in a prolonged and costly military engagement far from Russia's borders. This would distract the U.S. and limit its ability to counter Russian moves in other regions, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. By drawing the U.S. into a new conflict, Russia hopes to shift the balance of power and relieve some of the pressure it faces on its western front, particularly following the war in Ukraine.Moreover, a conflict in the Middle East would present Russia with opportunities to expand its influence in the region. One such opportunity lies in deepening its relationship with Iran. Despite historical mistrust and cautious relations between the two nations, the shared enmity towards the United States and the potential for mutual benefits could bring them closer together. Russia and Iran could collaborate more closely in the Caucasus region, particularly through joint ventures in Azerbaijan. Such cooperation

would enhance Russia's influence in a region that is strategically important to both nations, securing its southern flank and providing a staging ground for future operations. The prospect of a stronger Russia-Iran alliance is particularly concerning for the U.S. and its allies. If Russia were to solidify its ties with Iran, it could establish a powerful bloc in the Middle East that would challenge U.S. interests in the region. This would also weaken the longstanding U.S.-Israel relationship, which has been a cornerstone of American policy in the Middle East. Israel, for its part, appears to be preparing for a major offensive, likely against Iranian interests. However, Washington is reportedly opposed to such a move, creating a rift between the two allies. This discord benefits Russia, as it weakens the unified front that has traditionally posed a significant threat to its ambitions in the Middle East. For Iran, the situation is complex. However, Tehran is cautious about getting too close to Russia, especially considering the baggage that comes with such an alliance, the prospect of war might push Iran to reconsider. A conflict with the U.S. and Israel could drive Iran into Russia's arms, despite its misgivings. This would create a link between the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and a potential Arab-Israeli war, as Russia would gain a powerful ally in the Middle East, compensating for its losses in Ukraine. In this scenario, the U.S. could find itself dragged into a war it does not want to fight. However, if Russia succeeds in dominating the Caucasus and securing Iran as an ally, it would mark a significant shift in the balance of power in the region. This would elevate Russia's status as a major player in the Middle East, leaving the U.S. with a difficult choice: either withdraw and appear weak, or engage in a brutal and dangerous conflict that Russia, through its partnership with Iran, could influence. Whereas this scenario is not certain, the current dynamics suggest that it is not as unlikely as it may seem. Israel's aggressive posture, the U.S.'s entanglement, Russia's need for a strategic victory, and Iran's ambitions all contribute to a volatile situation that could easily spiral into a larger conflict. The implications of such a war would be far-reaching, with the potential to reshape the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East and beyond.

WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Monday, August 26, 2024

Briefs Win first-ever **Test match** against

Dominant Norris fights back to win Dutch GP

pessimism, fending off the McLaren of Oscar Piastri for the final 27 laps



FROM PAGE 01 However, several party leaders - including Imran's sister Aleema Khan - contradicted the top leaders' statements. Speaking to journalists, the defence minister claimed that Imran would not have cancelled the rally, if it was meant to be "successful", dismissing the notion of the establishment's interference in the PTI's decision. Currently, he also said, the PTI wants to build another "false narrative" to desperately save its diminishing popularity. Asif claimed that rifts within the PTI were evident following the abrupt cancellation of the rally, pointing out "contradictory remarks" of Imran, Bushra Bibi, Aleema Khan and Raoof Hasan. Aleema had expressed a lack of confidence in the current PTI leadership, saying that they have no "real intention" of freeing the ousted premier from jail, who was removed from power via a parliamentary vote in April 2022. In a short audio clip, she also questioned why Swati paid a visit to Imran early in the

morning and who instructed him to do so.

PTI scraps August 27 rally in...

FROM PAGE 01

Basra, has said that a new date would soon be announced for the Lahore rally after their public meeting in the federal capital on September 8. He assured that the Imran Khan-founded party would pay full attention to its forthcoming major political event. The development is being dubbed another dent in the political reputation of the embattled party, which has suffered back-to-back setbacks in holding its political events. Earlier, the PTI had announced it would rally in Islamabad's Tarnol at any cost, despite the revocation of the no objection certificate (NOC) by the local administration, which also sealed roads leading to the

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

resumed on day five, the hosts lost their skipper for just 14 runs. Babar Azam came to bat after Masood's dismissal but the 29-yearold ended up losing his wicket for 22 runs. Pakistan started losing wickets on regular intervals as Saud Shakeel (0), and Salman Ali Agha (0) failed to score any runs. Mohammad Rizwan, who registered his career-best figures in Test cricket during the first innings, once again top-scored for the hosts with 51 runs. For Bangladesh, Mehidy Hasan Miraz starred with the ball by taking four wickets. Veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan bagged three, while Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana managed to get one wicket each. Meanwhile, on day four, Bangladesh took a lead of 117 runs as they scored 565 in reply to Pakistan's 448/6 on day four of the first Test at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Veteran Mushfigur Rahim starred with an epic 191 off 341 balls which included 22 fours and a six. The day was dominated by him and Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who scored 77 off 179 balls. Pakistan loss

blamed on...

FROM PAGE 01

were bowled out for 146

in their second, which left

Bangladesh needing 30 runs to go 1-0 up in the

two-test series. Bangladesh

openers Zakir Hasan and

Shadman Islam chased

down the target within sev-

en overs. The second test,

also in Rawalpindi, begins

on Friday. Ahmad Shahzad

held those pulling the

strings from behind the cur-

tain in the Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) responsible for the defeat. "I will not

blame players here. I will

blame the PCB, its chief

and those who have been

giving advices for the past

10 to 12 years in the board

Charles Leclerc took the final podium position, belying his pre-race

SPORTS DESK

WARSAW: McLaren's Lando Norris fought back to take a dominant victory in the Dutch Grand Prix despite losing the lead to Max Verstappen's Red Bull at the start. Norris, for whom starts and first laps have been a weakness in recent races, was passed almost immediately when he had too much wheel spin off the line. But such was the pace in his McLaren that he re-passed Verstappen on lap 18, before the pit stops, and romped away into the distance. Charles Leclerc took the

final podium position, belying his pre-race pessimism, fending off the McLaren of Oscar Piastri for the final 27 laps. Verstappen appeared to sense the way the race was going even while

he was still leading. The Dutchman, who has monopolised this event since it returned to the calendar in 2021, was complaining about a lack of grip from very early on in the race. And his defence of the lead when Norris caught him was half-hearted, especially in the context of his normally ultra-robust defensive tactics, and the McLaren swept into the lead down the inside line at the first corner, Tarzan. Once in front, Norris pulled

away at around half a second a lap and there was nothing Verstappen could do to prevent losing his home race for the first time since its return after a 36vear absence.

Norris was in total control once in front and he crossed the line 22.8 seconds ahead of Verstappen for one of the

most dominant wins of the season. And he rubbed in his crushing form by setting the fastest lap on the final tour, taking it away from Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton by just 0.067secs. "Simply lovely," Norris said cheekily

over the radio, copying the phrase Verstappen used so many times in victories during his dominance of the past two years.

"It feels amazing," Norris added. "I wouldn't say a perfect race because of lap one again but it was lead to 70 points with nine beautiful, the car was very strong, I could push and get past Max and just go from there. Still tough but enjoyable."

races to go - a still formi-

dable advantage but one

which Norris, on this form,

might just have a chance of

In the constructors' chase,

McLaren are now just 31

points behind Red Bull in

the quest for their first

When Norris lost the lead

off the line, there were ech-

oes of the events in Spain,

Hungary and Belgium, in all

of which his victory chanc-

es were compromised by

being passed on the first

lap, either through a slow

This time, there was noth-

ing to worry about. Norris

was easily able to stay with

Verstappen in the early

laps despite the difficulty

of following at Zandvoort -

an indication of a comfort-

able pace advantage.

start or an error.

teams' title for 26 years.

overhauling.

Verstappen said: "We had a good start so we tried everything we could today but throughout the race it was quite clear we were not quick enough so I tried to be second today. "I know we have good starts and I was quite confident we would have another one. That was my race."

Norris' win, his first since his maiden victory in Miami in May and following the introduction of McLaren's first car upgrade since that race in Florida, will come as a welcome tonic for a driver and team who have faced criticism for letting opportunities slip. It cuts Verstappen's championship

Novak Djokovic eyes Slam record in US Open defense stage. Djokovic, who underwent surchampion by Sinner who also relieved

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic, fueled by an emotional Olympic triumph, has new Grand Slam records in his sights at the US Open, where title rival Jannik Sinner hopes to shake off a doping controversy. Defending champion Djokovic can become the oldest Open era champion at the tournament if he secures a fifth title, a record he would share with Jimmy Connors, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer. The 37-yearold would also move to 25 Grand Slam triumphs, taking him clear of the 24 he currently shares with Margaret Court. The final Grand Slam of the year comes at a critical time for Djokovic. This year he was succeeded as Australian Open

him of his world number one ranking. Carlos Alcaraz took his French Open pic gold were running out. title with the Spanish crowd-pleaser then sweeping Djokovic off court in a one-sided Wimbledon final. However,

Djokovic, returned to the clay courts of Roland Garros to stun Alcaraz in the Olympic final in what he Saturday called "the greatest achievement and greatest highlight of my career overall, winning the gold for Serbia." Djokovic became just the fifth player

to complete a career Golden Slam of all four majors and Olympic gold. The victory also silenced the increasing number of doubters who had written off the Serb as a spent force in a new era where Sinner, 23, and 21-year-old Alcaraz are steadily moving center gery on his right knee in June, said he wondered if his chances to win Olym-

"At 37 I thought, you know, I don't know, could this be the last chance? Maybe. So I had to push more than I have ever done," he said. "Turned out to be one of the best performances I had in years overall throughout the entire tournament. "Of course in the finals against Carlos, it was kind of a dream scenario really, having my wife and children there, the entire nation watching." When they hung the gold around his neck and the Serbian anthem played, Djokovic said, it was "probably the most intense emotions I have ever had on a tennis court."

Sinner, meanwhile, arrives after an emotionally draining doping investigation, in which he escaped a lengthy ban after officials accepted his explanation that the banned substance entered his system as a result of contamination from a support team member. The 23-year-old Italian had twice tested positive for clostebol, a

banned anabolic agent, back in

March. The International Tennis In-

tegrity Agency announced this week

he had been cleared of wrongdoing

- a day after he won the Cincinnati

Masters. "I'm just happy that it's

finally out," said Sinner, who fired

his physiotherapist and trainer in

the wake of the affair. But his hopes

for "clean air" at the US Open could

be dashed as players question why

there was never any announcement

of a provisional suspension as the in-

vestigation proceeded.

Inter see off Lecce as AC Milan crash

"Our secret is who we have in the squad. At Inter there is a lot of competition and that internal competition is good for everyone"

MILAN: Inter Milan got their Serie A title defence up and running on Saturday with a straightforward 2-0 home win over Lecce, while rivals AC Milan crashed to a 2-1 defeat at promoted Parma. Matteo Darmian nodded Inter ahead in the fifth minute before Hakan Calhanoglu made sure that the majority of the around 70,000 fans at the San Siro went home happy with his 70th-minute penalty.

Simone Inzaghi's team are level with three other teams on four points, including Parma and Genoa who were 1-0 winners at Monza, after their first two matches of the new campaign. "Winning is hard but staying up there is even harder. We had to bounce back after drawing at Genoa and we managed to do that," said Darmian to Sky Sport.

"Our secret is who we have in the squad. At Inter there is a lot of competition and that internal competition is good for everyone." Inter were far from their thrilling best but didn't need to be against sorry Lecce who are pointless, have conceded six and are yet to score after two fiendish opening fixtures against the champions and Atalanta. Without injured captain and star striker Lautaro Martinez,

Mehdi Taremi made his first start for Inter since signing

last month after being released by Porto. The Iran forward

had a hand in Darmian's opener, getting a slight touch on a

cross and diverting the ball to the Italy defender who made

no mistake with an angled header. Taremi also had claims

for a penalty waved away shortly after the break following

a clash with Kialonda Gaspar in a bit of penalty box cha-

os, which led to Marcus Thuram having a close-range shot

saved by Wladimiro Falcone. It was Thuram who earned

Calhanoglu the chance to seal the points from the spot

when as he challenged for a cross Gaspar bundled over

the France forward, and Turkey midfielder Calhanoglu

confidently stroked home. - Agencies

and do not come forward. he said. He said the current PCB management, including PCB Chairman Mohsin Nagyi, was responsible for the dismal performance as it once again incorporated the same players in the team who put personal statistics before the team. Senior journalist Abdul Majid Bhatti blamed overconfidence and poor planning for loss and also demanded accountability of senior players, "who could not perform well in the previous 12 to 14 matches".

25 dead as passenger bus falls...

FROM PAGE 01

are with the families of the deceased," said the president, stressing on the need to speed up the relief activities. Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq Sharif also expressed his condolences, praying for the departed souls and for the families of the deceased. He directed the authorities concerned to work with the Punjab government to ascertain the reason of the accident. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz offered her condolences and expressed regret over the loss of lives.



Shuker indebted to wheelchair tennis

The Qatar-born Briton teams up with Abbie Breakwell - who was just five when Shuker made her Paralympics debut in Beijing in 2008 – in the women's doubles

which gets underway next Friday

WEB DESK

PARIS: Lucy Shuker, bidding for a fourth Paralympics wheelchair tennis medal, told AFP discovering the sport had transformed her after she "lost her sparkle" following a motorbike crash which left her paralyzed from the chest down. Just 21 when she suffered the life-changing injury Shuker, now 44, has become one of the finest doubles players in the world. Two bronze medals (2008/2012) and a silver in Tokyo have contributed to her being honoured by King Charles III last year which she described as "humbling." The Qatar-born Briton teams up with Abbie Breakwell - who was just five when Shuker made her Paralympics debut in Beijing in 2008 - in the women's doubles which gets underway next Friday.

speed.

man Josh Hull has re-

ceived his first senior

call-up to replace Wood in

the squad for the remain-

ing two Tests at Lord's.

starting on Thursday, and

at The Oval commencing

The 6ft 7in (2 m) Hull

has been a key figure in

Leicestershire's bowling

attack of recent seasons

and starred in their 2023

One-Day Cup final tri-

umph. England already

have another fast bowl-

er in their squad in Olly

Stone, who could now be

in line to play his first

September 6.

Shaheens squad named for Bangladesh 'A' 50-over matches

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday confirmed the 14-member Pakistan Shaheens squad for the three 50-over matches series against Bangladesh 'A' at the Islamabad Club, starting on Monday.

The second and third 50-over matches will take place on 28 and 30 August, respectively, the PCB said in a press release. Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Haris will lead the side as the selectors have retained 12 players from the Shaheens' side that recently featured in the two 50-over and Top End T20 series in Darwin, Australia. The retentions are part of the selectors' philosophy of providing the emerging and domestic performers consistent opportunities to prove their mettle and stake a claim in the senior side. Apart from skip-

per Haris, the 12 players who have been retained from the side that toured Darwin, include: Abdul Faseeh, Arafat Minhas, Faisal Akram, Haseebullah, Jahandad Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Mohammad Imran Jnr, Mubasir Khan, Omair Bin Yousuf, and Usman Khan. The other two players are left-arm spinner Mehran Mumtaz, who featured in the second four-day match against Bangladesh 'A', and left-hand batter Azan Awais, who represented Pakistan U19 team at the ICC Men's U19 World Cup 2024. On their recent tour to Darwin, the Pakistan Shaheens whiteball squad led by Mohammad Haris won seven out of nine white-ball games. They beat Northern Territory Strike and Bangladesh 'A' in the

50-over matches by four and eight wickets, respectively. Meanwhile, in the nine-team Top End T20 series, the Shaheens topped the table with five wins in six games before falling short in the semi-final.

Jahandad Khan was the pick of the bowlers for Shaheens as he bagged 15 scalps during the white-ball leg while Usman Khan scored 222 runs. Muhammad Irfan Khan smashed a century in the Top End T20 series. All the three 50-over matches between Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh 'A' will be day games starting at 9.30am with the toss expected to take place at 9am. Pakistan Shaheens captain Haris said: "It is a great opportunity for the Pakistan Shaheens players to reap quality game time in back to back white-ball series. - DNA

federal capital. Later, the party, in a last-minute move, rescheduled its public gathering for September 8.

Modi to 'skip' Shehbaz...

FROM PAGE 01

regarding the invitation. The meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is scheduled for October 15 and 16 in Islamabad. Shehbaz urges rising above partisan geopolitics Earlier. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed the 24th summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Astana, Kazakhstan, emphasizing the organization's crucial role in regional peace and security. On July 4 this year, during his address, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the beauty of Astana, expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by Kazakhstan and underscored the significance of SCO's efforts towards social and economic development in member states as well as its role in maintaining peace and security in the region.He congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping on assuming the SCO chairmanship for the upcoming year and commended SCO's initiatives for environmental protection.

11 pilgrims die after...

FROM PAGE 01 police - were travelling from Punjab to Iran when their bus met the ill-fated accident due to a brake failure. Levies, police and other departments are carrying out a rescue operation, Lasbela SSP Captain (retd) Naveed Alam said, confirming the death toll and injuries. He added that the bodies, as well as the wounded, were being shifted to nearby hospitals. Expressing grief over the unfortunate incident, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have both issued directions for the provision of necessary medical assistance for those injured in the accident. Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq conveyed his condolences and prayed for speedy recovery of the wounded.

England's Wood out of last two Tests against Sri Lanka Leicestershire's 20-year-old left-arm paceman Josh Hull has received his first senior call-up to replace Wood in the squad for the remaining two Tests at Lord's, starting on Thursday, and at The Oval commencing September 6

MANCHESTER: England fast bowler Mark Wood has been ruled out of the remainder of the Test series against Sri Lanka after scans confirmed a right thigh muscle strain, team management announced Sunday. Wood, whose career has been blighted by fitness issues, suffered the injury during Friday's third day of England's five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first Test at Old Trafford. The 34-year-old express quick left the field just two balls into his 11th over. He didn't feature on Saturday as England went 1-0 up in the three-match series by winning with more

than a day to spare, al-

though there were times,

on a slow pitch when they Test in three years. missed the point of differ-Hull only turned 20 earlier ence provided by Wood's this week and has played Leicestershire's 20-year-old left-arm pace-

just nine first-class matches, taking 15 wickets at an expensive average of 58.06.



Under coach Brendon Mc-Cullum, the current England regime have shown a willingness to select on potential and skill-set rather than figures. Earlier this month, Hull made his debut for the second-string England Lions, taking 5-74 in a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka. But he was not expecting a call-up to the senior squad, with the towering Hull telling BBC Radio Leicester: "It was about half nine (2030 GMT) last (Saturday) night when I got the call from Brendon Mc-Cullum. It's a very special moment. "It's come around pretty quickly, I didn't think it would happen this fast, but I am excited to be joining them. "I was happy with

how I performed (for the England Lions) but I never thought it would lead to a call this early.

"They've got Olly Stone there as the first replacement, so it will be a great opportunity to join up and be part of that environment." England are rejuvenating their pace attack following the retirements of veterans Stuart Broad and James Anderson, with Gus Atkinson making an exciting start to his Test career. England have had to alter the balance of their side after regular captain Ben Stokes was ruled out of the Sri Lanka series by a torn hamstring, with Ollie Pope appointed as stand-in skipper. - Agencies

FROM PAGE 01 the SHO of Tehsil Vahowa, District Taunsa, led the operation. Upon arrival, the terrorists opened fire on the police team, leading to a fierce exchange. The police returned fire, killing two militants on the spot. The encounter resulted in injuries to SHO Vahowa, Sub-Inspector Sadiq, and Constable Muzammil Nazir. They were swiftly transferred to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Taunsa, where they are receiving medical care. Local residents commended the bravery of the police officers involved in the encounter. Law enforcement agencies and security forces remain committed to eradicating terrorism from the country.

Two

terrorists

killed by...

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Ukrainian strike kills 5 civilians in Russia's Belgorod: governor

MOSCOW: An overnight Ukrainian strike in the Russian border region of Belgorod killed five people and wounded 12 others, the region's governor announced early Sunday morning. "To our great sorrow, the enemy shelling claimed the lives of five civilians," Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram. "As a result of the shelling, 12 people were wounded, including three minors." One of the children was treated at the scene, while the two others were taken to hospital with "various shrapnel wounds", he added.

Seven of the adult victims were also hospitalised, with four of them in serious condition, Gladkov said. Kyiv has stepped up its strikes inside Russian territory of late, particularly since launching a ground offensive into the nearby Kursk region earlier this month. Gladkov declared in mid-August a state of emergency in Belgorod due in part to the Ukrainian bombardments, while Russia's defence minister said it was sending additional troops to the region to defend it in light of the incursion into neighbouring Kursk.-APP

The state in the second

ISLAMABAD: District administration opened the spillways of Rawal Dam on August 25 at 6 am, and is actively monitoring the situation at rivers and bridges and has completed preparations for potential flood scenarios.- ONLINE

Venezuela opposition candidate issued summons

CARACAS: Venezuelan prosecutors have summoned opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia for questioning Monday as part of a criminal investigation following the country's disputed presidential election claimed by strongman Nicolas Maduro. "Citizen Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia" is summoned "on August 26 at 10 am for an interview," prosecutors said Saturday, as part of an investigation into the opposition's publishing of electoral records which it claims show Maduro was clearly defeated. Attorney General Tarek William Saab, a Maduro ally, had foreshadowed the summoning Friday, saying Gonzalez Urrutia would have to explain his "disobedience.' Saab said the opposition's website, where it has posted a detailed breakdown of election results, had "usurped" the powers of the Maduro-aligned CNE electoral council. Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was defiant, calling in a post on X for Venezuelans to take to the streets again on Wednesday. One month after our glorious victory, in which Edmundo Gonzalez was elected President. Venezuelans again take to the streets," she said, calling for supporters to come with family, with your children, with your grandchildren and with your voting record in hand."-APP

Muslim group withdraws support from Kamala Harris

Arab American voters reconsider Harris support; Gaza stance, Biden's actions in focus; Michigan key in 2024 election

DEARBORN: In key US swing the Democratic presidential nomistate Michigan, Democratic voters of Arab and Middle Eastern heritage say Kamala Harris is going to have to win them back, after they were alienated by President Joe Biden's handling of Israel's military offensive in Gaza. The town of Dearborn, home to

110,000 people and a cultural hub for Arab Americans, could play a decisive role in deciding the fate of the battleground state in November's presidential election. Members of the community inter-

viewed by AFP said they were willing to hear what the vice president vowed "not to be silent" about the had to say and weigh their options -

nation at the party's convention on Thursday, Harris pledged to get a Gaza ceasefire "done" and ensure Palestinians realize their right to "dignity, security, freedom and self- determination." But there was outrage among pro-Palestinian delegates that their request for a speaker spot at the convention was rejected. The group Muslim Women for Harris-Walz said the

Palestinian enclave since the war began in response to Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. Meanwhile The decision to transfer the crew of Boeing's Starliner to a SpaceX mission after the spacecraft malfunctioned is just the latest twist in a long saga that has undermined the credibility of the US aerospace giant. Here is a recap of the setbacks and delays on Starliner's journey to fly a crew to the International Space Station - and how it was unable to bring them back again. A decade ago NASA chose two companies, Boeing and SpaceX, to each develop a new spacecraft capable of transporting its astronauts to the

nauts to the ISS since the end of the space shuttle program in 2011.Boeing was awarded a \$4.2 billion contract, against SpaceX's \$2.6 billion. At the time, billionaire Elon Musk's young company was widely seen as the underdog against Boeing's aerospace might. During a first unmanned flight in December 2019, the capsule failed to set itself on the right trajectory and returned to Earth prematurely after two days, without reaching the ISS. The problem was due to a clock that was eleven hours late, preventing the capsule from firing its thrusters at the scheduled time. NASA then realized that another

Air France says suspending Tel Aviv, **Beirut flights**

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, August 26 , 2024

PARIS: Air France is suspending flights to Tel Aviv and Beirut scheduled for Sunday and Monday after Israel launched air strikes into Lebanon, the airline said. "Flights today and tomorrow are suspended," a spokesman for the French carrier said, adding that the suspension could be extended depending on the situation in the Middle East. Air France, which usually runs a daily service to both cities, had already halted flights to Beirut between July 29 and August 15 but has kept flying to Tel Aviv. Air France did not sav whether its budget subsidiary Transavia, which also serves both destinations, would suspend its flights. German airline Lufthansa on Friday extended its Beirut flight suspension to the end of September and said it would not fly to Tel Aviv and Tehran until September 2.-APP

Protest in front Indian Embassy in Brussels

DNA

BRUSSELS: Kashmiri Council Europe (KC-EU) organized a protest demonstration to mark the "Black Day" in front of Indian Embassy in Brussels, the Headquaters European and capital city of Belgium today (Thursday), 15th August 2024. It is important to mention that Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observe the Indian Independence Day as "Black Day" on Aug 15 every year. Besides Kashmiris based in Europe includig Belgium, a number of representatives of political and social organizations and other sympathizers of the Kashmiris attended the protest gathering in Brussels.

Holding placards and banthe participants ners, of the protest gathering chanted slogans against the Indian attrocities in Occu-

Floods ease in Bangladesh but 300.000 still in shelters

FENI: River waters in low-lying Bangladesh are receding after days of deadly floods but 300,000 people are still in emergency shelters requiring aid, disaster officials said on Sunday. The heavy floods, which killed at least 18 people in Bangladesh, have added to the challenges of a new government that took charge this month after a student-led revolution. Rescue teams, including joint forces of the army, air force and navy, are helping those forced from their homes and bringing aid to those who have lost everything. disaster management minister Faruk-e-Azam said. "The flood situation is improving as the flood water started to recede," Azam told AFP. More than 307,000 people are in shelters and more than 5.2 million have been affected by the floods, the ministry said. "Now we are working to restore communication in the affected areas so that we can distribute relief food," Azam "We are also said taking steps so that contagious diseases don't spread.' Bangladeshis Ordinary have been crowdfunding relief efforts.-DNA

a marked change from the outright hostility towards Biden. "We are in listening mode right now," said Osama Siblani, publisher of The Arab American News. Accepting

Telegram chief Pavel

Durov arrested at

French airport

PARIS: Telegram chief executive Pavel Durov is expected

to appear in court Sunday after being arrested by French

police at an airport near Paris for alleged offences relat-

ed to his popular messaging app, sources told AFP. The

Franco-Russian billionaire, 39, was detained at Le Bourget

airport north of the French capital on Saturday evening,

one of the sources said, speaking on condition of anonym-

ity. Durov had arrived from Baku, in Azerbaijan, another

source close to the case said. France's OFMIN, an office

tasked with preventing violence against minors, had issued

an arrest warrant for Durov in a preliminary investigation

into alleged offences including fraud, drug trafficking,

cyberbullying, organised crime and promotion of terror-

ism, one of the sources said. Durov is accused of failing

to take action to curb the criminal use of his platform,

"Enough of Telegram's impunity," said one of the inves-

tigators, adding they were surprised Durov came to Paris

knowing he was a wanted man. The encrypted messaging

app, based in Dubai, has positioned itself as an alternative

to US-owned platforms, which have been criticised for their

commercial exploitation of users' personal data. Telegram

has committed to never disclosing any information about

its users. In a rare interview given to right-wing talk show host Tucker Carlson in April, Durov said he got the idea

to launch an encrypted messaging app after coming under

pressure from the Russian government when working at

VK, a social network he created before selling it and leav-

ing Russia in 2014. He said he then tried to settle in Ber-

lin, London, Singapore and San Francisco before choosing

Dubai, which he praised for its business environment and

met with members of the national "Uncommitted" movement that led the charge against Biden during the Democratic primary process. Although she made no firm promises,

decision sent a "terrible message"

and announced it was disbanding

and withdrawing its support from

the campaign. Harris, who has

suffering of Palestinians, recently

leaders said she impressed them with a show of empathy. At the forefront of concerns are Israel's 10 months of military operations in Gaza, which have devastated the

International Space Station (ISS). The US space agency asked both to be ready for 2017, as it sought to end its dependence on the Russian spacecraft it had used to ferry astrosoftware problem could have led to a catastrophic collision.The manufacturer was given a long list of recommendations and modifications to make.-Agencies

pied Kashmir. Thev also raised their vice in favour of oppressed Kashmiris struggling for their right to self-determination.

On the occasion of the protest, Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Mr Ali Raza Syed said, purpose of our protest is to raise our voice against Indian brutalities on Kashmiris. According to him, India is involved in the extreme atrocities against Kashmiris. Indian state terrorism against the people of Occupied Kashmir has been increased over the past few years and due to this, the oppressed Kashmiris are suffering from various problems and important political leaders and human rights activists are detained and imprisoned in the Indian jails. India is committing genocide of Kashmiris on a large scale and trying to erase the identity of Kashmiris by changing the population ratio in the occupied Kashmir valley. Ali Raza Syed determined that the peaceful struggle for liberation of Kashmir would be continued.

Inculcating true essence of Sufi music among youngsters vital

Ustad Asif Ali Khan Santoo, said on Sunday that inculcating the true essence of Sufi music in the young generation was pivotal to promoting the values of love, tolerance, and peace in society. These views were expressed by one of the most celebrated voices in the world of Qawwali. Ustad Asif Ali Khan Santoo, in an exclusive interview with APP. "Sufi music has a great history in the subcontinent. Similarly, Pakistan has a rich literary heritage based upon Sufi poetry, and qawali acts as a strong medium for its projection," Antoo believed. He said, "Sufi music has witnessed great innovation over time in response to changing cultural landscapes while preserving its spiritual roots." "About the challenges and opportunities facing Qawwali in the modern era, the acclaimed artist said, "As contemporary music evolves, Qawwali artists are finding ways to balance tradition with inno-

vation."-APP

Ishratulabad calls for grand national dialogue

He warned that when the bond between the government and the people weakens or disintegrates, enemies, both internal and external, exploit the situation to their advantage. He specifically highlighted the enemy's strategy of driving a wedge between the masses and the armed forces by propagating a narrative that the latter is solely responsible for the people's problems

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

"neutrality".-DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Governor Sindh, Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan has emphasized the importance of rejecting the narratives aimed at creating a rift between the armed forces and the people. He stressed the need to maintain unity and support for the armed forces, who are making immense sacrifices for the country. Dr. Khan highlighted the importance of respecting and honoring the armed forces and law enforcement personnel, who are dedicating their lives for the nation's future. He also noted that there may be individuals who commit wrongdoings in any institution, it is crucial to hold them

accountable rather than tarnishing the reputation of the entire institution. He warned that when the bond between the government and the people weakens or disintegrates, enemies, both internal and external, exploit the situation to their advantage. He specifically highlighted the enemy's strategy of driving a wedge between the masses and the armed forces by propagating a narrative that the latter is solely responsible for the people's problems. This, he emphasized, is a deliberate attempt to create divisions and undermine national unity. During a virtual meeting with business leaders from Islamabad and Rawalpindi, held at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan expressed his deep concern over the pressing issues facing the country, particularly the growing sense of hopelessness among youth, entrepreneurs, and various segments of society. He identified political instability, financial crisis, and poor law and order as the underlying causes of these problems. He emphasized that the government must take a proactive approach, anticipating and addressing challenges headon, and ensuring that its efforts are visible and satisfactory to the public," He praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as one of the best administrators, emphasizing the government's crucial role in maintaining public hope amidst challenging circumstances. He stressed the need for a grand national dialogue

to address the country's issues, led by the current political leadership. Additionally, he called for acrossthe-board accountability to tackle the country's multiple challenges. He acknowledged the business community as the economy's true stakeholders, commending their tireless efforts for the country's well-being. However, he criticized the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as a "vicious cycle" contributing to circular debt, foreign debt, decreased exports, factory closures, high business costs. and unemployment. He urged the government to prioritize national interests and resolve the issue promptly, focusing on the greater good rather than political interests. Dr. Khan also explained that his

slogan 'Merhi Pechan, Mera Pakistan' is inspired by Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's principles of 'Unity, Faith, Discipline,' which are essential for the country's and people's well-being."

In his address Ahsan Zafar Bakhtaewari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid the richest tributes to Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan for his services as Governor Sindh.

He said that the difficulties and polarization the country is facing at the moment and the services of Dr Ibad are much needed in the country to pull it out of all the odds by his vision and wisdom. Therefore, he should come back and the way he served the Sindh province should serve the country.

ISLAMABAD: Qawwali,

OSLO: Pakistan ambassador to Norway Saadia Qazi received Norwegian Ambassador to Pakistan Per Albert Ilsaas at Pakistan HouseOslo . Both sides discussed matters of mutual interest.- DNA







Briefs **Malaysian PM blasts** Western media

Diplomats photo exhibition put on display at the ISH

FOREIGN DESK

KUALALUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has asserted that Western nations should refrain from lecturing the Muslim world on democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

Speaking at the All-Malaysian Mosque Summit for al-Aqsa and Palestine, Anwar criticised the West for attempting to control international media narratives, particularly regarding the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Anwar highlighted the need for the West to correct its portrayal of the Palestinian situation, emphasising that the unrest has persisted since 1948, not just since the Hamas attack on 7 October. "We need to be clear and cannot be determined by the Western countries that want to start the narrative on October 7," he stated. He added, "The continuous destruction in Palestine began in 1948, followed by the direct invasion of the al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969. This destruction, whether of infrastructure or human lives, continues today as genocide.

The Prime Minister also reiterated Malaysia's commitment to blocking companies registered in Israel from operating within the country, criticising the previous government for allowing direct trade with Israeli-linked firms. "Under the Madani Government, the decision was made unanimously by the Cabinet to stop all forms of direct trade with Israel." Anwar noted.

Millions of Muslims mark Arba'een

BAGHDAD: Millions of Muslims across the world mark Arba'een, the 40th

Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi Foreign Secretary of Pakistan while sharing

his thoughts, he said, "This exhibition is a powerful reminder of the deep connections and shared values that unite Pakistan with the global community



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Public Diplomacy Initiative, proudly sponsored a photographic exhibition organized in collaboration with the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. The exhibition was a tribute to 77 years of Pakistan's independence, celebrating the enduring bonds of friendship between Pakistan and the global community. The exhibition showcased a wide collection of photo-

graphs captured by diplomats and their spouses highlighting the breathtaking beauty of Pakistan. Each photograph reflected the unity and shared values between their home countries and Pakistan. The event highlighted the faces of friendship and the spirit of collaboration that defines Pakistan's relationships on the world stage. Speaking at the event the dean remarked, "This exhibition is a testament to the strong and durable ties between Pakistan and the international community. Through these photographs, we witness the essence of friendship and mutual respect that has been developed over the past 77 years. It is an honor to celebrate Pakistan's rich cultural heritage alongside such esteemed colleagues and friends." Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi Foreign Secretary of Pakistan honored the event as the Chief Guest, while sharing his thoughts, he said, "This exhibition is a powerful reminder of the deep connections and shared values that unite Pakistan with the global community. The photographs on display beautifully capture the essence of Pakistan's landscapes and the warmth of its people, offering a unique perspective from those who have experienced our country's hospitality"

Serena Hotels remains dedicated to supporting efforts that enhance international relationships and contribute to the global community. This exhibition is proof of the power of art and culture in bridging differences and celebrating shared values. CEO of Serena Hotels, Mr. Aziz Boolani, appreciated this initiative and the opportunity to sponsor this unique exhibition that captures the essence of Pakistan's heritage, culture, and beauty.

Israel and Hezbollah exchange strikes as escalation fears rise

UpdateIsrael and Hezbollah exchange strikes as escalation fears rise

News Desk

BEIRUT: Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel early on Sunday, as Israel's military said it struck Lebanon with around 100 jets to thwart a larger attack, in one of the biggest clashes in more than 10 months of border warfare. Missiles were visible curling up through the dawn sky, dark vapor trails behind them, as an air raid siren sounded in Israel and a distant blast lit the horizon, while smoke rose over houses in Khiam in southern Lebanon. Three deaths were confirmed in Lebanon and none in Israel, where damage appeared to be limited. Hezbollah indicated it was not planning further strikes yet. Israel's foreign minister said the country did not seek a fullscale war but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned: "This is not the end of the story." Any major escalation in the fighting, which began in parallel with the war in Gaza, risks morphing into a regional conflagration drawing in Hezbollah's backer Iran and Israel's main ally the United States. Hezbollah said it had fired 320 Katyusha rockets toward Israel and hit 11 military targets in what it called the first phase of its retaliation for Israel's assassination of

Fuad Shukr, a senior commander, last month.

A Hezbollah official said it had delayed its retaliation to give a chance for ongoing Gaza ceasefire talks and other "political considerations." The official said the group had calibrated it to avoid triggering a full-scale war. Israel's military said it had foiled a much larger attack with pre-emptive airstrikes on 40 launch sites after assessing that Hezbollah was preparing to launch the barrage.

Gaza talks resume in Cairo as UN warns of worsening conditions

CAIRO/JERUSALEM: Gaza ceasefire and hostage negotiators discussed new compromise proposals in Cairo on Saturday, seeking to bridge gaps between Israel and Hamas as the UN reported worsening humanitarian conditions, with malnutrition soaring and polio discovered. Israeli military strikes in Gaza killed 50 people on Saturday, Palestinian health authorities said. Victims of hostilities over the past 48 hours remain lying on roads where fighting continues or trapped under rubble, the authorities said. A Hamas delegation arrived on Saturday to be nearer at hand to review

Dengue cases climb by 135% across Sindh

Sindh Health Department says 1,167 cases of dengue fever have been reported in Sindh so far

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: About 135% increase in dengue cases has been witnessed in Sindh in

day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Each year, pilgrims from different countries travel on foot to get to Imam Hussein's holy shrine, in the Iraqi city of Karbala, to commemorate the event, which falls on Sunday this year. The Arba'een march is one of the largest annual religious congregations in the world, where the participants pay tribute to Imam Hussein (AS), who is the all-time icon of fighting injustice, oppression, and despotism.

The third Shia Imam and his 72 companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in southern Iraq in 680 AD while resisting the much larger army of the despot Umayyad ruler of the time, Yazid. People in the Iranian capital of Tehran, under the banner of "Those left behind from Arba'een," take part in a symbolic march to the holy shrine of Shah Abdol-Azim Hasani in the southern town of Rey. - Agencies

Sudan army leader says won't join peace talks

PORT SUDAN: Sudan's de facto ruler, army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, said Saturday his government would not join peace talks with rival paramilitaries in Switzerland, vowing instead to "fight for 100 years." "We will not go to Geneva... we will fight for 100 years," Burhan, whose troops have been battling the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for over 16 months, told reporters in Port Sudan. The United States opened talks in Switzerland on August 14 aimed at easing the human suffering and achieving a lasting ceasefire. While an RSF delegation showed up, the Sudanese armed forces were unhappy with the format and did not attend, though they were in telephone contact with the mediators. The talks were co-hosted by Saudi Arabia and Switzerland, with the African Union, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and the United Nations completing the so-called Aligned for Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan Group (ALPS). - Agencies

bollah, adding that air defenses had intercepted all drones launched against a strategic target in central Israel.

Netanyahu said Israel took pre-emptive action against

Hezbollah dismissed Israel's statement that the group's attack had been foiled with pre-emptive strikes, saying it had been able to launch its drones as planned and that the rest of its response to Shukr's killing would take "some time." Expectations of an escalation had risen since a missile strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights last month killed 12 youngsters and the Israeli military assassinated Shukr in Beirut in response. Israel's security cabinet met early in the day and the full cabinet is meeting on Sunday afternoon. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant declared a state of emergency and Foreign Minister Israel Katz said Israel would respond to developments on the ground but did not seek a full-scale war.

any proposals that emerge in the main talks between Israel and the mediating countries Egypt, Qatar and the United States, two Egyptian security sources said. Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani was expected to attend. Months of on-off talks have so far failed to produce a breakthrough to end Israel's devastating military campaign in Gaza or free the remaining hostages seized by Hamas in the militant group's Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war. The Egyptian sources said the new proposals include compromises on outstanding points such as how to secure key areas and the return of people to north Gaza. However there was no sign of any breakthrough on key sticking points, including Israel's insistence that it must retain control of the so-called Philadelphi Corridor, on the border between Gaza and Egypt. Hamas has accused Israel of going back on things it had previously agreed to in the talks, which Israel denies. - Agencies

seven months this year as compared to 2023. In a report released on Friday, the Sindh Health Department said 1,167 cases of dengue fever have been reported in Sindh so far this year and 1,022 of them were detected in Karachi only. The details shared by the health department mentions that 1,034 cases of dengue were reported in Sindh in first seven months of 2024 while 440 cases of dengue were reported during this much time last year.

Naeem warns govt against 'failure to rein in IPPs'

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan, announced that if he calls for "organising a sit-in, it will be pursued diligently, with no intention of backing down." He made the declaration to the ruling PML-N and its ally PPP, warning that only 28 days remain for action to be taken on addressing the issues with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), "faliure to which will result in consequences." During a press conference in Mansoorah, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman detailed the reorganisation of the "Haq Do Awam" movement to address public concerns. He criticised political parties for focusing on personal interests rather than addressing critical issues such as gas and electricity bills. He accused them of prioritising political gains over necessary reforms. He also highlighted the ongoing gas funerals of many leaders departing from prisons.

and electricity crisis and the increasing tax burden on salaried individuals. Hafiz Naeem revealed that IPPs received Rs. 2 trillion for not producing electricity and announced a nationwide strike and shutter-down on August 28, supported by the business community. He criticised the government's tax exemptions for IPPs and the renewal of expired contracts, calling for accountability for these decisions. Hafiz Naeem further pointed out that IPPs received Rs. 1.2 trillion in tax exemptions during 2017-18, while ordinary citizens face heavy taxes on utilities. He described this disparity as unjust and criticized the current tax system as ineffective. He also referenced a report by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) indicating annual corruption of Rs. 1,299 billion related to income tax bribes, and expressed frustration with the lack of reform in the FBR. In addition, Hafiz Naeem mentioned the persecution faced by Jamaat-e-Islami in Bangladesh over the past 15 years, including the

Investment in Pakistan's youth is key to prosperous future: Dr Faisal

The High Commission of Pakistan in London co-hosted a seminar for trade and investment

LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner in London Dr Mohammad Faisal has said investment in the country's vouth would ensure a prosperous future of Pakistan. The High Commission of Pakistan in London co-hosted a seminar titled "Promoting trade, investment and tourism in Pakistan" along with British-Pakistani Mayors' Association (BPMA). The seminar was attended by a large number of former mayors & councillors, British-Pakistani businessmen, officials of the Pakistan High Commission and community members. High Commissioner Dr Mohammad Faisal was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

Prominent speakers included Alderman Mushtaq Lasharie CBE, Chair-man BPMA; Mr Asif Rangoonwala CBE, Chairman British Pakistan Foundation; Mr Fiazullah Khan, Secretary General BPMA and Ms Sana Jafri, Mayor of Wandsworth. The High Commissioner, in his keynote address, stated "Pakistanis in UK have made remarkable achievements due to their hard work and are acting as a bridge between Pakistan and the UK." He added, "our strength lies in unity and in order to compete in the comity of nations we require collective effort, strategic planning, and a commitment to excellence." He stressed upon the need of working together to unlock the potential of Pakistan to show the world resilience, opportunities and beauty that the country has been blessed with. The High Commissioner said that officers of Pakistan High Commission and consulates have been working with full dedication to facilitate Pakistani

diaspora in UK. He informed that the High Commission is reaching out to around 400 British - Pakistani mayors & councillors to bring them together and discuss ways and means to further strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship between Pakistan and the UK. The speakers at the seminar emphasized the role of British-Pakistani community in promoting trade, investment and tourism of Pa-

kistan. They paid tributes to hardworking Pakistani expatriates in UK who have been rendering valuable services in business, health and education sectors. The speakers also stressed upon the need to engage meaningfully with British entrepreneurs for showcasing Pakistan's business, tourism and agriculture potential. - Agencies

