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US Open: Djokovic starts bid for record 25th major with win

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OIC condemns extremist Israeli minister's call

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Ex-Malaysian PM charged with sedition

Detailed News On Page-07



Terror in Balochistan

China, US pledge support to Pak against terrorism

Chinese spokesperson says Beijing will continue giving staunch support to Islamabad against terrorism

DNA / CENTRELINE REPORT

BEIJING: As the country continues to reel under back-to-back terrorist attacks, the United States and China came out in support of the country, strongly condemning the latest militant forays in Balochistan and pledging support to Pakistan in countering terrorism. Balochistan witnessed one of the deadliest attacks on Monday that left more than 50 dead, including civilians, police and military personnel in a single day. The attacks sent shock waves across the country, drawing condemnations from the government and foreign countries. Condemning the militant attacks, Pakistan's long-time regional ally China extended its support and expressed deep grief over the dastardly attacks in the southwestern resource-rich province, home to major China-led projects such as a port and a gold and copper mine.

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'No room for weakness'

PM rules out 'soft approach' for terrorists

DNA/FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: In response to a series of terror attacks in Balochistan over the past few days, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that no dialogue could be held with the enemy, nor could a 'soft approach' be taken in dealing with them. Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet in Islamabad today, the prime minister said it was time to uproot terrorism and the government would provide all the available resources to

the armed forces for this purpose. "Doors of negotiations are open [only] for those who recognise the constitution and flag of Pakistan, but there is no room for terrorists," he maintained. The premier said the nefarious intentions of the terrorists would fail and they would be crushed. The terrorists would completely be eradicated, come what may, the PM reemphasised. In a series of violent attacks across Balochistan over the past few weeks, especially those

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President awards Nishan-e-Imtiaz to Chinese commander

General Li recognised for his exceptional professionalism, dedicated efforts in promoting peace and stability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday awarded the Nishan-e-Imtiaz (military) to Commander of the Ground Forces of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) General Li Qiaoming in recognition of his distinguished services and significant contributions to enhancing Sino-Pak defence relations. The award was conferred during a special investiture ceremony at

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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Li Qiaoming, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

25 terrorists killed in Tirah IBO

ISPR says four soldiers, having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom during multiple intel-based operations

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: At least 25 terrorists, including a ring leader, were gunned down by security forces in multiple ongoing intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Tirah valley of Khyber district since August 20, the military's media wing said on Tuesday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces are conducting "extensive IBOs" in Tirah valley against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) labelled as Fitna-Al-Khwarizj and militant outfits "Laskar-e-Islam and Jamat-ul-Ahrar". These operations, it said, were based on robust intelligence and resulted into major setbacks to Fitna-Al-Khwarizj and its affiliates.

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Tarar for politics-free approach to combat terrorism

Federal government has requested K-P CM Ali Amin Gandapur to establish a Counter Terrorism Department at its earliest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has urged political parties to avoid politicising the issue of terrorism for the nation's sake. He said we have requested Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to establish a Counter Terrorism Department at its earliest. Tarar further added that there is a need for safe city initiatives to combat terrorism. The minister reflected on the government of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, noting how the 2015 operation in Karachi had significantly improved the city's security and law and order situation. He commended the security forces and the law enforcement agencies for sacrificing their lives for the country.

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Pakistan aims to raise \$4bn from me banks

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Looking to plug its external financing gaps, Pakistan plans to raise up to \$4 billion from Middle Eastern commercial banks by the next fiscal year, the Governor of the SBP, Jameel Ahmad, told Reuters on Tuesday. The governor's optimism stems from the government's efforts to roll over \$12 billion in loans from China, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, according to sources. In a wide-ranging interview with the wire, the SBP governor said Pakistan was also in the "advanced stages" of securing \$2 billion in additional external financing required for IMF approval of a \$7 billion bailout programme. Additionally, as per sources, the government has requested an extra \$1.2 billion loan from Saudi Arabia

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Briefs

'Political instability behind terror attacks'

Abbasi sees political instability behind terrorism in Balochistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Awam Pakistan Party chief and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Tuesday political instability was behind a new wave of terrorist incidents in Balochistan. Talking to the media, he said the business environment became increasingly difficult and only through political stability the country would be able to get out of this quagmire. He said the country would not get anything positive if the stakeholders continued to engage in small talk which worked against the interests of common people. We should all sit together to find political solution of the problems faced by the country," Abbasi said.

Starmer signals unpopular decisions

DNA

LONDON: Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Tuesday he would have to take unpopular decisions, raising the possibility of "painful" taxes on the wealthy and spending cuts to try to fix Britain's myriad of problems he blamed on Conservative misrule. In a speech in the rose garden of his Downing Street office, the scene of COVID-19 parties under a former Conservative government, Starmer promised to end politics as usual, telling voters he was levelling with them that Britain's problems would only get worse before getting better. Elected in a landslide victory in July, Starmer has vowed to rebuild British society, saying this month's anti-migrant riots reflected divisions that have taken hold, stoked by what he described as the Conservatives' preference for populism.

'Stop destructing economy'

Ji urges Sharif family to forego 'IPP charges'

Tomorrow, we will have a nationwide shutter-down strike and will compel govt to back down, says Hafiz Naeem

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has called on the Sharif family to relinquish capacity charges from their Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to reduce electricity bills. Speaking at a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday, Rehman criticised the IPPs, stating, "We cannot sustain the burden of these IPPs. If the Sharif family and the Mansha Group let go of their annual capacity charges, the bills will decrease." He added that high utility bills have devastated the country's economy and industry. "Tomorrow, we will have a nationwide shutter-down strike. We will not accept a tax of 30,000 rupees for some markets and 40,000 for others. The government says the strike will harm business, but the situation is already dire. The government itself is destroying the economy," Rehman said. He further stated, "Our protest efforts will compel the government to back down."

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JUI-F, PTI to join hands in parliament

Both parties decide to have unanimous stand on legislation in Senate

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday held a joint meeting for cooperation on the parliamentary forum. Committees of both the parties decided to join hands in the parliament on public issues and legislation. It was also decided to take a unanimous stand on the legislation in the Senate meeting. Sources said that Barrister Gohar, Shibli Faraz, Asad Qaiser, Kamran Murtaza, and Ghafoor Haidari participated in the meeting.

Three key players of Pakistan national hockey team looking for political asylum in Europe

The team's goalkeeper, Akmal, declined to be part of the squad selected for the 2024 Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, opting instead to play in an Australian league; Another key player, drag-flicker Abu Bakar, is also playing in an Australian league and did not attend the training camp; Alternate drag flicker Arbaz has declined to join the team, despite attending the camp; team's physio goes missing in Poland

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a troubling turn of events for Pakistan's national hockey team, three key players have reportedly sought political asylum in Malta, while the team's physio has allegedly gone missing in Poland. Adding to the team's difficulties, two other prominent players—goalkeeper Akmal and drag flicker Arbaz—have refused to continue playing for Pakistan. According to sources familiar with the situation, the three players—Murtaza Yaqoob, Abdur Rehman junior, and Ahtisham Aslam—were part of the national squad that recently competed in the Nationals Cup in Poland. Upon returning from the tournament, these players retrieved their passports from the Federation, returned to Poland, and subsequently traveled to Malta, where they are believed to have applied for political asylum. Sources

claim these players never shared their intentions with the PHF officials when getting the passports back. Similarly, the team's physio, Waqas, who accompanied the squad to Poland for the Nations Cup, chose not to return with them. As a result, the Pakistan hockey team had to hire a new physio. The team's goalkeeper, Akmal, declined to be part of the squad selected for the 2024 Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, opting instead to play in an Australian league. He remains in Australia and will therefore be unavailable for the upcoming Asian Championship, which starts on September 8 in China. Another key player, drag-flicker and vice-captain of the team Abu Bakar, is also playing in an Australian league and did not attend the training camp for the China tour. Sources indicate that he might join the team in China, but his participation is uncertain. Even if he does join, it will be challenging for him to integrate with the team, as he hasn't spent time with the new players during the camp. Alternate drag flicker Arbaz has de-



clined to join the team, despite attending the camp regularly. Sources reveal that on the final day of the camp, Arbaz informed the management that he would not be participating as a form of protest, claiming he was deliberately overlooked for the Azlan Shah and National Cup tournaments. Some sources

believe Arbaz is not going with the team because he also is heading abroad to play in league. Olympian Tahir Zaman, who has coached the Egyptian and Omani hockey teams, during a recent interview highlighted the immense talent of Pakistani players. He praised their innate ability to learn quickly but lamented the lack of quality coaches in the country, emphasizing that skilled teachers are essential for producing talented players. Tahir also brought attention to another pressing issue: the lack of player empowerment. He noted that, in the past, players had job security through departmental jobs, but today, many lack this stability. As a result, players are increasingly turning to leagues that offer better compensation. He also criticized the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for the current state of hockey in the country and urged for immediate reforms. Tahir suggested that the PHF should be restructured along the lines of the Cricket Board. He recommended establishing a panel of experts within the fed-

eration to provide guidance on modern hockey techniques and strategies. The Indian hockey team once faced significant challenges, but their remarkable comeback has been nothing short of incredible. Following their impressive performance in the Paris Olympics, they have now climbed to No. 5 in the world hockey rankings. Unfortunately, Pakistan currently ranks at No. 16, which is the lowest position among the major hockey-playing nations. The government must take a serious approach to addressing the issues surrounding hockey. While the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has its internal challenges, it also has legitimate concerns that need to be acknowledged. A significant issue is the lack of sufficient funds to promote hockey at the grassroots level. In the past, when funds were available, they were reportedly mismanaged by previous PHF officials. Therefore, it is crucial to establish a robust system of checks and balances to ensure that future funds are properly utilized for their intended purpose.

Excise deptt cracks down on touts exploiting citizens; 10 arrested

The Assistant Commissioner of the Industrial Area led an operation outside the excise department, resulting in the arrest of 10 touts. These individuals were allegedly extorting money from citizens under the guise of facilitating their work

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The district administration has intensified its efforts to curb illegal activities outside government offices in the Federal Capital and arrested 10 accused for exploiting citizens and vehicles violating excise laws. The Assistant Commissioner of the Industrial Area led an operation outside the excise department, resulting in the arrest of 10 touts. These individuals were allegedly extorting money from citizens under the guise of facilitating their work. This operation was launched in response to multiple complaints from citizens, who reported being harassed and overcharged by these agents.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, emphasized that no one would be allowed

to take advantage of citizens seeking government services. He called for similar actions against touts outside all government offices to ensure that innocent citizens are not exploited. Meanwhile, the Excise and Taxation Department has launched a major operation against vehicles violating various excise laws. This includes a focus on vehicles using unauthorized number plates, black-tinted windows, police revolving lights, and those failing to pay the required token tax. Excise officials have been active in various locations across Islamabad, including highways, busy markets, and other significant areas, to enforce these laws. Today, action was taken against 66 vehicles with black-tinted windows and 99 vehicles without proper registration numbers. Additionally, the registration of 53 vehicles was suspended

due to legal violations. In the course of this operation, police lights were removed from three vehicles using unauthorized revolving lights. The department also collected token tax from 200 vehicles that had failed to pay, imposing fines on them. Director of Excise and Taxation, Bilal Azam, urged citizens to voluntarily remove non-standard number plates and black-tinted windows from their vehicles to avoid any inconvenience. He also advised against the use of high-intensity discharge (HID) lights in public vehicles. Furthermore, he called on vehicle owners to promptly pay any outstanding token taxes and to ensure that their vehicles are properly registered. The Excise Department remains committed to taking firm action against vehicles and individuals that do not comply with the law in Islamabad.

Drugs pusher held

MUZAFFARGARH: Special branch police arrested a notorious drug pusher and recovered narcotics from his possession here in the limits of Mir Hazar Khan police station. Police said on Tuesday that the raiding team arrested the accused, Nazeer Lagari, and recovered 2kg charrs from him. The outlaw supplied charrs in other parts of the region and about a dozen of cases were registered against him at same police station, said police.—APP

Governor invites Iranian business men

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has invited Iranian investors to invest their capital under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a platform presented by the Chief of the Army Staff for the economic stability of the country. According to a spokesman, Governor Sindh said this while addressing Iranian businessmen here at the Iranian Consulate late Monday night. Governor Kamran Tessori said like investors from other countries, Iranian businessmen could invest their capital under SIFC and get benefits from the initiative. All hindrances in the trade and investment between Pakistan and Iran would be overcome, the Governor said, and expressed hope that there was a potential to take the trade volume of both countries to \$ 50 billion. He recalled the visit of former Iranian president late Ebrahim Raisi and said Iranian leader Ayatollah Khamenei also wants Pakistan-Iran trade to flourish. He said Iranian Consul General at Karachi Hassan Nourian is a gift of Iran to Pakistan as he was playing a part in bolstering trade and cultural relations between the two countries.—APP

IRSA releases 272,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 272,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 285,100 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 174,800 cusecs and 174,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1217.00 feet, which was 169.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 20,300 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 207,100, 153,600, 316,000 and 354,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 37,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 24,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

WSSC DIKhan cleanliness drive in full swing

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The cleanliness drive under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's "Awami Agenda" program launched by The Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) is in full swing in DIKhan City.

Deputy Commissioner Ms Sarah Rehman directed all the departments concerned to make effective measures to ensure complete implementation over the Chief Minister's "Awami Agenda" program so that the development in the district and provision of maximum relief to citizens could be ensured. Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner, WSSC has started cleanliness in the six Union Councils of DIKhan city. Under the special cleanliness drive WSSC started the desalting of major drains under which main drains of the city were clean and garbage was removed from different localities. The field operation teams were asked to ensure cleaning and trouble-free

flow of waste/sewage water in all major drains and their final disposal to the designated spots. The sanitation staff was actively engaged while utilizing machinery to remove garbage from bazaar and adjoining areas. While talking to APP, Chairman of the WSSC Board of Directors expressed his satisfaction on the performance of the staff and sanitary workers and said that all the available resources will be utilized to provide best sanitation services to the citizens of DIKhan. "WSSC DI Khan has already launched the cleanliness drive under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's "Awami Agenda" program, and we are committed to providing better living conditions to the people of DI Khan and the cleanliness drive of the city under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's "Awami Agenda" program. It is a step towards achieving this goal," he said. Khan said that WSSC was planning to clean the small and

main drains in every union council, which would be completed in phases. He said the WSSC alone could not achieve the goal of keeping the district clean. He said that the public participation in the efforts for clean was directly needed. He stressed the people especially the shopkeepers to take active part in the campaign. Chairman said all resources would be used to make a city green and clean. Special teams will monitor the campaign in the area, he said adding special arrangements will be made to remove the garbage after collected from the main drains for which WSSC will arrange vehicles. He called for raising awareness among the general public about the importance of keeping the environment clean. The Chairman appreciated the staff and sanitation workers of the company for successful cleanliness operations and providing the best services to the citizens.—APP

Commissioner gets briefing on educational progress

SARGODHA: Commissioner Sargodha Division, Malik Jahanzeb Awan, on Tuesday met Director Colleges Sargodha Division, Chaudhry Sarfraz Ahmed Gujjar, and his team to discuss administrative matters and ongoing projects. The Director presented a comprehensive briefing on the education sector within the division. He informed the Commissioner that there were a total of 97 government colleges in Sargodha division, including 48 for girls and 49 for boys. Out of the 2,390 teaching positions, 1,769 were filled, while 1,542 appointments were made out of 2,117 non-teaching positions while the remaining positions remain vacant. The director highlighted that over 48,000 students were currently enrolled in government colleges across the division. This year, the target for admissions stands at 20,000, of which 50% have already been achieved. He further mentioned that 156 private colleges were also operating in the four districts of Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, and Bhakkar, contributing to the advancement of education. "Seven new colleges are also being constructed across the division to enhance access to higher education," he added. The Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan emphasized the importance of focusing on IT education in government colleges and directed the Director of Colleges to ensure the availability of qualified teachers in all modern subjects. He stressed the need to improve the overall quality of education and to create a more conducive learning environment for students. The meeting concluded with a discussion on future plans for the development of the education sector in Sargodha division.—DNA

PSW holds training to streamline trade procedures

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Single Window (PSW), in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO), successfully concluded a significant five-day training, aimed at to streamline customs and trade procedures by harmonizing data requirements of Customs and other government agencies. The other objective of the event was to enhance the interoperability of the single window system for facilitating integration with other national and international electronic systems, said a press release received here Tuesday. The workshop was a key initiative in PSW's broader strategy to enhance its international footprint and strengthen collaborations with global partners and was designed to build the capacity of PSW's Domain and Technical Teams by aligning their practices

with the WCO Data Model guidelines. The training focused on bringing Pakistan's trade data standards in line with international frameworks, a crucial step for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of cross-border trade operations. By enabling the use of harmonized data sets and electronic messages, the model meets the operational and legal requirements of Customs and other government agencies. This comprehensive approach to data standardization is essential for harmonizing national customs processes with global best practices. The sessions were led by WCO-accredited trainers, including Christian Lembke, Lead Customs Officer of Cargo Risk Management at the Customs Office Frankfurt am Main Airport, Germany and Tagara Primadista, Head Section of Revenue and Data Management, Indonesia. Office of the Pakistan's Permanent Rep-

resentative to the WCO facilitated the coordination between WCO and PSW for organizing the training workshop. Participants from PSW's Domain and Technical Teams received detailed, hands-on training in implementing the WCO Data Model. Speaking at the event, Naveed Abbas Memon, Chief Domain Officer of the Pakistan Single window said that holding this training workshop in Pakistan underscores PSW's commitment to adopting international standards and modernizing Pakistan's trade and customs infrastructure. The outcomes of this workshop are expected to contribute significantly to Pakistan's ongoing efforts to facilitate regional trade through improved use of digital technologies. We are grateful to the WCO and Pakistan Customs in providing the necessary support for organizing this week-long training event in Karachi, he added.



ISLAMABAD: According to National Weather Forecasting Centre rain-wind/thundershower (with few heavy falls) are expected in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, and other areas of the country from 27th to 31st August with occasional gaps.— ONLINE

Youth killed in brawl

SARGODHA: A boy was killed by his class mate in brawl here at Zafer colony Block-D under the jurisdiction of urban area Police station. Police said that Masoom Shah (16) r/o Zafer colony had a brawl with Husnain (15) r/o same locality over some domestic issue. On the day of incident, Masoom killed Husnain after opening fire at him. Police concerned and Re cue 1122 team reached the spot, shifted the body to hospital.—APP

PFA discards dairy frozen desserts

MUZAFFARGARH: Punjab Food Authority (PFA) discarded 2850 substandard frozen dairy desserts and imposed Rs 20,000 fine on violators at Jhang Road. According to PFA's press release issued here on Tuesday, artificial flavor with open dye were used for preparation of the desserts. It was told categorically that adulteration into the food items, particularly those which were favorite of children won't be accepted. DG Food Authority appealed to the people to inform the authority about any kind of mixing in food items found in their surroundings.—APP

Outlaw held in encounter

MUZAFFARGARH: An alleged outlaw was shot injured and arrested in police encounter here at basti Dandhla road in the limits of Kot Chhutta police station. Police said on Tuesday that a team was on routine patrolling when they found three armed persons near graveyard. The outlaws on seeing police opened fire at the party. The team retaliated and during this exchange of gunshots, one of the accused suffered injuries and held by police. He was identified as Saifullah Maswani. The accused was wanted in many case of heinous crimes by police.—APP

Light shower turns weather pleasant

SARGODHA: Light rain showers and winds on Tuesday morning brought a pleasant change in weather in Sargodha city. The residents were facing warm weather for the last three day with temperature rising to maximum 39 degree Celsius. However, the Meteorological Office has forecast more rain in the city. The maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded as 32 degrees centigrade and 27 degrees centigrade, respectively.—APP

CM directs IGP to arrest journo Bachal killers

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has taken notice of the killing of a journalist in an attack by bandits of kacha in Ghotki area of the Sindh province. The CM has expressed his grief and sorrow over journalist Muhammad Bachal Ghanjo's killing. Murad directed the IGP Sindh to arrest immediately the killers of martyred journalist Muhammad Bachal Ghanjo.—APP

Gandapur removes Atif, Arbab from party positions

Atif Khan, who served as the President of the Peshawar region—encompassing the districts of Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Mardan, and Swabi—has been replaced by former District Nazim Mohammad Asim Khan. Meanwhile, Kamran Khan Bangash remains the General Secretary of the Peshawar region

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is faced with escalating internal divisions as Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has taken action by removing two MNAs, Atif Khan and Sher Ali Arbab, from their current party positions. Ali Amin Gandapur, earlier, had de-notified Junaid Akbar as Focal Person to the CM for Members National Assembly (MNAs) of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following his support for Shakeel Khan, who was removed as minister for Communication and Works KP earlier and levelling corruption charges against the

sitting KP government. Atif Khan, who served as the President of the Peshawar region—encompassing the districts of Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Mardan, and Swabi—has been replaced by former District Nazim Mohammad Asim Khan. Meanwhile, Kamran Khan Bangash remains the General Secretary of the Peshawar region. Similarly, MNA Sher Ali Arbab has been removed from his role as President of the Peshawar district, with Irfan Saleem appointed his successor. Advocate Malik Shahab has taken over as the new General Secretary of the Peshawar district. PTI General Secretary Ali

Asghar Khan has issued new notifications for these appointments in the Peshawar region and district, following approval from the Provincial Party President, Ali Amin Gandapur. Atif Khan had expressed support for the ousted Minister Shakeel Khan, while Arbab had allegedly refused to sign a statement of confidence in the Chief Minister. Shakeel Khan, the former Minister for Communication and Works in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, had resigned, citing corruption within the government. Gandapur later stated that the Good Governance Committee had endorsed Shakeel Khan's removal due to his performance.

District admin intensifies anti-dengue campaign

MULTAN: The district administration accelerated its efforts during the ongoing anti-dengue campaign across the district. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Waseem Hamid Sandhu issued a red alert to the health department following the recent heavy rains. During a surprise inspection of field teams here on Tuesday, the DC conducted briefings and reviewed the progress of the anti-dengue


activities. He ordered the sealing of two commercial buildings where dengue larvae were found. Expressing strong displeasure over the accumulation of water in tires, utensils, and stagnant ponds, the DC stated that strict action would be taken against those failing to implement measures for dengue larvae eradication. He directed that comprehensive surveillance would be carried

out at sensitive locations and homes to prevent the spread of dengue. "The risks of dengue larvae growth have increased during the rainy season," said Waseem. He called on civil society, the business community, and all segments of society to join this crucial fight against dengue. Similarly, special dengue wards have been designated in all hospitals to handle potential outbreaks.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....1122 & 16
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
& 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.....5611116
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pakistan, Azerbaijan vow to deepen youth cooperation



DNA

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Khazar Farhadov, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, called on Mr. Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, at the latter's office in Islamabad. The meeting focused on exploring collaborative avenues in education, culture, and sports, with both sides expressing keen interest in enhancing bilateral relations through youth-centric initiatives. The meeting was attended by Member National Assembly Miss Syeda Amna Batool and officials from Prime Minister's Youth programme. During the meeting, Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan outlined the vision of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, which is committed to empower Pakistani youth through

various initiatives aimed at enhancing their skills, education, and cultural exposure. He emphasized the importance of technical education, stating, "The incumbent government places a strong emphasis on equipping our youth with technical skills that are essential for their personal growth and the nation's economic development. Our goal is to prepare them to compete on an international level." Ambassador Khazar Farhadov responded by acknowledging the pivotal role of youth as an invaluable asset for both nations. He emphasized the need for continued collaboration between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly in fields that directly impact the younger generations. "Youth is our most important asset, and it is through their development that we can ensure a prosperous future for our countries," said Ambassador Farhadov. A significant

portion of the discussions centered around the potential collaboration between Pakistan's National Volunteer Corps (NVC) and Azerbaijan's Volunteer Network. Chairman Rana Mashood briefed the Ambassador on the objectives of the NVC, which aims to foster a spirit of volunteerism among Pakistani youth, encouraging them to contribute to social development projects across the country. He proposed the idea of a collaborative framework where volunteers from both countries could engage in cross-border initiatives, share best practices, and learn from each other's experiences. "By integrating our volunteer networks, we can create a dynamic platform for youth from Pakistan and Azerbaijan to work together on projects that promote peace, cultural understanding, and community development," said Chairman Prime Minister's

Youth Programme. Another key point of discussion was the establishment of dual diploma courses for students from both Pakistan and Azerbaijan. These courses would allow students to gain academic qualifications recognized in both countries, thereby enhancing their educational prospects and career opportunities. Both parties agreed that such initiatives would not only benefit students academically but also foster stronger cultural ties between the two nations. In a gesture to further strengthen bilateral relations, Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan extended an invitation to the Ministers of Youth, Sports, and Culture of Azerbaijan to visit Pakistan. The proposed visit aims to facilitate direct dialogue and exchange of ideas, paving the way for more concrete partnerships in youth development, cultural exchange, and sports di-

plomacy. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing optimism about the future of Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations, particularly in the context of youth collaboration. Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working closely with Azerbaijan to create more opportunities for youth in both countries. He stated, "Our youth are the architects of tomorrow, and by joining hands with Azerbaijan, we can provide them with the tools and opportunities they need to build a brighter future." The Prime Minister's Youth Programme remains dedicated to fostering international partnerships that contribute to the holistic development of Pakistani youth, ensuring they are equipped to face global challenges and make meaningful contributions to society.

IUI student receives 'Fast Cables' excellence award

ISLAMABAD: A Fast Cables Excellence Award was conferred on Mr. Zain-ul Aabideen a student of the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering of International Islamic University who secured the highest CGPA. The award ceremony on Tuesday was held in the council hall of the university that was chaired by Acting President, IUI, Dr. Muhammad Sarwar who along with the Mr. Ghulam Yaseen Qadri, Regional Business Manager FAST cables awarded the cash prize of 1 lac rupees to Zain ul Aabideen. On the occasion, the FAST cables offered a job to the winner of the award as well as it was agreed on the occasion that in order further strengthen the bilateral ties between both institutions the IUI students will be provided internships in the FAST cables. Both of the institutions have signed MOUs to recognize the efforts of high achieving students and extend support through awards to graduates of Electrical Engineering Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET), while the FAST cables also provides a separate amount of 2 million rupees to the needy students. The IUI Acting President emphasized upon industry academia linkage and update of the curricula according to the needs of the society. He said on the occasion that the cooperation between IUI and FAST Cables will pave the way for more joint ventures and joint collaborations for the promotion of education.—APP

Rawal Dam spillways to open

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has announced that the spillways of Rawal Dam will be opened on Tuesday at 4 pm. This measure is being taken as a precaution due to rising water levels in the dam, said the spokesman of ICT administration. Residents living near urban river channels are advised to avoid these areas to stay safe. Those in low-lying regions should ensure they follow all safety measures to protect themselves and their property. In the event of an emergency, the public is encouraged to contact the district administration by dialing 16. Live-stock owners are also being told to move their animals to higher ground without delay. The district administration is closely monitoring river channels and bridges, with strict oversight continuing to ensure public safety. All necessary preparations have been made to handle potential flooding, according to the administration.

US embassy awards \$ 20,000 in seed funding to women

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad is delighted to announce the winners of \$20,000 in seed grants to participants in the Embassy's Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) program. The U.S. Embassy selected the winners through a pitch competition, the final activity for the 2024 cohort of AWE participants. The five grants will help the winners grow and develop their businesses. Congratulations to the winners:

1. Iman Khan (Peshawar) for her company,

Gricks International, which produces building materials made from recycled plastic and repurposing plastic bottles as bricks to rebuild homes in flood-impacted areas and reduce plastic waste.
2. Alishba Sajid (Rawalpindi) for Cardana Utensils which creates eco-friendly biodegradable plates and utensils.
3. Sahar Munir (Quetta) for her delivery app "QuickUp," that provides a fair and affordable delivery service for women-led businesses in Balochistan. In addition to the top three winners, the Embassy awarded "honorable mentions" to:

1. Sana Rehman (Quetta) for her Physiotherapy Clinic in Khanozai, Balochistan, that is addressing a significant gap in healthcare in that province.
2. Zarmina Sanam (Lahore) for her educational services company, Skill2Success, which provides students from ages 5-18 with hands on learning experience focused on in robotics, coding, and Artificial Intelligence.
The AWE program provides enterprising women with the knowledge, networks, and access they need to launch and scale successful businesses. This year's cohort of 100 aspiring and established women en-

trepreneurs took part in a three-month online entrepreneurship course developed by the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University; received mentoring from established Pakistani women entrepreneurs and built a network of support with other women-owned businesses. Future opportunities to take part in the AWE program will be announced on the Lincoln Corners Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LincolnCornersPakistan/>. Follow us to learn more about this and other opportunities for entrepreneurs.

RWMC continues cleanliness drive during rains

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) had deputed additional sanitary workers to clean and dredge major drains to avoid urban flooding. According to the RWMC spokesman, the RWMC carried out the cleanliness of nullahs and choked drains during continued rainfall since Tuesday morning to ensure sanitation in several city areas. He said that additional staff had been assigned duties in three shifts to ensure cleanliness round the clock so that some sanitation-related problems could not become hurdles in the smooth flow of water during monsoon season. He informed that RWMC workers removed hundreds of tons of waste in the Rawalpindi city areas while drains blocked during the rain had been opened immediately to have no problem with drainage in the city. He said that complaints received on social media platforms were also being addressed promptly. He added that heavy machinery and excavators were being used to remove rubbish from the roads. In case of any complaint, citizens were asked to register their complaints on helpline number 1139, which would be resolved immediately. RWMC has appealed to the citizens not to throw garbage and plastic bags in nullahs and drains, which cause obstruction, adding that RWMC would utilize all resources to keep the city environment friendly.—DNA

'Foolproof security arrangements made for Chehlum'

RAWALPINDI: Foolproof security arrangements were made for the Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), said Regional Police Officer, Rawalpindi Region, Babar Sarfraz Alpa. He said that over 4,600 well-equipped cops and officers were deployed to ensure security foolproof. Similarly, 215 traffic wardens and officers were also deployed for the smooth flow of traffic on city roads and to facilitate the mourners, he informed. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani said that monitoring of the main procession was ensured with the help of CCTV cameras besides aerial surveillance. Police personnel were also deployed on top of high-rise buildings on the route of the Chehlum procession, he said. The RPO and CPO also appreciated the efforts of the cops to maintain peace and order in the Chehlum. The processions of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) Chehlum, taken out from different

localities of the city after passing through their traditional routes culminated peacefully on Monday night. The main 'Zuljinnah' procession was taken out from Imambargah Ashiq Hussain. It passed through its traditional routes, including Bhabra Bazaar, Jamia Masjid Road, Banni Chowk, Fawara Chowk, Lal Haveli, Raja Bazaar, China Market, DAV College Road, Tyrnawala Bazaar and finally culminated at the Qadeemi Imambargah. Other 'Zuljinnah' processions were also taken out from Gora Syedan, Matwali Imambargah, Imambargah Shah Chan Chiragh, Imambargah Baltistan, Imambargah Satellite Town, D-Block, Hussainia Imambargah and Imambargah Qasra also joined the main procession and the mourners proceeded towards Qadeemi Imambargah. All the roads on the routes of the Chehlum processions remained completely closed for all kinds of traffic.

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Briefs

QAU Alumni, faculty perform tree plantation

ISLAMABAD: In a vibrant display of patriotism and commitment to environmental sustainability, the Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Alumni, alongside faculty, employees, and PhD scholars, marked the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan with a significant tree plantation drive at the QAU Botanical Garden. The event, aimed at contributing to a greener and more sustainable campus, saw the enthusiastic participation of the university community, who planted a variety of fruit trees across the garden. It was part of a countrywide plantation drive through which ten thousand trees are being planted by the QAU alumni in collaboration with its partners. The celebration was not only an ode to Pakistan's independence but also a pledge by the participants to make QAU an even greener and environmentally friendly institution. The initiative reflects the university's ongoing efforts to promote environmental conservation and enhance the natural beauty of the campus. Adding to the significance of the day, four fruit orchards were also inaugurated at the QAU Botanical Garden. These orchards, which will feature a diverse range of fruit-bearing trees, symbolize the university's dedication to sustainability and the provision of fresh produce for the university community in the future. Speaking on the occasion, representatives of the QAU alumni emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship and the role that institutions like QAU can play in promoting a green and sustainable future. —APP

Development work in IMCG F/11-3

ISLAMABAD: A delegation comprising of parliamentarians Madam Asia Ishaque and Madam Rana Ansar on Tuesday visited IMCG F-11/3 and expressed their delight and satisfaction upon witnessing the developmental work in public schools. During their visit, the parliamentarians commended the role of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE PT) in driving positive change in the education sector. They also appreciated the initiatives taken by Federal Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, which have contributed significantly to the improvement of public schools. The delegation was accompanied by Miss Faiza Fatima AD academic who shared valuable insights and perspectives on the educational initiatives. This visit underscores the government's commitment to enhancing the quality of education in public schools, and the progress made so far is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Ministry and its partners. —APP

Al-Shifa saves 16000 premature babies from lifelong blindness

Dr Wajid Ali Khan, the chief of medical services at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, said the growing incidence of retinal abnormalities among premature infants in Pakistan calls for urgent attention

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Through timely intervention, Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has prevented sixteen thousand premature babies from developing irreparable damage to their eyes over the past eleven years. Dr Wajid Ali Khan, the chief of medical services at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, said the growing incidence of retinal abnormalities among premature infants in Pakistan calls for urgent attention. He said that the majority of premature babies who weigh less than 1.5 kilograms at the time of birth have a high risk of developing the disorganized growth of retinal blood vessels, which can cause vision problems, including per-

manent blindness. Talking to media, he said that ba-



bies born prematurely have many obstacles to overcome in their first weeks, including abnormal eye development, which can be resolved through screening and surgical procedures to help avoid serious eyesight problems. He said the retina's blood vessels begin to develop three months after

conception and complete their growth at normal birth. However, eye development can be disrupted if an infant is born prematurely. "Latest studies have shown that keeping the oxygen saturation at a lower level can reduce the rate of advanced retinopathy," he said. He said one in ten babies worldwide is born early, with a chance of eyesight issues. Therefore, parents must include a vision screening in their list of baby check-ups between six and twelve months of age. He added that every premature infant deserves the constant attention of an ophthalmologist because they are at increased risk for eye misalignment, amblyopia, and the need for glasses to develop normal vision. He said that in

Pakistan, about 900000 babies are born annually, out of which about 100000 are prematurely born, and eighty percent of them are prone to eye problems. He added that the Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi has over 40 highly qualified eye surgeons, and the Pediatric Department has some of the most senior eye specialists. The hospital has expanded, handling over 500 OPD babies daily. Dr. Wajid Ali Khan said that he had signed MoUs with the administrations of Fuji Foundation Hospital, Combined Military Hospital, and Benazir Bhutto Hospital, under which the trust will provide all the facilities, from transportation to screening and surgery, for premature babies born in these hospitals.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zimbabwe's Ambassador Titus M J Abu Basutu has said that Pakistan and Zimbabwe enjoy a strong and friendly bilateral relationship with immense potential for trade ties. The two countries have been cooperating in various fields, including defense, culture, and education, since Zimbabwe's independence in 1980.

The Ambassador said this during his conversation at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday.

He said that by strengthening trade ties, both countries can benefit from each other's strengths, leading to increased economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards for their citizens, adding that there has been a growing interest in exploring trade opportunities, with Pakistan exporting goods such as rice, tractors, and cotton to Zimbabwe, and importing raw materials like cotton, tobacco, and minerals. The Ambassador divulged that



there are also Special Economic Zones in his country where the investors are offered a ten years tax holiday, therefore Pakistani investors should come forward and grasp the opportunity to boost economic and trade ties between the two countries. He also highlighted that the Ethiopian airlines

operation in Pakistan can also help promote people to people, business to business and tourism ties between Pakistan and Zimbabwe. He also described Islamabad as one of the most beautiful capitals of the world with most hospitable, loving and dedicated inhabitants. Chairman Pakistan Africa

Friendship Association (PAFA) and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtari said that Pakistan is committed to deepening its ties with the African nations and transforming them into meaningful partnerships. He underlined the need for air connectivity with African countries for

promotion of tourism. He apprised the distinguished guest that ICCI regularly celebrates Africa Day in a befitting manner which is a testament that we hold in high esteem our relationship with the African countries. He expressed the hope that the Ambassador's visit to ICCI will be a milestone in bringing the

two countries close to each other. He also mentioned that the current trade statistics do not justify the true potential of economic cooperation between the two countries, which has to be enhanced through collaborative efforts.

Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed said that it is the right time to transform the existing friendship between both the countries into economic opportunities. He apprised the guest about the working of the ICCI by highlighting that the Chamber is playing a pivotal role for the growth of businesses, trade and industry by building close liaison with government functionaries and business circles.

He also talked about the necessity of close cooperation and coordination between the Zimbabwean Chamber of Commerce and the ICCI for the purpose.

Those present on the occasion also include Chaudhry Maqsood Tabish, Rizwan Chheena, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Chaduhry Waseem, Nasir Chaudhry and other

Young scientists to get fellowship opportunity

According to an official of COMSTech, the fellowship program, to be conducted at the Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, has been designed to support the young scientists from the Islamic countries

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD, August 31 will be the last date to apply for the Young Scientists' Fellowship Program (YSTP) being executed through the support of the Mustafa (Peace Be Upon Him) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) and COMSTech-the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. According to an official of COMSTech, the fellowship program, to be conducted at the Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, has been designed to support the young scientists from the Islamic countries. The YSTP has been initiated to support talented youth with the cooperation of prestigious scientific institutes and reputable Research and Development centers. The fellowship program has been announced in the

research areas of Mechanical Engineering, Renewable Energy and Turbines, IOT and ICT, Water and Environment, Oil and Gas, Earthquake, Electronics, Nano Biochemistry, Transportation, Data Science and AI, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Biotechnology and Biomedical Engineering. The initiative has been launched with the aim of capacity building and nurturing the young generation for the development of science, technology, and innovation in line with the values and needs of Islamic society. The program provides short-term fellowships to young scholars, technologists, and faculty members under 40 years of age. About the eligibility, the official informed that the applicants must hold at least a Master's degree. The duration of fellowships in this program is 6-12 months, which can be more or less depending on

the conditions and requirements, with the agreement of the host. The fellowship opportunity will help the fellows get acquainted with novel scientific and technological achievements in the Islamic world; share capacities and exchange new findings through networking and streamlining, and strengthen international relations to help develop science and technology. The initiative is also aimed at deepening and institutionalizing international communications and collaborations; improving the quality of researchers' studies, expanding the border of knowledge, and helping to solve important scientific and technological challenges of the Islamic countries through the achievements made by international cooperation. About the application and evaluation process, the official informed that the applicants can apply online

through the website: ysfp.mstfdn.org. The primary evaluation of applicants is based on the information provided in the application form and attached documents, including education, research, teaching, grants, awards and honors, academic and professional activities, achievements, etc. The applicants, who have a background of cooperation with Mustafa (peace be upon him) Prize Laureates as well, and winners of the KANS Scientific Competition, shall benefit from an extra score in the evaluation. The applicants are ranked taking into account all the indicators and scores, the top of whom pass the secondary evaluation and a short list of eligible applicants is provided to the host for final review and selection. The candidates can apply online through the website www.ysfp.mstfdn.org.

Friendly countries reluctant to roll over debt

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Tuesday that the reluctance of friendly countries to roll over debt for one year is making it difficult for Pakistan to get a loan from the IMF. He added that Pakistan would face problems in obtaining loans from other sources unless it is under the IMF program. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that Pakistan has fulfilled almost all the conditions of the IMF for obtaining the loan, except for debt rollover. However, China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have not yet extended the twelve billion dollar repayment period by one year, which is why the IMF is not lending. A staff-level agreement was reached between the IMF and the government of Pakistan for a loan of seven billion dollars over thirty-seven months, but the international organization's executive board has not yet approved it. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that earlier, Pakistan had requested these three countries to increase the loan repayment period from three to five years, which was rejected. After that, there was a request for a one-year extension in the loan repayment period, on which they have been silent. In addition, there is a two-billion-dollar shortfall in external financing, which is not going down well with the lender. In these circumstances, Pakistan has no option but to take more loans to survive, for which efforts are being made. Until the loan is received, even the IMF will not help Pakistan, he noted. The business leader noted that Pakistan has been critical to Western and Arab countries for many decades, so it did not face any problems obtaining loans. However, it is not given importance now, so the lenders' conditions are also getting stricter. In Pakistan, he is considered the most significant economic expert who can manage loans from anywhere, no matter how expensive the loan is. Still, this cycle can only continue for a short time. He warned that the government must implement real reforms, adopt policies based on merit rather than political interests, increase exports, and become self-sufficient; otherwise, the country will go bankrupt.—DNA

AIU announces Spring 2024 exam schedule

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has issued the final exam schedule for Matric, FA, and ICom programs for the Spring 2024 semester. According to the AIU, these exams will take place in examination centers across the country starting from September 2. Roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS portals, and the date sheet is available on the university's website at www.aiou.edu.pk. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has directed to ensure basic facilities for students at the examination centers. Following his special instructions, roll number slips have also been uploaded on the AIU Mobile Application, which is available on the Google Play Store, and this feature will be available for future exams as well. Additionally, students interested in enrolling in the Matric, FA, and ICom programs offered in the first phase of the Autumn 2024 semester have been given until September 5 to submit their admission forms along with the required documents and fees.—APP

ICT admin gears up for SCO summit

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27 (APP): The government is going to host a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in October, and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration teams have launched extensive preparations to ensure the event's success. In this regard, a crucial meeting was held in Islamabad to discuss preparations for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Pakistan, said the spokesman of ICT administration. The meeting, chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, and was attended by all members and office-bearers of the association, along with Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and officers of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI). The main agenda focused on infrastructure enhance-

ments throughout the city, particularly the carpeting of roads and the decoration of key squares and flyovers. Officials emphasized the need to ensure the best possible arrangements to welcome foreign delegates arriving for the summit. In his remarks, DC Islamabad highlighted the importance of presenting the city in the best possible light for the international visitors. On the occasion, Irfan Memon announced that green flags would be prominently displayed across Islamabad. In addition, flags of other SCO member countries would also be hoisted at various locations to reflect the spirit of the summit. The meeting concluded with a commitment from all participants to work diligently in the days leading up to the event, ensuring Islamabad is fully prepared to host this significant international gathering.—

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Shattered Dreams

IN Gaza, stories of pain never cease, and the sounds of suffering echo constantly across a region ravaged by nearly a year of genocidal war, while the world watches in silence. Before the war, the heavy burdens of life and the Israeli blockade, now in its 17th year, had already cast a shadow over the lives of Gaza's youth, forcing them to navigate a reality full of challenges as they tried to build a better future for themselves and their children. However, those efforts, along with the dreams and ambitions they represented, were buried under the rubble of homes built with much hope. Mahmoud Safi, 38, was one of those young people known for their ambition and determination. He worked as a police officer in the Palestinian government in Gaza and also engaged in freelance online marketing. A graduate of the Islamic University of Gaza with a degree in Information Technology, Mahmoud was a man of high aspirations. His father, Shukri Safi, describes him as an outstanding student and an individual whose ambition knew no bounds. After graduating, Mahmoud joined the police force and later started his own online business to improve his financial situation and realize his dream of building a villa. Mahmoud bought a piece of land in the Austrian Quarter west of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza and began constructing the home he had always dreamed of. "He spent months working on the house, putting his heart into every detail," his father recalls. However, when the Israeli army launched a major ground offensive in Khan Yunis on December 5, 2023, the house where Mahmoud and his brother Anas were staying was hit by an airstrike in January, resulting in their deaths. His wife tearfully recalls the dream they shared, saying, "We moved into the house in 2022, but we never had the chance to enjoy it. It was supposed to be a place for our happiness, but I never imagined my husband would die there." She adds that the walls of the house are not as precious as her husband's life, who left behind two children, Yahya, 8, and Sarah, 2. Yahya, still unable to speak about the tragedy, remains deeply affected. His mother says that both children miss their father every day and often experience severe emotional distress. Mahmoud's friend, Mahmoud Al-Haddad, reflects on the loss: "Mahmoud spent so much time building a good life for his family. None of us ever imagined he would be killed in the very house he invested so much in, planning every detail with care." He adds, "This is a brutal occupation that destroys life and dreams and commits the worst crimes." He understands the profound impact of such a loss, recognizing that losing a spouse and a home in Gaza, where building a house under normal circumstances is an immense challenge, is devastating. "Losing a home means losing years of effort, cherished memories, and the sense of security and refuge." Nearly 11 months after the war began, the ongoing genocide in Gaza has claimed the lives of over 40,000 Palestinians, with 24% of them being youth, according to statistics from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on International Youth Day, observed on August 12 each year. Projections indicate that Gaza's population growth rate, which was expected to be around 2.7% in 2023, will likely drop to about 1% by mid-2024. Additionally, birth and fertility rates are expected to decline significantly as couples avoid having children due to the current conditions, fears for the health of mothers and children, and a sharp decrease in new marriages during the Israeli offensive.



Ukraine's Nato membership

IN an interview with the Post published last month, Columbia University professor Jeffrey Sachs said the war in Ukraine could end "tomorrow" through diplomacy. He said the underlying cause of the conflict was Nato's enlargement drive since the 1990s to include Ukraine and Georgia, and he maintained that peace could be restored only by removing that cause. Sachs has been widely respected for decades but differs from mainstream Western media on many issues, including this view of the war. Some Western analysts and politicians argue that enlargement of the transatlantic security alliance was just an excuse for Russian President Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine. They argue that Russia started the war in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea, part of Ukraine at the time, and the invasion by Russian troops in 2022 was an escalation of the ongoing conflict. For years, Nato members were divided about whether to include Ukraine. There were also efforts to try to "neutralise" Ukraine – or ensure it was neither a Nato nor Russian proxy – by finding ways to guarantee its security without making it part of the alliance. For example, retired French diplomat Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, who was a senior diplomatic adviser to French president Jacques Chirac, said the failure to set up a Nato-Russia Council in 2002 was a "missed opportunity" to neutralise Ukraine. Of course, with the animosity now between Nato and Russia, even Gourdault-Montagne says the time for collaboration is over. But that does not mean the main players should give up efforts to resolve the crisis through diplomacy. It will, however, require the right timing, skills, and the removal of the biggest obstacle for peace talks: Nato membership for Ukraine. Nato says that each country has the right to make its own security choices, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has repeatedly appealed to the alliance to give his country full membership. That is something Putin is unlikely to ever accept, with his security concerns outweighing the cost of the war to his country. Putin insists that a ceasefire can only happen if the areas occupied by the Russian military are accepted as his country's new frontiers and if Ukraine is ruled out of Nato membership. Ukraine, meanwhile, demands the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, including Crimea. However, as the dynamics of the war change, the frontiers may not be entirely non-negotiable for Russia – unlike the Nato membership issue. Some analysts argue that Russia has always seen Ukraine as part of its "kingdom" and would not tolerate a pro-Western government in Kyiv. But the fighting in the last two years shows that the "annexation of Ukraine", whether that was Putin's original goal, would not be possible. The resilience of Ukraine also shows that it does not necessarily take Nato membership for Ukraine to remain independent. Beijing has repeatedly said it is willing to help mediate a way forward, offering a six-point ceasefire proposal. But the plan was vague and its suggestion to host a peace conference between Russia and Ukraine also failed to gain any traction. Western governments see Beijing as siding with Moscow and accuse it of helping Russia to circumvent Western sanctions.

US arms deal with "Israel": Fishy timing amid Iran's imminent retaliation

F.M. Shakil

The Pentagon has awarded Canada \$60 million in contracts for the delivery of weapons, out of the \$20 billion authorized budget for the supply of weaponry to "Israel". The Canadian authorities carried out the arrangement via a confidential agreement with the United States, which led to a great deal of dissatisfaction among Canadian residents, attorneys, and rights groups for their "off the record" role in the weaponry transaction. They asserted that Canada had not done enough to stop "Israel" from committing war crimes in Gaza with its weaponry. In March this year, the Canadian Parliament put a one-way embargo on military exports to "Israel"

LAST week, the United States approved \$20 billion worth of arms sales to "Israel", pushing aside the UN Human Rights Council's call for halting arms sales to "Israel", given the large-scale human losses in Gaza. The sale includes 50 F-15IA fighter jets, 25 upgraded versions of F-15I jets, 50,000 120mm mortar shells, 32,000 120mm tank shells, 30 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles, and military tactical vehicles. As the death toll in Gaza gradually increased—surpassing the 40,000 fatalities—and there seemed to be no let-up in the air assaults, UN Secretary-General António Guterres had to comment that Israeli military campaign had only caused "relentless death and destruction" to the besieged enclave. The UN General Assembly kept on issuing resolutions one after another, but both the US and its allies in NATO turned a deaf ear to such callings. The General Assembly passed a resolution in 1975 (3414), requesting all states to refrain from supplying "Israel" with any military aid as long as it continued to occupy Arab territories and deny the Palestinian people their rights. Again, in 1982, it called upon all member states, under resolution ES-9/1, to hold back from supplying or purchasing any weapons from "Israel". In 2018, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution mandating all states to avoid supplying arms that "Israel" could use to perpetrate serious violations of international human rights law. In June of this year, the Human Rights Council (HRC) took a similar stance, demanding an end to "Israel's" air raids and arms supply to Tel Aviv, warning that such an action would be considered complicit in genocide and war crimes. Even though the UN Council fell short of pulling the trigger on placing an embargo on the businesses and countries supplying arms and ammunition to "Israel", pressure is building up from the UN's experts, governments, and rights organizations to pull the plug on arms transfers to "Israel". The Council has demanded that arms manufacturers and suppliers, such as BAE Systems, Boeing, Caterpillar, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Oshkosh, Rheinmetall AG, Rolls-Royce Power Systems, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp, cease the transfer of weapons to "Israel", even if these weapons were produced under current export licenses. The unfortunate part of this saga is that the US and its Western supporters hardly care to act on what the UN was persistently demanding. Despite reports that Is-

raeli forces are systematically violating international law and engaging in abuses such as torture, the flow of US weapons to "Israel" continues unabated. Reuters, citing two U.S. sources informed about an updated list of weapons shipments to "Israel", reports that since the start of the Gaza conflict, the Biden administration has provided a significant quantity of munitions, including over 10,000 highly deadly 2,000-pound bombs and several Hellfire missiles. From the beginning of the war in October until recently, the United States has transferred a minimum of 14,000 MK-84 2,000-pound bombs, 6,500 500-pound bombs, 3,000 Hellfire precision-guided air-to-ground missiles, 1,000 bunker-buster bombs, 2,600 air-dropped small-diameter bombs, and various other munitions. Axios Publication, a US-based news portal, asserts, citing Israeli sources, that the arms deal sends a message to Iran and Hamas that the US is prepared to defend "Israel" from any attack. The portal, quoting a US official, said that even though the timing of the deal was coincidental, it tends to show US concerns and support for "Israel" as tensions are rising in the region. The timing of the deal and selection of arms categories indicate that the US wants the region to know that Washington will protect "Israel's" long-term security, "come what may." The media report says that the sale of F-15 jets carries "political sensitivities," as Congress seems reluctant to supply the jets to "Israel" at a time when tension was at its high pitch in the region. There was also a fear in the ranks of Republicans that Congress might put a damper on the arms sale given the explosive situation in the Middle East. This is precisely the reason that "Israeli" Defense Minister Yoav Gallant went to Washington several times to iron out the differences on the sale of arms and to seal the deal amicably. Gallant has been meeting senior officials of the Biden administration, including Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, since the start of the war in Gaza to finalize the ammunition issue. Media claims that "Israeli" and US officials believe that Gallant's persistent follow-up with Washington played a crucial role in the recent development. The Pentagon announced that it will take multiple years to manufacture F-15 fighter jets, with delivery starting in 2029 and additional equipment provision scheduled for 2026. It affirmed that "Israel's" security is of the utmost

importance to the United States' national interest. The Pentagon expressed its commitment to supporting "Israel" in maintaining a military presence in the region and improving its self-defense capabilities. The defense analysts dispute the Pentagon's assertion, claiming that the majority of the supplies may occur before 2026. Challenging the Pentagon's assertion that the supply would not be available until 2029, they disclosed that certain deliveries, such as F-15 planes, tank cartridges, explosive mortar cartridges, and army vehicles, would arrive significantly earlier. The Pentagon has awarded Canada \$60 million in contracts for the delivery of weapons, out of the \$20 billion authorized budget for the supply of weaponry to "Israel". The Canadian authorities carried out the arrangement via a confidential agreement with the United States, which led to a great deal of dissatisfaction among Canadian residents, attorneys, and rights groups for their "off the record" role in the weaponry transaction. They asserted that Canada had not done enough to stop "Israel" from committing war crimes in Gaza with its weaponry. In March this year, the Canadian Parliament put a one-way embargo on military exports to "Israel". The House of Commons voted to adopt a non-binding New Democratic Party (NDP) Opposition Day motion, which called on Canada to "cease the further authorization and transfer of arms exports to Israel to ensure compliance with Canada's arms export regime." From October to December 2023, Canada authorized the transfer of \$28.5 million worth of military goods to "Israel". By contrast, Canadian companies shipped \$21.3 million worth of military supplies to "Israel" in 2022, which is slightly lower than the \$27.8 million exported in 2021. Canada authorized a greater number of military goods exports to "Israel" during the initial three months of "Israel's" genocidal conflict in Gaza than any individual year during the past three decades. During Trudeau's tenure as Prime Minister from 2015 to 2023, Canadian companies have exported around \$150 million worth of military items to "Israel" in total. These exports entail private companies making profits by seeking approval from Global Affairs Canada for export licenses. In recent years, the main categories of Canada's military exports to "Israel" have included bombs, torpedoes, rockets, missiles, military aircraft or related components, and military spacecraft or related components.

Nukes, Allies, and expectations: Can the US deliver on its promises?

Afnan Wasif



This brings us to an intriguing comparison: if Taiwan were considered the "Israel of East Asia," would the U.S. extend the same level of protection—political, military, and diplomatic—in the event of Chinese aggression? Unlike the Middle East, where Israel's adversaries lack nuclear capabilities, China is a nuclear power, adding a complex layer to US...

THE U.S. has consistently demonstrated its unwavering support for Israel, particularly following the October 7, 2023, offensive launched by Hamas and the subsequent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of Hamas' political wing. This incident has prompted the U.S. to increase its military footprint and diplomatic endeavors in the Middle East, justifying the move as necessary to deter adversaries, protect its interests and allies, and defend Israel. Despite the heavy criticism and widespread protests over the war crimes and genocide in Gaza committed by Israel, the U.S. remains committed to backing Israel. The U.S. security partnerships can be broadly categorized into three key regions: NATO (where nuclear-armed allies like the U.S., UK, and France collaborate), the Middle East (where no nuclear powers exist), and the Indo-Pacific (India, a US ally, possesses nukes and the US adversaries – China and North Korea – have nuclear weapons). A notable distinction is that, unlike NATO and the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East lacks a nuclear power. If a nuclear power existed in this region, the dynamics would likely be significantly different. This brings us to an intriguing comparison:

if Taiwan were considered the "Israel of East Asia," would the U.S. extend the same level of protection—political, military, and diplomatic—in the event of Chinese aggression? Unlike the Middle East, where Israel's adversaries lack nuclear capabilities, China is a nuclear power, adding a complex layer to U.S. decision-making. The same question applies to U.S. allies like South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines, who might question the extent of U.S. support if faced with a nuclear-armed adversary i.e. China. China, observing these developments, may opt for maintaining the status quo in case of Taiwan, leveraging it as a strategic advantage in any potential crisis with the US. This would allow China to tilt the balance of negotiations in its favor without engaging in direct conflict with the US. In this context, the U.S. is inadvertently setting a precedent for its allies across these regions. These allies, observing the steadfast support Israel receives, might expect similar backing. However, the presence of nuclear weapons in the Indo-Pacific complicates this expectation. Nuclear capabilities undeniably influence strategic calculations and could force the U.S. to tread more cautiously in this region, testing the credibility and deterrence value of nuclear arms.

It may induce [nuclear] arms proliferation. The 2024 U.S. presidential elections will also play a critical role in shaping the future of U.S. security partnerships across these three regions. If former President Donald Trump, known for his skeptical views on traditional security alliances, returns to the White House, it could disrupt the current dynamics. His approach may lead to a reassessment of U.S. commitments, causing allies to seek security guarantees elsewhere, as highlighted by JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon's remark that "if U.S. allies cannot rely on the U.S., they will have to look elsewhere for support." The U.S.'s steadfast support for Israel in the Middle East, particularly in the absence of nuclear powers, sets a complex precedent for its allies in the Indo-Pacific, where nuclear dynamics significantly impact strategic decisions. The upcoming U.S. elections will further influence these alliances and security partnerships, inevitably leading to a global shift, depending on the outcome.

– The author is a student of Strategic Studies at National Defence University, Islamabad. He tweets @afnanwasif

Briefs

China, US
pledge
support...

FROM PAGE 01
A spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said at a regular press briefing on Tuesday that Beijing strongly condemns the attacks in Pakistan and will continue to give strong support to the country in anti-terrorism action. "China stands firm against all forms of terrorism. We will continue giving staunch support to Pakistan in its effort to advance counter-terrorism operations, uphold social solidarity and stability, and protect the safety of the people," Lin Jian said. He reaffirmed China's readiness to enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation with Pakistan further and jointly safeguard peace and security in the region. Similarly, taking the gravity of the situation into account, Washington strongly regretted the deaths of law enforcers and civilians in Balochistan's Musakhail and other areas. "Our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed in yesterday's attacks. The United States will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism," the US embassy in Islamabad wrote on its official X account. Similarly, the European Union also condemned the heinous attacks in the southwestern province of the country. "Terrorism and violence in any form have no place. They threaten the foundations of democracy. Our thoughts are with those affected [by] this senseless act," the EU Commission Spokesperson Nabila Massrali wrote on X.

PM rules
out 'soft
approach'...

FROM PAGE 01
carried out between Sunday night and Monday, terrorists separately targeted civilians, police, and security forces. In the Rarasham area of the province's Musakhail district, at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks. Separately, at least 10 people, including police and Balochistan Levies personnel, were martyred in a gun attack in Kalat. Regretting the dastardly attacks, PM Shehbaz said that more than 50 citizens as well as security personnel embraced martyrdom in the recent terrorist incidents. "Innocent people were killed in Dera Ismail Khan and Karak as well," he said, adding that the Khawarij terrorists operated from across the border in Afghanistan. Condemning the terror attacks in Balochistan, the PM also said the terrorists wanted to halt Pakistan's development, by thwarting the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other development projects. "The terrorists want to create a rift between Pakistan and China as well as anarchy within the country," he said. Announcing to visit Balochistan soon to review its situation, he said the nation should recognise its enemies and unite to defeat them. Shehbaz said the terrorists were mistaken that they could achieve their goal of spreading terror by killing innocent people. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that no operation is required to establish writ of the state as "even an SHO alone is enough for these terrorists". "We need to go after those who are backing these incidents," he added.

Pak aims to
raise \$4bn
from me
banks

FROM PAGE 01
obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners". However, the country is missing from the IMF agenda until September 4, 2024, according to the lender's schedule of its Executive Board meetings released on August 26.

Gauff rolls into US Open 2nd
round, Djokovic under lights

Gauff has battled through an erratic season since capturing her maiden major last year and her tune-up tournaments saw her fall in the third round at Toronto before she crashed out of her first match

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Coco Gauff powered into the second round of the US Open on Monday, launching her title defence with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Varvara Gracheva as defending men's champion Novak Djokovic prepared to start his repeat bid under the lights of Arthur Ashe Stadium. Gauff, seeded third, fired 10 aces and needed just 66 minutes to beat 66th-ranked Gracheva. She saved eight break points – including two with aces in the final game. "It is definitely a lot of pressure this tournament but I'm just enjoying it," said Gauff, who is seeded third behind world number one Iga Swiatek and Aryna Sabalenka. "Last year was incredible, so I'm just bringing those vibes and whatever happens, happens." Gauff has battled through an erratic season since capturing her maiden major last year and her tune-up tournaments saw her fall in the third round at Toronto before she crashed out of her first match as the defending champion in Cincinnati. "The last few weeks have been a little bit tough," Gauff said. "But today was I think the best



tennis I've played in a while." Four-time champion Djokovic, seeded second behind world number one Jannik Sinner, is vying to become the first man to repeat in New

York since Roger Federer won five straight US Opens from 2004-2008. "Hopefully that changes this year," said Djokovic, who highlighted an otherwise disappointing season with an emotional gold medal at the Paris Olympics. That victory satisfied a years' long quest for Djokovic, who has been hindered by a knee injury in 2024. With Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz snapping at his heels, Djokovic is facing the prospect of a year without a Grand Slam title for the first time since 2017. The 37-year-old, whose 24 Grand Slam titles are tied with Aussie legend Margaret Court for most all-time, says he still gets pumped up for the "pillars of our sport." And that's especially true of the US Open, where he'll anchor the night session taking on Moldovan qualifier Radu Albot. "I can't wait to be under the lights," Djokovic said. "The noise, the energy of the stadium is just different from anything else." American Ben Shelton got the ball rolling on Ashe with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over 2020 champion Dominic Thiem. Shelton's triumph marked an end to Thiem's Grand Slam career, the Austrian having announced he would retire at the end of 2024 after several injury-plagued seasons. "I just want to say thanks for all the support," Thiem told fans. "It's been 10 years since I first played here, I had my greatest success on this court."

UEFA to honour Ronaldo
as UCL all-time top scorer

The Portuguese has won the title five times in his illustrious career

WEB DESK

MADRID: Cristiano Ronaldo will be receiving an award from UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin as the all-time top-scorer of the Champions League, the European football govern-

ing body confirmed on Tuesday. Ronaldo, 39, made history in Europe as he bagged 140 goals in 183 matches while playing for Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus and also lifted the elusive title five times, which is the second most by any player. The 39-year-old lifted the title four

times with Real Madrid (2014, 2016, 2017, and 2018) and once with Man Utd (2008). He is also the only player to score in three different finals (2008 against Chelsea, 2014 against Atletico Madrid and 2017 against Juventus). The Portuguese great will be honoured at the 36-team league phase draw ceremony in Monaco on Thursday. "Cristiano Ronaldo, the all-time leading goalscorer in the UEFA Champions League, will be honoured with a special award from UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin in recognition of his remarkable legacy in the world's most prestigious competition," UEFA said in a statement. "Ronaldo's achievements in Europe's premier club competition – accomplished over the course of more than 18 years – will be recognised during the inaugural 2024/25 UEFA Champions League 36-team league phase draw ceremony, which will take place on Thursday 29 August at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco." Ronaldo finished as the Champions League top-scorer in seven different seasons. He also holds the record for most goals in a single season, when he netted 17 goals during Madrid's historic Champions League win in the 2013/14 season. "Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the brightest stars in the UEFA Champions League constellation," Ceferin said in a statement. "His extraordinary goal-scoring achievements in the competition seem destined to stand the test of time, posing a remarkable challenge for future generations to surpass."

PCB grants
NOC to Fakhar,
Azam for CPL

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has granted No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to wicketkeeper-batter Azam Khan and explosive opener Fakhar Zaman to participate in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL). According to sources, the PCB has issued the NOC to four players for the event that starts from 30th August while the NOC request by Saim Ayub has been declined. Azam Khan is now set to represent the Guyana Amazon Warriors, while Fakhar Zaman will be joining the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons. Fast bowler Mohammad Amir & all-rounder Imad Wasim have also received NOCs for the CPL. Both Amir and Wasim will be playing for the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons. However, young opener Saim Ayub has not been granted a NOC for the CPL, as he is currently with Pakistan's Test team for the two-Test series against Bangladesh. Last month, the PCB denied the NOC to Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Afridi for participating in Global T20 League Canada. The PCB made the decision to give them rest as the Green Shirts have to play a lot of cricket before the commencement of Champions Trophy 2025, which will be hosted in the country. Pakistan's schedule till May 2025 is jam-packed due to which the PCB denied the NOCs to players. The main priority for the Mohsin Naqvi-led board is the players' fitness and making sure they remain injury-free and are well-rested. It is worth mentioning that the PCB's policy is to allow players to play two franchise cricket leagues alongside the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Saudi team
wins three
medals
at IOAA

RIYADH: The Saudi team won three medals in the competitions of the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in which more than 250 students from 50 countries are partaking. The achievement is a result of qualification and training the students received in training camps held in cooperation between King Abdulaziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (Mawhiba), the Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST), and the Ministry of Education. Mawhiba participates in the annual global competitions to showcase its students' capabilities in observational astronomy and solve scientific problems in celestial mechanics, astrophysics, and cosmology. – Agencies

BCCI's Jay Shah elected
unopposed as ICC chairman

Replacing Greg Barclay, Shah will assume the position on December 1, 2024

NEW DELHI: Jay Shah, the current honorary secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has been elected unopposed as the chairman of International Cricket Council (ICC), confirmed the cricketing governing body on Tuesday. Shah has served as the BCCI's honorary secretary since October 2019 and chair of the Asian Cricket Council since January 2021. Replacing Greg Barclay, who was elected in November 2020, he will assume the position on December 1, 2024. Shah was the sole nominee for the chairmanship. Shah earlier claimed that he had enough support to become the new ICC chairman after Barclay announced earlier this month that he would not continue his journey in his current role. After being elected to the prestigious role, Shah said his goal is to expand cricket's global reach as cricket is set to be included in the Los Angeles Olympics 2028. "I am humbled by the nomination as the Chair of the International Cricket Council," Shah stated. "I am committed to working closely with the ICC team and our member nations to further globalise cricket. We stand at a critical juncture where it is increasingly important to balance the coexistence of multiple formats, promote the adoption of advanced technologies, and introduce our marquee events to new global markets. Our goal is to make cricket more inclusive and popular than ever before." "While we will build on the valuable lessons learned, we must also embrace fresh thinking and innovation to elevate the love for cricket worldwide. The inclusion of our sport in the Olympics at LA 2028 represents a significant inflection point for the growth of cricket, and I am confident that it will drive the sport forward in unprecedented ways." Shah, whose current designation as BCCI secretary will expire next. – DNA

Tarar for
politics-free
approach
to combat
terrorism

FROM PAGE 01
Additionally the House offered prayers for martyred souls of the officials of security forces and the law enforcement agencies, who lost their lives in numerous terrorism incidents. Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces have recently seen an uptick in violence, including targeted killings and militant attacks. Earlier on Monday, a motorcycle-borne bomb attack in Razmak subdivision of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's North Waziristan district killed at least four people and injured eight others.

JI urges
Sharif
family
to forego...

FROM PAGE 01
If we do not receive relief, we will continue with strikes, consulting with traders to plan future actions. During tomorrow's strike, we will devise a strategy for the 'Give the People Their Rights' campaign and engage in peaceful protest." Rehman also voiced his support for the Baloch community, stating, "We have raised our voices for the Balochs. No one will be allowed to use the Baloch name to further India's agenda. Those who are selectively killing people in Balochistan are not humans but beasts and terrorists. They are acting as pawns of foreign powers to weaken our country. We will not let their malicious intentions succeed."

President
awards
Nishan-e-
Imtiaz to...

FROM PAGE 01
Awan-e-Sadr, attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, service chiefs, diplomats and parliamentarians. The citation at the ceremony recognised General Li for his remarkable leadership, unwavering dedication to service, and exceptional professional skills. In recognition of his meritorious services, rendered towards enhancing defence cooperation with Pakistan, the president has conferred the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon him. Over a career spanning more than forty years, he has made significant contributions to the Chinese military through his diligence, determination, and effectiveness. His steadfast loyalty, exemplary leadership, initiative, and vision earned him widespread admiration and motivated others to reach for the highest levels of accomplishment.

25 terrorists
killed in
Tirah IBO

FROM PAGE 01
During the intelligence-based operations being conducted since August 20, the security forces so far killed 25 terrorists, including a ring leader named Abuzar aka Saddam. "However, four soldiers, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom", the ISPR added. "The heavy losses inflicted upon Fina-Al-Khawarij in these operations is testament to the valor and commitment of security forces to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country," it concluded. On Aug 25, terrorists attacked a check post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Central Kurram, resulting in martyrdom of one policeman. Similarly, security forces killed seven terrorists and wounded five others during an IBO in the Kurram district earlier this month. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant attacks since the Taliban government returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021, mostly in the northwestern border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but also in southwestern Balochistan, which abuts Afghanistan and Iran. There were at least 170 militant attacks killing 151 civilians and 114 security personnel in Balochistan last year, according to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies.

Pak-Bang 2nd Test; PCB announces free entry for students

The Gallery pass, which includes lunch and tea, is priced at PKR 2,800. The Platinum box, which also includes lunch and tea, is available for PKR 12,500. Additionally, a full hospitality box can be reserved for PKR 200,000

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board has announced free entry for students for the second Test match between Bangladesh and hosts Pakistan, scheduled to take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from August 30 to September 3. The students are required to be in their uniform and bring their educational institutions cards to enter the stadium. They will be able to witness the live action from any of the VIP enclosures – Imran Khan and Javed Miandad (subject to availability of seats) and premium enclosures – Miran Baksh, Shoaib Akhtar, Sohail

Tanvir and Yasir Arafat. The decision was made to encourage students to come and witness exciting game of cricket between the two sides. Bangladesh are leading the two-match Test series 1-0, after defeating the hosts by 10 wickets in the first Test match which concluded on Sunday. The series is part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25. The free entry policy for students does not apply on the seating capacity in PCB Gallery or Platinum Box. Earlier, the PCB



had announced free entry for the fans on the fourth and fifth days of the first Test match at the same venue. Meanwhile, the fans can purchase tickets for the second Test online at PCB.tcs.com.pk or from the physical ticket booth located at Aviation Ground, opposite Rescue 1122, Rawal Road and also at the designated TCS express centres. The tickets for the premium enclosures will be available for PKR 200, while VIP enclosures tickets will be priced at PKR 500 on

weekdays and PKR 600 on weekends. The Gallery pass, which includes lunch and tea, is priced at PKR 2,800. The Platinum box, which also includes lunch and tea, is available for PKR 12,500. Additionally, a full hospitality box can be reserved for PKR 200,000. Like the first Test match, a free shuttle bus service will continue to run on two routes on matchdays for ease of access into the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium by spectators. Route 1 will run from Aviation Ground, Rawal Road, Murree Road to Allama Iqbal Park Entrance Gate while the Route 2 will go from Government Satellite Town College for Boys, 6th Road, Murree Road to Allama Iqbal Park Entrance Gate.

Briefs

Indian police fire teargas at protestors

NEW DELHI: Police in India fired teargas and water cannon to disperse hundreds of protesters marching in the eastern city of Kolkata on Tuesday to demand the resignation of a top state minister in the wake of a gruesome rape and murder of a trainee doctor. Protesters led by university students broke through the iron barricades set up on the route of their march to the West Bengal state secretariat, television footage showed, resulting in a baton charge by the police, who had earlier declared the protest illegal. The August 9 attack on the 31-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi, with campaigners saying women continue to suffer from high levels of sexual violence despite tougher laws. A police volunteer has been arrested for the crime and the federal police have taken over the investigation. Junior doctors have refused to see non-emergency patients in many parts of the country since the incident at Kolkata's state-run R.G. Kar Medical College, as they launched protests demanding justice for the victim and greater safety for women at hospitals. India's Supreme Court has created a hospital safety task force and has requested protesting doctors return to work, but some have refused to budge, including in West Bengal, of which Kolkata is the capital.—DNA

Texas judge suspends Biden immigration reform policy

HOUSTON: A Texas judge on Monday ordered a temporary pause on a policy that would streamline the process for spouses of US citizens to obtain legal status in the country, a blow to one of US President Joe Biden's biggest immigration reform policies. Judge J. Campbell Barker granted a 14-day administrative stay in a case brought by the Republican attorneys general of 16 US states challenging the Biden administration's policy. In June, Biden announced the new policy, which streamlined a pathway to citizenship for an estimated half a million immigrants married to US nationals. The 16 states bringing the lawsuit, however, say the policy is costing them millions of dollars in public services — including healthcare, education and law enforcement — used by the immigrants. "The claims are substantial and warrant closer consideration than the court has been able to afford to date," Judge Barker wrote in his order. "This is just the first step. We are going to keep fighting for Texas, our country, and the rule of law," said Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, whose state is party to the case, in a post on social media platform X after the order.—APP

Export of footwear increases 2.62% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD: The export of footwear from the country witnessed an increase of 2.62 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year. The country exported footwear worth US\$ 11.793 million during July 2024 as opposed to the export of US\$ 11.491 million during July 2023, showing growth of 2.62 percent, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Among the footwear products, the exports of leather footwear witnessed a decrease of 1.24 percent, from US\$ 9.570 million to US\$ 9.452 million during the month under review. The canvas footwear exports also decreased by 43.64 percent by going down from US\$ 0.286 million last year to US\$ 0.161 million, the PBS data revealed.—APP

UN Chief Grossi visits Kursk nuclear plant

UN nuclear chief Grossi visits Russia's Kursk plant amid Ukrainian attacks, highlighting safety concerns at nuclear facilities

KURSK: UN nuclear agency chief Rafael Grossi will visit on Tuesday Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant, which Moscow says has been repeatedly attacked by Ukrainian forces that are just 40 km (25 miles) away after carving out a slice of Russian territory. The safety of nuclear power plants has repeatedly been endangered over the course of the Ukraine war, which began in February 2022 when Russia sent thousands of troops over the border into Ukraine. Moscow and Kyiv have repeatedly blamed each other for drone and artillery attacks on the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine, though the Aug. 6 incursion by Ukrainian forces into Russia has put the spotlight on the Kursk plant — a major Soviet-era nuclear power station.



President Vladimir Putin accused Ukraine on Thursday of trying to attack the Kursk plant, which has four Soviet graphite-moderated RBMK-1000 reactors — the same design as those at the Chernobyl

nuclear plant which in 1986 became the scene of the world's worst-ever civilian nuclear disaster. Ukraine has yet to respond to the accusations that it attacked the facility. Putin says Ukraine tried to attack Kursk nuclear plant Grossi, who has repeatedly warned of a nuclear disaster if nuclear plants continue to be attacked, said he would lead an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission to the Kursk plant "given the serious situation". He said the only way the IAEA could assess the plant's security and validate the information it was receiving was to visit the site, which is owned by Russia's vast nuclear state corporation, Rosatom. "The safety and security of nuclear facilities must, under no circum-

stances, be endangered," Grossi said. "The safety and security of all nuclear power plants is of central and fundamental concern to the IAEA." Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers punched through the Russian border on Aug. 6 and then carved out a portion of Russia's western Kursk region, the biggest foreign attack on sovereign Russian territory since World War Two. Russia says Ukraine sent in thousands of troops along with sabotage units, swarms of drones, heavy artillery, dozens of tanks and heavy Western weaponry. Moscow says it will eject the Ukrainian soldiers. Just 40 km (25 miles) away from the fighting, the Kursk nuclear power station sits next to the town of Kurchatov, named after legend-

ary Russian physicist Igor Kurchatov. "No impact reported" from Ukraine nuclear plant fire: UN agency Of the Kursk nuclear power station's four Soviet-era reactors, two are shut down, but two — Number 3 and Number 4 — are operational. Reactor Number 4 was disconnected from the grid on Aug. 25 for 59 days of cooling repairs. Construction of Kursk-2, essentially new reactors of the VVER-510 type, began in 2018. The two reactors are not operational yet. The IAEA said on Aug. 22 that it had been informed by Russia that the remains of a drone were found about 100 metres (330 ft) from the Kursk plant's spent fuel nuclear storage facility. Radiation levels in the area are normal, according to Russian monitoring stations.—Agencies

Iran's ambassador to Türkiye meets VP Yilmaz

TEHRAN: Iranian ambassador to Türkiye Mohammad Hassan Habibzadeh has met the country's Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz. In the meeting held on Monday, Habibzadeh stressed the need for increased cooperation between Iran and Türkiye. Yilmaz, for his part, congratulated the election of a new government in Iran and the approval of its ministers in the country's parliament. He also reiterated that the government in Ankara is ready to expand its cooperation with the newly-elected administration in Iran. Habibzadeh and Yilmaz also discussed the latest political and regional developments as well as economic relations between Iran and Türkiye while emphasizing the need for an increase in trade exchanges between the two neighboring countries.—APP

Kremlin warns France against trying to 'intimidate' Telegram boss Durov

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said Tuesday that France had levelled "very serious" charges against Telegram CEO Pavel Durov and warned Paris against trying to intimidate him, after the tech tycoon was arrested at a Paris airport last week. French prosecutors accuse the 39-year-old billionaire of failing to curb the spread of illegal content on Telegram — charges his company denies. French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday denied any political link to the arrest. "The charges are indeed very serious, they require no less serious evidence. Otherwise this would be a direct attempt to restrict freedom of communication, and I might even say, directly intimidate the head of a large company," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "That is to say, precisely the policy that Mr Macron denied yesterday," Peskov added. Numerous questions have been raised about the timing and circumstances of Durov's detention, which a source close to the case said had been extended until Wednesday.—APP

Home Tourism Business gets popular among Uyghur families

XINJIANG: Home Tourism Business is getting popular among Uyghur families as new earning source. Monthly earnings average around RMB 10,000 rising to RMB 25,000-30,000 during the tourist season, it was observed by a Pakistani delegation that is currently on a visit to China, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Globally, home tourism, as part of the sharing economy, represents a socio-economic ecosystem built around the sharing of human, physical, and intellectual resources. The delegation, titled "China Tour for Pakistan Media and Think Tank 2024," enjoyed a diverse array

of homemade delicacies, offered by a local family who is successfully running Home Tourism Business. Dishes included dry fruits, fresh fruits, tea, and ice cream, all served on a large table in the spacious courtyard. The courtyard, shaded by grapevines with aromatic branches, provided a serene setting. The Uy-

ghur hosts also gave the delegates a tour of their home, allowing them to appreciate the historical interior, the decoration of the living rooms, and the texture of the walls, doors, and arches. All the services provided to the media delegation were complimentary, courtesy of the Khalida family.



Guterres issues 'global SOS' over fast-rising Pacific ocean

NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres voiced a global climate "SOS" at a Pacific islands summit on Tuesday, unveiling research that shows the region's seas rising much more swiftly than global averages. "I am in Tonga to issue a global SOS — Save Our Seas — on rising sea levels. A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril" he said. Sparsely populated and with few heavy industries, the Pacific islands collectively pump out less than 0.02 percent of global emissions every year. But this vast arc of volcanic islands and low-lying coral atolls also inhabits a tropical corridor that is rapidly threatened by encroaching oceans. The World Meteorological Organisation has been monitoring tide gauges installed on the Pacific's famed beaches since the early 1990s. A new report released by the top UN climate monitoring body showed seas had risen by around 15 centimetres in some parts of the Pacific in the last 30 years. global average was 9.4 centimetres, according to the report. "It is increasingly evident that we are fast running out of time to turn the tide," said the forecasting agency's top official Celeste Saulo. Some sites, particularly in Kiribati and Cook Islands, measured a rise that matched or was just under the global average. But other sites, such as the capital cities of Samoa and Fiji, were rising almost three times higher. In low-lying Pacific nation Tuvalu, land is already so scarce that throngs of children use the tarmac at the international airport as their own makeshift playground. Scientists have warned that, even under some moderate scenarios, Tuvalu could be almost entirely wiped off the map within the next 30 years. "It's disaster after disaster, and we are losing the capacity to rebuild, to withstand another cyclone or another flood," Tuvalu Climate Minister Maina Talia told AFP on the summit's sidelines. "For low-lying island states, it's a matter of survival for us." The plight of Pacific islands has been easily overlooked in the past, given their relative isolation and lack of economic might. But the region is increasingly seen by scientists as a climate canary in the coal mine, hinting at the troubles possibly facing other parts of the planet.—DNA

New direct flight from Guangzhou to Islamabad launched

GUANGZHOU: New direct flight from Guangzhou to Islamabad has been launched to boost China-Pakistan connectivity, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. A flight numbered CZ8069 took off from Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (CAN), China, on August 25, carrying 163 passengers bound for Islamabad International Airport (ISB), Pakistan. The successful departure marks the official launch of the direct flight route between the two cities. The route's launch comes shortly after Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced on August 1 that the country will offer visa-free entry to Chinese citizens starting from August 14, aiming at boosting economic and industrial collaboration between the two nations. Operated by a Boeing 787, the Guangzhou-Islamabad route will run three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. The scheduled departure time from Guangzhou is 15:40 Beijing time, with an estimated arrival in Islamabad at 19:35 local time (22:35 Beijing time). The total flight duration is approximately six hours and 55 minutes. The new direct route is expected to significantly reduce travel time and costs, further enhancing the exchange between the two countries and even the whole region. Among the inaugural flight's passengers were not only tour groups but also a significant number of business travelers and returning expatriates.—APP

OIC condemns Ben-Gvir's calls to build a Synagogue Inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque

The OIC also denounces the ongoing incursions and desecration of the mosque's courtyards by extremist settler groups and ministers in the Israeli occupation government, acts that are carried out under the protection of Israeli occupation forces, considering these actions as continual violations of the sanctity of holy places and freedom of worship by Israel, the occupying force, as well as a blatant breach of the Geneva Conventions and international law

DNA

JEDDAH: The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has strongly condemned the recent statements made by extremist Minister Ben-Gvir, which advocate for the establishment of a synagogue within the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque. The OIC also denounces the ongoing incursions and desecration of the mosque's courtyards

by extremist settler groups and ministers in the Israeli occupation government, acts that are carried out under the protection of Israeli occupation forces, considering these actions as continual violations of the sanctity of holy places and freedom of worship by Israel, the occupying force, as well as a blatant breach of the Geneva Conventions and international law. The organization reaffirms that Al-Quds is an integral part of the Palestinian

territories occupied in 1967 and serves as the capital of the State of Palestine. It emphasizes that all decisions and measures taken by the Israeli occupation to Judaize the occupied city of Al-Quds have no legal standing and are considered null and void under international law and resolutions of international legitimacy. Furthermore, the OIC also holds the Israeli occupation government fully accountable for the consequences

of these ongoing violations and systematic attacks, which not only provoke the sentiments of Muslims worldwide but also risk fueling religious conflict, extremism, and instability in the region. The organization also renews its call on the international community to take responsibility and intervene to halt these serious Israeli violations, and to safeguard the historical and legal status of Islamic and Christian holy sites in the occupied city of Al-Quds.

Ex-Malaysian PM charged with sedition

GUA MUSANG: Ex-Malaysian prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin was charged with sedition Tuesday over remarks about the country's former king, his lawyer said. The 77-year-old politician pleaded not guilty, his lawyer told reporters outside the court in the northern town of Gua Musang. Supporters of the opposition leader cheered when they heard of his plea, an AFP journalist said. Malaysia is a constitutional monarchy, with a unique arrangement that sees the throne change hands every five years between the rulers of nine Malaysian states headed by centuries-old royalty. The sedition charge stemmed from a speech Muhyiddin made ahead of by-elections this month, in which he questioned the monarch's 2022 decision to appoint his rival as premier following hotly contested polls.—APP

Mass exodus of skilled workers and talent

TANVEER HUSSAIN



ACCORDING to news reports, 800,000 Pakistanis are leaving the country for employment, residence or asylum abroad every year. This number is increasing every year. During the first seven months of this year, 7 lakh Pakistanis have left the country. A large number of them are also those who try to enter Europe illegally. In this attempt they not only destroy their career and future but also face legal problems in addition to financial

loss. Dawn News has reported with reference to the relevant government agency that during the last five years, 300,000 Pakistanis were deported back to Pakistan from Europe. Unfortunately, no one knows the actual number of unfortunate youths who try to enter Europe illegally through Greece. Those people sell their household, take loans of millions, leave home with dreams of a golden future in their eyes and then fall victim to the deception of human traffickers. These people due to unsafe boats, lack of basic facilities and overloading die in suffocate and some succumb to the merciless waves of the sea. Some of those who manage to cross the border are arrested and forced to spend precious years of their lives in foreign prisons. Others tend to hide to avoid the eyes of the police. People take advantage of their compulsion. They are kept in beggar camps in the name of employment, poor food, low pay and inhuman environment and accommodation in dark rooms

becomes their destiny. Being illegal, they cannot even raise their voice for their rights. On the other hand, their parents and wife and children not only lead a life full of difficulties but also worry about the lives of their loved ones. What is more unfortunate is that neither the government nor any organization cares about their plight. People all over the world go abroad for employment and become an important source of foreign exchange for their country. Educated youth of our neighboring country, especially IT experts, are playing an important role in the economy of America, Europe and Arab countries. If you look at the data of the big companies of the world, there will be Indian nationals occupying major positions. On the other hand, a large number of Pakistanis go to work as laborers in Arab countries. Even in European countries, their condition is dire. However, accusations of extremism have done the trick. The main reasons for people leaving the country in such a

large number are economic disparities, corruption and lack of provision of justice. Parents stifle their desires and educate their children in expensive educational institutions, but after completion of education, the children neither get employment nor proper opportunities for personal business. There is no such thing as justice in the country. If a mother's son becomes the target of a blind bullet, a poor person's plot is encroached upon, someone's daughter is kidnapped, or robbers rob someone in broad daylight and shoot the head of the household, the victims in this country The family gets no justice. People are being humiliated in police stations and courts. People spend ages following the case, but the court does not decide. Even if a decision is made, then an endless chain of appeals begins. Meanwhile, the plaintiff, the accused, the lawyer and the judge all die, the case continues for generations. However, even if a decision is made, it is not implemented. The attitude

of our institutions towards our citizens is also not right. There is no work without recommendation and bribery. Educational institutions have become businesses and hospitals are sharing death. The common people are dying of hunger and poverty and the country's resources are being spent on the elite. Corruption and black marketing have become our trademark. When there is an epidemic in the country, medicines disappear from the market. Fruit rate doubles in Ramadan. Millions of workers in Saudi Arabia faced unemployment during Corona. That is why hundreds of Pakistanis returned to their homeland. When the situation improved and when it was time for these people to go back, our airlines doubled the overnight fares. People were forced to buy tickets on black to get entry on the scheduled date. Similarly, the behavior of our banks is also not good. These banks have created so many difficulties for those sending money from abroad that people find it easi-

er and more convenient to send their money through Hundi. All these are responsibilities of the governments. If our embassies work to alleviate the hardships of our countrymen, the situation can improve. Thousands of Pakistanis are in prisons in Arab countries, people have problems with visas, work permits and documentations. There are Pakistani embassies in every country, but the assistance of Pakistani workers is not on their priority. If the economic and political conditions of the country are fixed, the behavior of the government institutions is right with the people, justice starts getting in the courts, then the process of migration of talented workers and skill from the country can be stopped. If the country has proper employment opportunities, street crime and mafia are curbed, people will prefer to do business in their country rather than die in the seas of Greece. This will also develop the country and the future of new generations will also be better.

Briefs

Govt mulls increasing number of SC judges

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The government is all set to enhance number of Supreme Court judges. Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry said as per sources it was decided to increase the number of judges of Supreme Court (SC) to 23. He said a bill for approval will be presented in the House next week. Sources said 1997 Act would be amended to increase the number of the apex court's judges.

Pakistan Navy commodore promoted to Rear Admiral

DNA

KARACHI: Commodore Muhammad Khalid has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect. Rear Admiral Muhammad Khalid got commission in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi and MS Oceanography from USA. The flag officer has done various professional courses from national and international institutes. He has done Harbour & Coastal Hydrography Course from Italy, Hydrography & Meteorology Advanced Survey Course from UK, Exclusive Economic Zone Protection Officers Course from UK, Pakistan Navy Staff Course from PN War College Lahore, Naval Staff Course from South Africa and National Security and War course from National Defence University Islamabad. The Admiral has an illustrious naval career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments. His major Command appointments include, Commanding Officer (Dredging Vessel) BEHR KUSHA, Commanding Officer Survey Vessel (SV) BEHR PAIMA and Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy. In recognition of his meritorious service, the Admiral was awarded Sitara-e-Imtiaz (Military).

Maulana Fazl backs nationwide traders' strike

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F), has announced his support for the nationwide traders' strike scheduled for August 28. He stated that the strike is fully endorsed, emphasising that inflation and unjust taxes have made life unbearable for the public. "We fully support tomorrow's strike by traders across the country," said Rehman. "Inflation and unjust taxes have made it impossible for people to live." The JUI-F chief criticised the budget, claiming it was formulated under the directives of the IMF. "The IMF-imposed budget has snatched the bread from the people's mouths," he said, urging JUI-F members to ensure the strike remains peaceful and successful. "JUI-F business forums across the country should actively participate in this strike," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet. – DNA

State response against terrorists to be visible soon

He noted, "enough is enough; the government has adopted a concerted approach against miscreants. Even the enemies of Pakistan have realised that they have never received such a harsh response in the past"



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi along with Chief Minister Balochistan Sarafraz Ahmad Bugti chairing an important law and order meeting. – DNA

DNA

QUETTA: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday reiterating the government's resolve stressed the government is committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and there is no need to launch a major operation against terrorists in Balochistan as a single Station House Officer (SHO) can crush them. "Those who think they could scare us by using such cowardly act of

saboteurs and could undermine the government resolve against terrorism are living in a fool paradise as they would soon receive a stern response from the state," he said while addressing a press conference here at Chief Minister (CM) Secretariat flanked by the CM Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Sharing the government strategy to bring the culprits to justice, he said, "we will have to go for those behind Balochistan unrest, including their masterminds and facilitators. The outcome of our prompt response will soon

be visible to all". He noted, "enough is enough; the government has adopted a concerted approach against miscreants. Even the enemies of Pakistan have realised that they have never received such a harsh response in the past." The minister deplored that terrorists attacked innocent unarmed civilians in a cowardly manner and in the dark of night. "Yet, our brave forces repulsed bravely and there is no doubt that our law enforcement agencies possess the ability to destroy their network", he said. The foreign-fund-

ed terrorists, worth an SHO, he said and shunned the impression of launching the major operation in Balochistan. Dismissing the impression of a late reply to saboteur's acts, the minister said, "our force responded within ten minutes compelling the terrorists to flee". Mohsin Naqvi said that the aim of his visit to Quetta was that the federal government is standing on the back of the provincial government. "The federal government always stood with the Balochistan government whenever the chief minister sought our help," he remarked. Naqvi recalled that in view of recent bloodshed in Balochistan, Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif postponed the cabinet meeting, planned to be held on Tuesday. The PM directed me to visit Balochistan and ensure that stern action is being taken against the terrorists who took the lives of innocent citizens, he said. He said the Civil and Military Leadership is annoyed over the law and order situation in Balochistan and taking concrete steps for amicable solutions. Efforts are afoot and the CM is leading the process to find out the solution of the issues, he said adding that the recent incidents in Balochistan are unbearable and the nation is in a state of great grief. Earlier, to a question, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti said there is an effective response mechanism in place to deal with the menace of terrorism. "The coward enemies of Pakistan are taking the human shield to achieve their nefarious designs. "Soon after the 26th August night, our forces repulsed the attack with sacrifices of their lives for the protection of this homeland.

SC urges govt to minimise detention period

Petitioner Ghulam Shabbir, who spent 34 years in prison including 24 years on death row, to be released after verdict

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has urged both federal and provincial governments to reconsider policies and enact or amend existing laws to align with international standards, aiming to minimise the duration of death row prisoners' detention in death cells. In a nine-page judgment authored by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, the court highlighted the prolonged and often inhumane conditions faced by death row inmates, noting that many prisoners remain in death cells for years, sometimes even decades, due to delays in the judicial process and subsequent execution of sentences.

PTI MNA granted bail in corruption case

DNA

GUJRANWALA: PTI MNA Imtiaz Chaudhry has been granted bail in a case involving allegedly awarding development scheme contracts through bribery. An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Gujranwala conducted the bail hearing. The court granted bail to the accused on a surety bond of Rs1 million. It is noteworthy that Imtiaz Chaudhry, a PTI MNA, was arrested by the anti-corruption police on July 24.

Sindh govt prepared for rain emergency

DNA

KARACHI: Senior Minister of Sindh, Sharjeel Memon, announced that the Sindh government was fully prepared for the anticipated rains. Speaking to the media in Karachi, Memon stated that a rain emergency cell has been established at the Chief Minister's House. He warned of possible overflow of the sea, and advised fishermen not to venture out into the ocean.

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 18, including children

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 18 people, including eight children. The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said three children and their mother were killed in an airstrike late Monday in the Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City. It said three other people were missing after the strike. Another strike late Monday hit a building in downtown Gaza City, killing a child, three women and a man, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. In southern Gaza, a strike on a home early Tuesday killed five people, including a man, his three children as young as 3 years old and a woman, according to a casualty list provided by Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, where the bodies were taken. Another airstrike early Tuesday flattened a home west of Khan Younis, killing at least four people, including a child, according to Nasser Hospital, where the dead were taken. Footage shared online showed residents digging through the rubble. A man carried a wounded child to an ambulance, while two others carried a dead body wrapped in a blanket.

Imran questions Mohsin Naqvi's credentials

Ex-prime minister blames management for ongoing struggles, highlighting the team's fall from its T20 World Cup glory

COURT REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Former Pakistan cricket captain and ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan has criticised Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Mohsin Naqvi following the national team's crushing 10-wicket loss to Bangladesh in the first Test of their two-match series at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Khan expressed his deep disappointment over the team's recent performances, lamenting the drastic decline in form. He pointed out the stark contrast between Pakistan's current struggles and their historic 10-wicket victory over India in the 2021 T20 World Cup, questioning how a team that had reached such heights could now be facing such lows. In a strongly worded message shared on his X (formerly Twitter) account, Khan directly blamed the PCB chief for the team's downfall, accusing him of mismanagement and poor leadership. He cited Pakistan's dismal performances in recent international tournaments, including the 2023 Cricket World Cup and the 2024 T20 World Cup, where the team failed to advance to the top four and top eight, respectively.

Pakistan aims to raise \$4bn from Middle Eastern banks

Jameel Ahmad says recent interest rate cuts have slowed down inflation and brought current account under control

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Looking to plug its external financing gaps, Pakistan plans to raise up to \$4 billion from Middle Eastern commercial banks by the next fiscal year, the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad, told Reuters on Tuesday. The governor's optimism stems from the government's efforts to roll over \$12 billion in loans from China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to sources.

In a wide-ranging interview with the wire, the SBP governor said Pakistan was also in the "advanced stages" of securing \$2 billion in additional external financing required for IMF approval of a \$7 billion bailout programme. Additionally, as per sources, the government has requested an extra \$1.2 billion loan from Saudi Arabia to bridge a \$2 billion financing gap. Pakistan and the IMF reached an agreement on the loan programme in July, subject to approval from the IMF's executive board and it obtaining "timely confirmation of necessary financing assurances from Pakistan's development and bilateral partners". However, the country is missing from the IMF agenda until September 4, 2024, according to the lender's schedule of its Executive Board meetings released on August 26. Asked about monetary policy, Ahmad said recent interest rate cuts in Pakistan have had the desired effect, with inflation continuing to slow and the current account remaining under control, despite the cuts. Pakistan's annual consumer price index inflation was 11.1% in July, having fallen from highs of over 30% in 2023. "The Monetary Policy Committee will review all these developments," Ahmad said, adding that future rate decisions could not be pre-determined. The central bank cut rates for two straight meetings from a historic high of 22% to 19.5%, and will meet again to review monetary policy on September 12. "Now we have to focus on growth and other related areas because those are also equally important for job creation and other socioeconomic issues," said Ahmad. He added that the central bank's mandate was to ensure price and financial stability before shifting its focus towards growth.

