

# Islamabad Post

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### Novak Djokovic wins Olympic gold medal after beating Alcaraz

Detailed News On Page-06

### Technology has influenced all facets: Envoy

Detailed News On Page-08



### Pakistan stands with Kashmiris' struggle: Maqam

Detailed News On Page-08



## PTI-SIC reserved seats Judges' dissenting notes cast doubt on SC verdict: Govt

### Information Minister Attaulah Tarar stresses discourse on 29-page dissenting note written by top court's two judges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In continuation of the reserved seat saga involving the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), the federal government has expressed concerns over the delay in the issuance of the detailed verdict of the Supreme Court's July 12 ruling while calling for a discourse on the dissenting note of two judges. "The detailed verdict [of July 12 verdict] hasn't been issued even after 15 days," Federal Information Minister Attaulah Tarar said while talking to the media in Lahore on Sunday. The minister's remarks refer to the apex court's last month's ruling wherein it had declared the PTI eligible for reserved seats of women and minorities in the assemblies after overturning the decisions of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The ruling not only paved the way for the Imran Khan-founded party's return to the parliament but also effectively deprived the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government of its two-thirds majority in the National Assembly. Since the top court's ruling, the ECP has notified 39 out of 80 Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) as PTI members along with 93 lawmakers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh assemblies as "returned candidates" of the former ruling party. However, the PML-N and its key ally the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have filed review pleas on the full court's 8:5 majority order. In its review plea, the PML-N has questioned if reserved seats could be granted to a political party that had not submitted a party list within the prescribed time, whether a political party can be given reserved seats whose candidates have not even filed nomination papers within the time provided by the ECP and if independents could even join a political party which did not win a single general

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## No compromise on security of Chinese: PM

### A delegation of senior journalists who visited China called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says China is Pakistan's iron brother. He was talking to a delegation of senior journalists who visited China on the invitation of China Public Diplomacy Association. According to prime minister, there will be no compromise on the security of Chinese working in Pakistan. "It is our responsibility to provide security to the people of China and all institutions are on same page in this regard," said the PM. The delegation apprised the prime minister regarding the success of China visit. The seven-member delegation included Salman Ghani, Amir Mir, Sheraz Hasanat, Khizar Gondal, Khalid Hassanin, Azam Malik and Masrar Rehman. "We achieved several targets during my recent visit to China," said the prime minister. He said that a large number of Chinese companies will invest in Pakistan soon.



ISLAMABAD: To observe Youme-e-Ittehsal banners displayed against the Indian government decision of revoking the special status of disputed territory on Indian occupied Kashmir. APP

## NDMA issues alert for flashflood

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s National Emergencies Operation Center anticipated that the latest hydrometeorological conditions suggest that high to very high-level flash flooding is likely in Balochistan. The hill torrents of local nullahs of Zhob, Kalat, Nasirabad and Sibbi divisions are likely to experience high to very high levels of flash flooding which may result in damage to infrastructure. Similarly, the hill torrents and local nullahs of D.G. Khan are likely to experience high to very high levels of flash flooding which may

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## Amid political tensions PPP leader calls for NA dissolution, fresh elections

### "PM should advise to dissolve assembly, fresh polls if govt is in danger," says PPP's secretary general

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Stoking more political uncertainty amid ongoing legal developments, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bakhtari on Sunday said that his party was ready for fresh polls "if Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chooses to dissolve the lower house of parliament". The statement follows a notable rise in the federal government's loaded frustration, evident from its subdued criticism of the Supreme Court for delaying its detailed verdict on reserved seats. This trend can jeopardise the ruling coalition's two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, according to political observers. "If there is a danger," said Bakhtari while

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## PTI forms committee to monitor KP governance

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday constituted a three-member committee to monitor corruption and governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where the party formed government after the February 2024 general elections. Talking to media, PTI lawmaker and KP

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## Gwadar int'l airport to become 'operational' on 14 August

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: New Gwadar International Airport will become operational from August 14. A well-placed source in Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) told ARY News that the new Gwadar Airport will be made operational on August 14, for which all the

Continued on Page 06

## Bangladesh govt imposes curfew, amid new protests

### "The time has come to make the final signature of this student citizen uprising"

NEWS DESK

DHAKA: The Bangladesh military was deployed to the streets to impose an indefinite nationwide curfew on Sunday as protesters clashed with authorities amid a new

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## Briefs

### Jl's sit-in continues against inflation

"Pakistan is facing political, constitutional crises these days"

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: The sit-in of Jamaat-Islami (JI) against inflation and electricity power bills has entered its 10th day in Rawalpindi. Meanwhile, the JI is also staging sit-in in Karachi the last two days. Addressing the workers in Rawalpindi, senior JI leader Liaqat Baloch demanded forensic audit of all the agreements signed with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). "Pakistan is facing political, constitutional, parliamentary and democratic crises these days," said Liaqat Baloch. The government has lost its writ and instability is rampant in the country, he added.

### Punjab to inaugurate 'Apna Ghar' PITB will develop a special portal for 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme

ADIL SHAHEEN

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will inaugurate 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme on August 14. On Sunday, she approved in principle three models for 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' programme. Presiding over a meeting here, the CM stopped the authorities from collecting service charges from the plot owners. Model houses have been developed as a pilot programme of the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' initiative. The chief minister ordered to include living room also in the map of model houses. She ordered to introduce toll-free numbers for the convenience of people.

## No progress without peace Police making sacrifices against terrorism: CM KP

### KP Chief Secretary says forces standing like a wall in front of terrorists: Police did not leave a post empty even in difficult situations, says IG Police

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has said that terrorists were attacking forces but luckily some term it as a jihad, it is not jihad it is ignorance and government will end terrorism. Addressing an event in Peshawar to commemorate the services of martyred police officers and jawans, KP Chief Minister said that the government will provide all types of weapons and modern equipment to the police force against terrorism.

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## Armed Forces pay tribute to valiant Police heroes

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: On the occasion of Youme-e-Shuhada Police, the Armed Forces of Pakistan pay solemn tribute to the valiant personnel of the Pakistan Police who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of

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# Politics of dharnas and IPPs syndrome

PML-N can rejuvenate its waning popularity by genuinely aligning with the people's interests. To stay politically relevant, the party must focus on tangible performance and delivery, particularly in economic matters. Providing significant relief to the populace can greatly enhance its chances of retaining leadership for a full term

## COMMENT



ANSAR BHATTI

Pakistan's political arena is never short of dharnas. Every day, non-political and non-political heavyweights vie for dominance, creating a relentless tug-of-war. As this power struggle continues, the country and its citizens, often referred to as the "land of the pure", suffer immensely. The economic situation has deteriorated drastically, leaving many desperate to escape the nation by any means necessary to find relief from their prolonged agony and hardship. For those unable to leave, begging has become a last resort. Reports indicate that the number of beggars in Pakistan has reached twenty million, starkly highlighting the severity of the social, political, and legal injustices plaguing the country. Iraq recently lodged a complaint with the Pakistani government, revealing that they have identified at least 50,000 Pakistanis who entered Iraq as Zairatens (pilgrims) but never returned. Many of these individuals have resorted to begging in Iraq. Similarly, Gulf countries have expressed concerns regarding the Pakistani expatriates and

labor force. During a Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis meeting, Secretary of Overseas Pakistanis Dr. Arshad Inam told the committee that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait have raised reservations on various issues related to overseas Pakistanis. The disclosure comes months after the ministry back in September 2023 informed the same body that out of all the Pakistanis leaving the country, beggars are going abroad the most. The official had said that Pakistani beggars travel to Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the guise of ziarat (pilgrimage). Most people visit KSA on Umrah visas and then indulge in begging-related activities. Out of all the beggars who were arrested, 90% turned out to be Pakistanis, the secretary had said. The ground realities regarding the plight of ordinary people are far more alarming than reported in the media. Unfortunately, the government and those who actually control it seem least concerned about the suffering of the hapless and over the middle class. While people continue to endure distress and injustice, the ruling elite is preoccupied with finding ways to extend their rule and suppress the opposition. Corruption reigns supreme in the country, and lawlessness takes a heavy toll on the defenseless masses. Bad governance is rampant, and the disconnect between the electorate and their representatives is growing ever deeper—a fact that often embarrasses politicians, especially when they are ousted from power and no one protests in their support. The ongoing

Jamaate-Islami sit-in, like many recent sit-ins, appears to be politically motivated. While these protests often give the impression that they are staged in support of ordinary people, their underlying motives tend to be self-serving and personal. Take, for example, the PTI and Pakistan Awami Tehreek dharna in 2014 against the Nawaz Sharif government. It was initially presented as a movement to overthrow the government due to its failure to address the public's grievances and protest rigging in the 2013 general elections. However, as events unfolded, it became clear that the true motive was different. The then army chief, Raheel Sharif, was seeking an extension, which Nawaz Sharif was unwilling to grant. During the tenures of either the PML-N or PPP, Ad-Interestingly, those currently in power are responsible for these contracts, as they were established during the tenures of either the PML-N or PPP. Additionally, many of the IPPs are owned, directly or indirectly, by leaders of these two parties. Chinese companies also have a significant share in the ownership of these plants. One aspect of the dharna might be to keep the people in the dark about the pressure for motives that are still unclear, though there likely is more to it than meets the eye. However, a positive outcome of such dharnas is that the public often receives some relief. For example, during Imran Khan's 2014 dharna, the government

refrained from increasing the prices of daily-use items, especially petrol, to avoid further public anger. This time, regarding the issue of the IPPs, people might benefit from a reduction in electricity prices. However, it remains uncertain whether the core issue—the agreements—will be addressed earnestly and effectively. Crisis situations often give rise to numerous counterexamples. For example, in this particular case, some believe that the government's days are numbered and that the ongoing protests could lead to its downfall. However, I think this conclusion might be premature, as the core question remains: if not this government, then who would run the country? At the moment, the Establishment does not have a clear alternative to justify the removal of the current government. The PML-N faces a unique predicament, lacking support both internally and externally. Even its allies, notably the PPP, appear dissatisfied. The Establishment is also gradually withdrawing its backing to avoid public backlash, as the government has seemingly underperformed politically and economically in its initial months. The PML-N can rejuvenate its waning popularity by genuinely aligning with the people's interests. To stay politically relevant, the party must focus on tangible performance and delivery, particularly in economic matters. Providing significant relief to the populace can greatly enhance its chances of retaining leadership for a full term.

—The writer is the newspaper editor

**NA Speaker pays tribute to police martyrs**

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Sunday paid tribute to the police officers and personnel who sacrificed their lives for the country. On the occasion of Police Martyrs Day, the Speaker highlighted the invaluable sacrifices made by police officers and personnel in the fight against terrorism. "The entire nation salutes the police martyrs on the day," said Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. He said that the whole country takes pride in the brave young men and officers of the police force. "The sacrifices of the martyrs will always be remembered," he added. The Speaker expressed solidarity with the families of the police martyrs who lost their lives in the war against terrorism and other incidents. He further acknowledged the role of the courageous police officers and personnel, stating, "The brave officers and young men of the police force have always acted as the vanguard in the fight against terrorism and the establishment of peace and order."—APP

**MDCAT-2024 exam to be held on Sep 22**

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has announced on Sunday that the MDCAT-2024 examination will be conducted across Pakistan, including Islamabad and Gilgit-Baltistan on September 22, 2024. This examination is necessary for admission into public and private medical and dental colleges. Students should register themselves on the official website of PMDC from 5th August. In line with the directives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government and PMDC, the paper-based exam will be simultaneously held in six regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat, Abbottabad, Swat, and Dir Lower. To discuss these directives and ensure meticulous planning and execution, a special meeting was chaired by Vice-Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq.—APP

**DC chairs weekly performance review meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has chaired a weekly performance review meeting and evaluated the work of Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and Magistrates in the Federal Capital. The meeting involved the submission and discussion of performance reports from all assistant commissioners, said the spokesman of the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration. The assistant commissioners reported on various operations, including price control efforts, monitoring of professional aim-seekers and petrol pumps, and the regulation of polythene bags. They also briefed the Deputy Commissioner on anti-encroachment operations carried out in different areas of Islamabad.—APP

**PHA Rwp to plant one million saplings**

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi would plant one million saplings in the current monsoon plantation drive 2024, said Director General (DG) PHA, Rawalpindi, Ahmed Hassan Ranjha. He informed that the tree plantation campaign "Plant for Pakistan" was kicked off by planting over 200,000 saplings at "Dikhpani" to restore the historic forest. The DG said that the plantation campaign was started by PHA Rawalpindi in collaboration with Punjab forest department. PHA was striving to make Rawalpindi city clean and green. Despite financial constraints, PHA was working hard to make the city green, he added. He said that the authority has set up a grand nursery to provide different plants to the citizens at affordable rates and generate more revenue for the department. The grand nursery was set up on an area of 3000 kanals in Gorkharpur Town with objectives to promote plantation and to contain the consequences of global climate change. Punjab government had provided the land for the purpose of nursery to promote plantation in the country, he said. The DG said that Gorkharpur Nursery would prove to be very important in the ongoing initiatives of the Punjab government regarding Green Pakistan from where large scale planting of trees would be done. The plants and saplings would be supplied in the coming months from the Gorkharpur Nursery as a variety of plants and grasses were produced there.

**CDA chief takes note of fish mortality in Rawal Dam**

The Team alongwith the officials from the environment protection department visited the Rawal Dam. The team also took samples which have been sent to Environment Protection Department, the Punjab Fisheries Department and the Fisheries Research Institute of NARC, Islamabad to ascertain the actual facts of the mortality of fish. These three departments would submit their reports within two days

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Commissioner and Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Kandhawa took notice of the media reports regarding increase in fish mortality in Rawal Dam. He directed the a Team led by Mr. Talat Gondal, Member Environment and Administration to visit the Rawal Dam and probe into the matter. The Team alongwith the officials from the environment protection department visited the Rawal Dam. The team also took samples which have been sent to Environment Protection Department, the Punjab Fisheries Department and the Fisheries Research Institute of NARC, Islamabad to ascertain the actual facts of the mortality of fish. These three departments would submit their reports within two days.

It was observed that mortality took place in the last week of July and the dead fish has been removed while the situation has improved. Furthermore, CDA has initiated the process and invited expression of interest for sewerage treatment plant upstream to



address the issue on the permanent basis and prevent the contamination of water, an everlasting solution of this chronic issue. The occurrence of fish mortality reported by the Watch and Ward Staff deputed at the dam.

**Sargodha University, NRSP partner on Technology Park**

FAISAL SHEKH

ISLAMABAD: The National Rural Support Program (NRSP) and the University of Sargodha have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a Special Technology Park in Sargodha. The MoU was signed by Dr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO of NRSP, and Professor Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Vice-Chancellor of Sargodha University. The signing ceremony was witnessed by notable figures, including former Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, and Vice-Chancellors of various universities, faculty heads, NRSP Regional General Manager Sargodha Ghulam Rasool, NRSP Senior Program Manager Tahir Wasim, Chief Business Development Abul Ajjam, former Secretary Saleem Ranjha, and

several other distinguished personalities. The project would be completed under a public-private partnership, focusing on joint efforts to establish a Special Technology Zone and a new venture. The zone will provide the local community, students, faculty, researchers, and the broader university administration with extensive opportunities to engage in the field of Information Technology. NRSP and Sargodha University aim to create a joint venture, the "Sargodha Technology Park," which will also offer employment opportunities for IT graduates of the University of Sargodha and adjoining districts of the Sargodha division. Through this platform, students will have the chance to participate in internships, research projects, and startup initiatives, enabling them to se-

capture better employment opportunities. In his address, Dr. Rashid Bajwa, head of NRSP, highlighted the organization's commitment to establishing a special technology zone in Sargodha to create opportunities for local IT experts, digital entrepreneurs, students, faculty members, and IT firms. The joint venture will serve as an excellent platform for the youth of Sargodha and its surrounding districts, providing all relevant facilities, including high-speed internet connectivity. Dr. Bajwa said that the Special Technology Zone in Sargodha will be housed in a spacious 90,000-square-foot building with an additional 10 acres of land designated as a tech zone. Professor Dr. Qaiser Abbas, Vice-Chancellor of Sargodha University, stated that this collaboration will provide opportunities for the university's faculty, students, NRSP staff, and community workers to participate in workshops, train-

ing sessions, seminars, and similar events. He said that experiences will be shared through guest lectures via video conferencing to promote research. The primary aim of this joint venture is to enhance IT skills for the rural population, especially the youth. For this purpose, Sargodha University will offer diploma courses. National and international IT tech companies will be encouraged to invest and work in the Special Technology Park. Incubation centers for tech companies and youth, facilities for producing solar panels, electric bike hub motors, and charge controllers will be established in the Sargodha Tech Zone. Former HEC Chairman, Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, underscored the importance of this project, stating that bringing small cities like Sargodha to par with larger cities and providing advancement opportunities for the local youth is a commendable effort.

**Minister reviews arrangements for rainwater drainage**

SIALKOT: Provincial Minister for Local Government Punjab

Mian Zeeshan Rafique conducted an on-site review of the rainwater drainage arrangements in Sialkot. He was accompanied by Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) and the Deputy Commissioner. The inspection covered various areas including Railway Road, Barr Arshad, Abbott Road, Church Road, Kutchery Road, and Allama Iqbal Chowk. During the visit, Mian Zeeshan Rafique, alongside DC Muhammad Zolqarnain and MPAs Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Faisal Irfan Chaudhary, and Chandray Narveed Akhtar, assessed the operations of the Solid Waste Management Company (SWMC) Sialkot in handling rainwater drainage. The minister highlighted that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was closely monitoring the rainwater drainage operations across districts throughout the monsoon season. He noted that as per the chief minister's directives, municipal corporations, district councils,

and divisional headquarters had established emergency rain camps under WASAs supervision. These camps are equipped with sanitation staff and machinery, ensuring that drainage operations commence promptly with the onset of rain. This proactive approach has significantly reduced the duration of rainwater accumulation in low-lying areas, allowing for drainage within a few hours. The DC reported that the district emergency control rooms operate 24/7. He noted that the solid waste management company continues to clean drains throughout the monsoon season, with all disposal stations fully operational and equipped with standby generators. On August 4, from 12:00 AM to 12:00 PM, the city experienced 88mm rainfall, during which sanitation personnel were actively deployed. Similar vigilance is maintained across other tehsils in the Sialkot district. The deputy commissioner further informed that rivers and rainwater drains in Sialkot were under continuous monitoring.—APP

**Monthly inflation hits eight-month high: APBF**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has observed that the monthly inflation rate has reached an eight-month high in previous months. In July due to direct and indirect taxes of Rs1.8 trillion in the Budget of current fiscal year, of 2024-25, the APBF President Syed Muzar Mahmood said that the pace of inflation rose 2.3% compared to the preceding month, in the wake of higher prices of food and energy.

## 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/Bakino Faso National Day
- Aug 09/Singapore
- Aug 15/DPR Korea Independence Day
- Aug 15/Poland Armed Forces Day
- Aug 17/Indonesia Independence Day
- Aug 24/Ukraine Independence Day
- Aug 25/Uruguay Independence Day
- Aug 30/Turkey Armed Forces Day
- Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic Independence Day
- Aug 31/Malaysia National Day

### Hotels & Restaurants

- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
- Marriott.....051-2826121
- Monal.....0334-5421812
- Turkish Airlines.....8494949

### Emergency

- Rescue (Police).....15
- Bomb Disposal.....15
- Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
- Emergency Ambulance.....1122
- & Rescue Services.....4451122
- Motorway Police.....9286044
- Motorway Police.....9270601-20
- Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
- Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

### Enquiry

- Ethi Ambulance.....315
- PIA Flight Info.....114
- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Enquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
- CAA.....9281092

### Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611116
- Cant Hospital.....9270907-11
- DHQ.....556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International 4603966

### Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
- CDA.....9208301-04
- Met Office.....9250360-46
- RDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270153-3

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Posters and flags displayed on Constitution Avenue, urge people to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal (Exploitation Day), Jammu Kashmir falling on 5th August. In world over, August 5 is observed as Kashmir Exploitation Day by the people of Kashmir as on this black day, the fascist Modi regime without any legal justification had illegally abrogated the Articles 370 and 35A in 2019, thus abolished the special status of IIOJK unilaterally.—ONLINE

## Materialising Quaid-e-Azam vision with a renewed focus

Since its inception in 1947, the country sailed through different upheavals and turmoil with its growth rate fluctuating between one and seven percent. Political uncertainty, regional commotions and international circumstances like Afghan War, war against terrorism and Indian infiltration have been severely affecting our economic growth

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan navigates the complex terrain of modern economic challenges, it finds itself striving to fulfill the dream of founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah of a progressive, self-reliant, robust and invincible Pakistan. As Quaid's vision remains a guiding beacon for the nation, Pakistan is once again embarking on an ambitious path of economic reform and development and its economy has started improving despite numerous challenges as the World Bank also projects its GDP growth to reach 3.7% in 2024 after sluggish growth in recent past. Since its inception in 1947, the country sailed through different upheavals and turmoil with its growth rate fluctuating between one and seven percent. Political uncertainty, regional commotions and international circumstances like Afghan War, war against terrorism and Indian infiltration have been severely affecting our economic growth. But, our economy showed strength and resilience to sustain all

ethical and manmade calamities. Respective government toiled hard to lift the country from oblivious pits of recession time and again and so is the present government doing to stabilize economy by implementing structural reforms. Through concerted efforts, the government has been successful in bringing down CPI inflation rate to 5.5% in 2024 from 11.0% in 2023 and putting in efforts to reduce fiscal deficit to 4.2% of GDP by end of 2024 from 5.0% in 2023. Projects like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have seen significant advancements and besides development of communication modes, the country has been expanding its energy infrastructure with new power plants and renewable energy projects. It added 2,500 MW solar and wind capacity in 2024, contributing to its goal of achieving 30% renewable energy in its energy mix by 2030. Agriculture and industry are crucial to Pakistan's economy and recent developments in these sectors

with the both showing positive signs and enhanced productivity in past couple of years. As economic growth has its impact on social development, the government in line with Quaid's vision is endeavoring to improve literacy rate and educational outcome while investment in health sector has also led to establishment of 50 new hospitals and 200 health clinics across the country. Since 1947, Pakistan has also made significant strides in realm of defense, emerging as a formidable military power in South Asia. This journey has been marked by the development of indigenous capabilities, strategic partnerships and modernization efforts. At the time of independence, Pakistan inherited a small fraction of British Indian military apparatus. But, it rapidly organized and expanded its armed forces by forming Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force. One of Pakistan's most significant defense achievements is development of its nuclear capability. In response to re-

gional security dynamics and the nuclear tests conducted by India, Pakistan conducted its own nuclear tests in May 1998, under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. These tests, known as Chagai-I and Chagai-II, marked Pakistan's entry into the group of nuclear-armed states, thereby enhancing its strategic deterrence capabilities. Pakistan has made considerable progress in developing indigenous defense production capabilities. The organizations like Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT) and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) have enabled the country to produce a wide range of military equipment. Al-Khalid tank, JF-17 Thunder fighter jet and various missile systems are notable examples of Pakistan's indigenous defense production. Pakistan has cultivated strategic defence partnerships with several countries and its ties with China have of utmost importance, leading to joint ventures like development and

production of JF-17 Thunder fighter jet. Collaboration with Turkey has also resulted in acquisition and co-production of advanced military hardware as these partnerships facilitated technology transfer, training and joint exercises, contributing to the overall enhancement of our defence capabilities. Pakistan had also focused on modernizing its armed forces and incorporating cutting-edge technologies and inclusion of advanced fighter jets like F-16, submarines and Chinese Type 054A/B frigates, air defense systems, development of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are part of its modernization drive. Additionally, Pakistan's strategic forces have been bolstered with the development of multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Our armed forces have played a pivotal role in combating terrorism and ensuring internal security.—APP

## ICT admin tackles rainfall

ISLAMABAD: The Assistant Commissioners of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) have been issued directives to be mobilized to the field, ensuring no standing water remains in low-lying areas during the monsoon. The directive comes from Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Numan Akram, emphasizing the collaboration between the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Municipal Corporation (MC) teams for efficient drainage, said the spokesman of ICT's administration. He said the traffic flow on highways is being maintained in coordination with the traffic police to prevent disruptions. This coordinated effort follows similar initiatives in various parts of the Federal Capital. On this occasion, the DC praised the diligent efforts of the teams of ICT administration for the completion of drainage in low-lying areas. He said the pre-monsoon plan, which involved cleaning drains and setting up a monitoring system for low-lying areas, has proven effective. This plan included deploying dewatering machinery to clear standing water swiftly, he added.—APP

## PM pays tribute to Shaheed police officers

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday paid tribute to the martyred police officers and personnel and said that their sacrifices in line of duty and eradication of crimes were unprecedented. On the Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Police, the prime minister said that the day reminded them of the valour and bravery displayed by the police force. "In the fight against terrorism, the police force had always played a leading role and police personnel had done their best to secure and brighten the future of nation," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release in Urdu language, quoted the prime minister as saying. He further said that the entire nation was proud of its martyred police personnel and saluted them for their sacrifices. The prime minister said that it was the government's responsibility to look after the bereaved families of Shaheed police officers and personnel and reiterated that no leniency in this regard would be tolerated.—APP

## Shawl appeals global solidarity to end Indian occupation

ISLAMABAD: A prominent Kashmiri woman Human Rights leader Shanin Shawl Sunday called for a revised Kashmir policy that prioritizes the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people and with a deep sense of urgency she stressed the need for the international community to intervene and rescue Kashmir from the clutches of oppression. Shawl, a prominent voice in the Kashmiri freedom movement talking to PTV news channel emphasized that the international community has a moral obligation to act and ensure that the Kashmiris' right to self-determination is respected and their fundamental freedoms are protected. "On Youm-e-Istehsal, a day marking the third anniversary of India's illegal annexation of Kashmir, Shanin Shawl has issued a heartfelt appeal to the global community to stand in solidarity with the oppressed people of Kashmir. Shanin Shawl urges the world to recognize the grave human rights violations and humanitarian crisis unfolding in Kashmir. She calls for collective action to end the occupation, restore freedom and dignity to the Kashmiri people, and ensure a just and peaceful resolution to the longstanding conflict. "The Kashmiri people, who have shown unwavering commitment against the Kashmiri people," Shawl said. "We need a Kashmir policy that is grounded in empathy, justice, and a commitment to human rights, she said, adding, Pakistani all political parties should also devise a comprehensive approach and bring a new Kashmir Policy in Parliament." Shawl's appeal comes at a time when Kashmir is witnessing a surge in human rights violations, with reports of extrajudicial killings, disappearances, and torture. The Kashmiri people, she said, are under a state of siege, with their basic freedoms curtailed and their voices silenced, she said. The international community, Shawl urged, must recognize the gravity of the situation and take concrete steps to address the Kashmir issue. "We need a solution that is acceptable to the Kashmiri people, not one that is imposed upon us," she said.—APP

## Empowering future digital leaders a noble cause

This program will shape the next generation of digital leaders and advance the industry with new perspectives and talent

### Faisal Sheikh

ISLAMABAD: A women-led digital marketing company has continued its corporate social responsibility by providing young individuals with industry experience through the fulfillment of its third annual mentorship program. Former Senior Vice President of the Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Safia Zafar, and CEO of a local company Humaira Younis, were chief guests at the ceremony. "Our mission with the mentorship program was to create a nurturing space where young talent can learn marketable skills," said Zunaira Omar,

CEO of The Squarepeg, the company offering free training to youth for three years. She added that students presented their hands-on knowledge and expertise in the final event, impressing assessors with their creativity and learning. We continue to develop young professionals and grow Pakistan's digital ecosystem, Zunaira Omar added. Humaira Younis remarked, "This program gives mentees essential skills, confidence, and innovation necessary for substantial change." This program will shape the next generation of digital leaders and advance the industry with new perspectives and talent.

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Right's Helpline Zainab alert response and recovery agency report has received 688 open cases and close cases of violence which include 3230 and 1704 child cases found during the last six months, revealed the data issued by Ministry here on Thursday. According to the report, around 358 cases have been resolved in which from the age 0-5 years old age 2,820 cases were received, from 5-10 around 281 cases were received and from the age 10-15 year.—APP

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Briefs

Kiyani urges opposition to shun differences

ISLAMABAD: Cosmiser of the National Parliamentary Task Force Bilal Azhar Kiyani Sunday urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership to abandon its polarizing tactics and believed that Pakistan's political leadership can pool their expertise to devise a comprehensive solution to this pressing public problem. Talking to a private news channel, Kiyani argues that PTI can play a constructive role in building national consensus and fostering a more inclusive political environment in the country, adding, the government was fully aware of the gravity of the situation and was working tirelessly to provide relief to the masses. Kiyani reiterated that the government was taking a multi-pronged approach to address the issue, including negotiations with traders, measures to enhance productivity, and initiatives to promote economic growth. He also appealed to the opposition parties to put aside their political differences and join hands with the government to tackle the challenge of inflation, which, he said, was a national issue that required a collective response. APP

Education Ministry to start providing meal to ICT students

ISLAMABAD: Under Prime Minister's School Meals program, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training will start providing meal to the students of government primary school of ICT from tomorrow (Monday). According to the Education Ministry, Prime Minister's National Nutrition Initiative is utilizing state of the art Centralized Kitchen for cooking of 60,000 meals using the freese technology. With the utilization of steam cooking technology, the cooking team cooks food for the students of FDE. Around 217 schools in food grade cooking utensils which are then loaded in insulated containers and dispatched for delivery to schools in customised vehicles. APP

AIOU gears up Independence Day celebrations

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is gearing up to celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm. On the instructions of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the university's main campus and regional offices across the country have been adorned with national flags. A series of events, including competitions for national songs and speeches, seminars, tableaux, and cultural programs, will be held to instill patriotism in the younger generation and help them understand the true meaning of independence. APP

CG Tariq calls for further strengthening Pak-US relations

The government supports Pakistani entrepreneurs by facilitating business deals and promoting business education to access US capital, Saqib Rafiq

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Pak World Trade and Expo Center (Pw) Limited with the assistance of Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago organized the Pak America Business and Investment Opportunities Conference in the American city. It was held on July 30, 2024 in Chicago. Consul General of Pakistan in Chicago Tariq Karim inaugurated the conference. Speaking at the event, Tariq Karim said that the United States is one of the countries that invest the most in Pakistan. Dekar helps Pakistani entrepreneurs, Pak World Trade and Expo Center (Pw) Ltd CEO Khurshid Barlas, Fahad Barlas COO, J7 Group Chairman Maqbool Hussain and more than two hundred other Pakistani American and investor companies participated. Khurshid Barlas of And Expo Center (Pw) Limited said that Pakistan's prosperity is not only in Pakistan's own in-



terest but also in the interest of the region and the United States. Trade and investment are the future of Pakistan-US relations. In the conference, proposals

were presented regarding the promotion of Pakistan-US relations, trade and investment, and the problems faced by Pakistan were discussed. In the end Sa-

qib Rafiq, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented the shield to Consul General of Pakistan Chicago Tariq Karim on this oc-

casión Khurshid Barlas CEO of Pak World Trade and Expo Center (Pw) Ltd, Fahad Barlas COO, J7 Seven Group Chairman Maqbool Hussain is also present

Nisar group gets stay order for proprietary right of PIAF name, logo

PIAF wants review of contracts with IPPs to reduce energy cost All trade sectors pose confidence in Anjum Nisar group of PIAF

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF Anjum Nisar Group) has stressed the need for reviewing power purchase agreements, recommending forensic audit of the independent Power Producers with a view to restore the viability of country's energy sector. In a meeting, which was attended by the representatives of all major sectors of trade and industry in the provincial capital, posed their full confidence in the leadership of Man Anjum Nisar and his group of PIAF, as the Front has been splitting into two groups. PIAF patron-in-chief Man Anjum Nisar along with its chairman Fabeemur Rehman Saigod said that instead of excessive borrowing, including the recent IMF \$7 billion financing, the Ease of Doing Business is vital to put the country's economy back on track.

The PIAF, which has been allying with the Founders to rule the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) for last over quarter century, has a setback, dividing into parts, paving the way for a full-fledged and open election of the business community in the Lahore Chamber being held in Sept this year. Petro-Chief of PIAF Anjum Nisar Group and chairman Fahimur Rahman Saigod, former Chairman PIAF Muhammad Ali Man and Abu Zar Shad, LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Vice Chairman PIAF Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry and other PIAF leaders made it clear that our commercial political group PIAF is our property. In this regard, we have submitted proprietary evidence including newspaper clippings, photos, minutes of

meetings in the IPO court and the court has already given a stay order in our favor. Our opposition group is neither appearing nor filing a response even after repeated summons by the court. If our opposition group wants to fight, they should appear in the court. Man Anjum Nisar also presented the copy of the stay order obtained from the court to the media. PIAF Chairman Fahimur Rahman Saigod said that the opposition groups are cheating on the claim related to the ownership of PIAF and have sent them legal notices and now the matter is in the court. Man Anjum Nisar also thanked the Founders for parting ways, saying the group has broken the unity of the business community, pledging it would continue the winning record of the last several years in the upcoming LCCI elections 2024. He said that he him-

self along with LCCI former president Muhammad Ali Man and Ito Sheikh Arshad had signed the PIAF-Founders alliance agreement, as the copy of the alliance agreement is the evidence. "This office used to be the PIAF-Founders Alliance. What happened to the founder overnight is beyond comprehension. All this happened at a time when the business community needed unity," He said that more industrial groups and trade bodies have announced their support for the PIAF in the upcoming LCCI elections, expressing full confidence of the leadership of Man Anjum Nisar, respecting all other so-called groups altogether. In a large gathering, attended by a large number of business representatives from across the city and the members of the PIAF posed their confidence for the Anjum Nisar group. APP

Concerned citizens raise alarm over transfer of IWMB to Interior Ministry

FAISAL SHEIKHI

ISLAMABAD: Concerned citizens, environmentalists, and conservation groups have expressed grave concerns following the Prime Minister of Pakistan's directive to transfer the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) under the Ministry of Interior. The IWMB, which is currently responsible for the protection and management of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP), plays a crucial role in safeguarding the biodiversity of this vital ecological area. Citizens have termed this move as a malafide decision and a significant threat to the biodiversity of the MHNP while speaking at a webinar organized by Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) here Saturday. The speakers said that the park, which is home to numerous species of flora and fauna, is already under pressure from urban encroachment and illegal activities. The IWMB has been at the forefront of efforts to conserve the park's unique ecosystem under the ministry of climate change and environmental coordination, and its transfer to the interior ministry that primarily focused on law and order rather than environmental conservation is seen as a dangerous shift in priorities. The concerned citizens have also demanded transparency in the decision-making process and a thorough investigation into the interests behind this move. They have vowed to continue advocating for the preservation of the Margalla Hills National Park and will seek legal avenues to challenge any actions that threaten its safety. The citizens urge all Pakistanis to join hands in safeguarding the country's natural heritage and to stand against decisions that compromise the future of our environment. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Muzir Ahmed said: There is a growing concern that the Prime Minister may not have been adequately informed about the implications of this decision or may have been influenced by powerful groups with vested interests. DNA

Naqvi pays homage to sacrifices of police martyrs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich tributes to the great sacrifices of police martyrs on Police Martyrs' Day being observed on Sunday. In a message on 'Police Martyrs' Day', he said that this day is a reminder of the unforgettable sacrifices of brave police personnel who are the pride of the entire nation. Interior Minister said that police officers and personnel have always been at the forefront in curbing crimes. He praised the exemplary services of police forces in all provinces for maintaining peace and order. He also acknowledged the sacrifices of police officers and personnel in the war against terrorism, saying that they have written history with their precious blood. Furthermore, he said that SSP Ashraf Marth, Captain Mubeen, and all police martyrs are always alive in our hearts and will remain so. The sacrifices of police martyrs are invaluable which can never be forgotten. Interior Minister stated that on Police Martyrs' Day, we express solidarity with the families of martyrs. He emphasized that we stand with the families of police martyrs and will also be there for them. He said that welfare of the families of police martyrs is responsibility of the government. Interior Minister reiterated that a true nation always honors its martyrs. He underscored that there will be no compromise regarding the honor and respect of martyrs.

WASA penalises two officers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) has penalised its two officers on charges of lethargy and delinquency. A WASA spokesman said here on Saturday that it had adopted a strategy to redress public complaints within 24 hours but two assistant directors failed to comply with the mechanism. Therefore, Managing Director WASA, Aamer Aziz took serious notice and forfeited services of these two assistant directors, he added.

Machinery imports surge 46.27% in one year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall machinery group experienced a substantial increase of 46.27 per cent during the last fiscal year compared to the 2022-23 period, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The surge in machinery imports is poised to enhance productivity and technological advancement across key sectors, driving economic growth and infrastructure development. The total imports of the machinery group during the last year stood at

\$8,500,628 million against the imports of \$5,811,517 million recorded in 2022-23. The import of agricultural sector machinery and equipment surged by 122.85 per cent from \$40,973 million to \$91,297 million; office machinery including data processing equipment 35.31 per cent from \$339,428 million to \$459,288 million; construction and mining machinery 11.36 per cent from \$ 84,730 million to \$ 94,187; electrical machinery and apparatus 95.67 per cent from \$1,673,820 million to \$3,275,127 million; telecom related

equipment 147.36 per cent from \$956,696 million to \$2,305,500 million; mobile phone 233.10 per cent from \$ 570,071 million to \$ 1,898,933 million and other apparatus 20.94 per cent from \$288,625 million to \$ 467,567 million. However, during the period under review, the import of power-generating machinery declined by 16.66 per cent from \$ 500,450 million to \$ 418,085 million; textile machinery by 54.52 per cent from \$ 328,427 million to \$ 149,264 million; other equipment by 12.73 per cent from \$ 1,886,996 million to \$ 1,646,768 million.



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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bahrain in a meeting with Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki. -DNA

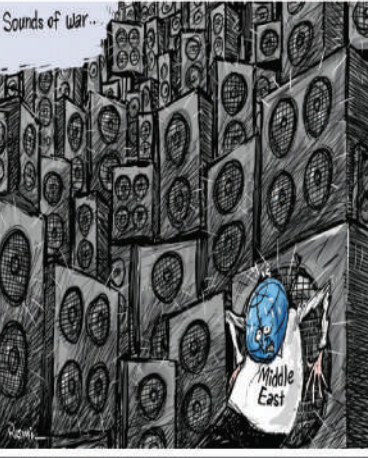
Middle East turmoil calls for concerted efforts

The Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu does not want the return of hostages taken by Hamas in its Oct 7 attacks. That is why it has sent delegations to internationally mediated negotiations. He has to engage Hamas for a cease-fire and the return of those hostages. Hamas has also expressed its desire for a cease-fire, and has also appeared more receptive to ideas of a broader peace. Just weeks back, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh sent representatives to Beijing to join 13 other political Palestinian factions for discussions on national reconciliation. But as Netanyahu told the US Congress during his latest trip to Washington, his eyes are on a "total victory", which to him means the elimination of Hamas. The assassination of Haniyeh in the Iranian capital as part of that endeavor has ruined the recent progress made in international peace-brokering, and dashed hopes for a cease-fire agreement. Haniyeh played a crucial role as a key interlocutor with Egyptian and Qatari mediators during the negotiations between Israel and Hamas. His death has also provoked fears that the conflict in Gaza may evolve into an all-out Middle East war. While the Israeli government has neither claimed responsibility for the killing, nor denied it, there is little doubt Haniyeh's assassination has become a rallying call against Israel and the ongoing peace process, as all its enemies in the region consider it to be the perpetrator of his killing. Hamas' armed wing said the incident would "take the battle to new dimensions and have major repercussions". Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei said Israel had provided grounds for "harsh punishments for Israel", and it was Teheran's duty to avenge the Hamas leader's death as it occurred on Iranian soil. The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, who lost a senior commander in an Israeli attack on Beirut one day ago, has also vowed revenge. It takes unremitting endeavors and strenuous behind-the-scenes diplomacy to bring hostile parties in the negotiating table. But one single missile has sufficed to slow up everything achieved so far. The incident frustrated not only all international peacemaking efforts, but more importantly derailed United States-orchestrated efforts to manage and control the situation. Leading Joe Biden administration officials have all reiterated their country's commitment to Israel's security in their latest exchanges with Netanyahu. In private, they have reportedly conveyed serious concerns about the situation getting out of control. As Washington seeks to choreograph a pivot to Asia by the US-led Western alliance, it does not want to be tied down by another full-blown war in the Middle East. Not to mention domestic animosity against Israeli violence in Gaza is a growing negative asset for the ruling Democratic Party ahead of the presidential election in November. President Biden said he was "very direct" in his meeting with Netanyahu regarding the significance of a cease-fire and consequences of escalation. Except deploying additional military resources in the region, however, there may not be a lot his administration can do to rein in Israel. The Israeli leader is ever more openly at odds with the White House's preference for diplomacy in the region.

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The view on reclaiming the Seine

It was an American modernist poet who captured best the ancient, elemental status of rivers. In one of his best-loved poems, Wallace Stevens celebrated their "third commonness with light and air / A curriculum, a rigor, a local abstraction". Life-supporting and place-defining, the great rivers of the world have nurtured and sustained our cities, but more lately been blighted by the toxic legacy of industrialisation. The successful staging of Olympic events in a cleaned-up River Seine therefore deserves to be seen as a social and environmental milestone, as well as a sporting one. The remarkable spectacle of triathlon competitors diving from the Pont Alexandre III, as the Eiffel Tower loomed large on a blue-skyed morning, will take some beating as a signature image of Paris 2024. Given that intense summer rainstorms almost derailed the event, generating contaminated overflow from the city's water pipes, that some will have been greeted with immense relief by the city's socialist mayor, Anne Hidalgo, who has pushed the reclamation of the Seine at the heart of Paris's Olympic bid in 2016 - a \$1.5bn project that only just came in on time. Her green ambition has been justly rewarded by the emergence of the Seine as an example of what a 21st-century urban river can become. More investment may be needed to cope with the challenge of Paris's Napoleonic-era sewage system. But three urban beaches are due to open next year, including under the Eiffel Tower and next to the Hotel de Ville. Almost 30 more, equipped with jetties and river pools, are being planned for the suburbs and to the east of the capital. As global heating delivers hotter summer temperatures, the availability of cool bathing areas in the heart of the city will be an invaluable public good. Wildlife is returning to the cleaner water, including catfish and crustaceans, shrimps, sponges and perch. Beyond leisure and recreation, there are also plans to develop the Seine as a major carbon-free transport route for the city. The European Green Deal envisages a doubling of freight traffic across the continent by 2050, moving goods off the roads and on to rivers, which currently account for less than 2% of freight transport. From Paris to Le Havre, where the Seine meets the English Channel, France's main port operator, Haropa, says it will make it fit for that purpose more than 10x in the next 10 years. It appeared to turn its back on the flowing arteries that pumped life through its cities. Rivers were shutted into economic irrelevance by the rise of road and rail, and used as a dumping ground for the toxic detritus of modernity. But Paris offers further evidence that a necessary comeback is under way. Restoration of Munich's Isar began a quarter of a century ago, transforming it into a recreational hub and spectacularly renewing habitats for fauna and flora. Switzerland has restored more than 300km of degraded rivers, and cities such as Basel, Zurich and Geneva have made their waterways accessible and safe. The notorious state of Britain's sewage-infested rivers has become a modern scandal. The recent completion of the Thames Tideway project - a £1bn super sewer designed to divert raw sewage away from the river - is at least a start, but there is a very long way to go.



Country's two sinking boats

Qamar Bashir



The small and large-scale manufacturing sectors are struggling to survive in the open market due to exorbitant input costs, which are reflected in the prices of their products. Investors are shying away, knowing that products manufactured in Pakistan have little chance of capturing the market. This is due to the availability of the same products at much lower costs and better quality from many other countries that offer a sustainable supply of inputs, a stable political environment, repatriation policies, and a better image of the country. In his live speech, the Prime Minister pointed finger at two sectors: power sector and FBR, terming them "two boats" that, according to him, if kept afloat, will put the country on the path of progress and development. However, if they sink, the country will sink further into abysmal social, cultural, and economic downgrading, leading to total destruction. Ironically, during his speech, the Prime Minister veered off-topic multiple times. He started by criticizing Jamaat-Islami (JI) for holding a sit-in against the unbearable hike in electricity prices. He then shifted to criticize PTI for its insensitivity and failure to add even a single watt to power generation during its ten-year government in KP and its less than four-year government in the center. He proceeded to praise himself and his government for their hard

work, which he claimed was being impeded by the anti-state politics of the opposition. He also praised the military leadership for helping the government survive and condemned the PTI's founder for putting bilateral relations with the USA at great risk by waving the Cypher at a pop-rally. Later, he jumped to condemn a deplorable fatal attack by Israel in Iran that killed Hamas leader Haniyeh and promised to pass a resolution in the National Assembly. However, he failed to provide any solution to the electricity price hike or to suggest improvements in the Federal Board of Revenue. During my 40 years of government service, it became evident to me early on, that the performance of a civil servant is not measured by doing the right thing and observing the rule of law, but by doing the unlawful in a lawful manner. While other officers may not be very expensive, this does not change the reality. In our country, vested interests are so deeply entrenched in every part and conduit of our system that we have lost sight of truth, objectivity and national interests. The harsh reality is that our system is intricately woven to protect these vested interests, rewarding those who align themselves with the powers that be—whether politicians, civil or military bureaucrats, or their beneficiaries and beneficiaries among big businessmen, industrialists, real estate tycoons, bankers, or even smugglers. For example, one of the biggest reasons for the electricity crisis is line losses and electricity theft. Pakistan produces approximately 130-140 billion kWh of electricity annually, with an average production cost of Rs. 10-12 per kWh. Out of this around 18-20% wasted due to line losses and 10-12% due to electricity theft. The financial impact of transmission and distribution losses is about Rs. 271-292 billion annually, while electricity theft costs are additional Rs. 157-169 billion. In total, the combined financial loss due to line losses and theft is approximately Rs. 428-461 billion annually (around \$2.56-2.79 billion), placing a substantial burden on the economy and contributing to the circular debt crisis in Pakistan's power sector. We all know that neither domestic consumers nor small businesses or the industrial

sector have the influence or means to steal this much electricity without the express consent of the government, the bureaucracy, or distribution companies. These entities benefit from weak and easily manipulatable electricity production and distribution systems and, therefore, have neither the desire nor the will to automate the system out of fear of losing control. Fact is that there are distribution solutions available which, if set in place could reduce the line losses and electricity theft to zero such as the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). This system traces every watt of electricity from production to final consumers. It includes smart meters installed at generation stations, substations, and consumer premises to measure real-time electricity usage. Communication networks transmit this data to central databases, while data management systems collect, store, and analyze it. SCADA systems monitor and control electricity transmission and distribution, and Energy Management Systems (EMS) optimize grid operations by balancing supply and demand. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide spatial data for the grid, and Meter Data Management Systems (MDMS) ensure accurate data processing for billing and analysis. Implementing an AMI system in a country like Pakistan could cost between \$4.55 billion and \$7.25 billion allowing the country to comprehensive monitoring, management, and optimization of the electrical grid. The entire cost of installation of this system will be recouped within two years by saving the cost of line losses and cost of the electricity theft. However, our elite—including politicians, civil and military bureaucracy, and their beneficiaries and sponsors—have neither the will nor the desire to implement these solutions. Much like other systems that lack transparency and have weak command, control, and reporting mechanisms, they allow elites to divert the wealth generated by these systems to their own vested interests. Yet, hope remains that one day civil society as a whole will rise to challenge and dismantle these entrenched practices.

The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

Non-productive elite

Dr M Ali Hamza



Currently, Pakistan is facing an economic crisis fuelled by high global oil prices, rising agricultural imports, and economic mismanagement. In April 2023, Pakistan's year-on-year inflation hit a record 36.5%, the highest increase in nearly 60 years. It is evident that Pakistan has become dependent on IMF bailouts, yet these bailouts seem unable to address the root problems. The cycle is always the same: Pakistan

if an airplane took off a dozen times only to crash each time, the only logical conclusion would be that the aircraft needs a fundamental redesign. Similarly, Pakistan's economy has crashed 23 times in the last 75 years, each time requiring a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It wasn't always this way. In the 1980s, Pakistan was richer in per capita terms than India, China, and Bangladesh. Today, however, Pakistan is the poorest among them, with a recent GDP growth estimate of only 2%, barely enough to keep up with population growth. Currently, Pakistan is facing an economic crisis fuelled by high global oil prices, rising agricultural imports, and economic mismanagement. In April 2023, Pakistan's year-on-year inflation hit a record 36.5%, the highest increase in nearly 60 years. It is evident that Pakistan has become dependent on IMF bailouts, yet these bailouts seem unable to address the root problems. The cycle is always the same: Pakistan runs out of dollars, seeks an IMF bailout, and receives it on conditions such as printing, state-owned enterprises, implementing austerity measures, and broadening the tax base. None of these conditions resolve the primary issue in Pakistan's economy—the non-productive nature of its elite. This deep-seated defect is gradually leading to Pakistan's demise. Let's delve into the concept of a non-productive elite to see if this claim holds ground. A non-productive elite consists of influential individuals or groups who prioritize personal gain and power over public welfare, often engaging in corruption, misallocating resources, compromising execution, social nepotism. Their actions undermine economic growth, social progress, and governance, leading to stagnation and decline in their respective nations. Has it started making sense? Throughout history, the rise and fall of nations have often been tied to the effectiveness and productivity of their ruling elite. When the elite becomes non-productive, focusing more on personal gain and power consolidation than on the welfare of their nations, the seeds of decline are sown. This phenomenon is not only a relic of the past but continues to manifest in contemporary societies, demonstrating the timeless impact of leadership on national prosperity. History is filled with such examples. For instance, the decline of the Roman Empire, indulgence in lavish lifestyles, accumulated vast estates, and exploited the provinces for personal wealth weakened Rome's political and economic foundations, contributing significantly to its eventual collapse. In late 19th century, China's Qing Dynasty were more focused on maintaining their luxurious

court life than on addressing the growing challenges. The opium trade, facilitated by British merchants, further drained the economy. The ruling elite's inability to modernize and reform the state led to a series of humiliating defeats to foreign powers, culminating in the fall of the dynasty in the early 20th century. In contemporary times, Venezuela; once one of the wealthiest countries in South America, has plunged into economic and social chaos over the past two decades. The reason is ruling elite, under both Hugo Chavez and his successor Nicolas Maduro focus on maintaining power at all costs. Under the leadership of Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe shifted from being the "breadbasket of Africa" to an economic disaster. Mugabe and his inner circle prioritized land reforms to facilitate political allies, while neglecting the needs of the general population. In total, the combined financial loss due to line losses and theft is approximately Rs. 428-461 billion annually (around \$2.56-2.79 billion), placing a substantial burden on the economy and contributing to the circular debt crisis in Pakistan's power sector. We all know that neither domestic consumers nor small businesses or the industrial

issues. There is a prevailing perception that the Pakistani military's extensive economic involvement leads the top brass to prioritize personal financial interests over national economic development. The dominant role in politics and economy is viewed as a non-productive engagement of the military elite. The bureaucratic elite in Pakistan, has long been criticized for inefficiency and excessive red tape. A local term "BARU", connotatively meant as arrogant official, is evident in their conduct. The civil service, tasked with delivering public services, often becomes a bottleneck due to bureaucratic inertia, corruption, and a lack of accountability. This inefficiency hampers development projects, discourages foreign investment, and frustrates citizens' access to essential services. The focus on maintaining status quo and privilege within the elite, often overshadows the need for effective governance and public service delivery. The business elite in Pakistan faces accusations of tax evasion, using loopholes to minimize their contributions to the national economy. Furthermore, their monopolistic practices, often aided by connections to political, military, and bureaucratic elites, hinder competition and impede economic advancement. This concentration of economic power restricts broader participation and stifles overall growth. While elite capture may seem a typical aspect of a capitalist financial structure, the real concern lies in the investment choices of this elite group. Their capital is often directed toward less productive activities, such as real estate, speculative ventures, and luxury imports, rather than more productive sectors like industry development. This misallocation of resources hampers national growth by diverting funds from sectors that generate jobs and provide widespread economic benefits. The pattern is clear: when the elite of a nation becomes more self-serving, focusing on self-interest and invest on less productive activities, the consequences are often catastrophic. For any nation to thrive, it requires an elite leadership with all institutions, that strives for self-actualization rather than merely fulfilling the lower-level needs of Maslow's Hierarchy. It is imperative for people of Pakistan to hold their leaders accountable, ensuring that they remain productive and aligned with the nation's long-term interests. Only through such vigilance can the tragic patterns of history be broken, securing a prosperous and stable future.

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**Briefs**

**Judges' dissenting ...**

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seat in parliament. Meanwhile, the Bilawal Bhutto-led PPP has maintained that the PTI is not entitled to the reserved seats as it didn't claim them in the first place. Referring to the 29-page dissenting note written by Justices Amin-ud-Din Khan and Naeem Akhtar Afghan, who were part of the full court bench, Tarar said that the issues raised in the said document should be duly discussed. "It's imperative that the points raised by the [two] judges are [duly] answered," the minister said. The aforesaid judges' dissenting note pointed out that the SIC did not contest the February 8 nationwide polls as a political party, whereas, its chairman had also taken part as an independent candidate in the electoral event. They also opined that for creating and carrying out relief in these proceedings for PTI, the court "would have to travel beyond the jurisdiction conferred by Articles 175 and 185 of the Constitution and would also have to suspend Articles 51, 106 and 63 of the Constitution and section 104 of the Elections Act, 2017 along with the relevant rules".

**NDMA issues alert for ...**

FROM PAGE 01

result in damage to infrastructure, a news release said. It added that villages and towns or settlements near nullahs, especially along the floodplain, can be affected by increased flows. On the Northern side, the catchment areas of Kabul River and its tributaries have received significant rainfall, which will likely result in medium to high floods in Nowshera as well as in the tributaries of River Kabul. "Medium to high flows in Nowshera may inundate low-lying areas and may cause damage to the infrastructure. The 'GLOF' event in Chitral will also increase flows in the Panjora River and ultimately in the Kabul River," it said.

**Gwadar int'l airport ...**

FROM PAGE 01

arrangements have been made. The soft launching of the airport will be carried out by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the wares said. According to the CAA sources the cost of New Gwadar International Airport is Rs4.58 billion. The new Gwadar Airport is located 26 km north-east of the existing Gwadar airport and 2,000 acres of land was given for it by the government of Pakistan. Like the new Islamabad Airport, Gwadar Airport is the second greenfield airport of Pakistan. The airport will be capable of handling a combination of ATR 72, Airbus, and Boeing (B-747) for domestic as well international routes.

**PPP leader calls for ...**

FROM PAGE 01

talking to a private news channel, adding: "[...] the Prime Minister should advise dissolving parliament and going for new elections." He questioned the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership for not "sharing details with the PPP if it is facing any danger." The politician said that his party — the major coalition partner of the PML-N government in the Centre — was ready to strengthen the ruling party in parliament, but it has to deliver. Criticising the embattled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Bukhari said that President Asif Ali Zardari had many times offered to mediate and help negotiate political disputes. "But, someone should express willingness to sit and talk." The former Senate chairman alleged that PTI founder Inran Khan was an "untrustworthy man who takes U-turns in politics as a matter of pride." Throwing shade at the incarcerated former premier's recent statements, he further said that Inran had shown his readiness to hold negotiations.

*dna*



ISLAMABAD: Malaysia High Commissioner to Pakistan Dato Azhar Mazlan posing for a picture with the Captain of Pakistan national hockey team Ahmad Butt, Camp Commandant Olympian M Usman, President Rising Stars Hockey Club Mehmood Ahmed and Secretary Rising Stars Hockey Club Sohail Janjua, during Pakistan team practice session. Pakistan team will leave for China at the end of this month to take part in the Asian champion trophy. — DNA

# Paris Olympic hockey

## India beat England to qualify for semi final

The Netherlands and Spain also qualify for the semifinals

DNA

PARIS: Hockey Olympic India beat England 4-2 to qualify for the semi final. England is No 2 in world ranking and India No 7. India beat England on penalty shootouts. Both India and England put a tremendous game in the allotted time. Both teams scored one goal each in the allotted time. England is No 2 in the world hockey rankings while India is No 6. A top seed India had beaten World No 4 Australia to qualify for the quarter final. India defeated Australia for the first time after 1972. Eighth-ranked Spain upset reigning champions Belgium 3-2 in the men's hockey quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics on Sunday as skipper Marc Minillas netted a crucial third goal with three minutes to go before the defence obliged an attempted comeback. Spain had not made it past the last eight since Beijing 2008, while Belgium reached the last two Olympic finals, with several of their players holding gold and silver medals from the Tokyo and Rio Games respectively. Forward Jose Maria Besterra opened the scoring in the 6th minute by converting a goalkeeper deflection off a blistering pass from defender Joni Bonastre but the lead did not last long as Belgium's Arthur de Sloover equalised a minute later. Forward Marc Reyne put Spain back in front after 55 minutes with a strike from the field and Maralles stretched the lead before Alexander Hendrickx pulled a goal back. I think today is the best day



of my life," Besterra said. "We had pointed to this day in our calendar, and now we are so happy. We have to enjoy today and tomorrow we will see (face) our opponents and we will see how to beat them." The final penalty score by substitute Raj Kumar Pal put the once dominant side in the semifinals for the second Olympics in a row, after they won bronze in Tokyo, as they look to recapture the gold medal that has eluded them since 1980.

# Imane Khelif beats Hamori to ensure medal

Khelif has been in the spotlight in recent days as part of a gender row that has dominated headlines

DNA

PARIS: Imane Khelif beat Hungary's Luca Anna Hamori by unanimous decision in a welterweight quarterfinal fight at the Paris Olympics on to ensure Algeria's first Olympic boxing medal since 2000. Khelif has been in the spotlight in recent days as part of a gender row that has dominated headlines and been the subject of much discussion on social media platforms. The duo embroiled at the end, before the judges' verdict was delivered, and Khelif left the ring in tears. Some of the crowd at North Paris Arena, where there were a large number of Algerians, chanted Khelif's name ahead of the bout and cheered her into the ring. Hamori, who had said it was unfair to face Khelif, was boxed into the corner but was unanimous in defeat. Khelif faces Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand in the last four on Tuesday for a place in the final. Taiwan's Lin Yuting can also guarantee herself at least a bronze medal on Sunday when she faces Bulgaria's Svetlana Staneva in the quarterfinals of the women's 57kg. Losing semifinalists in the boxing take home bronze. Khelif and Lin were disqualified from last year's world championships after failing gender eligibility tests.



**PTI forms committee ...**

FROM PAGE 01

Information Advisor Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said the committee had been established on the instruction of PTI founder Inran Khan. Saif said the committee would investigate the allegations against ministers and administrative secretaries, adding that action would be taken against an official if allegations were established against him. It should be noted that ex-primier minister Khan decided to constitute the committee after provincial minister Shakeel Khan, during a meeting with him in jail a few days ago, complained about embezzlement in various departments of KP. Former KP governor Shah Farman, former advisor to prime minister on accountability Mansoor Abbasi and former president of Supreme Court Bar Association Qazi Anwar had been nominated by the PTI founder as members of the body. Saif said, adding that they would check the provincial government's performance. The monitoring body will submit its report to incarcerated Khan, he said.

**Bangladesh govt imposes curfew ...**

FROM PAGE 01

a curfew, and more than 200 deaths. After demonstrators returned to the streets in what appeared to be the biggest numbers yet, Bangladesh's Interior Ministry said an indefinite nationwide curfew would start at 6 p.m. on Sunday, while internet services were again shut down. More than 50 people were killed and scores were injured in the new round of clashes, according to the country's leading Bengali-language newspaper. Students Against Discrimination, one of the main groups behind the initial protests, has called on "students from all over the country to travel to Dhaka" on Monday. "The time has come to make the final signature of this student citizen uprising. Come to Dhaka to be a part of history," Asif Mahmud, a coordinator of the group, said in a statement issued after the curfew was announced. "Students will create a new Bangladesh."

**Police making sacrifices ...**

FROM PAGE 01

Gadagkar saluted the police and army men who sacrificed their lives for the nation. He said, "our priority is to establish peace, we have given the best weapons and equipment to the police and we will give more weapons to police force." The Chief Minister said without restoring peace, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can not make progress. He said police force was making sacrifices in the war on terror. Now 20 per cent amount of traffic chalan payment will be spent for the welfare of families of police martyrs. Gadagkar said, "we sometimes have arguments with police jawans on small issues. If someone is asking for ID at the check post, they are asking it for our security". He said Police did not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the defense of the country therefore we pay homage to the martyrs. KP Police said that from ordinary citizens to police officers, all made sacrifices in war against terrorism. He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police did not leave a post or checkpoint empty even in difficult situations.

**Armed Forces pay tribute ...**

FROM PAGE 01

duity. Their unwavering dedication, unrelenting courage, and selfless sacrifice will be perpetually remembered and honored. Today, the Armed Forces, comprising officers and men, salute the memory of our fallen heroes who have protected the nation with their sweat and blood. Their noble and selfless service has ensured the safety and security of our communities, and their legacy continues to inspire and motivate us. We stand in solidarity with their families and reaffirm our commitment to supporting them in every possible manner.

Briefs

25% of medicine in Africa fake

CAPE TOWN : A significant study suggests that up to 25% of medications in Africa may be counterfeit or of poor quality, raising concerns about a potentially fatal issue that could be causing the deaths of countless patients.

Timubu urges end to protests against economic hardship

Protesters demand quicker reforms and government action to ease the pain amid reforms carried out by the new president

NEWS DESK

Abuja : President Bola Tinubu has told Nigerians protesting against a cost of living crisis that he has "heard" them as he called for the suspension of the demonstrations and an end to "bloodshed".



and destruction tear our nation apart," he added. In office since May 2023, Tinubu defended his economic reforms, which have included a partial end to petrol and electricity subsidies and devalu-

tion of the naira, as necessary to reverse years of economic mismanagement. Thousands of people began taking to the streets on August 1 to protest against government policies and the high cost of living.

property, Amnesty has urged police to release demonstrators and refrain from firing live rounds to break up crowds. On Friday, it said "security personnel at the locations where lives were lost deliberately used tactics designed to kill while dealing with gatherings of people protesting hunger and deep poverty."

Instagram blocked in Turkey for third day

ANKARA : Instagram users in Turkey woke up Sunday to find the social media network blocked for the third consecutive day, following censorship warnings against the US company from a high-ranking Turkish official.

Putin vows support for North Korea after floods

Putin also offered "immediate humanitarian support" to aid its recovery efforts, to which Kim responded that he "could deeply feel the special emotion towards a genuine friend"

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW : Russian President Vladimir Putin has vowed unconditional support to North Korea's counterpart Kim Jong Un over devastating floods that caused untold casualties and damaged thousands of homes.

which killed an unspecified number of people, flooded dwellings and submerged swathes of farmland in the north near China. "I ask you to convey words of sympathy and support to those who lost their loved ones as a result of the storm," Putin said in a telegram to Kim.

at the present stage". Regarding the offer Kim said "aid is necessary in the course, he would ask for it from the trust friends in Moscow", KCNA reported.

2022 invasion of Ukraine. Media in South Korea, which has offered urgent support to the victims, said this week the toll of dead and missing could be as high as 1,500. Kim lashed out at the reports, dismissing them as a "smear campaign to bring disgrace upon us and tarnish the North's image."

Ukraine's FM to seek stronger ties with Africa

KYIV : Ukraine's foreign minister will start a fourth tour of African countries in a bid to further expand ties with the region, Kyiv said on Sunday. Dmytro Kuleba will embark on a tour including Malawi, Zambia, and Mauritius starting Sunday and ending Thursday, where he will meet with the heads of state of the three countries and his counterparts.

President Maduro vows to prevent coup attempts

CARACAS : Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro disclosed during the Grand National March in Caracas that 80% of the protesters arrested in the country had been trained in Texas, Colombia, and Peru to execute a coup.



Dakar: Chairman, regional director of Timbuktu institute Bakary Sanbe called on Ambassador Saima Maymamaq Sayed. The discussion focused on connecting the African Research Center For Peace Studies and Pakistan think tanks.—DNA

Kashmiri delegation urges Turkey's active support for Kashmir

ISLAMABAD : The members of the delegation provided a detailed briefing on the situation arising from Indian state and constitutional terrorism in occupied Kashmir. They expressed gratitude to President Erdogan, the Turkish government and the people for their continued support on the Kashmir issue.

ing for their own freedom but for the peace and stability of the entire world, and they seek full support in this great mission. Among other delegation members, former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan, former Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir, former Ameer Jamaat Abdul Rashid Turabi, and government ministers Abdul Majid Khan and Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq also

shared detailed suggestions and thanked the Turkish government and people for their strong support during the trials of the Kashmir issue, earthquake, and floods. They emphasized that the current circumstances demand decisive cooperation, and given Turkey's respected position in the Muslim world and Europe, full cooperation should be provided at the bilateral, gov-

ernmental, and parliamentary levels. Barkan Kaymak warmly welcomed the delegation and said that Turkey and Pakistan have always been united like one soul in two bodies. Our hearts beat with the people of Kashmir. The AK Party and President Erdogan have supported the right to self-determination for Kashmiris on every available platform. Despite the chal-

lenges we faced, we played our role with a sense of moral and human duty, disregarding the consequences. He further stated that as the Chairman of the Asian Parliamentary Forum and the Turkey-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, he has always fought for the Kashmir cause. State terrorism in Kashmir and Palestine continues, and raising our voices against it is a demand of humanity. The targeted killing of Ismail Hanjish is the worst form of terrorism. He assured that the issues of Kashmiri and Pakistani students and other suggestions would be brought to the President's attention, and based on these suggestions, full cooperation would be extended at the United Nations, OIC, and European Union levels. He suggested maintaining the continuity of such delegations yearly. On this occasion, the delegation invited him to visit Azad Kashmir with the parliamentary delegation, which he accepted with thanks. The head of the delegation presented a special shield in recognition of his services. Secretary of the Assembly Chaudhry Boshart Hussain, local Pakistani businessman Ayaz Ghani, and Advocate Yusuf Yilmaz were also present at the meeting.

India landslide death toll reaches 215

NEW DELHI : The death toll in the southern Indian state of Kerala where a massive landslide occurred this week has reached 215, while 100 remain missing, officials said Saturday. A landslide struck the Wayanad district Tuesday, paralyzing the region's power operation. The search operation entered a fifth day on Saturday. Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Saturday that the search operation is nearing completion. Officials said the government plans a comprehensive rehabilitation process for survivors. In the northern state of Jharkhand Pradesh, officials said 47 people remain missing after cloudbursts early Thursday killed six victims.—APP

EV transition worries French car industry workers

VOUZIERES : As France faces a 2035 deadline to phase out new combustion engine cars, workers in the industry worry their days might be numbered too. While there is plenty of optimism in certain regions of France, in particular in the north of the country where a "Battery Valley" is emerging, workers at parts suppliers elsewhere are pessimistic. With the sale of new cars with petrol and diesel engines allowed for only the next decade in Europe, the industry that employs 200,000 people in France faces a forced march to change. "The transition to electric vehicles, it could have been done when Waler bought us, but they didn't invest," said Severine Person, a quality controller at a car parts supplier in the town of Vouziers in France's northeastern Ardennes region. Waler bought the facility in 2017, its production of connecting rods for tractors and trucks is not threatened by the shift to EVs, but demand for transmissions is dropping. "There are differential housings and engine manifolds is likely to see big changes. Waler was bought out last year by a German fund that specialises in turning around struggling firms and is looking to sell the site in Vouziers and another nearby. Before, Citroen would distribute work to everyone in the Ardennes. They didn't go to the other side of the world to get parts," said Bruno Bodson, a shop steward with the CFDT trade union. Person and her colleagues are resigning from the factory's HSE closure given its shrinking order book.—APP

Middle Eastern stocks tumble on regional tensions

LONDON : Stock markets in the Middle East ended lower on Sunday amid tensions in the region following the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed a top military commander from Lebanese armed group Hezbollah. A high-level Israeli delegation arrived in Cairo on Saturday for an attempt to resume Gaza ceasefire negotiations, but returned home later in the day, the Egyptian airport authority and Israeli media said. Saudi Arabia's benchmark index slid 2.4%, dragged down by a 10% plunge in aluminium products manufacturer Al Taseer Group and a 2.7% drop in Al Rajhi Bank. UAE stocks fell as regional tensions, US economic worries weigh. Among other losers, oil giant Saudi Aramco was down 1.5%. Hezbollah forces on Friday resumed rocket and artillery attacks against Israel, ending a lull along the border following Israel's killing of the Lebanese group's military commander in Beirut. The Qatari benchmark lost 0.7%, with petrochemicals maker Industries Qatar falling 0.7%. Outside the Gulf, Egypt's blue-chip index declined 2.9%, with all the constituents of the index in negative territory including E-Finance for Digital and Financial Investment, which was down 8%. Separately, Egypt's net foreign assets (NFA) stayed positive for a second straight month in June having been deeply negative for more than two years, central bank data showed. SAUDI ARABIA fell 2.4% to 11,754 QATAR dropped 0.7% to 10,657 EGYPT lost 2.9% to 28,504 BAHRAIN retreated 1% to 1,551 OMAN eased 0.4% to 4,647 KUWAIT declined 2.2% to 7,695.—Agencies

## Briefs

### Reference filed against CEC: Bhachar

#### BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly opposition leader Malik Ahmad Khan Bhachar has filed reference in the Supreme Court against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Ahmad Khan. He has submitted a 439-page reference in the Supreme Court Lahore Registry. He contended in the reference that CEC, members of ECP were biased in General Elections 2024 and alleged that polls were rigged. He reiterated that CEC, members didn't fulfil legal and constitutional obligations. It was requested in the reference to overthrow CEC, ECP members from their offices immediately. Opposition leader pleaded to direct CEC, ECP members to relinquish their duties till the final judgement on the reference.

### Baloch demands forensic audit of IPPs

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Liaqat Baloch has said that the party has demanded forensic audit of the defective aspects of the IPP agreements. "We have repeated the demand in both rounds of talks with the government and also suggested the solution," addressing participants of the JI protest sit-in here Liaqat Baloch said. "The government's committee told us that it will discuss the matter with the prime minister. Instead of providing relief to the people, what prime minister is doing is wrongful." JI leader said, "Stop the politics of falsehood and betrayal with the people," he told government. He said the MQM always used to do the politics of blackmail. "Whenever rulers face difficulties, MQM offers them lobby," Liaqat Baloch said. He said the MQM's sitting with the minister will bring further damage to the government. - DNA

### Foreign national arrested for shooting colleague

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested a foreign national accused of shooting and injuring his female colleague during a stay in a guesthouse in Islamabad. According to the details, yesterday, the incident took place in the guesthouse located in the G-13 area of Islamabad, where a heated argument between the two foreigners escalated, leading to the suspect opening fire and seriously injuring the victim with a headshot. The injured individual was immediately taken to a nearby hospital, while the accused, a foreign national, escaped from the crime scene. Today, the accused was apprehended in Bahria Town, Phase Seven. - DNA

# Technology has influenced all facets: Ambassador Karmoune

Around the world, industries, economies, and cultures have changed as a result of the convergence of business and technology. The current business landscape is characterized by both dynamic and problematic aspects, ranging from the disruptive potential of digital platforms and cybersecurity to the revolutionary advancements in blockchain and artificial intelligence

#### ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan, who is also Dean of the African Group, has said that we all understand the enormous influence that technology has on all facets of an enterprise, from operations and strategy to customer interaction and beyond. Innovation is happening at a faster rate than ever before, which brings with it both unprecedented potential and difficulties for growth and transformation. The ambassador expressed these views while speaking at a student gathering the other day. He said, these kinds of forums, in my opinion, are essential for promoting cooperation, exchanging knowledge, and investigating the most recent developments that will propel businesses forward. By working together, you can successfully manage the challenges presented by the digital age and use technology to both anticipate and shape the future in addition to meeting present needs. "In a time when innovation is driving industries ahead at a never-before-seen speed, success depends not just on an awareness of the beneficial relationship but also on these two domains work-

ing together". Ambassador Karmoune said, in all of its manifestations, technology is now the primary component of contemporary corporate strategy. Cutting-edge developments are constantly changing the face of commerce, from blockchain altering supply chains to artificial intelligence transforming customer experiences. This integration is about more than just adopting the newest technology; it's about using innovation to boost production, increase efficiency, and open up new business opportunities. Around the world, industries, economies, and cultures have changed as a result of the convergence of business and technology. The current business landscape is characterized by both dynamic and problematic aspects, ranging from the disruptive potential of digital platforms and cybersecurity to the revolutionary advancements in blockchain and artificial intelligence. This conference offers a priceless chance to investigate these developments, exchange perspectives, and set forth a collective agenda. However, the union of technology and business goes beyond improving operations. It cultivates a resilient and adap-



Embassy of Morocco in Islamabad. It gives business owners the confidence to pursue bigger dreams,

challenge established norms, and develop answers for pressing global issues. As you join together to discuss these topics today, just consider the responsibilities that accompany such revolutionary power in addition to acknowledging the accomplishments made possible by technology. It is your responsibility as innovators and leaders to manage this constantly changing environment with integrity and make sure that advancement is both inclusive and sustainable. I urge all of you to participate fully, to contribute your knowledge, and to look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, let's set the path for a time when technology and business collaborate to make the world more affluent and just. I applaud the organizers for bringing together such an esteemed and varied set of attendees. Your commitment to encouraging communication and invention is admirable and is proof of the transformational potential of group thinking and cooperation. Let's work together to fully utilize technology's potential to improve communities both locally and globally, in addition to promoting economic success.

# Hamas starts consultations to appoint Haneya's successor

Hamas Movement's executive institutions and Shura, the main consultative body, are continuing their work and that the results of consultations will be announced once they are completed

#### NEWS DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: The Hamas Movement announced that its leadership began a wide consultation within its consultative institutions to choose a new chairman for the Movement, following the assassination of Ismail Haneya. "Following the martyrdom of Haneya, the Movement's leadership began a widespread consultation in its Shura institutions to choose a new chairman of the political bureau," Hamas said in a statement on Saturday. It added that the Movement's executive institutions and Shura, the main consultative body, are continuing their work and that the results of consultations will be announced once they are completed. "Hamas is distinguished by its high institutionalism and firm Shura Council, which was reflected in the facts and events during the past decades that witnessed the martyrdom of a number of its leaders," it said, stressing that Hamas has a history of swift and smooth replacement of leaders martyred in Israeli airstrikes. On Wednesday morning, Hamas announced the martyrdom of the chief of its political bureau, Ismail Haneya in an Israeli assassination that targeted his residence in Tehran the

day after his participation in the inauguration of the new Iranian President. Meanwhile, the health ministry in Gaza said on Sunday that the Israeli occupation army committed two massacres in different areas of the Gaza Strip during the past 24 hours, killing at least 33 civilians and injuring over 118 others, while a large number of victims are still under the rubble of bombed buildings or lying on roads. In a statement, the health ministry said that the Israeli army killed and injured a large number of civilians in different areas of Gaza during the past 24 hours, but at least 151 of them, including 33 martyrs, were transported to hospitals. The health ministry added that the death toll from the ongoing Israeli bombardments and shooting attacks, which started on October 7, climbed to 38,583 martyrs and the number of the wounded surged to 91,398 people. The Gaza Strip has been under brutal bombardment since a cross-border operation was launched by Hamas's armed wing, al-Qassam Brigades, on October 7. Besides the large number of casualties and the huge displacement of people, basic food, fuel, water and medical supplies have run out for the 2.3 million residents in Gaza due to the tight Israeli blockade and the massive destruction of infrastructure and facilities.

# Yemeni air defenses shoot down US MQ-9 Reaper drone

#### FOREIGN DESK

GAZA: Palestinian resistance fighters have fired a barrage of rockets from the Gaza Strip towards targets in the occupied territories. The Saraya al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement, released footage on Sunday, showing its fighters targeting settlements in the occupied city of Asqalan. Meanwhile, Israeli media reported that several rockets impacted Gan Yaveh near the occupied city of Ashdod. The rockets were launched simultaneously from multiple locations in Gaza, according to local sources. The resistance groups based in Gaza have long launched rocket attacks on the occupied lands in response to Israel's blockade on the Palestinian territory, as well as its crimes against the Palestinian people. Meanwhile, Yemeni air defenses have shot down another US MQ-9 Reaper drone over Yemeni airspace, amid escalated tensions with the Israeli regime. The spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces Yahya Saree said the country's air defense units had successfully shot down the American drone while it was conducting hostile activities in the airspace over the Yemeni province of Sa'ada. Saree said in a televised statement on Sunday that the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was targeted with a locally made surface-to-air missile. According to Saree, this is the seventh aircraft of this kind that the Yemeni air defenses have shot down since the start of the operations in support of the defenceless Palestinian people trapped in the Gaza Strip. He said the advanced American UAV was shot down during the Battle of the Promised Conquest and the Holy Jihad in support of Gaza. The naval and missile forces of the Yemeni Armed Forces also carried out a joint military operation in which they targeted the "Grotan" ship in the Gulf of Aden with many ballistic missiles, and the hit was accurate, he said. He added that the ship was targeted because the company that owns it violated Yemen's decision to ban entry to the ports of occupied Palestine.

# Djokovic win long-awaited Olympic gold

#### SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Novak Djokovic beat Carlos Alcaraz in thrilling fashion to secure a long-awaited Olympic title and complete the career 'Golden Slam'. Djokovic, who has won a men's record 24 majors and swept up every title there is in tennis, finally clinched Olympic gold at his fifth Games. The Serb, 37, put in his best performance of the year to beat French Open and Wimbledon champion Alcaraz 7-6 (3) 7-6 (3) in front of a packed crowd in Paris. He sealed the title with a forehand winner, then turned towards his box - arms outstretched in disbelief - before throwing his racket to the floor after a draining match which lasted just under three hours. After hugging Spain's Alcaraz, Djokovic immediately burst into tears and fell to his knees in the middle of the court. He then unfurled a Serbian flag and clambered into the stands to celebrate with his family and support team. Djokovic is just the fifth player to win the 'Golden Slam' in singles - all four majors and the Olympic title - after Rafael Nadal, Serena Williams, Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf.

# Kiev receives first F-16 fighter jets

KIEV: Ukraine has received its first American-made F-16 fighter jets, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said. "F-16 in Ukraine. We did it," President Zelenskyy said at a ceremony at a secret location, flanked by the jets. He thanked Denmark, the Netherlands and the US in particular for helping deliver the jets following 18 months of waiting. Their arrival marks a crucial milestone in boosting the capabilities of Ukraine's air force, which largely relies on old Soviet-era jets. Mr Zelenskyy did not specify how many aircraft had arrived in Ukraine - or whether they had all been sent by the three Nato countries he mentioned, but added they were not enough yet. Some 65 F-16s have also been pledged by Nato countries including Belgium and Norway. The UK does not have any F-16s in its air force, though it is supplying long-range Storm Shadow missiles which can be fitted to the jets. For Mr Zelenskyy, they cannot come a moment too soon, after an 18-month wait. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, Ibrahim Saleh Alzaabi calls on Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister of Commerce. - DNA

# Pakistan stands with Kashmiris' struggle

He said that every year, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is also being observed this year. Protest walks and demonstrations have been announced against this illegal move of the Modi government in Pakistan as well as around the world, he said

#### ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Maqam has appealed to the international community and Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to play their vital role in addressing the longstanding Kashmir valley issue of the region. Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, the minister said the Kashmir dispute should be resolved through the resolution of the United Nations as without a solution to this issue there is no peace and development in the region. He said that the incumbent government was highlighting the Kashmir issue at all appropriate platforms of the globe effectively. The minister underlined that since August 5, 2019, to date in the last five years around 900 people have been killed, more than 2500 freedom fighters injured and many widows have been arrested by Indian forces. India is claiming the largest democratic state of the world but violating the human rights and suppressing the self-determination rights of Kashmiris, he added. Amir Maqam asked all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk from Radio Pakistan to I Chokh in Islamabad on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir on August 5. He said on August 5, 2019, the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was repealed by the Modi regime which will complete five years on August 5. He said that every year, Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir is also being observed this year. Protest walks and demonstrations have been announced against this illegal move of the Modi government in Pakistan as well as around the world, he said. Amir Maqam appealed to all parliamentary parties to participate in the walk so that a clear message could be sent to India that the government and people of Pakistan are united on the Kashmir dispute. He said that the Indian actions were aimed at a process of demographic change and

political engineering. As a result, he said that the Kashmiri people are confronted with the danger of becoming a disempowered community in their land. "India has increased its oppression in IOKJ since August 5, 2019. Efforts are being made to silence the media. The genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people remains behind bars. The Indian authorities have sought the death penalty for one of the most renowned Kashmiri leaders, Yaseen Malik", he said. He said the harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, "cordon and search" operations, and extra-judicial killings have become a matter of routine. The Kashmiri people are unable to enjoy their freedom of expression and assembly. Most importantly, they are unable to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, he said. He said on this 'Youm-e-Istehsal', we salute the courage and valor of the people of IOKJ who have rendered countless sacrifices in their struggle for realization of their basic rights. The international community must demand an end to India's gross and widespread human rights violations in IOKJ, reversal of its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, repeal of draconian laws; release of political prisoners and implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, he said. Amir Maqam said Pakistan will continue to play its role to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. "Our strong moral, political and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people will continue till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination", he said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed all provinces authorities including Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK to hoisting flags observe Aug 5 Youm-e-Istehsal. The minister also briefed the media about the planned activities for Youm-e-Istehsal to be observed on August 5, including walks, seminars and awareness drives, particularly the ceremonies scheduled to be held at Pakhatri's diplomatic missions across the world.