



Islamabad POST

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Iran doesn't seek to increase regional tensions, says FM

Detailed News On Page-08

Ayub demands announcement of new CJP

Detailed News On Page-08



Salah bags new record in Liverpool

Detailed News On Page-06



Balochistan rocked by violence

40 people martyred in multiple attacks

Police say as many as 10 vehicles were also set ablaze by gunmen; bodies shifted to hospital

DNA

MUSAKHEL/KALAT/BOLAN: At least 40 people, including police and Levies personnel, were martyred in different gun attack incidents in Balochistan's Kalat, Musakhel and Bolan districts, ARY News reported on Monday quoting police. 8 people, including Balochistan Levies personnel, were martyred in different incidents in Kalat district on Sunday night, said police. According to the Kalat Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dostin Dashti, the martyred included a police sub-inspector, four Levies personnel, and 3 citizens. "An exchange of fire between police and armed men continued since last night on Kalat's national highway and city," the police said. In another incident, Kalat Assistant Commissioner Aftab Ahmed and a Levies man have also been injured in the firing. According to SSP Kalat, the incident occurred when unidentified gunmen opened fire on the check post, leading to an exchange of gunfire between the attackers and Levies personnel. The injured officers have been taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment. While, Kalat Commissioner Naem Bazai said condition of Ahmed was out of danger. Meanwhile, as per the security sources, terrorists attacked multiple sites in Balochistan on the night of August 24 and 25. In response to the attacks, the security forces killed 12 terrorists and leaving several others injured, the sources added.

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Forces kill 21 terrorists; 4 jawans embrace martyrdom

Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: On night 25/ 26 August 2024, terrorists attempted to conduct numerous heinous activities in Balochistan. On behalf of inimical and hostile forces, these cowardly acts of terrorism were aimed at disrupting the peaceful environment and development of Balochistan by targeting mainly the innocent civilians, especially in Musa Khel, Kalat and Labela Districts. Resultantly, numerous innocent civilians embraced shahadat. In Musa Khel District, terrorists stopped a bus in general area Rara Sham and maliciously targeted innocent citizens, working in Balochistan to earn their livelihood. Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies immediately responded and successfully thwarted the evil design of terrorists and sent twenty-one terrorists to hell in ensuing clearance operations, ensuring security and protection of local populace. However, during the conduct of operations, fourteen brave sons of soil including ten Security Forces soldiers and four personnel of law enforcement agencies, having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat. Sanitization operations are being conducted and the instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts, targeting innocent civilians, will be brought to justice. Security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.



ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

PLA commander meets PM Pak-China military cooperation vital for regional stability: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and underscored that Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and trusted friends

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad today. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed General Li to Pakistan and underscored that Pakistan and China are All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and trusted friends. The Prime Minister highlighted that the deep-rooted ties between the two nations enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries. The Prime Minister expressed

Continued on Page 06

Fraternal ties with China to be cemented further, says COAS

COAS General Syed Asim Munir underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between the two nations

FARUKH SHEHZAD

RAWALPINDI: General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS),

Continued on Page 06

AI urges transparency on internet disruptions

Monitoring and surveillance technologies that block content is an alarming concern," it said

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Amnesty International has called on Pakistani authorities to provide greater transparency on the nationwide internet slowdown and the use of monitoring and surveillance technologies. Internet speeds have witnessed a considerable decline over the past few weeks, and users are facing difficulties in sending or down-loading media and voice notes through

Continued on Page 06

Tarar launches 'Operation Clean Up'



Under this initiative, around 25 low-performing shows have been canceled

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has announced a major overhaul of Pakistan Television (PTV) that he dubbed as "Operation Clean Up." Under this initiative, 25 low-performing shows have been canceled, and a new policy emphasizing transparency, professionalism, and constructive criticism

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

FIA blocks CNIC, passport of Moonis

According to an FIA spokesperson, Moonis Elahi's passport has also been placed on the control list

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: In compliance with court orders, Chaudhry Moonis Elahi's national identity card (CNIC) has been blocked in connection with a money laundering case. According to an FIA spokesperson, Moonis Elahi's passport has also been placed on the control list. Additionally, CNICs of five other accused individuals have been blocked in relation to the case. The spokesperson confirmed that the CNICs of the following individuals have been blocked: Amer Sohail, Umair Fayaz, Imtiaz Ali Shah, Farasat Ali Chatha, and Abid Ali Khan, in addition to Moonis Elahi.

Chehlum processions across country

Cellular services blocked in various cities as part of security measures enforced by authorities for processions

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Millions of Muslims across Pakistan are observing the Chehlum of the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) grandson Hazrat Imam Husain (RA) today with small and large-scale mourning processions planned in various cities throughout the country amid strict security measures. The day is marked by majalis and religious gatherings with scholars recalling the sacrifice of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) family to shed light on the need to stand up against injustice.

PTI approaches SC

Imran: Will talk to establishment only in national interest

PTI's founding leader categorically denies having any 'contact with the establishment'

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has stated that he has no contact with the establishment, while clarifying that any future discussions will be conducted only if it was in the nation's interest. Speaking informally to the media after a court hearing at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail regarding the £190m case, Imran highlighted the critical need for robust institutions in Pakistan. He remarked, "Only sheep and goats can be controlled with sticks, not humans. What they are doing is suicide." Imran expressed his belief that the actions being taken by the authorities are detrimental to the country's stability. Imran also commented on his current conditions in jail, noting the harsh treatment he is receiving, stating, "I have been placed in a room like an oven,

Continued on Page 06

UK riots: Lahore court discharges man

No evidence against the suspect has been found, investigation officer states in court

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE: A local court in the Punjab capital on Monday discharged suspect Farhan Asif from the charges of spreading disinformation regarding the killer of three children in Southport, England - the gruesome murders that recently sparked widespread riots in the United Kingdom.

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Ceasefire talks stall as Hamas, Israel reject key compromises

The official, speaking anonymously, added that the process would continue over the coming days, with working groups set to address unresolved issues and details

NEWS DESK / DNA

CAIRO: A ceasefire talks in Cairo regarding the ongoing Gaza conflict failed to reach an agreement on Sunday, as neither Hamas nor Israel accepted the compromises proposed by mediators, according to two Egyptian security sources. This failure casts doubt on the chances of a breakthrough in the US-backed effort to bring an end to the 10-month war. Despite this, a senior US official described the talks as "constructive," noting that all parties engaged with the intention of achieving a "final and implementable agreement." The official, speaking anonymously, added that the process would continue over the coming days, with working groups set to address unresolved issues and details. The negotiation teams will remain in Cairo. Months of intermittent discussions have yet to yield an agreement to cease Israel's military actions in Gaza or to secure the release of hostages captured by Hamas during their October 7 attack on Israel, which initiated the current conflict. Speaking in Halifax, Canada, US National Security

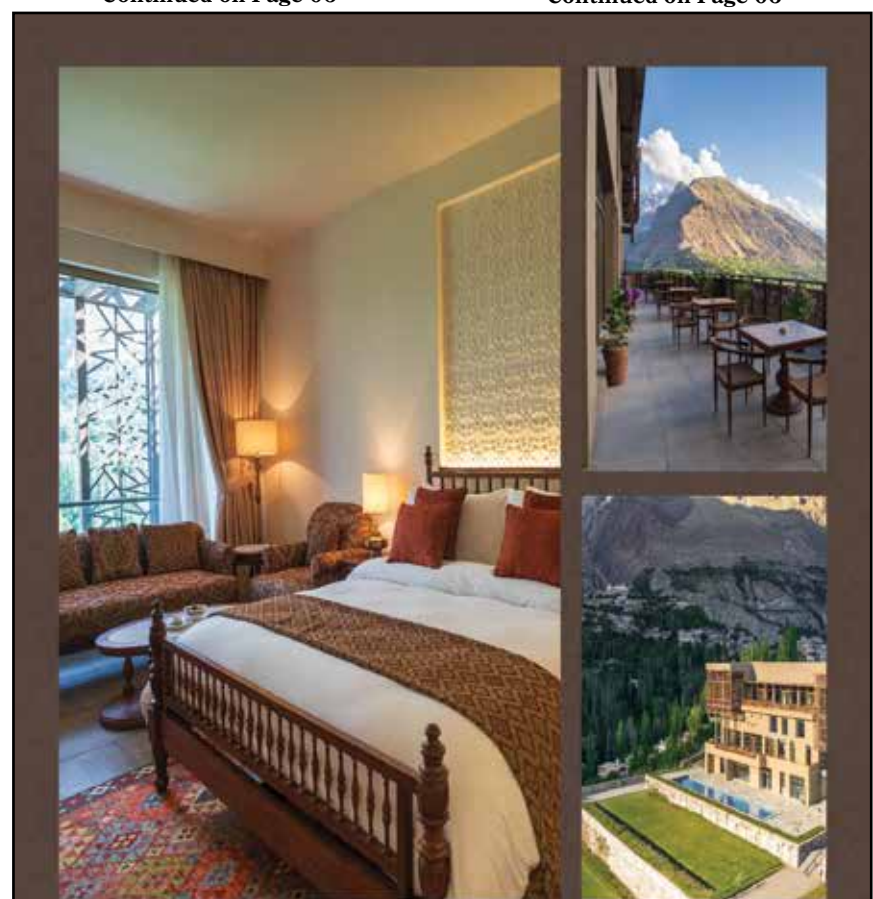
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Patients flee Gaza hospital after latest evacuation order

AGENCIES

DEIR EL-BALAH: War-weary Palestinians on Monday pushed wheelchair-bound and bed-ridden patients through the streets of central Gaza, evacuating a hospital in a frantic bid to stay ahead of feared Israeli bombardment. The Israeli military had told people the day before to "evacuate immediately" a part of Deir el-Balah city because it planned to "act with force against Hamas and terrorist groups" there. Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital sits in the middle of the area described in the warning, setting in motion a

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Experts highlight Pak unique position in balancing US-China ties

DNA

LAHORE: In the seminar organized by the Institute of International Relations and Media Research on the speakers highlighted this. Pakistan can play in bringing together the United States and China on a host of issues instead of siding with any one of it at the cost of its relations with the other power. The seminar on "Common Interests of US and China in Pakistan and a way forward for Pakistan" was hosted and chaired by foreign affairs expert Syed Muhammad Mehdi here on Sunday. Michael Kugelmann, Asia Programme deputy director at Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, Washington, Prof Zhao of the China Renmin University, Dr Amjad Magasi, director of the Pakistan Study Centre, and UCP Political Department chairman Dr Waheed Khan were prominent among the speakers. Mr Kugelmann says Pakistan is one of the few countries who have good relations both with the US and China. Like in the past, Islamabad can play the role of a mediator on issues like climate change between the two biggest polluters of the environment. Also, China has a significant influence on Taliban as is evident from its increasing investment in the energy exploration projects in Afghanistan while Pakistan has lost its leverage there. In the face of increasing terrorism threat from Afghanistan in the form of TTP and ISET, China may use its influence to the benefit of not only Pakistan but also the region and the world, he said. He said US and China confrontation is not a new cold war like situation because nowhere Washington seems to contain Beijing as

happens during wars. Rather US president's emissary on climate change John Kerry convinced the US administration to end confrontation with China for creating an enabling environment to work together on climate change. He said that Islamabad, as one of the worst victims of climate change, could also play a role in bringing together the two countries on the subject. Prof Zhao said that developing a strategic relationship with the US is precarious, but critical for Pakistan. He said the US competes with China in Pakistan making it difficult for Islamabad to balance its ties with both the states. Developing a strategic relationship with China is important but not enough to fully address Pakistan's economic and security concerns, he said. Thus, it seems reasonable to argue that Pakistan has no choice but to develop a strategic relationship with the US to secure its export market and arms supplies, to ensure that it can rely on the US to counterbalance India to some extent, although Pakistan sees that the US is not necessarily reliable in this regard. But to rely on the US seems to be a kind of inertia of Pakistani politicians. He said China will in no way oppose the development of Pakistan-US strategic relationship but it must not harm Pakistan-China relations. It is also expected that Pakistan should not have unrealistic expectations from any friend. Muhammad Mehdi said Pakistan's importance can be denied neither by the US nor China. Islamabad's joining any defence pact with either power is a death knell for the other power in the region. Leaving Pakistan alone in the rising terrorism threat is not a solution for US and China because the menace is and may destabilize the region if not the world. The Pakistan-India conflict is

not only damaging the two countries but also affecting world trade. If the Kashmir dispute is resolved, it would not only provide the much needed relief to the peoples across the borders but also the world. A trade corridor with the patronage of the US is being built from India to Israel and Europe that will pass by Pakistani seas and it would always remain insecure in case of tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi. The shortest and cheapest possible route to get Iranian oil for both China and India passes through Pakistan. Likewise, India could get access to central Asian markets through Pakistan only. The US is Pakistan's largest trade partner, while China invested in Pakistan when no country was coming forward for the purpose. Through an effective diplomacy a balance may be created in relations with both the world powers. Dr Magasi said a positive US-China relationship could help maximize the benefits of CPEC and pave the way for increased foreign direct investment in technology, infrastructure and energy sectors. Harmonious US-China ties means a more predictable and stable environment for economic development and regional stability helpful in enduring peace in South Asia, particularly Afghanistan. Both US-China may play a role in bringing Pakistan-India to the negotiation table. Dr. Waheed Khan from the UCP said like in the Cold War era Pakistan cannot remain neutral in the rivalry between China and US. He, however, suggested that Islamabad should separate its geo-economic and geo-political objectives and realize the US and other states that its geo-strategic and geo-political objectives would remain confined to its borders with India and Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Javed Abbasi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.—DNA

AIOU introduces electronic system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in a recent development, has introduced an electronic system for managing daily official correspondence, showcasing its commitment to adhering to governmental policies and guidelines. In this recent development, AIOU has further cemented its role as a leading national institution by adopting the digitalization of its educational, financial, and administrative processes. Under the directive of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the Registrar Department has issued a new notification. This directive mandates all university departments to utilize the e-Office system for all official correspondence and office files starting from August 28. The notification also outlines that the Director of Information Technology is responsible for ensuring the smooth operationalization of this electronic system, including the creation of user accounts and the provision of necessary training for all users. The Vice Chancellor has emphasized that, after August 28, all departmental communications must be conducted through the e-Office system, and no documents should be sent in hard copy form. This transition is expected to result in significant time savings, improved governance, and enhanced transparency, thereby addressing and eliminating any potential delays in administrative processes.

DC directs preparedness for rain amid weather forecast

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Shahriyar Gul Memon, has issued directives to all relevant departments to remain alert in view of the expected rains. The Meteorological Department and PDMA have predicted thunderstorms from August 26 to 31, with a forecast of 140 to 260 mm of rainfall in Shaheed

Benazirabad district. DC ordered all municipal, town administrations, and relevant agencies to remain alert for drainage of rainwater. According to the order, all disposals, pumping stations, and necessary machinery should be activated, and all officers and staff should be present in the field. Negligence will not be tolerated. Deputy

Commissioner has also directed Rescue 1122 to remain alert to deal with any emergency. DC has advised citizens to take precautionary measures during heavy rainfall and contact Rescue 1122 or the district administration's control room number 0244930334 in case of any emergency during the rains.

President condoles with Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressed his condolence on the death of Rana Afzal Hussain, elder brother of Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain. Expressing his sympathies with the federal minister and the bereaved family, the president prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for the bereaved family to bear the loss with equanimity. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.—APP

Edu Ministry, NUST collaborate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) are pleased to announce a groundbreaking initiative to train a batch of chip designers in Pakistan. According to the Education Ministry, this pioneering program aims to develop a skilled workforce in the field of chip design, a critical component of the global technology ecosystem. The program, funded by the Ministry of Federal Education, will provide comprehensive training to a select group of students at NUST's renowned College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. The curriculum will cover the latest advancements in chip design, including system-on-chip (SoC) design, verification, and validation.

Woman kidnapped in Nowshera Virkan

NOWSHERA VIRKAN :A woman was abducted in Nowshera Virkan on early Monday morning. According to Police Report, Jamila, the sister-in-law of local resident Abbas Ali was on her way to a nearby shop to purchase groceries when she was kidnapped. Jamila was taken by Yasir Rizwan, a man from Faisalabad along with three unidentified accomplices, police report said. The perpetrators allegedly put Jamila in a carry-on box and fled the scene. The local authorities have registered a case against Abbas Ali, the brother of the victim and have launched an investigation into the incident. Police are currently working to locate the missing woman and apprehend the kidnappers.—APP

25th ITCN Asia to be held in Karachi on Aug 27-29

DNA

KARACHI: The 25th edition of ITCN Asia, Pakistan's biggest IT and telecom expo and conference, will take place on August 27-29 at the Expo Center in Karachi. This event is set to focus significant goals of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to facilitate investors, exporters, and entrepreneurs of the IT industry, making Pakistan an emerging tech hub in the world. ITCN Asia is expected to generate over \$500 million in investments and business, making it a significant contributor to Pakistan's economy. The event will also host the 2nd edition of the World CIO 200 Summit, a global event held in 55 countries, further solidifying Pakistan's position in the global tech landscape. State Minister for IT & Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja will inaugurate the event as the chief guest, and Federal

Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal will also be the chief guest for the Agritech Conference at the three-day trade fair. Leading global and local brands are participating in the event such as Google, TikTok, Microsoft, Oodo, Huawei, PTCL, Easypaisa, including 750 companies. The event will host more than 300 speakers and 70,000 visitors from the tech sector, including 350 foreign delegates from 17 countries, including Saudi Arabia, China, Singapore, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iran, Egypt, UAE, etc. Several knowledge sessions will be held, such as Digital Transformation Conference, Investors Summit, Digital Banking Conference, Information Security Conference, Cloud and Data-center Conference, Startup Conference, E-commerce Conference, Gaming and Animation Summit, Startup Conference, Blockchain Con-

ference, and The World CIO 200 Summit, etc. Event Director ITCN Asia Umair Nizam said Pakistan's IT sector is flourishing by leaps and bounds with its consistent growth of exports and expansion of local companies to different countries. Global companies are enhancing their footprint and partnerships in Pakistan, paving the way for technological transfer to local industries and individuals. The country is revamping its economy and governance systems through a digital transformation due to the vision of the government and relevant authorities, he said and added. Every year, ITCN Asia provides a platform for all stakeholders, from policymakers to global and local tech giants, professionals, and thinkers, to set a direction for a country toward innovation, development, and economic growth.

Kenyan diplomats visit UET

LAHORE: A delegation from the Kenyan Embassy, led by Mr. Daniel Nganda, Deputy Head of Mission, visited the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore to engage in discussions with the Registrar regarding support for Kenyan students at the university. The delegation included prominent officials of the Kenyan Embassy, Mr. Soita Khatenge, Mr. Rasam J. Masoud, and Mr. Hussein Dida. Mr. Raees Alam, Commercial Manager at the Kenya Consulate in Lahore was also with the delegation. The meeting aimed to explore opportunities for enhancing cooperation and increasing the enrollment of Kenyan students at UET. During the discussions, Muhammad Asif, Registrar UET, highlighted the university's commitment to providing quality education and a supportive environment for international students. The delegation emphasized the importance of fostering educational ties between Kenya and Pakistan. The delegation also met the Kenyan students studying at UET. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq, Senior Warden and Dr. Amna Niazi, International Students Advisor, were also present, contributing valuable insights on how to improve the experience for the Kenyan students and facilitate their integration into the university community. Both parties are optimistic about the potential for collaboration that could benefit Kenyan students and enhance their academic opportunities at UET Lahore. As a gesture of goodwill, the Registrar presented university souvenirs to the visiting diplomats, symbolizing the strengthening ties between UET and the Kenyan Embassy.

'China corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence and Defence Production, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday, during a call on by People's Liberation Army (PLA) Ground Forces Commander of China, General Li Qiaoming, said that friendship with China was a corner-stone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy based on convergence of views on regional and global issues. The Minister welcomed the Chinese Ground Forces' Commander and appreciated long history of Pak-China relations in all fields, a news release said. He said these relations were focused on welfare of

peoples of both countries and not against any other country. He added that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with China. The Minister appreciated existing bilateral mechanisms, like Strategic Dialogue, Consular Consultations and Counter Terrorism Consultations. He mentioned that the strategic relations between the two neighbouring nations were based on mutual trust. He pointed out that Pakistan deeply appreciated China's diplomatic and material support in its fight against terrorism at regional and international fora. Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed the views that Pakistan-China Security Cooperation was pillar of regional

stability. Cooperation in security/intelligence sharing had increased amidst growing threats and advent of CPEC, he added. He reiterated that Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan. A peaceful Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan and to the whole region, he added. The visiting dignitary commended Pakistan's efforts in fostering regional peace and stability, as well as Pakistan Armed Forces' role in combating terrorism. Both sides acknowledged the strong relationship between their Armed Forces and committed to further expanding defense collaboration.

Police arrest notorious drug pusher, seize hashish

KABIRWALA :The Kabirwala police station on Monday claimed to have apprehended a well-known and wanted drug pusher during an operation, on Monday. According to the police, acting on a tip off, the police managed to arrest a suspect as named Nadeem alias Dima. After searching, 5 kilograms of hashish recovered from his possession. The District Police Officer (DPO) and Station House Officer (SHO) Rana Gulfray commended the police team for their successful operation which has resulted in the removal of a notorious drug dealer from the community.—APP






CM praises LDA for adopting digital processes

LAHORE: Under the guidance of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) has launched an online approval system for residential building maps. This initiative allows citizens to obtain approvals from the comforts of their homes without having to visit the LDA office or wait in long queues. The chief minister commended the LDA for implementing this online system, which includes map approval requests, map uploads, processing, and payment all handled digitally. In the case of objections, corrections can be made online, and the approved map can be downloaded.—DNA

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

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

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Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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

Enquiry

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



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....561116
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Trans boundary climate resilience: a call to integration

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of IRS, stressed the necessity of cooperation in the face of global threats, particularly climate change. He noted that climate change transcends borders and has the potential to serve as "low-hanging fruit" in diplomatic negotiations, as it presents a common threat that all parties can rally around

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Senator Sherry Rehman issued an urgent warning today during a pre-COP29 seminar organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), stating that unless immediate action is taken to address the negative impacts of climate change, we will be living in a world of "want, lack, and scarcity." In her call to action, Senator Rehman stated that the destructive power of geopolitics and hyper-nationalism, which have steered the world toward global conflict, are obscuring the imminent threat of mutually assured destruction posed by climate change. The seminar, entitled "Strengthening Transboundary Resilience: Enhancing Regional Cooperation," brought together several distinguished experts to discuss critical issues and potential solutions for regional climate resilience. Keynote speaker Mr. Usman e Ghani, Additional Commissioner of Indus Waters at the Ministry of Water Resources, provided an in-depth overview of the Indus Waters Treaty. He highlighted the treaty's various elements, from data sharing to dispute resolution, and its lasting



relevance as a potential mechanism for transboundary water resilience. Mr. Ghani said that the treaty could become a powerful tool for cooperation if both sides fully committed to its implementation. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan and the session's chair, expressed optimism about the upcoming COP29, hosted by Azerbaijan. He emphasised the importance of global solidarity,

the mobilisation of international climate finance, and the need for an inclusive process, stating that COP29 will be the most "significant international event of 2024." Dr. Samuel Rizk, UNDP country representative, addressed the pressing issue of water scarcity, describing it as a defining global challenge. He stressed that water scarcity is a "zero-sum game" and that the central goal of climate diplomacy should be to identify scenarios where all parties can benefit to create win-win situations.

Dr. Najibullah Sadid, an independent scholar with experience at the Federal Waterways Engineering and Research Institute (BAW), discussed Afghanistan's water issues, including water quality and connectivity with Central Asian states. He called for a long-term vision in policymaking, criticising the current short-sighted approaches in the region. Ms.

Farrah Naz, country director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), highlighted the agricultural challenges facing South Asia, which is already home to 40 per cent of the world's poor and malnourished. She warned that climate change is projected to reduce crop production by 10-40 per cent in the region by the end of the century, exacerbating food insecurity. Urbanisation, rising sea levels, and increasing soil salinity are all contributing to the region's growing challenges. In his remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of IRS, stressed the necessity of cooperation in the face of global threats, particularly climate change. He noted that climate change transcends borders and has the potential to serve as "low-hanging fruit" in diplomatic negotiations, as it presents a common threat that all parties can rally around. Finally, Talha Tufail Bhatti, an environmental scholar leading the "Strengthening Regional Climate Resilience Program" at the IRS, said that the institute's is looking forward to hosting more seminars of this nature, expressing the importance of continued dialogue and collaboration in the fight against climate change.

Minister endorses NAVTTC-NUST agreement

ISLAMABAD: In alignment with the Prime Minister of Pakistan's vision to harness the potential of the country's burgeoning youth for economic growth, the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) has signed a landmark Joint Venture Agreement with the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). The agreement, which aims to provide specialized training in chip design and manufacturing, was formalized today at NAVTTC headquarters in Islamabad. The training program, structured to run in two cohorts over five months each, is designed to equip young Pakistanis with advanced technical skills that are increasingly in demand both locally and globally. The signing ceremony was attended by the Honorable Minister for Federal Education, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, who emphasized the importance of technological training in unlocking the potential of Pakistan's youth. "Technological training is our ticket to capitalizing on the youth bulge and an aging global population," he said. "Scientists predict that in the next two to three decades, the world will undergo a profound technological transformation. It is our responsibility to ensure that our youth are equipped with the skills that will matter most in the future. I am pleased to witness this strategic partnership today." Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Federal Secretary, also attended the ceremony and commended both NAVTTC and NUST for initiating this forward-thinking program. "We look forward to the successful implementation of this program and its potential expansion across Pakistan," he stated. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) signed a landmark Joint Venture Agreement with the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). The agreement, which aims to provide specialized training in chip design and manufacturing, was formalized today at NAVTTC headquarters in Islamabad. The signing ceremony was attended by the Honorable Minister for Federal Education, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as chief guest.—DNA

FFD forecasts flash flooding for Kirthar, Sulaiman Ranges

ISLAMABAD: The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) on Monday anticipated severe flash flooding along the Kirthar Range (Jacobabad, Qambar Shandadkot, Dadu and Jamshoro Districts) and the Sulaiman Range (D.G.Khan & Rajanpur Districts) including nullahs in Balochistan (Zhub, Loralai, Sibbi, Nasirabad and Kalat Division) besides urban flooding in major cities of Sindh during August 27 to 31 (Tuesday to Saturday). According to daily report of Federal Flood Commission, at present, River Indus is experiencing "Medium Flood" in Guddu-Sukkur reach and "Low Flood" at Kotri Barrage while all other major rivers of the Indus River System i.e. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej are discharging normal flows. Since August 19, 2024 Tarbela Reservoir is maintaining Maximum Conservation Level (MCL) of 1550 feet. However, ample storage space (26.23%) remains available in the Mangla reservoir to accommodate any potential high flows from upstream River Jhelum. The combined live storage of the country's major reservoirs (Tarbela, Chashma & Mangla) stands at 11.346 MAF which is 84.96% of the total live storage capacity of 13.354 MAF. According to FFD, Lahore, yesterday's depression over Northwestern Madhya Pradesh (India) has shifted South-Southwestwards and is now located over Southeastern Rajasthan (India). Trough of Westerly Wave extends over Northeastern Afghanistan and adjoining Pakistan, while the Seasonal Low persists over Northern Balochistan. Light moist currents from the Bay of Bengal were penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan while moderate to strong moist currents from both the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea were penetrating into Southern Sindh and adjoining areas up to 5000 feet at the reporting time. It is very likely to become intense during the next 4 days. For the next 24 hours, FFD, Lahore has predicted scattered thunderstorm rain of Moderate Intensity over Islamabad, Punjab (Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Multan, Bahawalpur & DG Khan Division) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including upper catchments of all major rivers of IRS. For the same period, scattered to widespread thunderstorm rain of Moderate Intensity with isolated Heavy Falls is expected over Southern & Southeastern Sindh besides isolated thunderstorm rain of Moderate Intensity over Punjab (Faisalabad, Sahiwal & Lahore Divisions) and Balochistan (Nasirabad, Sibbi, Loralai, Zhub & Kalat Divisions). For the extended period from 27th August to 30 August 2024, widespread thunderstorm rain of Heavy to Very Heavy intensity with isolated Extremely Heavy Falls may occur over Southern Punjab (D.G.Khan, Multan & Bahawalpur Divisions), Sindh and Balochistan (Zhub, Loralai, Sibbi, Nasirabad, Kalat & Makran Divisions). APP

Pak-Azerbaijan business forum to be held in Baku

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-Azerbaijan Business Forum, scheduled for September 16th in Baku, will be led by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, with Federal Minister for Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan also participating. The Secretary of Commerce will co-chair the 4th Pak-Azerbaijan Joint Working Group meeting, said a press release issued on Monday. The forum aims to enhance bilateral trade, with 43 Pakistani companies confirmed to attend, span various industries, including rice, fruits, vegetables, processed food, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, glass products, ceramics, transport and logistics, IT, engineering goods, and chemicals. Their participation is expected to explore potential business ventures and further strengthen trade ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, Jam Kamal Khan said. The forum will explore business opportunities and strengthen trade ties between the two nations. Ambassador Khazar Farhadov assured visa facilitation for Pakistani participants and highlighted broader areas of cooperation, including renewable energy and infrastructure. He also announced the upcoming inauguration of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce in Islamabad. The discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring robust participation from Pakistan's private sector to maximize opportunities for collaboration. Minister Jam Kamal Khan expressed optimism about the forum, describing it as a crucial step towards increasing trade volumes and laying the groundwork for sustained economic collaboration between the two countries.

ECP rejects propaganda against ECE

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), while strongly rejecting propaganda by Umer Ayub Khan, on Monday said that ECP, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other members of ECP have been continuously misrepresenting. In this connection, a wrong statement was given on a TV channel in which an allegation was levelled that total expenditure on general elections 2024 stood at Rs 14.5 billion but the ECP demanded more expenditures to the then government to get an opportunity for postponing the elections, said a statement. In fact, the total expenditure on general elections 2018 was over Rs 28 billion. In light of expenditure on general elections 2018 and other factors like inflation, increase in number of voters, polling stations, polling staff and printing of additional ballot papers, the ECP estimated the expenditure for the general elections 2024, the statement said.—APP

PSA announces World Events Calendar

ISLAMABAD: The Professional Squash Association (PSA) has today announced its 2024-25 PSA Squash Tour calendar, with more than 50 World Events scheduled to take place across five continents from August 2024 to June 2025. The season begins later this month in Cairo for the first Diamond-tier event of the new PSA Squash Tour era. With the main draw held between August 30 - September 6, the CIB Egyptian Open will also feature a qualifying draw between August 26-28, with four spots up for grabs in both the men's and women's draws, said a press release. The opening Platinum-tier tournament of the season will see the Paris Squash event move to the spectacular Cirque d'Hiver Boulogne between September 15-21, while the sport's first Copper-tier event will be held in London, Canada when the Nash Cup takes place between September 17-21. The Qatar Q-Terminals Classic is scheduled for September 30 - October 5 before the PSA Squash Tour heads to the United States and Canada for multiple events, including the Silicon Valley Open presented by Oracle NetSuite and the U.S. Open in San Francisco and Philadelphia, respectively. From there, the PSA Squash Tour moves to Asia for several tournaments, including in popular destinations such as Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Hong Kong, before the tour signs off for the winter break. 025 kicks off with the Florida Open and Squash in the Land Open, before the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions showcases the world's best players in New York's famous Grand Central Terminal in the first Platinum tournament of the New Year. North America hosts a further 10 events throughout February and March, before the tour heads to New Zealand and Australia. Several tournaments will take place in Europe in March and April, including the Optasia Championships and Grasshopper Cup, before the tour returns to Egypt for the El Gouna International (in April) and the new Palm Hills Open (in May). The biggest tournament in squash - the PSA World Championships - will be staged between May 9-17.—APP

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Briefs

ANF seizes 373 kg drugs in 10 operations

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country managed to recover 373 kg drugs worth Rs 340 million and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 783 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger arrested at Lahore Airport. 1.140 kg ice and 50 grams heroin were recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Karachi. In another operation, 190 kg heroin was recovered from Chaman area. 100 kg hashish and 22 kg opium were recovered from Pasni and Gwadar areas. 31.2 kg hashish and 1.2 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted on M-1 Motorway Islamabad and an accused was arrested during the operation. 12 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects netted near a restaurant in Quetta. 6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested on Peshawar Road Rawalpindi. 6 kg hashish was recovered from three suspects in RCD Road Hub. 2.6 kg hashish and 260 grams opium were recovered from two suspects rounded up near a university in Lahore. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.

Pharmaceutical goods export increases

ISLAMABAD: The export of Pharmaceutical goods witnessed an increase of 29.66 percent during the first month of the current financial year (2024-25), against the exports of the corresponding period of last year. The country exported pharmaceutical goods worth US \$33.971 million during July 2024 against the exports of US \$26.201 million during July 2023, showing growth of 29.66 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the pharmaceutical goods export also rose by 10.59 percent from 7,151 metric tons to 7,908 metric tons, the data revealed. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, pharmaceutical exports went up by 16.63 percent during July 2024 as compared to the exports of US \$29.128 million in June 2024, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's overall merchandise export increased by 11.77 percent in July 2024 as compared to the export of July 2023. The exports during the month were recorded at US\$2,307 million against the exports of US\$2,064 million in last July. The imports also surged by 15.90 percent to US\$4,278 million in July 2024 compared to the import of US\$3,691 million in July 2023.—APP

ISSI hosts farewell event for Palestinian ambassador

Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie expressed deep gratitude for Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestine, especially after October 7. He highlighted the tragic toll of the conflict, with most victims being women and children, and over 150,000 Palestinians killed and injured

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a farewell event in honor of H.E. Ahmad Rabaie, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan. The event was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. The speakers included: Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI; and H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie. In her remarks, Ms. Amina Khan emphasized the deep-rooted bonds between Pakistan and Palestine, built on brotherhood and solidarity. She noted Pakistan's consistent support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for a homeland and expressed gratitude for Ambassador Rabaie's efforts to strengthening the bilateral relationship. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood commended Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie for his valuable efforts to deepen the fraternal Pakistan-Palestine relations and to promote the just cause of the Palestinian people, particularly in the wake of developments since October 7, 2023. Sharing deep anguish over the relentless military onslaught against the Palestinians in Gaza, he noted that the issue pertained to decades-long ille-



gal occupation of Palestinian lands and consistent denial of their right to self-determination and separate statehood. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood underscored that Pakistan's support for the Palestinians emanated from three factors: a moral imperative to support their just

struggle for an independent state; Quaid's injunctions dating back even prior to the creation of Pakistan; and a historically consistent stance of solidarity with the Palestinians. He also drew parallels between the oppression and injustices faced by both Palestinians and Kashmiris. He

highlighted that the Government of Pakistan has consistently supported the Palestinian cause through political and diplomatic support, humanitarian aid, advocacy at the United Nations, human resource development and so on. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also emphasized that

Pakistan remains steadfast in its position that the Palestinian people must have a viable sovereign and independent state, based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. He concluded by thanking Ambassador Rabaie for his services and wishing him well in his future

endeavors. Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie expressed deep gratitude for Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestine, especially after October 7. He highlighted the tragic toll of the conflict, with most victims being women and children, and over 150,000 Palestinians killed and injured. He praised Pakistan's swift response, including the formation of a committee to send vital humanitarian aid. Ambassador Rabaie also acknowledged Pakistan's unmatched diplomatic and political support at the United Nations. He was moved by the active support of Pakistan's youth, who have actively raised their voices against the ongoing genocide and expressed hope for the future. Ambassador Rabaie especially thanked ISSI for its consistent focus on the Gaza situation and its support and solidarity with the Palestinians at this difficult time. In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood reflected on Pakistan's enduring support for Palestine, which also existed pre partition as Quaid-e-Azam was a staunch supporter of the Palestinian people. This solidarity continues till date. He also noted the challenging times for Palestine and expressed deep sympathy for the suffering Palestinian nation. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the Palestinian cause which continues to grow stronger.

First-ever workshop on space law on Sept 3

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), in collaboration with the Institute of Space Technology (IST), is set to host Pakistan's inaugural Workshop on 'Space Law and Policy' on September 03-04. According to the NCGSA, this ground breaking event will be the first of its kind in the country, focusing on the critical and emerging domains of space law and policy. With the increasing relevance of space activities in global geopolitics and national security, this workshop aims to equip participants with the knowledge needed to navigate the complex legal and regulatory frameworks governing space. Resource persons from renowned

organizations including Access Partnership, Singapore; Pakistan Space Activities Regulatory Board (PSARB); National Defence University (NDU), Pakistan; Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), China; and the National Center for Cyber Security (NCCS), Pakistan, will share their expertise and insights during the two-day event. The key topics on the agenda include International Space Treaties and Agreements, Space Governance and Regulatory Frameworks, National Space Policy of Pakistan, Space Diplomacy, Liability and Insurance in Space Activities, and Space Sustainability focusing on debris and environmental protection. The workshop will also address the increasingly critical issues of Space Security and Cyber Security, reflecting

the intersecting challenges that lie at the forefront of contemporary space law and policy discussions. This landmark event represents a significant step forward for Pakistan in the global space community, aligning with the objectives of the newly approved National Space Policy. It positions the country to actively engage in and contribute to international space law and policy, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and setting the stage for future developments in this essential field. This workshop underscores the NCGSA's dedication to advancing Pakistan's capabilities in space activities and governance. Mandated by the Higher Education Commission, NCGSA plays a pivotal role in fostering academic excellence and research in space science and technology.

Bilawal condemns killing of innocent citizens

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has strongly condemned the killing of innocent citizens by the terrorists and anti-Pakistan forces in Musa Khel, Balochistan. In a statement, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that it is strongly condemned that innocent people were targeted after identifying them through their identity cards. He said this act of terror should and must not go without punishment for the perpetrators of this heinous crime. This is an inhuman act and every section of society should come together against these criminals, he added. Chairman PPP asked the Balochistan government to crush such elements and bring them to book. He said that the action against such criminals will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated. Bilawal Bhutto prayed for the departed souls and also sympathised with the bereaved families. The PPP is with the bereaved families in these difficult times, Bilawal said.—APP

Death anniversary of Khalida Riasat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 28th death anniversary of renowned television artist Khalida Riasat was observed on Monday. Born in January 1, 1953 in Karachi, she began her professional career in 1970's with drama serial 'Naamdar'. However, she got popularity from Ha-seena Moin's drama serial 'Bandish'. Her famous TV series, series and long plays include 'Half-Plate', 'Ta'abeer', 'Khaleej', 'Parosi', 'Panah', and 'Dasht-e-Tanhai'. She died of cancer on August 26, 1996 in Karachi.

Ministry taking all steps to modernize education system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has taken a significant stride towards modernizing education by initiating various projects in collaboration with private sector. It is imperative for private public partnership to join hands for enhancing the infrastructure and quality of education in government schools federal capital. In this regard Federal Secretary

education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani representative from Pak Arab fertilizer company Brigadier Abid Ali Askari and principal prof Asiya rafique malik signed memorandum of understanding and the company sponsored 30 computers for IMCG F8/1 college lab. The Chief guest Mr Wani, in his speech shared his vision to equip youth with the latest skills and increase their employment opportunities. He shared that various projects in partnership with the

private sector are being executed by the ministry for enhancing the infrastructure and quality of education. He concluded that the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is committed to providing the best educational facilities to students in government schools. It's the time that students and parents think beyond Doctors and engineering profession and must join all other fields and serve the country. He added.

Experts call for boosting PV panel manufacturing

ISLAMABAD: The experts at a consultative session on solar panel manufacturing prospects in Pakistan on Monday demanded the government to introduce special incentives and financial support mechanisms to boost solar or photovoltaic panels that would help the country achieve a competitive position in the global market. The second Collaborative Consultative Session titled "Shaping the Future of PV Panel Manufacturing in Pakistan", hosted by the U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCASE), NUST, in collaboration with Renewables First, a news release said. The session brought together existing and prospective solar PV manufacturers alongside industry experts to discuss the enabling environment for solar PV supply chains, financing mechanisms, and potential technology transfer opportunities. Princi-

pal & Dean of USPCASE, NUST, Dr. Adeel Waqas initiated the session by emphasizing proactive measures to overcome barriers and harness collaborative efforts to drive growth in PV panel manufacturing in Pakistan. Director Policy - PPIB, Dr. Aqeel Jaffri provided an update on the progress of the existing Solar PV Manufacturing Policy draft and emphasized the need for further refinement to ensure its effective implementation. He highlighted key areas for improvement, including taxation, the import of raw materials, and export strategies for the final product. Dr. Jaffri mentioned the importance of targeting the local market, particularly in sectors like glass production to strengthen domestic capabilities. Research Fellow - SDPI, Dr. Khalid Waleed stressed that the policy should incorporate incentives, tax grants, and

subsidies to provide Pakistan with a competitive edge on the international stage. He also highlighted the importance of developing long-term projects and policy plans to ensure sustained growth and stability in the industry. Chief Operating Officer - REON Energy, Saqib Zaidi stressed that the policy framework needs to be aggressive and strongly favor investors to attract and sustain investment in the industry and he also pointed out that local manufacturing becomes competitive with a 30% subsidy or financing support mechanisms. Deliberating on technology transfer options, Country Director - Longi Solar, Ali Majid shared that Chinese investors and manufacturers are showing growing interest in Pakistan, driven by the country's high potential and the slowing growth in China, which is prompting investors to seek oppor-

ties abroad. Chief of Party - PFAN, Ahmed Ammar Yasser emphasized the need to focus on allied components of solar PV system, which may be easier to localize in the short term. He underscored the potential benefits of strengthening partnerships with Chinese companies mentioning the current global geopolitical shifts. Asim Riaz, Secretary General - Pakistan Solar Association highlighted that with the current industrial status in Pakistan, panel manufacturers may not meet the international product standards, unless any international industry facilitates through technology transfer. Discussing the financing outlook for the manufacturing industry in Pakistan, Abid Kitchlew, EVP - National Bank of Pakistan, emphasized the crucial need for government support to ensure funding availability for manufacturing projects.—APP



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China's GDP growth

CHINA concluded its third plenum last month, which came off the back of lower-than-expected second-quarter GDP growth of 4.7 per cent. The outcome of the plenary session was a disappointment, once again, for Western analysts who seem bent on pressing China for more stimulus to boost its gross domestic product. Economic development is a tenet of China's social contract. President Xi Jinping warned, in his new year speech, that "some enterprises had a tough time", and "some people had difficulty finding jobs and meeting basic needs". The magnitude of China's economic slowdown is not lost on its leadership. But sustainability is also a tenet of the social contract, and economic growth should not be achieved to the detriment of sustainability – this, too, is not lost on China's leadership. China cannot claim to support globalisation yet brush aside the concerns of Western analysts. So its policy agenda is a delicate juggling act of Western concerns and its social contract. A case in point: it announced US\$42 billion of stimulus for consumption, but not before earmarking US\$139 billion for public projects. China's leadership is profoundly influenced by the philosophical notion of "harmony", which dates back thousands of years and continues to feature prominently in its policy agenda. In "harmony", the cause-effect relationship isn't linear but a dynamic cycle of change and balance, so a linear approach can lead to an incomplete assessment of China. Unlike "harmony", the modern form of GDP is an American notion developed in the 1930s. Once lauded by the US Department of Commerce as "one of the great inventions of the 20th century", it has become the yardstick for the global pecking order, with the US-led Group of Seven (G7) at the pinnacle. GDP serves a critical function and was instrumental in global development after the second world war. But each country's development path is different, and a blind pursuit of GDP growth can create unintended effects. China is one such case and it is not alone. Other notable examples include Japan's "lost decades", the Asian financial crisis and the European debt crisis. The circumstances were different, but excessive debt for GDP growth was a common factor. For China, the remedy calls for long and arduous structural adjustments, which will slow the economy as it undergoes a transformation and excesses are drained out. In 2014, China ditched hard GDP targets and ushered in the "new normal" with a soft target of "around" 7 per cent for 2015. Actual growth for 2015 came in at 6.9 per cent, then the lowest in 25 years, which prompted some Western analysts to raise serious doubts about the "China miracle". China's GDP growth continued to slow, but its transformation gathered pace and was calibrated in response to shifting risks: the "new normal" evolved into "high-quality development" which was refined into the "new quality productive forces" that featured prominently at the third plenum. China's high GDP growth led to excesses, allowing corruption and inequality to fester. With targeted stimulus, it can plug excesses, and this, coupled with its anti-corruption campaign – which has been going on for over a decade – will reinforce its efforts to halt the misallocation of resources intended for its social contract. Restoring investor and consumer confidence is vital for China's economy. But it's also crucial to restore confidence in the function of society, which came under duress during the era of high GDP growth. "Common prosperity" looks to restore this with a greener and fairer society – even if there is no immediate GDP boost.



Fukushima dumping marks one year

IT has been one year since Japan began dumping nuclear-contaminated wastewater into the ocean despite broad opposition. So far, some 60,000 tons of water from Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have been discharged as part of Japan's 30-year program to dump around one million tons of nuclear-contaminated wastewater into the ocean. The relentless dumping, the frequent leakage accidents, and the opaque handling of the situation in the past year have greatly tarnished the reputation of TEPCO and the Japanese government, eroding public trust and sparking much wider backlashes, observers said. Over the past year, Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) has released 60,000 tons of treated water from its crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, Asahi Shimbun reported on Saturday. One day ahead of the first anniversary, which fell on Saturday, the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations of Japan reiterated its unchanged opposition against the dumping. In the event of a major accident or trouble in the future, the trust and understanding built up with fishermen and the public could be lost in an instant, said the group, urging Japanese government and TEPCO to bear this in mind, local media reported. The disposal of contaminated water has resulted in the cessation of many seafood imports from Japan by multiple countries, including China and Russia. During the past year, Japan has been calling on those countries to drop the ban, citing data from the ALPS-treated contaminated water that has met international standards. ALPS refers to the Advanced Liquid Processing System which treats the Fukushima water before it is discharged. In response to Japan's call to ease the seafood import restrictions, the Environment and Ecology Bureau of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region said on Saturday on Facebook that considering the unprecedented length of time and scale of the discharge, coupled with the potential catastrophic consequences for marine ecology and food safety in the event of any mistakes, Hong Kong has taken preventive measures, including restricting imports of seafood and related products from the highest-risk areas in Japan. Throughout the past year or so, multiple incidents related to the Fukushima nuclear power plant have occurred, with seven cases reported by the media, including employees needing to be hospitalized due to accidents and the nearby environment being polluted. The latest incident occurred only two weeks ago, with an average of about one incident every two months. Considering Japan's management and monitoring capability over the Fukushima plant and the serious consequences that may result in the future, it is necessary and scientific for Hong Kong to take practical measures to prevent it, the bureau said. "If the situation deteriorates, it is not ruled out that further measures may be necessary to enhance the protection of food safety in Hong Kong," said the Bureau. In South Korea, opponents of the ocean dumping held a press conference outside the country's National Assembly on Thursday to mark the first anniversary of the start of Japan's release of contaminated water, South Korean media reported.

US National Security Strategy and the Global Order

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Technological innovation, particularly in the development of new weapons, adds another layer of complexity to managing national security priorities. The proliferation of nuclear and ballistic missile technologies, for example, has required continuous reassessment of which countries or groups pose significant risks. As technological barriers to acquiring weapons of mass destruction have decreased, the list of potential threats has expanded. This expansion now includes not only...

THE dissolution of the Soviet Union represents a significant turning point in global geopolitics, marking the end of the Cold War and the emergence of a unipolar world dominated by the United States. This geopolitical shift led to a reevaluation of global threats, particularly concerning Russia, which had long been considered the primary adversary of the United States. The immediate post-Cold War period saw American policymakers relegating Russia to a lower priority in national security strategy documents. This decision stemmed from the perception that Russia, weakened and fragmented after the collapse of the Soviet Union, no longer posed an immediate threat to U.S. interests. Consequently, Russia was largely omitted from key national security assessments, a move that reflects the broader strategic recalibration of the U.S. in a rapidly changing global landscape.

One of the most notable aspects of this period was the removal of Russia from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, a Cold War-era legislation that imposed trade restrictions on non-market economies that violated human rights. This legislative shift was indicative of the broader American policy approach that sought to integrate Russia into the global economic system, with the hope that such integration would foster democratic reforms and reduce the likelihood of future conflicts. However, this period of relative neglect towards Russia proved to be short-lived. Under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, Russia reasserted itself as a significant global power, challenging the U.S. and its allies on multiple fronts. The resurgence of Russia as a strategic threat underscores the exceptional nature of the brief period during which Washington downgraded Moscow as a national security priority. What makes this episode particularly noteworthy is the extent to which the U.S. bureaucracy adapted to the changing threat landscape. It is rare for a nation to completely remove a significant adversary from its National Security Strategy and even more unusual for there to be a broad consensus among foreign policy officials regarding such a decision. This period highlights the dynamic nature of national security priorities and the challenges that come with recalibrating these priorities in response to global changes. The case of Russia demonstrates that threats can be downgraded but not necessarily eliminated, as geopolitical real-

ities often shift, bringing old adversaries back to the forefront of national security concerns.

This fluidity in threat assessment is not unique to the case of Russia. Transnational threats, such as terrorism, also fluctuate over time but rarely disappear entirely. The U.S. National Security Strategy of 1987, for example, identified terrorism as a major national security concern, a threat that persisted into the 1990s and intensified following the September 11, 2001 attacks. The 9/11 attacks were a watershed moment that reshaped U.S. foreign policy, leading to the declaration of a global war on terror. For nearly two decades, this war on terror dominated U.S. security discourse and policy. However, over time, U.S. officials began to successfully downgrade terrorism as a central threat, both in official documents and in public discourse. Despite this downgrading, the threat of terrorism has proven resilient. The attacks by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, served as a stark reminder that terrorism remains a potent threat that can quickly reemerge as a top priority. This resurgence of terrorism as a significant security concern underscores the challenges in managing and prioritizing transnational threats. Even when a threat appears to have been contained or reduced, it can reassert itself, forcing policymakers to once again elevate it in national security considerations. Technological innovation, particularly in the development of new weapons, adds another layer of complexity to managing national security priorities. The proliferation of nuclear and ballistic missile technologies, for example, has required continuous reassessment of which countries or groups pose significant risks. As technological barriers to acquiring weapons of mass destruction have decreased, the list of potential threats has expanded. This expansion now includes not only major powers like China and Russia but also smaller states such as Iran and North Korea and even non-state actors like the Islamic State and the Houthis. The diffusion of advanced military technologies to a broader range of actors complicates threat assessments and forces constant reevaluation of national security priorities. This challenge is further compounded by the evolving importance of resources in global security. Historically, resources such as coal and petroleum were critical to war efforts and thus were central to national security strategies. Today,

however, the focus has shifted to critical minerals like cobalt and lithium, which are essential for the development of green technologies. The competition for these resources has raised concerns about potential conflicts, as countries vie for control over the supply chains of these critical materials.

The transition from traditional to new resources presents a dilemma for policymakers: should they prioritize securing access to these emerging resources, or should they continue to focus on traditional energy sources that remain vital to current economic and military operations? This question has become particularly pressing in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The conflict has placed immense pressure on global energy supply chains, particularly in Europe and Africa, where countries have been forced to secure access to oil, coal and natural gas to maintain energy stability. At the same time, the urgency of addressing climate change and the shift away from carbon-based energy have driven nations to seek out the components necessary for green technologies. The tension between these competing priorities—securing traditional energy resources versus transitioning to green energy—has sparked a growing debate within the United States. This debate centers on whether the federal government should prioritize the security of traditional energy sources like oil and gas or focus on accelerating the transition to renewable energy. The outcome of this debate will have significant implications for U.S. national security, as the direction taken will influence both the country's energy independence and its ability to compete in the global arena.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the subsequent recalibration of U.S. national security priorities illustrate the fluid nature of global threats. The brief period during which Russia was downgraded as a strategic concern is an exception rather than the rule, as most threats, whether transnational or resource-based, fluctuate but seldom disappear entirely. The challenges of managing these threats are further complicated by technological advancements and the evolving importance of resources. As the global landscape continues to shift, U.S. policymakers must remain vigilant and adaptable, constantly reassessing and reprioritizing national security concerns to effectively address the complex and interconnected challenges of the 21st century.

Putin's visit to Baku deepens Iran's Caucasus concerns

Dr. Muhammed Al-Sulmani

These developments are particularly alarming for Iran as they fuel Turkish and Azerbaijani nationalist sentiments, posing significant threats to its territorial integrity and regional sovereignty. The rising prominence of the Azerbaijan issue along the Iran-Azerbaijan border has the potential to reignite separatist movements, a deeply sensitive matter for Tehran. Given Iran's diverse population and its complex geographical distribution across borders, these nationalist stirrings could spark secessionist movements not only in the Caucasus but in other regions as well...

ALTHOUGH Iran and Russia have cultivated closer ties in recent years, particularly since the onset of Russia's war on Ukraine, which has suggested the possibility of a deeper military alliance, Moscow's actions sometimes reveal underlying tensions between the two nations. This was highlighted by Iran's reaction to President Vladimir Putin's visit to Baku last week and his meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, which reignited Tehran's fears about its strategic interests in the Caucasus. These concerns have been exacerbated by the shifts in regional power dynamics following the 2020 war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which disrupted decades of stability and weakened Iran's influence in the region. Historically, this region has not aligned with Iran's interests; instead, it has been a battleground where the vital and essential interests of both Iran and Russia intersect, directly impacting their security and stability. Both nations once exerted sovereignty over this area, leading to a long history of conflicts and disputes. This overlap in interests likely explains Russia's hesitation to deepen its partnership with Iran, particularly in this region, as doing so could bolster Tehran's influence as a regional competitor. Moreover, Russia's key arrangements in the area are seen by Iran as a significant threat to its strategic interests. Putin's visit to Azerbaijan unsettled Iran, as it signaled Russia's intent to revitalize its diplomacy and reinforce its interests in one of its traditional spheres of influence, rather than fully sever ties with the West. Central to this agenda is Putin's push for a peace agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which would redefine the borders and potentially expand the territory of Azerbaijan, a historical rival of Iran. Tehran views these developments as a strategic realignment that favors Russia, Azerbaijan and Turkey at the expense of its own influence. Iran perceives that Putin's agenda in the Cauca-

sus aligns with the interests of Turkey and Azerbaijan, particularly as he backs the establishment of the Zangezur corridor. Russian pressure to realize this project could shift the balance of power in Azerbaijan's favor against Iran, severing the land link between Iran and Armenia and hindering the flow of Iranian goods through Armenia. This corridor could also diminish the benefits Iran expects from the North-South Corridor and undermine its role in the proposed international trade routes between East and West. Moreover, Turkey, Iran's regional rival, would gain significant influence as the corridor connects it directly to Central Asia, creating a geopolitical and economic arc encircling Iran from the north. The situation might escalate further, as Armenia, displeased with Putin's growing ties with Azerbaijan, has accused Russian peacekeeping forces of inaction during Azerbaijan's swift recapture of the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 2023. As a result, Armenia suspended its participation in the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization and began aligning more closely with the West, sending humanitarian aid to Ukraine and joining the International Criminal Court, which has issued an arrest warrant for Putin. For Iran, this shift signals several concerning developments. First, the West could gain a new strategic foothold near Iran, potentially inviting NATO and the US into the region, heightening threats to its security. Second, Russia's presence and influence in Iran's strategic sphere could grow, with Moscow offering unprecedented support to Azerbaijan. Lastly, the Caucasus may become a cold war zone, sparking new alliances and conflicts that could drain and weaken Iran. These developments are particularly alarming for Iran as they fuel Turkish and Azerbaijani nationalist sentiments, posing significant threats to its territorial integrity and regional sovereignty. The ris-

ing prominence of the Azerbaijan issue along the Iran-Azerbaijan border has the potential to reignite separatist movements, a deeply sensitive matter for Tehran. Given Iran's diverse population and its complex geographical distribution across borders, these nationalist stirrings could spark secessionist movements not only in the Caucasus but in other regions as well, exacerbating internal rebellions against the Iranian state.

In light of these dynamics, the Caucasus region seems poised to enter a new phase of international and regional competition, with potential transformations that are unlikely to favor Iran. The risk of renewed conflict looms large, particularly after Russia withdrew its peacekeeping forces from the disputed region in April, leading to intermittent clashes. However, this time, the conflict may extend beyond the two neighboring countries in the Caucasus, attracting multiple players with their own agendas. This could introduce a range of risks for Iran, potentially forcing it to open a new front to defend its sovereignty, interests or waning influence in the region. Iran's adversaries are likely to exploit this conflict to exhaust and weaken the country, using it as leverage to impact its standing on other fronts. In conclusion, Russia's actions and positions frequently raise concerns in Iran, highlighting that their cooperation is often based on temporary, necessity-driven interests. This underscores the limitations of Iran's eastward pivot, particularly toward Russia, as Moscow shows little hesitation in sidelining Iran when their interests diverge. In the Caucasus, Russia's maneuvers are likely to revive historical and geopolitical tensions between the two nations, imposing clear limits on their cooperation. This is especially evident given the numerous instances where Iran has not received the support it anticipated from Russia.

Briefs

40 people martyred in multiple...

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They said the security operation would continue until the terrorists were eliminated. In another horrific incident, armed men killed at least 23 passengers in Balochistan's Musakhel district after flooding them from trucks and buses. According to SP Ayub Achakzai, armed men stopped the vehicles on the national highway in the Rarah Sham area of Musa Khel and killed at least 23 passengers hailing from different parts of Punjab. During the action, the armed men also set 10 vehicles on fire. SP Ayub Achakzai said the Frontier Corps (FC), police, and Levies currently in the process of transferring the bodies to the hospital. At least one dead, several injured and train services have been suspended after a blast in the Bolan, Balochistan. According to railway sources, the blast occurred last night in the Dozan area of Bolan, destroying the railway bridge.

Patients flee Gaza...

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rapid exodus even though the Israeli military said medical facilities would not be affected by its operations. Speaking to AFP on Sunday from her hospital bed outside the facility, Tamam Al-Raei said she did not know where to seek safety. "I have a war injury. I have broken bones and have had an amputation, and I have been receiving treatment for that," she said. "But now they're telling us to evacuate Al-Aqsa. Where do we go? Where do I get treatment?" All around her, families tried to flee, the wealthiest among them hiring donkey-drawn carts to transport their belongings. Others carried patients in their arms, including one teenager who had lost the use of his legs and was clutching a bag of intravenous fluid.

Imran: Will talk...

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yet I seek no relief." He expressed concerns about the living conditions of his wife, Bushra Bibi, saying that rats have infested her room, even falling from the ceiling as she prays. Additionally, Imran criticised the leadership of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), questioning the qualifications of Mohsin Naqvi, who he claims was appointed despite being implicated in a 2008 NAB case. Imran reiterated his stance that if anything happens to him, the responsibility will lie with the DG ISI and the Army Chief. Meanwhile, Weeks after the Supreme Court announced its short order in the reserved seats case, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday pleaded with the top court to get its July 12 ruling implemented after the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) raised multiple objections in executing the short order.

UK riots: Lahore...

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The Lahore police had arrested the suspect on the charges of publishing "fake news" story that allegedly triggered widespread anti-immigrant riots in the UK. The riots saw numerous mosques, asylum centres and immigrant homes being attacked in several regions of Britain. In Pakistan, Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime wing was investigating the charges against Asif. During the hearing today, the investigation officer (IO) informed a judicial magistrate's court in Lahore that the "news" about the murder had been shared on the social media previously and suspect Asif had only "re-shared" it. "The allegations have been investigated from every aspect and no evidence against the suspect has been found," the IO stated. At this, the court inquired about the time and person with whom the suspect shared the news.



ISLAMABAD: Former World Squash Champion Jan Sher Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Mohamed Salah bags another Liverpool record

Egyptian star has scored two goals in as many Premier League games

WEB DESK

LONDON: Mohamed Salah bagged another notable Liverpool feat in the two-nil victory over Brentford. Luis Diaz opened the scoring for Arne Slot's side and the Colombian also set up the second, firing an incisive pass for the Egyptian after Liverpool counter-pressed brilliantly. That's now two goals in two games for Salah and it was another Anfield goal - he managed 13 last season in the league - but today's strike saw him leapfrog Robbie Fowler in the all-time list of scorers at the famous stadium. Salah is now the outright fifth-highest scorer at Anfield in all competitions with 118 goals, moving ahead of Fowler with 117. As it stands, only Ian Rush (185), Roger Hunt (173), Gordon Hodgson (159), and Billy Liddell (137) are ahead of him. In terms of the total goals for the club, Salah also sits fifth on the list. Only the aforementioned quartet of



Liddell (228) Hodgson (241) Hunt (285) and Rush (346) sit ahead of him and there is a real chance he can jump up a few places on the list with another strong campaign. He managed 25 in all competitions last season and, despite being 32, he is showing no signs of slowing down. With his current deal set to expire next summer, there is a real worry that the situation hasn't been resolved yet. Given his clear ongoing importance to the side, his contract situation will be right at the top of the priority list for the club's higher-ups when the transfer window shuts. The same goes for Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold as the trio stand out as three of the club's most important players. Next up is Manchester United at Old Trafford - a ground and opponent that has been a personal favourite of Salah. In 15 games in all competitions against the Red Devils, Salah has 14 goals and four assists, including a hat-trick in 2021 and a goal in both the league and FA Cup at their ground last season.

Pakistan lose WTC points for slow over-rate

Pakistan remain in the eighth spot in the World Test Championship standings, while Bangladesh dropped to seventh and behind South Africa as a result of the sanction. England climbed from sixth to fourth place, pushing Sri Lanka down to fifth

LAHORE: Pakistan have been docked six World Test Championship points for a slow over-rate during the first Test against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi. Bangladesh have also lost three points for the same reason. Pakistan were fined 30% of their match fee while Bangladesh were penalised 15%. Captains Shan Masood and Najmul Hossain Shanto pleaded guilty to the offences and accepted the proposed sanctions, so there was no need for formal hearings. Pakistan remain in the eighth spot in the World Test Championship standings, while Bangladesh dropped to seventh and behind South Africa as a result of the sanction. England climbed from sixth to fourth place, pushing Sri Lanka down to fifth. Despite the win in first Test, England's chances of reaching the WTC final remain slim. Sri Lanka, like England, are still mathematically in contention for the final but face a challenging path ahead. Remember, Pakistan lost to Bangladesh by 10 wickets in Rawalpindi. This was the first time Bangladesh defeated Pakistan in a Test match as the previous 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. - DNA

Ceasefire talks stall..

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Advisor Jake Sullivan stated that the United States was still "feverishly" working in Cairo to broker both a ceasefire and a deal on the hostages. A central issue in the ongoing negotiations, mediated by the United States, Egypt, and Qatar, involves the Philadelphi Corridor, a 14.5-kilometre-long stretch along Gaza's southern border with Egypt. Israeli forces have maintained a presence in this corridor, and several alternatives to this presence were proposed but rejected by both parties, according to Egyptian sources. Israel also raised concerns about some Palestinian detainees Hamas is demanding be released, with Israel insisting these individuals must leave Gaza if they are freed. Significant exchanges have taken place since Thursday between teams from Israel, the US, and Egypt in an effort to resolve the remaining differences. On Saturday, Qatar and Egypt met with senior Hamas representatives to discuss the proposal in detail. On Sunday, Israeli officials joined the talks, though it remains unclear whether any major progress was made.

Red Bull term Norris dominance 'alarming' and 'scary'

Max Verstappen is now winless in five races

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Red Bull admitted that the dominant manner of Lando Norris's victory at the Dutch Grand Prix is a concern for their hopes of winning both F1 world championships. Norris recovered from a poor start to overtake Red Bull's Max Verstappen, before storming to an emphatic second win of the season by a margin of nearly 23 seconds in his upgraded McLaren. The result has seen Norris reduce Verstappen's lead in the drivers' championship to 70 points, while McLaren have closed to within 30 points of Red Bull in the constructors' standings, with nine races remaining. Red Bull motorsport adviser Helmut Marko told Autosport after the race that Norris's dominance at Zandvoort was "alarming" and made it clear that he believes McLaren are a threat to both world titles this year. Verstappen is now winless in five races, with his last victory coming at the Spanish Grand Prix in June. "This weekend was just a bad weekend in general. So we need to understand that," the Dutchman said. "But the last few races already, they haven't really been fantastic. So that, I think in a sense, was already a bit alarming. But we know that we don't need to panic. We are just trying to improve the situation. And that's what we are working on. But F1 is very



complicated." Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez, who finished sixth, admitted he is also concerned by McLaren's immense pace, describing it as "scary". "I think in terms of weekend progression it has been a solid one," Perez told the official F1 channel. "But I'm just very disappointed with the pace we had today in the race. It's something we were not expecting to have. I thought we were going to be a lot closer to the McLaren. Ferrari was a massive surprise and obviously McLaren. So plenty of stuff to understand." "I think it has been a positive weekend for the team because we ran different specs between Max and myself so a lot of data gathering for this weekend and hopefully very soon we can put everything together in the right package.

Chakwal district authorities pledge support to PODA

The PODA team met with Dr. Abdul Waheed, CEO of the District Education Authority, and received appreciation for the organization's work on constitutional right of children

DNA

CHAKWAL: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing meeting was held between PODA and the office of the Chief Executive Officer, District Health Department, Chakwal, on Monday, to formalize collaboration in implementing awareness-raising activities under the project "Reduce Early Marriages to Enhance Gender Equality" funded by the Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad. During the MOU signing meeting, Dr. Anjum Qadeer, Chief Executive Officer - Health, District Chakwal, appreciated PODA's efforts in protecting the rights of children, particularly adolescent girls. He guaranteed an effective partnership with PODA, stating that within the next month, he would invite PODA to present their case on reducing child marriages to a specialized audience of health professionals, with the aim of securing endorsement from the medical fraternity of the district to increase minimum age of marriage of girls to 18 years. The PODA team, comprising Nabeela Aslam, Project Manager, Naheeda Abbasi, Manager of the PODA Rural Women Net-



work for Civic Leadership and Participation, and Bakhtawar Bashir Mirza, Manager-Admin and HR, met with other staff members of the District Health Authority, including Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, District Health Officer (DHO), and Dr. Rahat Raza, APW-MO/DTC, DHA, /District TB Coordinator. The PODA team met with Dr. Abdul Waheed, CEO of the District Education Authority, and received appreciation for the organization's work on the constitutional right of children, as enshrined in Article 25-A of the constitution. During the meeting, the PODA team provided a briefing on their initiatives. Dr. Waheed welcomed the opportunity for collaboration and offered his department's intensive support to PODA, focusing on addressing the issue of out-of-school children in the district, on which his office is already working. The PODA team held a separate meeting with Waseem Abbas, Deputy Director of the District Social Welfare Department, Chakwal, who expressed keen interest in PODA's activities and projects. He expressed his commitment to tackling the issue of child marriages in the district and assured the PODA of his full support in their efforts to address this critical issue.

Fraternal ties with China...

FROM PAGE 01
at the General Headquarters today. The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation. COAS General Syed Asim Munir underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People's Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between the two nations. The visiting dignitary expressed admiration for Pakistan's concerted efforts in combating terrorism and extremism, acknowledging the unwavering professionalism and dedication of the Pakistan Army. COAS General Syed Asim Munir expressed his gratitude to the dignitary, reiterating that Pakistan deeply cherishes its fraternal ties with China. Earlier, upon arrival at the General Headquarters, General Li Qiaoming paid respects at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada by laying a floral wreath, and was presented with a guard of honor by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Army, in a ceremonial display of respect and hospitality.

Pak-China military...

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satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges, noting that the defense and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region. These relations form the foundation of their bilateral relationship. General Li, in his remarks, affirmed that China, as an iron brother, strategic partner, and reliable friend, places the highest priority on its relationship with Pakistan. He expressed China's desire to elevate their bilateral friendship to new levels of cooperation and collaboration. Recognizing the role of Pakistan's armed forces in promoting regional peace and stability and combating terrorism, General Li reiterated the PLA's commitment to further expanding its cooperation with Pakistan to enhance the capacity building of the two armed forces. The two sides focused on various aspects of the Pakistan-China friendship, particularly the bilateral defense and strategic partnership.

AI urges transparency...

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WhatsApp when connected to mobile data, and experiencing slow browsing speeds, even on broadband. "Amnesty International urges the Pakistani authorities to be transparent about the cause of these internet disruptions and ensure that they do not deploy monitoring and surveillance systems that are unnecessary, disproportionate, and in violation of international human rights law," the rights group said in a statement on Monday. "The opacity of the Pakistani authorities regarding the use of monitoring and surveillance technologies that block content, slow down, and control internet speeds is an alarming concern," it said. "Time and again, the use of such technologies, including national firewalls, has proven to be incompatible with human rights.

Tarar launches 'Operation...

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has been introduced. In his statement, Tarar outlined his commitment to eliminating bribery, addressing incompetence, and combating fake news on the state-run public broadcast channel. The Minister also announced plans to hire professional anchors and producers to improve programming quality. Additionally, Tarar indicated that measures would be taken against those conducting malicious social media campaigns against the reforms.

Briefs

Australia registers record high winter temperature

SYDNEY: Australia registered a record-high winter temperature Monday, with the mercury hitting 41.6 degrees Celsius (106.7 degrees Fahrenheit) in a part of the country's rugged and remote northwest coast. The Bureau of Meteorology said it logged the scorching reading from a military training facility at Yampi Sound at 3:37 pm local time – smashing the previous record by 0.4 degrees Celsius. A Bureau of Meteorology spokesperson told AFP that the reading was “the hottest August temperature for any location in Australia” and “the new Australia-wide maximum temperature record for any winter month.” While the record is “provisionally confirmed”, scientists still have to make sure the recording was not the result of some local anomaly or instrument failure before it officially enters the record books. The previous record of 41.2 degrees Celsius was set in August 2020 at nearby West Roebuck. The antipodean winter runs from the beginning of June until the end of August. Climate scientists have already predicted that 2024 will be the hottest year for the Earth on record. From January to July, global temperatures were 0.7 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

In recent decades, as human-caused carbon emissions have risen, temperature records have tumbled worldwide. In the last few weeks alone record temperatures have been recorded in the Mediterranean Sea, Norway's Arctic Svalbard archipelago and the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. — Agencies

Over 260 int'l flights cross Afghan airspace daily: official

KABUL: More than 260 international flights cross Afghanistan airspace every day, and the number of flights is on the constant rise, an Afghan official said Monday. “In the past, the number of flights over Afghanistan airspace was 110 flights every 24 hours, but the number has increased and we have 265 flights using the country's airspace every 24 hours over the past two months,” Mawlawi Fatihullah Mansoor, acting deputy head of the Ministry for Transport and Civil Aviation, said in a speech as quoted by the state-owned Radio and Television of Afghanistan. A total of 40,016 international flights have passed through Afghan airspace over the past year, according to the official. A large number of international flights reportedly have avoided flying over the Middle East due to tensions while choosing to cross Afghan airspace, which has become relatively safer for international airlines. — APP

22 killed in flash floods, landslides across Thailand

BANGKOK: Twenty-two people have been killed and 19 others injured in monsoon-induced flash floods and landslides across Thailand that affected over 30,900 households in 13 provinces since Aug. 16, authorities said on Monday. Authorities are ramping up efforts to drain floodwaters brought by heavy monsoon rains and provide relief to the remaining affected 737 villages in five northern provinces of the Southeast Asian country, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said in a statement. The agency also warned residents in 31 provinces across the kingdom to be vigilant for flash floods, forest runoffs and strong winds until Thursday, as officials have been instructed to closely monitor the situation and prepare emergency response teams and machinery to be stationed in high-risk areas. — APP

Massive Russian strikes hit Ukraine overnight

Russia launches massive strikes on Ukraine's cities and power grids; Ukraine seeks Western support for deeper retaliation

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia launched a “massive” missile and drone attack aimed at energy infrastructure across Ukraine overnight on Monday, Ukrainian officials said, killing at least four people and causing power outages in several cities. Ukraine's air force said it detected dozens of missiles and drones targeting almost all regions of the country, from the frontline eastern regions of Kharkiv and Dnipro to the southern port city of Odesa, as well as the capital, Kyiv. “Russian terrorists have once again targeted energy infrastructure,” Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal wrote Monday on Telegram. At least 15 regions were targeted by a combination of drones, cruise missiles and hypersonic Kinzhal missiles, he said. Ukraine's national energy company, Ukrenergo, has been forced to implement emergency power cuts to stabilize the system, Shmyhal said. Power outages have been recorded in several cities, including Kyiv and Dnipro, according to Serhii Kovalenko, chief executive of the Yasnogo energy company. Ukraine had been bracing for a major

Russian attack for weeks, in response to Kyiv's shock incursion into the border region of Kursk – the first foreign invasion of Russia since World War II. Ahead of Ukraine's Independence Day on Saturday, the US Embassy in Kyiv had warned of an increased risk of Russian drone and missile attacks. The overnight assault came hours after Ukraine's foreign ministry called on Belarus to withdraw what it described as a “significant” buildup of Belarusian forces and equipment at their shared border. Kyiv also reported that former Wagner mercenaries were among the troops at the border and urged Minsk “not to make tragic mistakes for their country under Moscow's pressure.” Over two-and-a-half years of war, Russia has repeatedly targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure, attempting to plunge its citizens into darkness and use freezing winter temperatures as a weapon of war. After Monday's attack, Ukraine's Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko said “the energy sector is in the crosshairs” and the extent of the damage was being investigated. Deaths have been reported in the Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Volyn and Zhytomyr regions, according to Ukrainian au-

thorities. At least five people were injured in the central Poltava region when an industrial facility was hit, according to its regional military chief. In Kyiv, the head of the city military administration said air defenses were working in the region and the outskirts of the capital and advised people to stay in shelters. In Kharkiv, emergency services were working at an undisclosed number of sites targeted in the attacks, according to its regional military head. Reuters safety adviser Ryan Evans on assignment with a news reporting team in an undated photo taken in Ukraine. British safety adviser for Reuters killed in Russian strike on Ukraine hotel Although Kyiv's Western allies have provided Ukraine with vast amounts of military equipment, they have placed strict conditions on how this can be used. Fearing Russian escalation, Western countries have prohibited Ukraine from using the weapons it has been given to strike missile and drone launch sites deep inside Russia, meaning Kyiv has to rely mostly on its air defenses to stem Moscow's attacks. Following Monday's strikes, Ukrainian officials once again asked their allies to allow them to strike deeper into Rus-

sia. “There are two specific decisions that our partners can make to help us put an end to Russian terror sooner,” Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba wrote on X. “First, affirming Ukraine's long-range strikes on all legitimate military targets on Russian territory. Second, agreeing to use partners' air defense capabilities to shoot down missiles and drones close to their airspace.” The widespread aerial assault comes two days after a Russian strike on a hotel in the Donetsk region killed a British safety adviser and wounded two journalists. Ryan Evans, a former soldier, had been working with Reuters since 2022 and advised its journalists on safety around the world including in Ukraine, Israel and at the Paris Olympics, the news agency said. Russia says it shot down drones. The latest Russian bombardment also comes as Ukrainian forces occupy a pocket of Russian territory in the border region of Kursk and as Kyiv carries out its own aerial attacks on targets deep inside Russia. On Monday, Russia said its air defenses had destroyed 20 drones launched from Ukraine overnight, including nine over the Saratov region, three over Kursk and two each over the Belgorod, Bryansk

and Tula regions. On Sunday, Belgorod's governor said five civilians were killed and 12 others wounded in shelling. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Sunday said his forces had advanced up to 3 kilometers (nearly 2 miles) in Kursk and taken control of two more settlements. Meanwhile, in Ukraine, Russian ground forces are inching toward the key eastern city of Pokrovsk, which could become the next major battleground of the war. Ukrainian emergency services conduct a search and rescue operation among the rubble at the site where a hotel was hit by a missile in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, on August 24, 2024. Pokrovsk is a strategic target for Moscow and Russian President Vladimir Putin has made it clear that his goal is to seize all of the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. Pokrovsk sits on a key supply road that connects it with other military hubs and forms the backbone of Ukrainian defenses in the part of Donetsk that is still under Kyiv's control. In his address Sunday, Zelensky said that in Donetsk, “The most attention is on Novohrodivka and Vodiane, where the assaults are most intense. I am grateful to all our units for their resilience.”

Strong typhoon forecast to hit Japan this week

DNA

TOKYO: A strong typhoon was headed for southern Japan on Monday, with forecasters warning of heavy rains, powerful winds and possible transport problems later this week.

Typhoon Shanshan was expected to cross the Amami island area on Wednesday, packing gusts of up to 216 kilometers (135 miles) per hour before veering towards the main southern island of Kyushu. An official from Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) told a press conference that there could be “violent storms” and “high waves” from Tuesday until Friday. In Miyazaki prefecture in Kyushu, some 400 millimetres (16 inches) of rain was expected in the 24 hours from noon on Wednesday, JMA forecaster Shuichi Tachihara said. “It is necessary to be on high alert about heavy rain-linked disasters such as landslides, flooding of low-lying lands and river floods,” he said. Railways, flights and highway traffic could be disrupted, Satoshi Omatsu, a land and transport ministry official, added. Typhoon Ampil disrupted hundreds of flights and trains this month, dumping heavy rain but causing only minor injuries and damage as it churned up the Pacific coast past the Tokyo region.

That system came days after Tropical Storm Maria dumped record rains in northern areas of Japan. Typhoons in the region have been forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change, according to a study released last month.

Easypaisa audio Nikahnama campaign scores global victory

DNA

ISLAMABAD: easypaisa has once again demonstrated its excellence on the international stage, by bagging two silver awards at MADSTARS Korea 2024 in the “Audio Stars” and “Sustainability Development Goals Stars” categories. This recognition comes from its innovative “Audio Nikahnama” campaign, which has garnered widespread acclaim for its impact and creativity nationally and on a global scale as well. The “easypaisa Audio Nikahnama” is a pioneering initiative designed to enhance understanding of marriage contracts in 7 different languages as well as sign language, particularly for women in Pakistan. By utilizing technology, easypaisa has successfully dismantled cultural barriers, providing women with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their futures. The campaign's success is evident in its ability to resonate with diverse audiences and its positive impact on society.

Commending the success of her team, Rifah Qadri, Head of Marketing & Corporate Communications, Telenor Bank/easypaisa, said, “We are incredibly honored of the recognition that easypaisa Audio Nikahnama has received at the MADSTARS Korea 2024. This underscores our commitment to driving meaningful impact and addressing societal issues through innovative tech-based solutions. With the easypaisa Audio Nikahnama, we initiated the difficult conversations about women's empowerment and financial inclusion. It's a campaign that personally affects all women in Pakistan, thus creating the impact it has.” She added, “This accolade reaffirms our belief in the power of digital solutions to drive positive change through creativity. Kudos to all our teams that have made this possible. As we continue to expand and innovate, we remain focused on our mission to enhance financial inclusion and create meaningful opportunities for everyone.”

Australia gives millions of workers ‘right to disconnect’

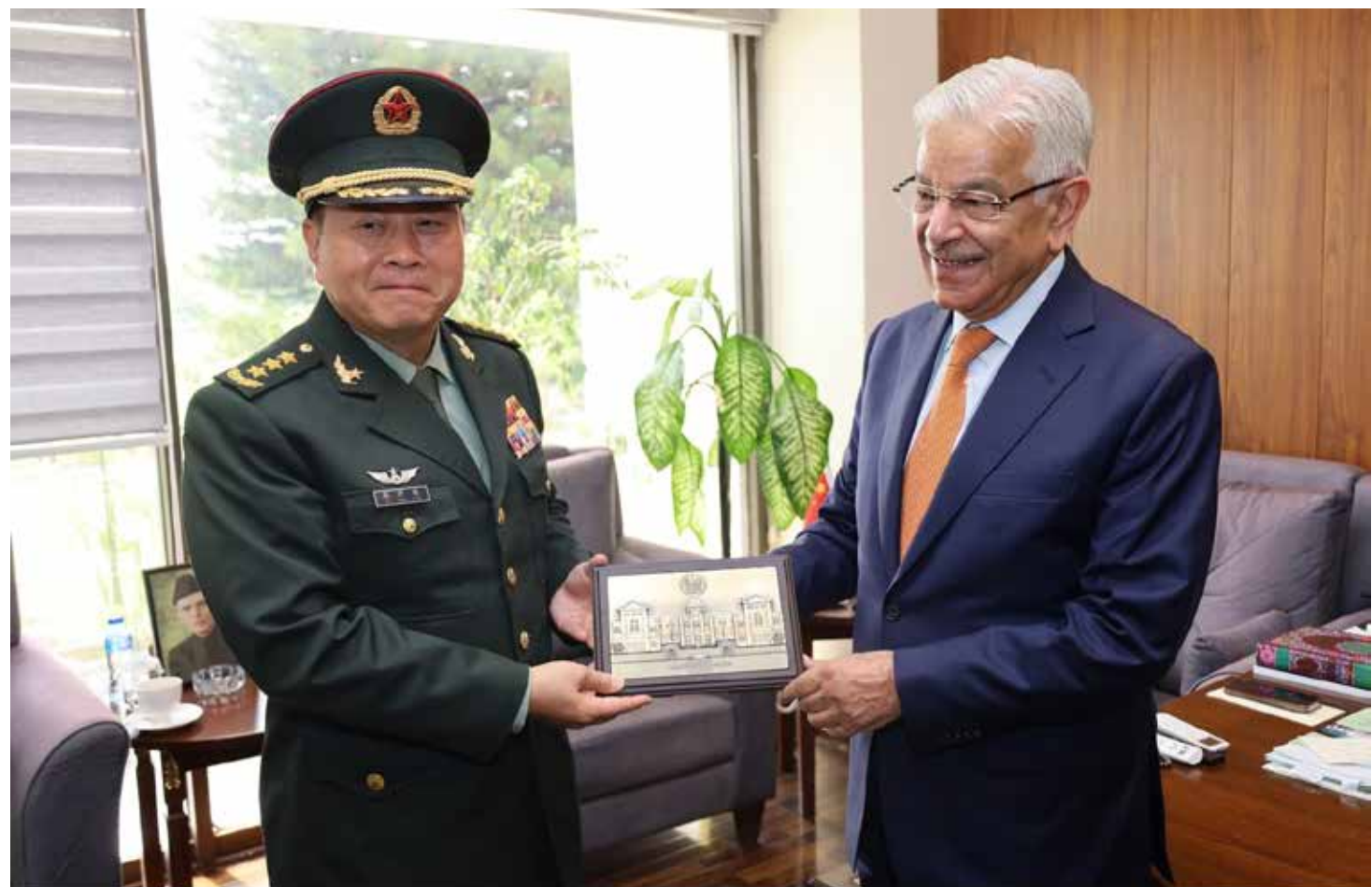
SYDNEY: Australia gave millions of workers the legal right to “disconnect” on Monday, allowing them to ignore unreasonable out-of-hours contact from employers, to the distress of big industry. People can now “refuse to monitor, read, or respond to” their employers' attempts to contact them outside work hours – unless that refusal is deemed “unreasonable”. The law is similar to those of some European and Latin American countries. Unions welcomed the legislation, saying it gave workers a way to reclaim a work-life balance. “Today is a historic day for working people,” said Michele O'Neil, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. “The union movement has won the legal right for Australians to spend quality time with their loved ones without the stress of being forced to constantly answer unreasonable work calls and emails,” she said. “Australian unions have reclaimed the right to knock off after work.” Prime Minister Anthony Albanese hailed the reform pushed through by his centre-left Labor government. “We want to make sure that just as people don't get paid 24 hours a day, they don't have to work for 24 hours a day,” he told national broadcaster ABC. “It's a mental health issue, frankly, as well, for people to be able to disconnect from their work and connect with their family and their life.” “Deeply confusing” - But the reforms got a cool welcome from Australian industry leaders. “The ‘right to disconnect’ laws are rushed, poorly thought out and deeply confusing,” the Australian Industry Group said in a statement. “At the very least, employers and employees will now be uncertain about whether they can take or make a call out of hours to offer an extra shift,” it said. The law, enacted in February, came into force for medium-sized and large companies as of Monday. Smaller companies with fewer than 15 employees will be covered from August 26, 2025. “We encourage workplace participants to educate themselves on the right to disconnect and take a commonsense approach to applying it within their workplace,” said the head of Australia's workplace relations regulator, Fair Work Ombudsman Anna Booth. Under the law, workers may be ordered by a tribunal to stop unreasonably refusing out-of-hours contact, and employers likewise may be ordered to stop unreasonably requiring employees to respond, it said. The question of what is reasonable will “depend on the circumstances”, the fair work ombudsman said in a statement. Deciding factors may include the reason for the contact, the nature of the employee's role, and their compensation for working extra hours or being available, it said. France introduced the right to disconnect in 2017, hoping to tackle the “always on” culture facilitated by smartphones and other digital devices. — APP

Pak's UAE envoy visits Zulekha hospital

ABU DHABI: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi paid a visit to Zulekha Hospital Sharjah at the invitation of Dr. Zulekha Daud, Founder and Chairperson of the Zulekha Healthcare Group. The ambassador was warmly welcomed by Dr. Zulekha and Zandubia Shams, Co-Chairperson of Zulekha Healthcare Group. A number of Pakistani doctors serving in the hospital were also present, according to a press release. During the meeting, Ambassador Tirmizi was briefed about the services being provided by Zulekha Hospital's Dubai and Sharjah branches in the United Arab Emirates. He was informed that the hospital in Sharjah was established in 1992 and its second branch was set up in Dubai in 2004 where at present, 200 doctors are serving in each facility with around 25-30 hailing from Pakistan. He was further briefed that the hospitals were rendering quality and cost-effective health facilities to underprivileged individuals and families in the UAE. Ambassador Tirmizi commended the valuable services of the Zulekha Hospital and expressed his satisfaction with the professionalism and expertise of the hospital's entire team. He also praised the Pakistani doctors for being part of the team and their humanitarian work. He advised Dr. Zulekha and her team to collaborate with the Pakistan Medical Center at Pakistan Association Dubai to provide more health facilities to deserving expatriates, especially Pakistanis. — DNA

IRSA releases 274,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 274,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 285,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 174,200 cusecs and 173,700 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1216.65 feet, which was 168.65 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 18,500 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 212,600, 185,100, 364,700 and 299,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 40,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 24,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence & Defence Production, Khawaja Mohammad Asif presenting a souvenir to General Li Qiaoming, PLA Ground Forces Commander of China.

China's Xinjiang region emerges as a powerhouse of international trade

Delegations also witnessed enormous government support for development of Uyghur performing art in the shape of Xinjiang Uyghur Muqam Art which is a comprehensive art integrating singing, dancing, and music, widely prevalent in Uyghur communities across northern and southern Xinjiang

DNA

ISLAMABAD Aug. 26 (DNA): Having overcome multiple challenges, China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is now presenting a scene of diversified development, with new high-quality productivity, micro- and macro-economy, art, culture, faith and social values meeting the needs of all social classes. “Big shoutout for local and central governments of China for channelizing a slew of resources to make Xinjiang a powerhouse of international trade, logistic & economic corridor and resounding hub of all ethnic

groups,” according to Pakistan's 9-member media delegation that toured the Xinjiang last week. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. The delegation visited Xinjiang counter-terrorism and counter-extremism exhibition, Xinjiang Islamic Institute, Xinjiang Software Park, Tianshan Cloud Computing, Xinjiang Art Theatre “Mukam”, Xinjiang international grand bazar, China-Kazakhstan international cooperation Center, Khorgos, Jinyi international trade group, Ili general' mansion, Shaanxi mosque, Kazanqi Ethnic culture street, Chabuchar Daily, Uzunbark resettlement village of Chabuchar and Ili Yimuxin Dairy

company. The members of the delegation comprehended phases of ongoing deeper transformation of Xinjiang in all sphere of life. They observed that Xinjiang's economic turnaround is not less than a miracle. It exhibits its unflinching resolve of Chinese leadership for making things happen, one of delegates expressed. They applauded Xinjiang Software Park dubbed as a bridge connecting China and abroad for cultural and economic Xinjiang inheriting the glory of the past one thousand years, the ancient Silk Road is awakening around the corner of a new era, setting an unprecedented starting point

prosperity for Xinjiang. With the further implementation of China's Belt and Road Initiative, Xinjiang is brimming with development opportunities like never before. Because of its unique strategic position as a westward gateway, location and industrial agglomeration benefits, barrage of fortunes are available for Pakistan enterprises in Xinjiang Software Park, delegation was informed. Delegations also witnessed enormous government support for development of Uyghur performing art in the shape of Xinjiang Uyghur Muqam Art which is a comprehensive art integrating singing, dancing, and music, widely prevalent

in Uyghur communities across northern and southern Xinjiang. Meanwhile Xinjiang International Grand Bazar mesmerized delegation with its unique historical architecture, traditional facade of shops, medieval pathways and shades of many ethnic groups. There are two huge buildings in Grand Bazaar, and the exterior of the building is khaki, which is very thick, and the characteristic pillars and domes are quite beautiful. Delegation also saw a mosque on the south side of the square, and there are many Muslims come here to pray every day, which are full of Islamic style.

Briefs

Swati praises 'facilitator' for meeting with Imran

DNA
RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati said on Monday that whoever facilitated his meeting with incarcerated party founder Imran Khan had made a "positive move" for the country. "It was a positive move to protect the system of Pakistan," said Swati outside the Supreme Court while pointing towards his meeting with the former prime minister at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi earlier this week before the former ruling party rescheduled his Islamabad power show from August 22 to September 8. He went on to say that his party was not expecting any kind of concession [from the government] after postponing its Islamabad rally. Swati added that the PTI only wanted the implementation of the law and the Constitution in the country. The Imran-founded party made all-out efforts to stage a huge power show in the federal capital apparently to revive its diminishing political strength, however, it went in vain after the city administration denied permission citing security reasons. The postponement decision was taken after Swati held a meeting with the PTI founder in the Rawalpindi Central Jail on the day of the Islamabad rally in which the latter gave permission to the party leadership to defer the jalsa.

Govt trying to reduce electricity price

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Awais Leghari on Monday said that the government trying to most to reduce the electricity price. "We are working over the IPPs power generation and DISCOs power theft issues," talking to media here the energy minister said. He said the government has also initiated talks with Chinese companies over the matter. "We will try to reduce power tariffs after keeping in view all concerned matters," he said. Earlier, talking to media the energy minister said that the government has proposed its reform plans and energy vision to the National Energy Administration of China. Awais Leghari said that an important aspect of these talks involved the re-profiling of debt amounting to \$8.5 to \$9 billion, which is expected to reduce electricity prices and increase demand for electricity. He further stated that the finance minister and other officials have engaged with Chinese bankers for potential investments in Pakistan's power sector. Another key component of these reforms, he said.

FinnFund eyes investment in Pak digital infrastructure

Finance Minister underscored the significant improvements in Pak macroeconomic indicators and highlighted the govt structural reforms

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Mr. Antti Partanen, a representative from FinnFund, a Finnish development financier. The meeting focused on exploring potential investment opportunities in Pakistan. The Finance Minister underscored the significant improvements in Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators and highlighted the government's structural reform agenda, including the digitalization of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), energy sector reforms, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) reforms, and privatization measures. He stressed the government's focus on transforming Pakistan into an export-led economy and attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to enhance the country's export base. Mr. Partanen presented an overview of FinnFund's profile and investment initiatives in Pakistan, emphasizing their interest in digital infrastructure, renewable energy, agriculture, and forestry. He noted



that Pakistan's growing young population makes it an attractive destination for financing and expressed FinnFund's willingness to explore investments in various sectors of the country. The Minister reiterated the commitment of the government for making Pakistan's investment climate favourable and conducive for foreign investors.

Ayub demands immediate announcement of new CJP

PTI secretary general warns of strong protests if any legislation on this matter is introduced in National Assembly

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader in National Assembly and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General, Omar Ayub Khan, has called on the government to immediately announce the name of the new chief justice, replacing CJP Qazi Faez Isa, amid speculations of a possible tenure extension. Addressing the National Assembly on Monday, Ayub stressed that the government should promptly reveal the new chief justice's name in the current circumstances. He warned of strong protests if any legislation on this matter is introduced. Ayub demanded that the law minister clarify the situation regarding the appointment of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. In response, Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazeer Tarar, provided an explanation to the assembly. Minister Tarar stated that, under the existing Constitution and laws, a senior judge from the high courts could be appointed as chief justice by the Judicial Commission and Parliamentary Committee. He noted that a judge from the Lahore High Court, ranked fifth in seniority, had been appointed Chief Justice by the Judicial Commission. According to Tarar, the 18th Amendment mandates that the most senior judge be appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. "The matter of appointing the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court can only proceed in accordance with the Constitution," he said. Omar Ayub also thanked Speaker Ayaz Sadiq for issuing production orders for Haji Imtiaz Chaudhry, allowing him to attend the session. "This

is a commendable tradition, and I want to praise Ayaz Sadiq for it," Ayub remarked. The opposition leader condemned the recent terrorist activities in Punjab's Kacha area and called for the dismissal of the Punjab Inspector General of Police. Ayub also announced that the PTI would hold a grand public rally on September 8, regardless of the circumstances. Sources in the ruling coalition had earlier revealed that some crucial legislation is likely to be passed by the PML-N government with the support of its allies in the current sessions. On Thursday, following the Shehbaz-Bilawal meeting, the sources had revealed that the government is bringing some important legislation Monday onwards. However, without sharing details about it, it was said that the PPP was taken into confidence for its support in parliament. The sources said that the ruling coalition is busy contemplating that the retirement age of all superior courts' judges should be extended by two years to decrease the budget of pensions. The Shehbaz-Bilawal meeting had also come amid reports that the government was envisaging constitutional amendments to extend Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa's tenure. They said that the legislation will not be CJP-specific but changes regarding the retirement age will be introduced as an "economic necessity" and that will ultimately have an impact on many, including judges, among others. A member of the ruling coalition, however, differed from the information, saying it's "not possible" as any such thing "requires constitutional amendment".



RAWALPINDI: General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the People's Liberation Army Ground Forces, calls on Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir at GHQ. DNA

6 killed in huge Russian attack across Ukraine

Zelensky said Russia had fired more than 100 missiles and about 100 drones

FOREIGN DESK

KIEV: At least six people have been killed after Russia launched a massive attack across Ukraine, seriously damaging some power and water supplies. Explosions rang out in several cities including Kyiv on Monday morning, as more than half of the country's regions came under attack from missiles and drones. Authorities in Zaporizhzhia, Lutsk, Kharkiv, Zhytomyr and Dnipropetrovsk regions reported people had died in the huge air raid. Russia confirmed it had targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure - one of its long-term tactics - and said all its targets were hit. The barrage of drone and missile attacks began across the country overnight on Monday and continued well into the morning. People were urged to stay in shelters as the entire country was put under air raid alert. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia had fired more than 100 missiles and about 100 drones. "This was one of the largest strikes," he said, adding there was a lot of damage to energy facilities. While the main target of this attack was energy infrastructure, it was also an attempt by Moscow to strike at Ukraine's reserves of another key resource: morale. Ukrainians have been electrified by the recent successful incursion of their troops deep into Russian territory in the Kursk region. With Monday's strikes, Russia was intending to bring ordinary people in Ukraine back down to earth with a bump - reminding them, and poli-

ticians in Western capitals, that the Kremlin still has the upper hand in this war. The message from Moscow was make no mistake, Russia can still inflict misery on the Ukrainian population whenever it chooses. Some 15 regions of Ukraine were targeted by Russia in the strikes, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal said using weapons including drones, cruise missiles and supersonic missiles. "There are wounded and dead," Mr Shmygal said on the Telegram social media app. Dozens of people were injured, and those who died included: Two men - one aged 69 and another aged 47 - were killed in separate attacks in the Dnipropetrovsk region, local governor Sergiy Lysak said. Others were injured including a 14-year-old girl, he added. A man was killed when his house was hit in Zaporizhzhia, said the area's governor. The mayor of Lutsk said one person had been killed when an "infrastructure facility" was hit. Five others were wounded and most parts of the city had no running water, he added. In Izyum in Kharkiv region, a man was killed in a missile strike, the regional head said. And in Zhytomyr region in western Ukraine, a woman died after homes and infrastructure buildings were hit by missiles, the governor said. The attacks caused serious damage to infrastructure, with power outages reported in many cities - including Kyiv - and water supplies disrupted. Emergency blackouts were imposed, energy company DTEK warned, adding that its engineers were working to return electricity supplies across the country.

Russia has been targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure since early on in its full-scale invasion, which began in February 2022. In recent months it has renewed its campaign of attacks on the power grid, causing frequent blackouts across the country. In June, President Zelensky said Russia had destroyed half of his country's electricity-generating capacity since it began pummeling its energy facilities in late March. Ukraine is buying energy from the European Union. However, this is not enough and so most days, the country has a planned nationwide blackout to protect critical needs such as hospitals and military sites. Russia's defence ministry said it attacked electricity and gas facilities, as well as sites storing Western weapons. "All designated targets were hit, resulting in power outages and disrupted rail transport of weapons and ammunition to the front line," it said. It has been a year of bad news on the battlefield for Kyiv, with Russia gaining ground steadily in the eastern Donbas region. There have been problems with mobilisation and reports that Ukraine is running out of men. But following Ukraine's surprise incursion into Kursk, the videos of soldiers hoisting the Ukrainian flag over Russian villages they had seized gave a badly-needed boost to Ukrainian morale. And it showed the West that Kyiv is still capable of carrying out complex, daring and - most importantly - successful offensives. On Monday, Mr Zelensky called on Western allies including Britain, America and France to change their rules and let Ukraine use their weapons to strike deeper inside Russia.

Iran doesn't seek regional tensions

AGENCIES

DUBAI: Iran does not seek to increase Middle East tensions, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani, adding that its response to the killing of the Hamas chief in Tehran would be "definite and calculated." Iran blames Israel for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31, which Araqchi was quoted by Iran's state media as saying was "an unforgivable violation of Iran's security and sovereignty." Israel has neither claimed nor denied responsibility for Haniyeh's death in the Iranian capital. "Iran does not seek to increase tensions. However it is not afraid of it," Araqchi told his Italian counterpart on the phone, according to a statement about the phone call published on Monday by Iran's foreign ministry. Araqchi said that Iran's response would be "definite, calculated and accurate," according to the statement.

Govt considers installing prepaid meters

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Power, Awais Leghari, announced on Monday that the ruling coalition government is considering the installation of a prepaid meter system for electricity, akin to the prepaid system used for mobile phones. During a press conference in Multan, Leghari underscored the government's commitment to eradicate electricity theft in the country. He assured that measures are being taken to curb this menace and provide convenience to electricity consumers. The minister revealed that discussions are underway with power distribution companies to ensure the disbursement of the Rs45 billion relief package to every consumer. The prepaid meter system, if implemented, will enable consumers to pay for electricity in advance, reducing the likelihood of theft and default payments. The energy minister further said that the government has proposed its reform plans and energy vision to the National Energy Administration of China. Awais Leghari said that an important aspect of these talks involved the re-profiling of debt amounting to \$8.5 to \$9 billion, which is expected to reduce electricity prices and increase demand for electricity.

National workshop highlights climate adaptation projects

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), in collaboration with the World Bank, recently organized a National Workshop on the iCARE Innovations Fund in Islamabad. This event marked a significant step forward in advancing climate adaptation and resilience initiatives in Pakistan as part of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE) for South Asia project. The workshop brought together over 80 participants, including representatives from government departments, development partners, international organizations, civil society, and academic institutions. Discussions focused on the progress and potential of innovative projects supported by the iCARE Innovations Fund, a key element of the CARE project aimed at strengthening climate resilience across South Asia. Three leading innovators—Inara Technologies Pvt. Ltd., the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad—presented their groundbreaking work in areas such as climate-smart agriculture, integrated water resources management, and climate data analytics. Lt. Gen (R) Nadeem Ahmed, Advisor of the CARE project, underscored the importance of knowledge sharing in his opening remarks, highlighting the iCARE Innovations Fund's role in driving innovative solutions to Pakistan's climate challenges. The workshop featured two panel discussions on the sustainability and scalability of climate innovations and the importance of multi-partner collaboration in fostering climate resilience. The event concluded with closing remarks from Idrees Mahsud, Member DRR NDMA, who commended the ADPC's efforts and praised the innovative projects for their potential to enhance climate resilience in Pakistan. The workshop effectively showcased the progress of these projects and offered actionable recommendations to further strengthen Pakistan's resilience to climate challenges.

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