



Islamabad POST

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Erdogan marks 102nd anniversary of Victory that 'birthed' republic

Detailed News On Page-06

No NRO For Imran, says Ahsan Iqbal

Detailed News On Page-08



Root dedicates his century to mentor Thorpe

Detailed News On Page-06



VICTORY DAY OF TÜRKİYE



ISLAMABAD: Lt. Gen Avais Dastgir Pakistan Army's Chief of General Staff, Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi, Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Paccaci, Defence Attache of Türkiye Brig Gen. Umul Onol, Representative TRNC Dilsad Senol and Begum Shaista Pervez cutting cake to celebrate the Victory Day of Türkiye. – DNA

PM, Maulana Fazl discuss political situation of country

Fazlur Rehman warmly welcomed the prime minister

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: PM Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the residence of JUIF chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Fazlur Rehman warmly welcomed the prime minister. The prime minister expressed best wishes for Maulana Fazlur Rehman. During the meeting, the two sides discussed overall political situation of the country. PM Shehbaz Sharif was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza.

US condemns Balochistan attack

"We always remain willing to work with any nation that wants to root out a terrorist organization,"

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States Department of Defence has "strongly condemned" the recent attack on Balochistan days after the province was marred by terror leaving dozens of civilians and security forces martyred. Responding to a question regarding the Washington's support to Islamabad in dealing with such terrorist groups, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said she was not aware of any US involvement or assistance to Pakistan at this time.

Govt came through fake mandate

Calls upon the govt to take steps to ease situation of Balochistan

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Omar Ayub said on Friday the incumbent government came to power through a fake mandate. Speaking to media outside parliament, he said the situation in Balochistan was highly volatile and the interior minister had failed to answer the questions in this regard.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. – Editor

'CTD to be given Rs 5bn' Balochistan attacks aimed at sabotaging upcoming SCO summit

"Planned attacks carried out by two to three terrorist organisations," says Mohsin Naqvi

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said that the horrific attacks in Balochistan, wherein dozens including security personnel lost their lives, was a "plot to subvert" upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be hosted by Pakistan next month. Balochistan, on August 26, faced a series of horrific attacks that resulted in over 50 deaths, including 14 security personnel, as militants affiliated with the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) targeted civilians, police, and security forces. In one of the deadliest attacks, at least

Continued on Page 06

5 terrorists killed, 3 injured across Balochistan

Operations come in response to series of 'cowardly terrorist activities' targeting civilians on August 26, says ISPR

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: At least five terrorists were killed and three others injured by security forces in separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs)

Continued on Page 06

'Knows who abandoned party' No room for deserters in party, vows Imran

Those who endured violence in difficult times but did not leave the party should rest assured, says PTI founder

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan has announced a policy for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) deserters, stating that there is no room for those who left the party during difficult times. "I want to clearly state that there is no space for those who abandoned the party during difficult times," the PTI founder said while speaking to the journalists in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. Refusing to name anyone, the embattled party founder said that he knows who abandoned the party during bad times. "Those who were active during good

Continued on Page 06

Adiala jail admin refutes PTI's claims

Superintendent says ex-PM, Bushra Bibi have been allocated separate kitchen, prison staff present for security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: The Adiala jail administration on Friday denied reports about withdrawing facilities for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder

Continued on Page 06

Cyclone threat: Deep depression in Arabian Sea

PMD forecasts possibility of heavy rain in next 24 hours, accompanied by strong winds and thundershowers in Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorology Department (PMD) on Friday said that that the deep depression, which is slowly progressing towards the Arabian Sea from India's Rann of Kutch, is now 170 kilometres southeast of the port city. According to the PMD, this deep depression – a very strong low-pressure area – is expected to keep moving west-southwestward along Sindh's coastal belt. It further stated that it lies around Latitude 23.5 N & Longitude 67.9 E at about 170km south/southeast of Karachi and 88km south of Kati Bandar. The low pressure area may further intensify into a cyclonic storm upon entering the

Arabian Sea by today afternoon or evening, if environmental conditions remain favourable, the PMD said in its latest cyclone alert. PMD Director General Mehar Sahibzada Khan said in a press conference that the cyclone namely Asna brewed off the Karachi-Gwadar coast which may result in heavy rainfalls after hitting western coastal areas. "Cyclones usually advance from sea to land but Asna's advancement is vice versa [...] It will intensify into a hurricane whose impacts will be seen in the next week," he added. "Our country is receiving more than usual downpours due to this cyclone. Upper areas of the country will experience more rain from September 2 to 4." Mehar predicted that the weather conditions would improve in southern areas after two days.

Federal Cabinet abolishes PWD PM vows to crush country's adversaries with unified efforts

Turning to economic situation of the country, he said the announcement of global rating agency Moody's about Pakistan economic outlook reflects that the country's economy is moving towards upwards trajectory

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed the resolve that enemies of Pakistan will be crushed through collective efforts of the nation, armed forces and the law enforcement agencies. Addressing the Federal Cabinet meeting held in Islamabad today, he reiterated the commitment of his government to move forward with unity of thoughts and actions to eliminate terrorism from the country. He categorically stated that no talks will be held with terrorists and those creating obstacles in development process will be crushed with full might. The Prime Minister also informed the Cabinet members about his yesterday's visit to Quetta. He said during the visit, a comprehensive review was made about the law and order situation in Balochistan. He said during the briefing sessions in Quetta, it was apprised that elements belonging to Khwarij and terrorists are spreading hatred in Balochistan and are being funded from abroad. Commending the efforts of the Chief Minister Balochistan, he said the Chief Minister launched a number of development projects in the province. Turning to economic situation of the country, he said the announcement of global rating agency Moody's about Pakistan economic outlook reflects that the country's economy is moving towards upwards trajectory. He said China is the best friend of Pakistan and CPEC has opened new avenues of development and prosperity in Pakistan. The Prime Minister said officers

Continued on Page 06

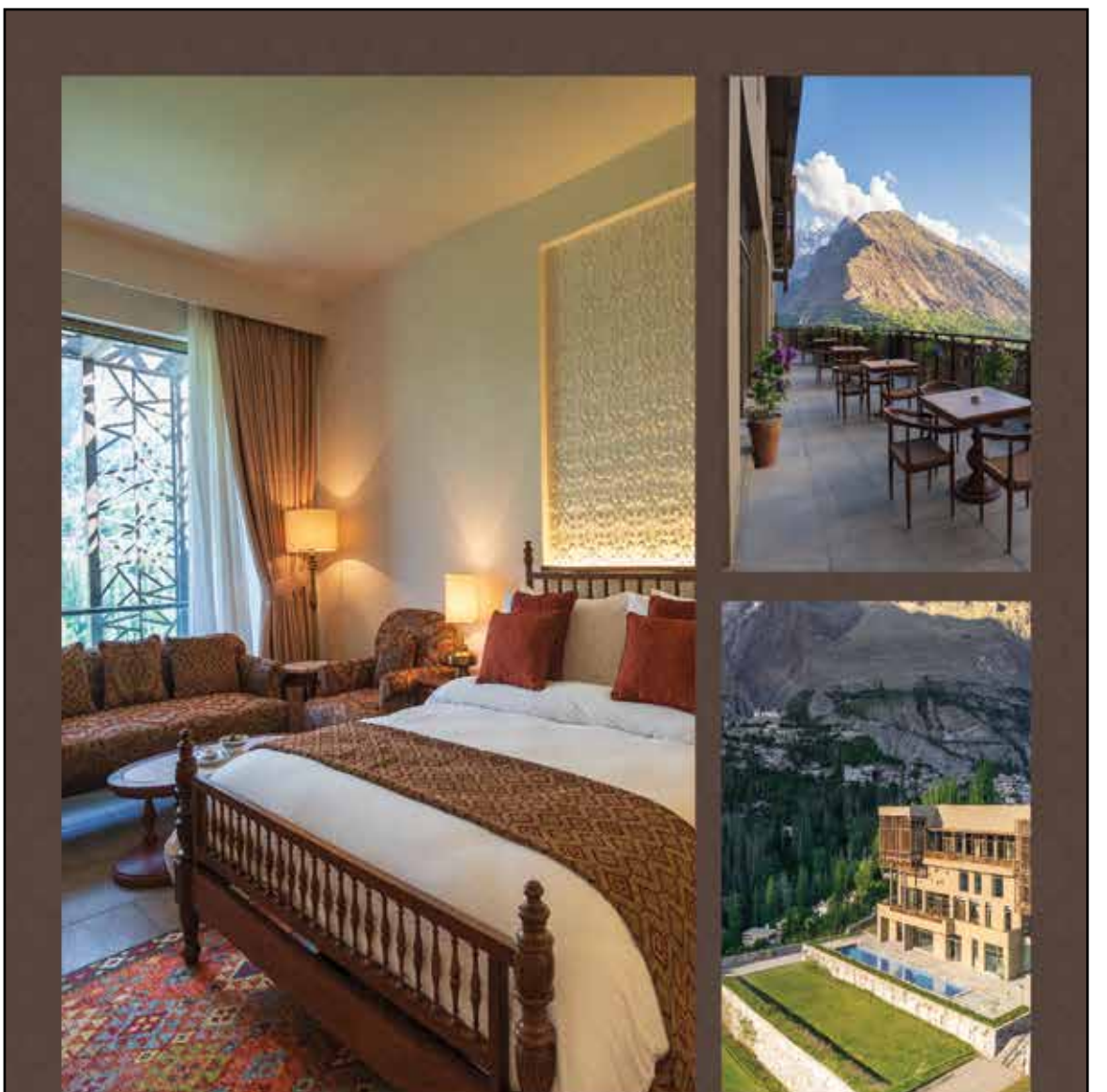
Pak-Bangladesh agree to work closely for progress

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Bangladesh on Friday agreed that there was a need to work closely for the progress and prosperity of the people of both countries, the prime minister's office said in a press release. Pakistan's government had earlier, through a statement on Aug 7, expressed solidarity with the people of Bangladesh after the fall of Hasina Wajid's government amid widespread protests. Hasina's 15-year rule saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents. She was replaced by Nobel laureate Yunus, who is heading an interim



Continued on Page 06



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Gilani expresses sorrow

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani on Friday expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of lives and property caused by the recent heavy rains and floods across the country. In his statement, he extended heartfelt condolences to the affected families, saying, "We share our condolences with the families of the victims in this hour of sorrow." He urged the relevant authorities to accelerate the relief efforts, emphasizing that natural disasters were a global issue and that coordinated efforts were essential to minimize losses. He also highlighted the severe challenges Pakistan faced due to climate change and advised the public to take necessary precautions during the ongoing rainy season. —APP

IRSA releases 276,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 276,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 319,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 185,600 cusecs and 185,100 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1219.10 feet, which was 171.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 50,200 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 201,300, 199,300, 188,000 and 226,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 32,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 22,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

Capacity building workshop held on waste management

PESHAWAR: World Bank-assisted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development (KITE) Project in collaboration with Nestle Pakistan, organized a day-long capacity-building workshop on solid waste management and sustainable tourism under the TREK program the other day. Travel Responsibility for Experiencing Ecotourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (TREK) - is a collaboration between the World Bank-assisted KITE project and Nestle to promote responsible tourism for a waste-free future. The workshop aimed at creating awareness about solid waste management practices and recycling initiatives undertaken by TREK. The workshop vowed to adopt actions to reduce plastic and other waste and shift to recycling processes. Hotels and restaurant owners, hotel staff, travel and tour operators, members from academia, students, public sector tourism managers and others attended the workshop. Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) Tashfeen Haider, Project Director KITE Project, Touseef Khalid, General Manager KPCTA Sajjad Hameed, President Hotels Association Naran, and officials of Nestle Pakistan, tourism department and KITE Project attended the workshop, and addressed the participants. —APP

LCCI elections 2024: PIAF pioneer progressive alliance announces all candidates

DNA

LAHORE: The PIAF Pioneer Progressive Alliance (PPPA) has unanimously announced the names of its all candidates for the Executive Committee of the upcoming Lahore Chambers of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) election being held in Sept 2024. Among the corporate class candidates they include Abdul Majeed, Irfan Ahmad Qureshi, Shaaban Akhtar, Amir Saeed Mian, Mian Muneeb Naseer, Ehtishamul Haque, Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh, Mardan Ali Zaidi, Asif Khan, Asif Malik, Waqas Aslam, Syed Salman Ali, Engineer Khalid Usman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Syed Hasan Raza while in associate class the candidates consist of Mian Abu Zar Shad, Fahimur Rehman Saigol, Rana Muhammad Nisar, Malik Ahad Amin,

Sheikh Muhammad Fayaz, Amir Ali, Umar Sarfraz Sheikh, Ahsan Shahid, Ali Imran Asif, Rana Nadeem Abbas, Shahid Nazir, Muhammad Sajjad, Khuram Lodhi, Mehboob Ahmed Nundar, Karamat Ali Awan and Muhammad Imran Salimi. In the opening ceremony, Alliance patron-in-chief Mian Anjum Nisar, Chairman PIAF Fahimur Rahman Saigol, Chairman Pioneer Business Group Ali Hussam Asghar, President Progressive Group Engineer Khalid Usman, Former President of Lahore Chamber Muhammad Ali Mian, Senior Vice President Lahore Chamber Zafar Mehmood, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, other leadership of PPP Alliance including Usman Malik, Mardan Ali Zaidi, Mian Maqbool Siddiqui, PIAF Vice Chairman Tahir Manzoor Chaudhary, former Senior Vice Chairman Khamis Saeed Butt,

former Chairman PIAF and former Senior Vice President PFCPI Khawaja Shahzeb Akram, Executive Members of Lahore Chamber, Pakistan Traders and Manufacturers Alliance were present. On this occasion, Mian Anjum Nisar said that the Alliance has given election tickets to suitable businessmen who are aware of the problems and understand how to solve them. He further said that instead of providing facilities and incentives to the business community, the authorities are adding to the problems of the businessmen by issuing notices. Despite repeated attention from the business community, the government has not taken any concrete and effective step to improve the situation. The leadership of the Alliance is always active in solving the problems of the business community on all forums and will not spare any effort in the future.

Kaghan's monsoon majesty

Tourists revel in scenic splendor around Saiful Malook lake

This picturesque setting provides a serene escape for visitors, who are eager to experience the valley's stunning natural beauty, lakes and birds chanting lush green valleys before the summer season ends in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

DNA

KAGHAN: The mesmerizing monsoon in Kaghan Valley, with its blend of moderate to erratic rainfall and occasional sunshine burst, have attracted influx of tourists on an eve of weakened, enjoying free boating and horse-riding around the fairy-tale allure of Saiful Malook lake. Amid monsoon magic, the landscape is alive with seasonal flowers, towering chirpine trees, and the soothing sounds of chirping birds besides cascading waterfalls originating from Malaka Parbat's mountains to majestic Saiful Malook, taking tourists into a lap of serenity and tranquil charm. This picturesque setting provides a serene escape for visitors, who are eager to experience the valley's stunning natural beauty, lakes and birds chanting lush green valleys before the summer season ends in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Fayaz Khan, a tourist from Nowshera said that before schools reopen in KP next week, "I came with my family to enjoy what might be the last monsoon majesty at my dream tourist destination of Kaghan. "The beauty of Naran valley, our first stop, was incredible. We enjoyed the

mouthwatering brown trout on Friday morning, water rafting at Kunhar river and have now reached Kaghan for a night's stay. Tomorrow, we plan to explore the scenic Saiful Malook, Anso and Daudpath Lakes before returning back to our hometown on Sunday." Ali Abbasi, a horse rider was overjoyed after earning maximum capital in monsoon season, adding he earns Rs3000 a day as tourists demands of riding between Kaghan-Saiful Malook lake have increased manifold. Similarly, Usman Gujar was also over the moon after his boats started roaring business to help tourists to explore Saiful Malook lake-known for Persian Prince Saiful Malook and fairy princes Badre Jamala. " Since morning, I provided services to about 200 tourists and hoped this weekend will bring more economic lurs for him due to the influx of tourists arriving at Saiful Malook. The famous lake spans on 1.06 square miles with a depth of 113 feet and sitting at an elevation of 3,224 meters above sea level. Revered as a lake of legends and princes, Saiful Malook is enveloped by the serene mountains of Malika Parbat in upper Kaghan, offering a peaceful retreat to tourists from the hustle

and bustle of everyday life. Named after the Persian Prince Saiful Malook, the lake attracts both international and local tourists, particularly during the summer when its pleasant climate and cascading waterfalls from nearby glaciers add to its allure.

The lake is immortalized in Sufi poet Mian Muhammad Bakhsh's epic, "Fairytale of Saiful Malook," which recounts the prince Saiful Malook quest for the fairy princess Badriul Jamala, a journey marked by enchanting stories and unfulfilled longing amid pining dreams. Though Pakistan is blessed with numerous stunning lakes like Ansoo, Lalusar, Dudipastar, and Sheosar, Saiful Malook stands out for its unique blend of fairytales, striking beauty, and pristine waters. Dr Naqem Khan, former Chairman Economics Department, University of Peshawar told APP that our northern areas especially Hazara and Malakand divisions were most suited for adventure and ecotourism and Govt's patrong towards this sector's uplift can bring economic lurs. He said in 2017 tourism had contributed only \$8.8 billion, or 2.9% of GDP, a stark contrast to the \$15 billion, or 5.7% of GDP, in 2019, adding

the COVID-19 pandemic and security issues have exacerbated these challenges, with a notable decline in tourism revenue and employment in Pakistan. Emphasizing the importance of embracing digital innovations, such as virtual tours and social media campaigns, he advocated for hiring digital professionals and utilizing platforms like GPS and artificial intelligence to promote Pakistan's diverse tourism offerings.

Developing attractions like a chairlift between Naran and Saiful Malook could generate significant revenue and enhance the socio-economic conditions of people of the region. However, challenges remain, including environmental concerns. Efforts to improve waste management and enhance facilities are crucial for preserving the natural beauty of Saiful Malook and other lakes of Pakistan. Increased litter bins, sanitary workers, and improved parking facilities are among the necessary measures to maintain the lake's allure. Asif Ali, a photographer, was delighted to see the quick capital after the increase of tourists at Naran-Kaghan especially at Saiful Malook. "I have been as-

sociated with the photography profession for the last 12 years. I am amazed to see tourists influx during this monsoon season at Naran-Kaghan," he said, adding last year he earned Rs2000 per day against Rs 3000 to 4000 this monsoon season." KP Wildlife Department, which oversees Saiful Malook and Lulusar lakes as national parks, is working to ensure sustainable protection and improved tourist facilities and declared Saiful Malook lake as protected National Park.

Tasfeen Haider, Director General, KP Culture and Tourism Authority said that the facility of chair-lift would soon be established for tourists between Naran-Saiful Malook lake. He said that the site of the chair lift has been selected, it would be established with public-private partnership for which orders regarding completion of paper work were issued. The DG said KP continued to enhance its digital presence and infrastructure and Naran-Kaghan-Saiful Malook Lake is the nation's rich natural and cultural heritage, which would help attract millions of visitors from within and around the globe every year.

Deep depressioncausing heavy rains

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorology Department (PMD) on Friday said the deep depression, which is slowly progressing towards the Arabian Sea from 'Rann of Kutch', is now 200 kilometers southeast of Karachi city. A private TV channel quoted PMD office as saying, this deep depression, a very strong low-pressure area, is expected to keep moving west-southwestward along coastal belt of Sindh province. The low pressure area may further intensify into a cyclonic storm upon entering the Arabian Sea by today afternoon or evening, if environmental conditions remain favourable, the PMD said in its latest cyclone alert. The Met Office said that there was a possibility of heavy rain in Karachi in the next 24 hours, accompanied by strong winds and thundershowers. Meanwhile, winds in the metropolis are blowing from the northeast at a speed of 22km/hour. Heavy rainfalls are likely in Sindh areas under the influence of the potential cyclonic storm, the Met office statement added. The rainfall with strong winds is expected in Karachi division, Tharparkar, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Hyderabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Matiari, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu and Shaheed Benazirabad districts till August 31. —APP

Experts urge focus on economic objectives for CPEC success

PESHAWAR: Experts at a roundtable discussion in Peshawar have hailed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a game-changer for Pakistan's development, despite attempts by hostile forces to undermine it. Experts at a roundtable discussion titled "CPEC: Opportunities and Challenges," organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Peshawar, in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, highlighted that CPEC is a project of construction and development for Pakistan. They revealed that seven terrorist corridors are actively working to sabotage CPEC, but emphasized that China's investments in Pakistan demonstrate its commitment to the country's growth. The experts praised China's friendship, citing the 20,000 Pakistani students studying in China.

They suggested focusing on economic and trade objectives, rather than security and geopolitics, and opening natural east-west corridors for trade purposes. The discussion was chaired by Professor Dr. Zahid Anwar, former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean of Social Sciences, and Director of the China Study Center at Peshawar University. Other speakers included Professor Dr. Adnan Sarwar, former Dean and Chairman of the International Relations Department at Peshawar University; Professor Dr. Ghulam Qasim Marwat, Chairman of the Pakistan Study Department at Qurtuba University; Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khalil, Chairman of IRS; Engineer Azizul Haq; and Professor Dr. Fazal Rahman Qureshi. The speakers emphasized that China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan, and the investments it is making in Pakistan through CPEC demonstrate its practical

friendship. The conspiracies being hatched by hostile forces to derail CPEC need to be understood, and the nation must set aside its differences to thwart these malicious intentions. The speakers said that China has never wished ill for Pakistan and has always stood by Pakistan during tough times. The Peshawar-Kabul motorway is part of CPEC. Those who argue that Pakistan should soften its trade policies along the eastern and western borders fail to grasp the realities on the ground and the nefarious intentions of adversaries. It was suggested that while engaging with China, cultural and social differences should be acknowledged, and mutual efforts should be made to bridge these gaps. The discussion concluded with a Q&A session where the speakers answered questions from the participants.—DNA

PFA shuts down mayonnaise unit

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has intensified its crackdown on unsafe food practices in Lahore, targeting establishments that violate health and safety regulations. It shut down a mayonnaise unit and imposed a fine of Rs100,000. Food safety teams conducted a raid on a mayonnaise unit located in Mehrpura. The unit was shut down, fined Rs100,000, and a case was registered against it. Additionally, 600 kilogram substandard and unsafe mayonnaise was seized and destroyed. The action was taken due to non-compliance with previously issued directives and poor sanitation practices. The DG of the Food Authority, Asim Javed, noted that the staff lacked medical and training certificates, and personal hygiene was found to be inadequate. The freezer was in poor condition, walls were covered with fungus, and a restroom was located in the processing area. The unit was also found to be using prohibited colour additives in mayonnaise and non-food grade blue drums for storage.


Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) Meeting Concludes in Islamabad

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The five-day Asia-Pacific Advanced Network Meeting (APAN-58) concluded in Islamabad on Friday. Hosted by Pakistan Education Research Network (PERN), a flagship initiative of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the conference brought together researchers, educators, and technology experts from across the world. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC, presided over the closing ceremony. The APAN-58 conference featured a diverse programme of workshops, tutorials, presentations, panel discussions, and an academic conference focused on cutting-edge network technologies and applications. In his closing remarks, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed emphasised the significance of Pakistan hosting such a global event. He highlighted the successful participation of

over 40 delegates from 17 APAN member countries, with many others joining virtually. He expressed gratitude to all attendees, partners, and supporters for their contributions to the conference's success. Chairman APAN Mr. Shinji Shimoi provided an overview of APAN's history and future goals. He emphasised APAN's role as a network connecting research and education institutions worldwide, facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange among researchers and technical experts. Additional Secretary, Ministry of IT and Telecommunication Ms. Aisha Moriani reaffirmed the country's commitment to utilising information technology for social and economic development. She highlighted the potential of Pakistan's young population to benefit from government initiatives in this area. Member (IT) HEC and Chair of local organising body Dr. Jamil Ahmad commended the active participation and

engagement of attendees from around the world. He noted the conference's program, included a variety of workshops, tutorials, and presentations. Senior Network Engineer & Science Engagement at King Abdulah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia, Mr. Alex S. De Moura shared his valuable insights regarding the significance of data-sharing and Artificial Intelligence. He displayed a step-by-step presentation regarding how KAUST is brining a sustainable change in the region through the AI and the power of Data. "In this modern age, data is the most powerful weapon to serve the humankind," he concluded. APAN-58 conference served as a valuable platform for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and advancing the field of advanced networking in the Asia-Pacific region. It is pertinent to mention here that in 2021, Pakistan had virtually hosted the 51st meeting of APAN for the first time.



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PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

Director General Pakistan Post Office Department invites contractors/firms for Prequalification for annual repair, petty repair, Electric, Sanitary, Construction, Re-Construction, works in % DGPPPO, Postal Staff College/Hostel, BOQ, Officers bungalows and Postal Colony G-8/4 Islamabad for the F.Y 2024-25. Profiles and applications containing following details must reach the undersigned by **19-09-2024 upto 11:00 am** and will be opened on the same date at **11:30 AM** in presence of the contractors or their representatives. The Updated profiles should consist of following documents: -

- Full name of the firm, Registration, full address of office, telephone, Fax number, and a copy of CNIC of the proprietor.
- Memorandum of article of the association of firms.
- PEC license for the year 2024-25 with the prescribed relevant building code along with appointment of a Civil Engineer. If PEC license is not yet issued, copy of agreement with Civil Engineer and receipt of application submitted to Pakistan Engineering Counsel with bank receipt may be attach.
- Detailed list of technical employees of the firms.
- Detail and documentary proof of project / works completed during the last 03 years.
- List of Project and their cost showing Departments, names and detail of such projects.
- Financial status/ certificates issued by a Scheduled bank of the last three years.
- Income Tax/NTN Certificates for the last 03 years. Proof of filer/ being on active tax payers list.
- List of litigation (if any).
- Latest Bank statement ending last financial year.
- Certificate for Non-Blacklisting of the firm on original Stamp paper @ Rs. 50/-.
- Partnership deed/sole owner on original stamp paper @Rs. 50/-.
- List of Vehicles, tools detail which are on named of firm.
- It should be clearly noted that any statement or document proved fake at later stages will lead to black listing of the firm and forfeiting of all earnest money/ security deposits/ claims.
- Those firms whose performance is not satisfied with the department, such firms will also not be eligible to participate in pre-qualification process.

To participate in the tendering process, the updated profiles should reach this office on **10-09-2024 upto 11:00 am** during. The profiles will be checked by the tender committee and technical committee. Firm's with completed profiles according to PPRR rules in all respect, will be informed accordingly. Clarification/ Information can be had from the undersigned during office hours.



Muhammad Rameez
Assistant Engineer (Civil)
Tel No. 051-9261012

PID(I) 1510/24

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

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

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



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Hospitals

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



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Maulana Tariq Jameel urges adherence to Quranic teachings

United Business Group Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, VP Eng.Azhar ul Islam Zafar, former office bearers, ICCI executives and members in large numbers attended the lecture

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Renowned religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jameel emphasized the importance of adhering to the golden principles of Quran and hadith to overcome the daily life challenges and earn Allah's blessings. He stressed the need for religious harmony and tolerance to create a peaceful and inclusive society, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and understanding. During his talk at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, largely attended by the business community leaders, students and civil members, Maulana Tariq Jameel urged people to focus on common values and shared humanity, rather than differences. He emphasized the need to strictly follow the teachings of the Quran and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in all aspects of life, including business, trade, governance, and agriculture, for individual and collective success and development. He also emphasized the importance of truthfulness, honesty, and good manners, saying, "We must speak the



truth at all costs, avoid cheating in dealings, and always be-
have with kindness and respect. He also highlighted the impor-
tance of independence which
the Almighty has granted us in
the shape of Pakistan by urging
us to work hard for its progress

and prosperity. "Earlier, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, delivered a welcome address, highlighting the challenges facing the country, particularly the business community in terms of ease of doing business. He also touched on the pressing issues of political and religious polarization, terrorism and their adverse impact on Pakistan's economic development. Bakhtawari also sought the esteemed guest's guidance on the way forward. He also informed the guests about ICCI's initiatives to promote awareness of Quranic teachings and Ahaith among business leaders through weekly roundtables and seminars, which Maulana Tariq Jameel highly appreciated. Senior Vice President Faad Waheed in his vote of thanks expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests for visiting the Chamber and enhancing their awareness about the Quranic teachings through his insight and wisdom. United Business Group Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, VP Eng.Azhar ul Islam Zafar, former office bearers, ICCI executives and members in large numbers attended the lecture.

Crackdown in ICT: 340 vehicles fined for token tax evasion

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation Department Islamabad has intensified its efforts to enforce vehicle regulations across Federal Capital. According to the spokesman of Excise department, daily operations target fancy number plates, black-tinted windows, unauthorized police lights and vehicles evading token tax. In a widespread crackdown, the Excise officers are actively conducting operations on highways, in busy markets and at key locations throughout Islamabad. These operations aim to ensure compliance with excise laws and to hold violators accountable. On Friday, officers targeted 88 vehicles using black-tinted windows, taking swift action to enforce the law. Additionally, 138 vehicles without proper registration numbers were also penalized. The registration of 156 vehicles was suspended for violating excise regulations. The department has taken further steps by seizing 14 vehicles equipped with unauthorized police lights. Meanwhile, 340 vehicles were fined for failing to pay the required token tax. On the occasion, Director of Excise and Taxation Bilal Azam urged citizens to proactively remove non-standard number plates and black-tinted windows from their vehicles to avoid penalties. He also advised against using HID lights in public vehicles and reminded vehicle owners to settle any outstanding token tax payments and ensure their vehicles are properly registered. The Excise Department remains committed to maintaining law and order on Islamabad's roads, continuing its daily operations to enforce compliance with vehicle regulations.—APP

15th batch of Friends of Police Internship program concludes

RAWALPINDI: 15th batch of Friends of Police Internship program started here at Police Lines Headquarters according to the vision of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, has concluded. Member Provincial Assembly, Shazia Rizwan participated in the internship program as special guest. Senior Superintendent of Police, Investigation Saba Sattar during the program gave lectures on various fields of police working and policing to the students of various educational institutions. The students were informed about Police Station working, Police Service Centers, Front Desks, various Police Apps, Traffic Police, legal and judicial proceedings. The students also visited Special Initiative Police Station, Police Lines Headquarters, Command and Control Room, Traffic Headquarters, Police Service Center Liaquat Bagh and Legal Branch. The internship program would help to further improve community policing with the support and consultation of the students and youngsters, Shazia Rizwan said. SSP Investigations said that the Internship Program was started with an aim to spread awareness about policing and further improve it. Youth could play an important role in improving police working and service delivery, the SSP said. The SSP said that the purpose of the internship program is to make the citizens, especially young male and female students, helpful for effective policing, crime prevention, drug prevention in educational institutions and other social problems and community policing. The Friends of Police could play an effective role as responsible citizens for the betterment of the society, detection and prevention of the crimes, Saba Sattar added. At the end of the ceremony, MPA and the SSP distributed certificates among the students participated in the Friends of Police Internship Program.—APP

ANF arrest Nigerian with 38 cocaine-filled capsules

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a successful operation managed to recover 38 cocaine-filled capsules and arrested a Nigerian national at Lahore International Airport, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that ANF was carrying out successful operations against foreign nationals involved in drug trafficking. In an operation at Lahore International Airport, a Nigerian national arrived from Dubai, avoiding the law enforcement agencies from Nigeria was arrested. 38 cocaine-filled capsules weighing 608 grams, hidden in the stomach were recovered. He further said that 10 cases were registered in 2023 and 10 Nigerians were arrested and 4.811 kg drugs were recovered from their possession. This year, in 7 operations, 8 Nigerians were arrested and 11.420 kg drugs were recovered.—APP

Short-term inflation eases further by 0.62%

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed further decrease of 0.62 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on August 29, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.73 points as compared to 321.72 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 15.34 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the low-est consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, however

witnessed an increase of 0.24 per cent and went up to 310.80 points from last week's 310.29 points. The SPI for consumption group of Rs 17,732 to 22,888 also witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent. However the SPI for the consumption groups of Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 0.64 percent, 0.86 and 0.58 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 17 (33.33%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 24 (47.06%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included chicken (3.02%), bananas (2.35%), chillies powder (1.42%), wheat flour (0.85%), pulse masoor (0.68%), bread (0.56%), pulse mash (0.53%) and sugar (0.49%). The commodities which recorded

major increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included tomatoes (8.02%), onions (6.53%), pulse gram (2.20%), garlic (1.76%), potatoes (0.63%), eggs (0.55%), LPG (0.51%), gur and rice basmati broken (0.41%) each, firewood (0.12%) and shirting (0.07%). On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (36.73%), chillies powder (18.94%), electricity charges for q1 (16.91%), sugar (16.08%), cooking oil 5 litre (11.32%), petrol (10.07%), diesel (9.22%), rice basmati broken (8.81%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (7.24%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (6.20%), gur (4.63%) and washing soap (0.35%). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on year-on-year basis included gas charges for q1 (570.00%), onions (95.16%), pulse gram (53.59%).—APP

WASA drains rainwater in low-lying areas

RAWALPINDI: Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi here on Friday drained the rainwater in low-lying areas. According to a WASA spokesman, following heavy rain in the twin cities, the water level started receding from Nullah Lai at 1 PM. The highest rainfall was recorded 57 MM at PMD, H-8 today, the spokesperson said. He further informed that 52 MM rainfall was recorded at Shamsabad, 32 MM at Kutchery, 50 MM at Saidpur, and 21 MM at Bokra. On the special directives of Managing Director, WASA, Muhammad Saleem Ashraf, drainage of rainwater from low-lying areas of the city was being completed, the spokesperson said adding, traffic was normal on city roads as water was not stagnant anywhere. The WASA spokesman informed that the Meteorological Department had forecast more rains. He said that the agency had completed all the arrangements to cope with urban flooding. The leaves of the staff had been canceled and heavy machinery was deployed at vulnerable points, he added. Today water level reached at 8.5 feet at Kattarian and 6 feet at Gawalmandi.—APP

93 Pakistanis heading to UK on fully funded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani students from every corner of the country have been given British High Commissioner Jane Marriott's top tips for living in the UK, ahead of a year studying at British universities. This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship programme, and 46 Chevening and 47 Commonwealth scholarships have been awarded to Pakistanis. These long-standing programmes have developed a network of over 1,500 Commonwealth and nearly 2,000 Chevening alumni in Pakistan, who regularly meet to discuss live issues. Scholars come from diverse backgrounds, representing the rich cultural tapestry of Pakistan. This year's cohort come from Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and the Federal Capital Territory. Over 60% of this year's Chevening scholars are

women. The British High Commission strongly en-
the world, they also get to experience the best of



courages people from all backgrounds and across Pakistan to apply. British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said: "The Chevening programme helps develop a new generation of Pakistani leaders and change-makers. Many of our alumni have gone one to achieve extraordinary things back home. Not only do they get the benefit of studying at some of the best universities in living in the UK. From climate studies to football coaching, I am looking forward to seeing what they achieve, and encourage all those interested to apply early." Fareeha Gull Hashmi, Assistant Manager of Oral History Project Citizens Archive of Pakistan and upcoming Chevening scholar, said: "I am thrilled to be joining the University of Essex for my MA in Heritage and Museum Studies.

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Briefs

Police arrest two bike lifters

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two bike lifters and street criminals and recovered 10 stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Taxila Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Sheraz alias Sheri and Yousaf and recovered 10 stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. He informed that police team on the directives of superintendent of Police, Potohar was conducting raids to net the accomplices and facilitators of the accused.—APP

US, UAE and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first month of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July 2024 were recorded at US \$476.017 million against the exports of US \$443.789 million during July 2023, showing an increase of 7.26 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UAE, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$216.918 million against the exports of US \$201.319 million last year, showing an increase of 7.74 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$183.303 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$151.554 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to China stood at US \$153.745 million last year, showing an increase of 4.13 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$135.463 million against US \$131.079 million last year, data said. During July 2024-25, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$124.547 million against \$110.059 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$96.024 million against \$89.297 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$106.706 million against the exports of US \$115.691 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$88.065 million against \$46.262 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$57.866 million against US \$60.772 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the month under review were recorded at US \$41.862 million against US \$43.678 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$59.674 million against US \$50.351 million.—APP

Special plan for tourists influx

RAWALPINDI: Continuous temperature fall for a few days in the twin cities has culminated in the arrival of enchanting weather in Murree. The appeal creating environment has increased the expectation tourists influx on weekend. The Murree administration has placed a special plan to facilitate the tourists, along with exercising the crowd management. According to the details, CTO Murree Mughees Ahmed Hashmi has issued a special traffic advisory for the tourists who are planning to visit Malika Kohsar Murree, in view of recent rains. He directed the traffic officers to perform traffic duty honestly so that the tourists coming to Murree would not get any trouble. "As it is a hilly area and according to SOP, driving license for entering Murree, fitness certificate of public service vehicles and provincial government SOP for entry of large vehicles should be strictly enforced", he said. The CTO further instructed the traffic personnel to avoid vehicles checking on main roads and ensure traffic flow. The administration directed the concerned departments to remain observant on bus stops, markets and on main touring places.—APP

A unified front urged to address blasphemy issues in Pakistan

In concluding remarks, Khalid Rahman noted that this issue extends in various dimensions and cannot be resolved in isolation. He stressed the importance of understanding other Muslim countries' perspectives and recognizing the diminishing distinction between local and global contexts

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Given the multi-faceted dimensions, blasphemy issues cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. The prevailing fragmented response has not only undermined internal discourse but has also exposed Pakistan to vulnerabilities on the international stage. As such, a unified, strategic approach is essential, one that transcends emotionally driven reactions. This requires prioritizing sustainable legal and academic efforts, reinforcing the rule of law, and adopting a proactive, diplomatically astute stance globally. Only through a cohesive and rational strategy can Pakistan safeguard its interests and uphold the sanctity of its religious principles and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This was discussed during a consultative meeting on 'The Judgment of Supreme Court of Pakistan in Mubarak Sani Case and the Way Forward' held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The session, chaired by Allama Muhammad Raghob Hussain, chairman Council of Islamic Ideology, was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Allama Zahidur Rashdi, a leading religious scholar, Dr Ataulah Mahmood Wattoo, professor of law, International Islamic University Islamabad, Imran Shafique, advocate Supreme Court, Sajjad Hameed, advocate high court, and Rafeeq Shinwari of Shifa Tameer-e-Millat Univer-



sity, Islamabad. Presenting a summary of the case decision, Imran Shafique highlighted that while the Supreme Court addressed some errors in the review decision, several issues remain unresolved, leading to the ongoing controversy. The ambiguity surrounding the right to propagate religion in private spaces has been a central point of debate. Notably, Article 298C of the Pakistan Penal Code does not mention public and private spheres. Similarly, Articles 20

and 22 of the 1973 Constitution, which provide religious freedom, have not maintained any such distinction. He said these articles give freedom but with limitations. To rectify the errors in the awaited detailed judgment of the Supreme Court, he opined for the deletion of paragraphs 5 to 10 and 14 of the appeal decision and paragraphs 7 and 42 of the review decision. In consequence to the omission of the aforesaid paragraphs, deletion would be required of paragraphs 13, 15,

20, 21, and 40 of the review judgment. Sajjad Hameed said the higher courts in Pakistan have dealt with several related cases, including Mujeeb Rehman, Zaheer Uddin, and Tahir Naqash, where the Qadiani community's actions have been challenged under the constitutional framework, particularly Articles 20 and 22. He noted that in earlier cases, the courts have been maintaining the distinction between private and public propagation of faith. Allama Raghob

Hussain emphasized that the current approach to addressing the Qadiani issue is fragmented, with ulema, lawyers, and scholars working in separate capacities rather than presenting a collective front. Consequently, the case became overly politicized and religiously driven. To address these challenges effectively, a shift from emotionally-driven actions to more academic and sustainable approaches is necessary, he said. Rafeeq Shinwari pointed out that while leading

Islamic scholars agree on the issue of blasphemy, Pakistani law remains unclear on several aspects, including the number of witnesses required and the punishments for blasphemy against the Qur'an and other prophets. He advocated for comprehensive and consistent legal reforms on blasphemy, including collaboration between relevant institutions to address these gaps. Dr Ataulah Wattoo underscored the historical and theological support for rigorous blasphemy laws.

Public interest not vested interests should be paramount for media

These views were expressed by a cross section of national and international media professionals at a roundtable discussion on 'Responsible Journalism in the Age of Social Media' organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "There is a need for the media to work for public interest rather than vested interests. Amid the rapidly changing journalism landscape due to the digitalization of news coverage and newsroom operations, information veracity and credibility have become a challenging task for journalists." These views were expressed by a cross section of national and international media professionals at a roundtable discussion on 'Responsible Journalism in the Age of Social Media' organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The discussion featured notable journalists from Al-Jazeera including Mr. Muntaser, Manager of Media Initiatives, Mr. Belal, Coord Media Institute, Mr. Osama, Global Correspondent, Ms. Anam, Mr. Faras,

and Mr. Hashim, Media Experts. From the Pakistani side, Tahir Khalil, Iftekhar Shirazi, Farrukh Pitafi, Rehman Azhar, Jawad Thehami, Nayyer Ali, Mona Khan, Salman Ali Awan, Neelam Arshad, and Saadullah Saeed Ahmed participated in the discussion. Speaking on the occasion, the guest Speaker, Montaser Marai from Al Jazeera, said that information searching and sifting was a laborious but rewarding task where a journalist has to be objective and independent even while reporting conflicts, rights issues, and corruption scams. He added that the information flow had become faster than our capacity to tackle misinformation on social media. That demands that journalists shun conventional practices and modernize their reporting skills to learn countering fake content and disinformation. Presenting a summary of the case decision, Imran Shafique highlighted that while the Supreme Court addressed some errors in the review decision, several issues remain unresolved, leading to the ongoing controversy. The ambiguity surrounding the right to propagate religion in private spaces has been a central point of debate. Notably, Article 298C of the Pakistan Penal Code does not mention public and private spheres. Similarly, Articles 20

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MOFA Defies PIC's Orders on Access to Information

ISLAMABAD: In a troubling move, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has refused to comply with the Pakistan Information Commission's (PIC) directives to revise its procedures for public access to information, raising concerns about transparency and accountability in government affairs. Despite a clear order from the PIC to remove specific procedural requirements from its website, MOFA continues to mandate that citizens submit an affidavit on stamp paper and fee to obtain information. This procedure, which is prominently displayed on the Ministry's website, has been criticized for being overly cumbersome and in direct conflict with the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. Journalist Sadia Mazhar sought clarification from the Ministry regarding the origins of these procedures, specifically requesting the minutes of the meeting where this method was decided. Instead of providing the requested information, the Ministry responded with a directive for Mazhar to follow the same disputed procedure—submitting an affidavit and fee on stamp paper. The Right to Information (RTI) form developed by MOFA requires personal details such as name, CNIC, profession, contact information, and email ID. Additionally, the form categorizes information as Confidential, Secret, Top Secret, or Other, and mandates that the purpose of the query be specified. Moreover, it includes an undertaking that the information seeker will use the information solely for personal purposes and will not share it without MOFA's permission. The form also requires signatures from the seeker and two witnesses.

Committee reviews transfer cases of teachers

RAWALPINDI: Divisional Grievances Redressal Committee here on Friday reviewed transfer and posting cases of 98 teachers. According to a Commissioner Office spokesman, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Amir Khattak presided over the Divisional Grievances Redressal Committee which approved 48 transfer cases after necessary scrutiny. Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi Waqar Cheema and other committee members besides district education officers from across the division participated in the meeting. The Committee reviewed in detail appeals of 98 teachers for transfers and postings and approved 48 cases. 17 cases of Rawalpindi district out of total 49 were approved. 22 out of 31 cases of Attock district were approved.—APP

ONIC sets groundbreaking telecom benchmarks with digital connectivity

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: ONIC, a pioneering digital telco brand that launched just a year ago, has made a remarkable impact on Pakistan's telecom industry. It started as a bold vision, which has become a thriving reality through transforming how people connect and setting new standards for the future. Since its inception,

ONIC has experienced remarkable growth in digital-first subscribers, solidifying its unique position in a historically traditional telco market. This surge in subscribers highlight the brand's strong appeal and the effectiveness of its segmented approach, inspiring competitors to follow suit. ONIC is about more than connectivity; it's about convenience and

innovation. With a fully digital onboarding process and advanced online payment options like a pinless wallet journey and auto-renewal features, ONIC is redefining seamless customer experience. This commitment has earned the company notable accolades, including Best Mobile App and Digital Ambassador of the Year at the Pakistan Digital Awards.

ONIC's unique branding activities, such as a prominent feature on Times Square during the Cricket World Cup 2024, and its trendsetting partnerships with brands like Careem, foodpanda, and Golooto, have further cemented its role as a leader in the industry with exclusive deals for its users, showcasing ONIC's dedication to creating value.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan in a meeting with inspector general, national highways & motorway police Salman Chaudhry at parliament house.—DNA



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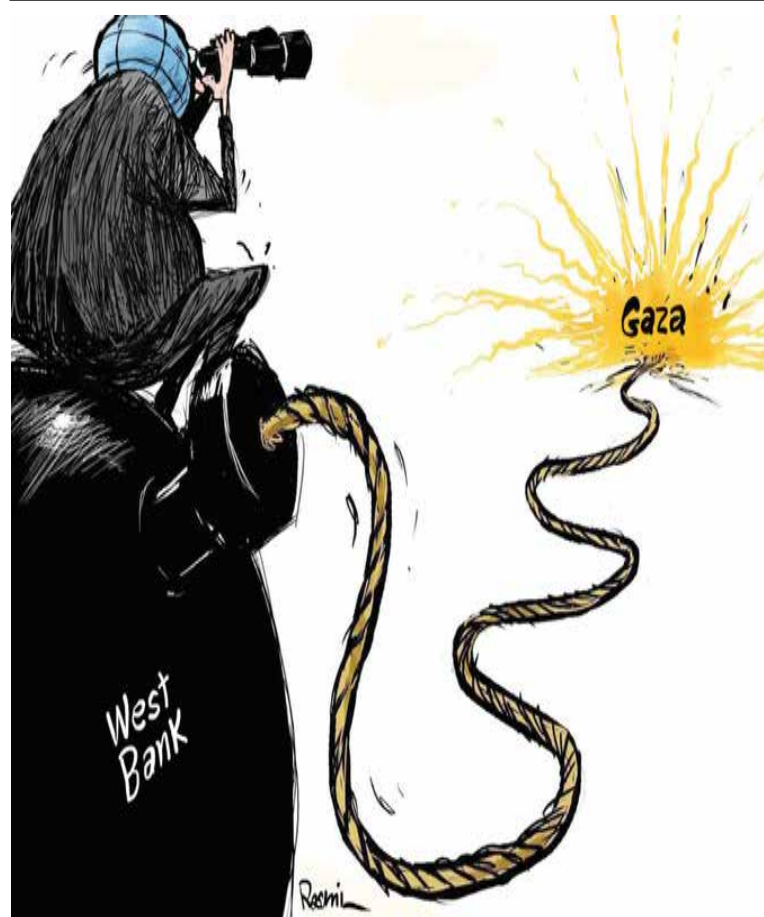
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War on all fronts

ISRAELI soldiers stand near a military vehicle during an Israeli raid in Nour Shams camp in Tulkarm, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, August 29, 2024. / Photo: Reuters From forcing people to another Nakba to assassinating adversaries beyond its borders, Israel is trying to implement every page from its playbook of 75 years of occupation in Palestine. The war machine that Israel has unleashed on one of the most densely populated areas in the world since October 7 forced the international community to admit that what is happening in Palestine is a textbook definition of genocide. Hospitals, schools, mosques and churches have been targeted in Gaza. The enclave itself has been reduced to a pile of rubble. More than 40,000 people – most of them women and children – have been killed. Thousands of bodies are feared to be trapped in the rubble of destroyed buildings. And journalists who want to broadcast these mass atrocities have been targeted systematically. However, even the worst atrocities didn't lead to swift global action to stop what was happening on the ground. Instead, they only prompted a guessing game about which "red line" Israel would cross next time. Amid the increasing attacks against Israel from Lebanon by Hezbollah, the apparent question was whether these would lead to opening another front. Yet what appears from the speeches of Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of Hezbollah, is that the group is not willing to raise tensions and escalate the conflict into a fully-fledged war. For the last couple of years, international media outlets have broadcast and interviewed members of armed mobilisation in the occupied West Bank. Interestingly enough, Israeli TV shows also propagated the theory that there was an increasing presence of Hezbollah inside the West Bank. The chain of events culminated in the Israeli army on August 28 launching the most extensive military operation in the occupied West Bank since the Second Intifada. What the Palestinians are witnessing today is a total war waged by Israel on multiple fronts. Israel's plans for Gaza became apparent as it forced people to flee to a pocket of land either toward the seashore or the Egyptian border. As the genocide transpired inside Gaza, the situation in the West Bank became even more tense. The armed group fighting Israeli occupation in Gaza, Hamas's armed wing al-Qassam Brigades, Islamic Jihad's battalions, and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades also asked their members to resist the occupation forces, specifically in Tulkarm and Jenin. In addition to established and recognised affiliated groups, there are grassroots, independent youth movements like the Lion's Den and 'night confusion' – which have also been resisting Israeli occupation in the occupied West Bank. While the occupied West Bank has witnessed a systemic and technological occupation by Israel, with checkpoints constraining the daily mobility and practices of Palestinian people, the occupation forces intensified its raids since October 7. The suffering of the Palestinian people, though, has forced the international community to listen to Palestinian demands once more. Global power politics after October 7 is, however, more complex than it was in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The United States' unconditional support for Israel led to another veto power in the UN Security Council, China, to act as the new guarantor of a "new world order" for Palestine.



China's role in West Asia

HOW such participation might be seen is conditioned by competing perspectives on China, which we could characterize in three ways: (1) an amorphous, lazy capitalist expansion, (2) some form of new imperialism with characteristics of Euro-American imperialism; or (3) a strategic facilitator of Global South aspirations. The first notion is seen in the many Western media and think tank depictions of the Chinese "miracle" as unraveling, in decline, and facing crisis. The second, of Chinese imperialism, borrows from some ahistoric, infantile left versions of Lenin's 1916 pamphlet, arguing that the export of capital determines imperial status. However, in his 2023 book *The East is Still Red*, Carlos Martinez convincingly discounts this, arguing that China's development is historically contingent, state-centered, and not driven by a financial oligarchy but rather based on the supremacy of law and the party, for whom unrestrained accumulation and domination are not the primary goals. Capitalism in China has remained subordinate to social planning, as illustrated by Beijing's 2020 blocking of Alibaba's planned massive stock offering and by the often severe penalties imposed on wealthy Chinese businesspeople for breaches of the law. Xi Jinping has consistently argued for socialism with Chinese characteristics, a continuity of revolutionary ideals through the socialist market economy, people-based development, and the maintenance of history and culture. Martinez concludes that, notwithstanding strong measures at its borders with neighbors, China is far from becoming an aggressive military power, akin to the USA with its 800+ military bases. Even US bodies like the Rand Corporation recognize that China has nothing like the US foreign military reach, which can be used to bully and dominate other countries. Certainly, in the initial reform period of the 1980s and 1990s, the CPC's attitude toward its Global South friends "shifted to being more economically oriented... China cut aid... while on the other hand recognizing Global South countries as potential markets and providers of needed resources" (Sun Wei 2020). Then, as part of its *Going Global Strategy* (2000), China moved into the WTO with its universal (but twisted) principles – massively expanding its participation in global trade and investment, before deciding to create (with Russia and others) the BRICS, the SCO, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and its own mega-infrastructure project – the Belt and Road Initiative – marking a return to strategic cooperation with the Global South. Almost seven decades after the 1955 Bandung conference, Chinese media say that "the Bandung Spirit [self-determination, solidarity, non-intervention, friendship and cooperation] remains alive in the Global South." Beijing has taken several important steps in recent years. China not only verbally opposes the Unilateral Coercive Measures (unilateral "sanctions") on independent countries like Iran, Syria, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, but it has also set up strategic relations and economic groups – especially the BRICS and the SCO – to include nations that were under siege by Washington and the Europeans. In 2021, China signed a strategic partnership with Iran (a statement of "Comprehensive Cooperation between Iran and China"), which was then the subject of "maximum pressure" sanctions from Washington. In 2024, China, Russia, and Iran carried out joint naval drills near the Gulf of Oman. China is gradually playing an important counterweight role in the region, as in the world.

The US strategic concerns in the 21st century

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The Cold War and the subsequent dissolution of the Soviet Union might have led one to expect a contraction in the scope of national security concerns, accompanied by a reduction in military expenditure. However, the reverse has occurred. The historical trajectory of the National Security Strategy, which mandates the president to deliver an annual report on current threats to Congress though such reports are often released with less frequency—exemplifies a persistent expansion of concerns encompassing energy security, nuclear proliferation, drug trafficking and terrorism, among...

AS the United States ascended to the status of a leading global power in the early twentieth century, its foreign policy was characterized by a significant tension between two predominant theoretical frameworks. These were necessity of projecting military power abroad to safeguard the nation's expanding interests and the belief that an isolationist approach, encapsulated by the "America First" doctrine, would more effectively preserve peace. However, it was only with the advent of the Cold War that the notion of national security became deeply embedded in the American political discourse. The enactment of the National Security Act of 1947, which included provisions for the establishment of the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council, constituted a foundational element of the security architecture that remains in place today. The identification of the Soviet Union as a formidable adversary catalyzed the creation of numerous research centers, think tanks and academic programs focused on the study of national security. Wolfers astutely observed that when terms such as national security achieve widespread usage, they might not convey the same meaning to all individuals. He further noted that such terms might not have any precise meaning at all. During the 1950s and early 1960s, a consensus regarding the Soviet threat somewhat alleviated these concerns. However, by the time of the Vietnam War, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara warned the public that U.S. officials had become lost in a semantic jungle concerning national security, often conflating it with narrowly defined military issues, such as weapons procurement. The Cold War and the subsequent dissolution of the Soviet Union might have led one to expect a contraction in the scope of national security concerns, accompanied by a reduction in military expenditure. However, the reverse has occurred. The historical trajectory of the National Security Strategy, which mandates the president to deliver an annual report on current threats to

Congress though such reports are often released with less frequency—exemplifies a persistent expansion of concerns encompassing energy security, nuclear proliferation, drug trafficking and terrorism, among others. The events of September 11, 2001, further accelerated this trend, as politicians and policymakers increasingly emphasized national security while broadening the spectrum of issues purportedly affecting it. For instance, pandemic prevention emerged as a national security concern in the early 2000s and has continued to be regarded as such. In the past decade, the rise of China, alongside Russia's revanchist ambitions, has led both the Trump and Biden administrations to underscore great-power competition in their National Security Strategy documents. While the inclusion of these emergent threats was justified, prior concerns were not deprioritized. The 2017 strategy, for example, included a commitment to devote greater resources to dismantle transnational criminal organizations, while the 2022 document posited that global food security demands constant vigilance and action by all governments, asserting that the United States would engage across entire food systems to consider every step from cultivation to consumption. This pattern is similarly reflected in the State of the Union addresses delivered by U.S. presidents. Since the Cold War's conclusion, presidents have routinely employed this annual speech to identify new threats to the United States or to expand the scope of existing threats. Initially, terrorism, nuclear proliferation and rogue states were central concerns; however, over time, issues such as climate change and cybersecurity have been integrated into the discourse. Even when presidents acknowledged that U.S. national security was relatively robust, they consistently sought to convey a sense of urgency to the American public. For example, in 1997, President Bill Clinton remarked, "We face no imminent threat, but we do have an enemy. The enemy of our time is inaction". Following the attacks of Septem-

ber 11, presidents and their security advisors characterized the nation as besieged by various threats. Philip Zelickow, a key architect of President George W. Bush's 2002 national security strategy, articulated "the frontiers of national security can be everywhere" and noted that "the division of security policy into domestic and foreign compartments is breaking down". In recent years, the definition of national security has broadened even further. Issues that former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan termed problems without passportssuch as cybersecurity and climate change have proliferated. Advances in technology have prompted foreign policy experts to examine novel areas of concern. While military forces historically focused on threats from land, sea and air, contemporary challenges in this century have introduced cyberspace and outer space as complex arenas of conflict. Technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing have become pivotal, thereby transforming them into national security priorities. The list of critical minerals continues to expand, driven by climate change and the global transition away from fossil fuels, resulting in an insatiable demand for rare-earth metals essential for batteries and other clean energy applications. Subsequent U.S. administrations have also incorporated domestic threats into the national security agenda. Domestic extremism was first acknowledged in the National Security Strategy in 2010. The Trump administration declared a national emergency at the southern border, citing the increasing influx of narcotics, criminal gangs and migrants as threats. Similarly, the Biden administration has declared national emergencies related to critical supply chains, such as cobalt, aiming to near-shore essential production technologies. While each of these concerns can be plausibly identified as a national security priority in isolation, the relentless accumulation of such paramount concerns by the executive branch has rendered the concept of national security increasingly ambiguous.

Violence in Baluchistan escalates: State urged to take decisive action for peace and stability

Muhammad Faiq Shah



Despite the state's efforts, the continued violence indicates that a purely military solution is insufficient to address the complex problems in Baluchistan. Counterinsurgency operations may suppress terrorist activities in the short term, but they do not address the underlying causes of the conflict.

THE state's prime responsibility is to halt the rising tide of violence in Baluchistan, a province that has long suffered from political marginalization, economic neglect, and ethnic strife. Baluchistan, Pakistan's largest and most resource-rich province, has endured decades of insurgency and terrorism, posing a significant challenge for the state. Recent developments have highlighted the urgency of stopping the escalating violence driven by militant groups. Groups like the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), Baluchistan Republican Army (BRA), and various factions of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have significantly ramped up their attacks, primarily targeting security forces, government officials, and civilians. These assaults have exacerbated the already precarious situation, claiming lives, damaging infrastructure, and disrupting essential development projects such as those related to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In one of the most severe incidents in recent memory, on August 26, 2024, militants unleashed a wave of coordinated attacks across Baluchistan, leading to the deaths of more than 50 people, including 23 passengers in the Musakhail district who were shot after an identity check. The BLA claimed responsibility for this heinous act, marking it as one of the deadliest episodes of violence in the region in recent years. Other attacks took place in Kalat, where 11 people, including police officers and Levies personnel, were killed, while further violence was reported in Turbat, Bela, and Quetta. In response, Pakistani security forces launched counter-operations, killing 21 terrorists and preventing further destruction. Despite these efforts, 14 security personnel were martyred in the ongoing clearance operations. The recent escalation underscores the severity of the challenge the state faces in restoring peace to the region. The resurgence of terrorism has had a profound impact on Baluchistan, heightening fear among civilians, disrupting economic progress, and deepening ethnic and political divides. Civilians are often caught in the crossfire between militant groups and security operations, leading to mass

displacements and a growing sense of insecurity. One of the most alarming consequences of the recent wave of terrorism has been its impact on economic development in the region. Baluchistan, despite its wealth of natural resources, remains one of Pakistan's poorest provinces, and ongoing terrorist activity continues to delay much-needed infrastructure and development projects. Militants have frequently targeted Chinese workers and government infrastructure, further destabilizing the region and delaying economic progress. The state's military responses, although essential, have not been sufficient to address the root causes of the conflict. Military action alone cannot foster long-term peace in Baluchistan. Despite the state's efforts, the continued violence indicates that a purely military solution is insufficient to address the complex problems in Baluchistan. Counterinsurgency operations may suppress terrorist activities in the short term, but they do not address the underlying causes of the conflict. The lack of political dialogue, economic development, and social integration remains a significant obstacle to long-term peace. Heavy-handed military tactics have sometimes alienated local populations, fueling further resentment and providing militant groups with a steady stream of recruits. To stop further violence, the state must adopt a multi-pronged approach that goes beyond military solutions. One of the most pressing tasks is to engage in meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders in Baluchistan. This includes not only insurgent groups willing to negotiate but also local political leaders, civil society organizations, and community elders. The grievances of the Baluch people—whether related to political representation, resource distribution, or human rights abuses—must be addressed through negotiation and compromise. An inclusive political process that brings Baluch voices to the forefront is crucial for achieving lasting peace. Simultaneously, the state must invest in economic development initiatives that benefit the local population. The natural resources of Baluchistan—gas, coal, and miner-

als—are valuable assets that should be used to uplift the region's economy. Ensuring that the people of Baluchistan benefit from these resources, rather than feeling exploited, is key to reducing support for militant groups. Development projects like CPEC should be coupled with initiatives aimed at improving education, healthcare, and infrastructure for the local population, creating opportunities for economic empowerment. The ultimate responsibility of the state is to ensure the safety and security of all its citizens. In Baluchistan, this means putting an end to the violence that has taken so many lives and left countless others in fear. The state's failure to secure peace has perpetuated cycles of violence and prevented Baluchistan from realizing its full potential. Stopping terrorism and preventing further violence is a moral and legal obligation that cannot be delayed. Human security must become the cornerstone of the state's strategy in Baluchistan. This involves protecting civilians from violence, ensuring access to basic services, and upholding human rights. A focus on human security will help to build trust between the state and the people of Baluchistan, fostering a more stable and peaceful environment. The recent wave of terrorism, including the tragic Musakhail attack, highlights the urgent need for decisive state action. By prioritizing peacebuilding efforts that include political dialogue, economic investment, and human security, the state can put an end to the violence that has long plagued Baluchistan. Only by addressing the underlying causes of the conflict can Pakistan ensure the stability, prosperity, and unity of this critical province. The sacrifices of the brave security personnel who have given their lives to protect the nation should serve as a reminder of the urgency of this mission. The state must act swiftly and comprehensively to prevent further violence and build a peaceful future for Baluchistan and its people. – Muhammad Faiq Shah is a prominent businessman, political figure, and dedicated philanthropist. He can be reached via Email: officeofmuhammadfaiqshah@gmail.com

Briefs

PM vows to crush country's adversaries...

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and the personnel of the armed forces are chasing the terrorists with the federal government's support. He assured that the federal government would extend support for capacity building of the Levies force. He said during the visit, he also interacted with the family members of the martyrs and they were in high morale despite losing their dear ones. He said the Federal government will implement the proposals put forward by the provincial political leaders. The Prime Minister said the government is also taking effective measures for development of youth. He said ten percent additional quota has been allocated for Balochistan in the schemes like laptops and agricultural training in China. He said the federal government will spend fifty-five billion rupees to convert agricultural tube wells on solar energy in Balochistan. The Prime Minister said the Federal government will soon unveil its five-year home-grown economic revival plan to enhance exports, strengthen agriculture and industry as well as uplift of youth and impart vocational training.

Pakistan-Bangladesh agree to...

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government facing the monumental task of charting democratic reforms ahead of expected new elections. Last week, Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif reached out to the interim government of Bangladesh, extending an offer of aid to address the catastrophic impacts of recent flooding. In a telephone conversation between the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Muhammad Yunus and PM Shehbaz today, the two leaders agreed that greater regional cooperation could play a vital role in uplifting the lives of South Asian people. "While congratulating him on his new role, lauded his contribution towards socio-economic development of his country and expressed my heartfelt sympathies over the devastating recent floods in Bangladesh," the PM wrote on the X platform. He expressed sympathies over the devastation caused by the recent floods in Bangladesh, the statement from his office added. The prime minister underscored the importance of revitalising bilateral relations through enhanced cooperation in different domains.

Balochistan attacks aimed at...

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23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from passenger buses and trucks in the Rarasham area of Balochistan's Musakhel. Separately, at least 10 people, including police and Levies personnel, were martyred in a gun attack in Kalat. Furthermore, at least 14 brave sons of soil, including 10 security forces soldiers and four personnel of law enforcement agencies (LEAs), were martyred in clearance operations, wherein at least 21 militants were neutralised. Amid the latest terror incidents, Pakistan is set to host SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting from October 15-16. In this regard, Islamabad extended invitations to all heads of government of the member states, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi despite strained ties. Speaking on the floor of the Senate today, the interior minister said that the "completely-planned" Balochistan attacks were carried out by "two to three terrorist organisations". "A lot of people are in anguish as they don't want Pakistan to host the [SCO] meeting," he said, adding that the August 26 incident was a "conspiracy to sabotage the summit". Naqvi further said that no operation was being launched in Balochistan while "stringent action would be taken against those who did not accept the state and took up arms".

Erdogan commemorates victory that 'birthed' Turkish republic

The Great Victory on Aug. 30, 1922, proved that the Turkish nation would not accept occupation or compromise on independence in its own homeland, Erdogan

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday marked the 102nd anniversary of Victory Day, which celebrates the defeat of occupying Greek armies at the hands of Turks in the Battle of Dumlupinar in 1922 and helped create the modern Turkish republic. "On this important day, one of the critical milestones in our history, I congratulate the Aug. 30 Victory Day of our beloved nation, our Turkish Cypriot brothers and sisters, and our millions of citizens all over the world. I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to our guests at our missions abroad who share our joy on the Victory Day," Erdogan said in a written statement. The president emphasized that the Great Victory, which republic founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk described as "the immortal monument of the Turkish nation's idea of freedom and independence," solidified the existence of the nation on Anatolian lands. The defeat of the occupation forces on Aug. 30 shattered the axis of imperialism and opened the doors to the republic, Erdogan said. "With the Great Victory, the Turkish nation once again declared to the whole world that it would not accept occupation, that it would not let shackles be put on its will and that it would never compromise on living independently in



its own homeland," he said. In his message, Erdogan also reiterated Türkiye's commitment to aiding oppressed populations worldwide. "We are mobilizing all our means and resources to stop the conflicts, oppressions and massacres occurring in different parts of the world, particularly in Gaza," he said, pledging support to all oppressed people, regardless of their identity or faith. Allied forces occupied Türkiye after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War

I (1914-1918). The Battle of Dumlupinar was a chapter in the Great Offensive, one of the greatest military victories in the history of Türkiye. The Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) launched the offensive on Aug. 26, 1922, under the leadership of Atatürk, and it ended on Sept. 18 that year. On May 15, 1919, the Greek army landed in the western province of Izmir, triggering what would become a full-fledged uprising and campaign against the rule of occupying forces in the country. Turks

formed the National Forces (Kuvayı Milliye) as a means of armed resistance against the invaders. They knew there were only two possible choices: surrender to the occupation forces or fight against them. The Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) was established in Ankara in 1920, as the occupiers focused their repressive policies on Atatürk and his colleagues and the Turkish military moved to the western front. The following year, Turkish soldiers repelled Greek forces that

advanced within 70 kilometers (43.5 miles) of the new Parliament. After roughly one year of preparation, Commander-in-Chief Atatürk launched the Great Offensive on Aug. 26, 1922, to expel the enemy. Moving further west, he commanded the battle with top commanders Fevzi Çakmak and İsmet İnönü. At dawn, the offensive began with artillery fire, and Turkish soldiers pushing forward seized Tmaztepe, Belentepe and Kalecik Sivrisi near the town of Afyonkarahisar, which the Turkish army claimed on Aug. 27. On the night of Aug. 29, the commanders assessed the situation and agreed to act immediately and conclude the attack quickly. Atatürk ordered the Turkish forces to move on to western Kütahya on Aug. 30, which was a decisive blow to the Greek troops in Anatolia. Following the victory, Atatürk, Çakmak and İnönü set off to sweep the remaining Greek soldiers out of Anatolia in an offensive on the city of Izmir on the Aegean coast. "Armies, your first goal is the Mediterranean. Forward!" Atatürk said as he ordered the army to move out from western Kütahya on Sept. 1. On Aug. 27, the Turks liberated Afyonkarahisar from the Greeks before taking Kütahya on Aug. 30 and Izmir on Sept. 9. By the end of 1922, all foreign forces had left the territories, which would collectively become the new Republic of Türkiye one year later.

5 terrorists killed, 3 injured across...

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across Balochistan's Kech, Panjgur, and Zhob districts, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Friday. The military's media wing stated that the operations are part of an extensive effort to track down the perpetrators of recent attacks in Balochistan. The operations come in response to a series of "cowardly terrorist activities" targeting civilians across the province on August 26, the ISPR said. "On the night of August 29-30, in three separate IBOs in District Kech, Panjgur, and Zhob, five terrorists were sent to hell by the security forces, while three terrorists got injured during the intense fire exchange," the statement read. The ISPR added that sanitisation operations will continue until all those involved in these heinous acts are brought to justice. "The forces, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," the statement further mentioned. This development follows a series of deadly attacks in the region, including an incident on Monday where at least 23 passengers were killed after being offloaded from buses and trucks in the Rarasham area of Balochistan's Musakhel district. Separately, at least 10 people, including police and Balochistan Levies personnel, were martyred in a gun attack in Kalat.

No room for deserters in party, vows Imran

FROM PAGE 01
times but left during hardships have no place in the party," he added. However, the deposed premier said, those who endured violence — which according to him include torture on their families and blackmailing — in difficult times but did not leave the party should rest assured. After the violent protests of May 9, 2023, several PTI leaders including the party's bigwigs parted ways with Khan, while several others were detained by authorities over their alleged involvement in the mayhem. The May 9 incidents refer to the violent protests that broke out in many parts of the country following the arrest of Khan in corruption case. The violent protests saw attacks on state properties including military installations, with the civil and military authorities vowing to try the rioters under the Army Act. A few months later and ahead of the February 8 elections, reports had emerged that some deserters desired to join the party's ranks once more, but the PTI leadership categorically denied taking anyone back. Most prominently, former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry — who is also a strong critic of current PTI leadership — expressed desire to rejoin party's fold, which was denied by the party's core committee.

Adiala jail admin refutes PTI's claims

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Imran Khan, while the party is insistent he is facing hardships citing a lack of due facilities. The superintendent of Central Jail Rawalpindi, famously referred to as the Adiala jail, said all the facilities as per the jail manual were available to Khan, with special attention on his security and health. "The PTI founder is supplied one English newspaper daily. He has an exercise machine and place for walk [to keep him fit]," he said. The jail official added that the former prime minister and his incarcerated spouse, Bushra Bibi, had been allocated a separate kitchen, while prison staff was present 24/7 for his security. The Adiala jail superintendent said books were also available for him to read. The official repudiated the report about an open sewer in Khan's cell and rats in Bushra Bibi's cell, saying: "There is no veracity in the news of an open sewer in Khan's cell or rats in Bushra's."

PAK vs BAN: Rain washes out opening day of 2nd Test

Since morning, sporadic showers have been lashing twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad

OUR CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Continuous rains in Rawalpindi washed out the opening day of the second Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday. Earlier, heavy rains in the morning marred the game's first day, leading to a delay in the toss. Both teams were still in their hotel after the rain stopped for a short duration, with the Met Office forecasting intermittent monsoon rain. Since morning, sporadic showers have been lashing the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Though the pitch was covered but most of the stadium got marshy because of the downpour. Now the match will begin tomorrow morning, given that the dry field is available. Remember, this is a must-win game for Pakistan after they lost the series opener by 10 wickets last week at the same venue. Pakistan have left out pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi from their 12-member squad, allowing him time to spend with his newly born son. Star pacer Afridi struggled to find his rhythm through much of the innings, with Pakistan's head coach Jason Gillespie saying he will be rested to allow him to spend time with his new-born son and family. "Obviously Shaheen will miss out on this game. We had a good conversation with him and he fully understands and appreciates the thinking behind it. We are just looking at what our best combination is for this game," Gillespie said. The hosts have been struggling through a lean spell of late, bowing out early in this year's T20 World Cup. Their last Test series was a whitewash in a three-match tour to Australia. Pakistan's 12 for second Test: Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Abrar Ahmed, Mohammad Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Saim Ayub, Babar Azam, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Abdullah Shafique, Naseem Shah, Khuram Shehzad.

Muchova reaches US Open 3rd round after defeating Osaka

The right (two-handed backhand will be facing Anastasia Potapova on Saturday

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Czech professional tennis player Karolina Muchová defeated the two-time US Open champion, Naomi Osaka with a 6-3-7-6(5) second round victory on Friday. The 28-year-old was sidelined for 10 months due to a wrist injury. However, she made a comeback with setting a spot in the third round against Anastasia Potapova from Russia. Four-times major winner Osaka of Japan, on the other hand, didn't show up at the last year's tournament as she was on a maternity break. She played really well in the opening rounds, defeating Jelena Ostapenko but couldn't fought against Muchova yesterday. In this regard, Muchova made some comments on the Japanese player before the face-off. "I know she's amazing player and that I have to bring the A-game to have a chance," said Muchova, who returned to the tour in June. "I was just trying to be really focused on myself." At the beginning of

the match, the two big servers were deadlocked in the match. However, the WTA Tour title winner at the 2019 Korea Open gained an advantage when Osaka, 26, hit a backhand error in the seventh game. The first Asian player to hold the top ranking in singles lost her serve again in the ninth game. Despite losing the seventh game, the four-time Grand Slams single champion managed to save three break points in the second set of the ninth game. Additionally, Osaka broke Muchova with a powerful forehand into the corner in the ninth game of the second set and had the momentum as she went up 40-0 in the 10th,



Alcaraz knocked out of US Open 2nd round

NEW YORK: The Spanish third seed Carlos Alcaraz faced defeat at the US Open on Thursday against Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp in the second round. The former champion de was dumped out of the US Open as he was thumped 6-1 7-5 6-4 by his opponent. Following Rod Laver and Rafael Nadal, Alcaraz was bidding to become the third man to win the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open in the same year. The Spaniard struggled from the very beginning of the match against the 74th best player in the world. This was the biggest victory of his career as he defeated the Grand Slam winner. Meanwhile, it was the Paris Olympics silver medalist's earliest exit at a Grand Slam since Wimbledon in 2021. "I don't know what to say right now. First of all, I think he played great," Alcaraz said. "He didn't make a lot of mistakes that I thought he was going to do so I was confused a little bit. I didn't know how to manage that." The 28-year old ended up victorious in first set, as he played strong defense from the back of the court and broke his opponent's serve in the sixth game. — Agencies

Root dedicates his century to late mentor Thorpe

'He's someone I'm sorely going to miss, and who I owe a lot to,' England batter said

WEB DESK

LONDON: Former Test captain Joe Root scored his 33rd Test century at Lord's against Sri Lanka owing his achievement to his late friend and former batting mentor Graham Thorpe, who passed away earlier this month. "I've been very lucky to work with a lot of people, whether it be senior players, coaches, mentors, and Thorpe was one of those people who offered me so much,"

Root said. "It was nice to be able to think of him [Thorpe] in that moment. He's someone I'm sorely going to miss, and who I owe a lot to. He put a lot into my game into my career, and without his help, I definitely wouldn't be where I am now." In this regard, the right-handed batter pointed his index finger to the skies after drawing level with his former captain Alastair Cook. The 33-year-old made these comments after his 143 helped England recover from 130/4 to go to stumps at 358/7

at Lord's on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, the star-cricketer Graham played a major role in the batting evolution of Root, who just now needs 198 runs to become the country's top Test run-getter. "He saw something with me and pushed hard for me to go away that winter and worked with him. We worked tirelessly on my game against spin - being able to get close to the ball, get away from it, utilising different sweeps - and also against pace... working very hard to make sure that those areas of the game which are different to county cricket, you are up to speed with," Root recalled. Root, 33, made his debut back in 2012. He played his first game in England's tour of India in Nagpur. During the conversation, the top-order batter discussed the ongoing Test series against Sri Lanka.

Punjab MPs unite to protect girls' rights

DNA

LAHORE: The PODA team held a series of strategic meetings with women Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs of PML-N) in Punjab, advocating for a crucial legal amendment to the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2015. The team emphasized the need to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years, ensuring a safer and more empowering future for young girls in the province. Through these meetings, PODA aimed to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and garner support for this vital legislative change. The PODA team presented the case of child marriages, highlighting its social, economic, health, and mental implications on a girl child, in order to amplify voices in favor of a legal amendment to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years in the province. These efforts are part

of a 3-year project, "Reducing Early Marriages to Enhance Gender Equality" (December 2022 to November 2025), supported by the Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad. PODA is implementing it across the entire province of Punjab, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, adolescent girls, women,

community leaders, government officials from health, education, population, social welfare, police, religious leaders, nikah khawans/registrars, secretaries of union councils, local governments, teachers, MPAs, academicians, lady health workers, staff of basic health units, doctors, lawyers, and social activists. This is being

achieved through a comprehensive set of activities, including: A series of educational theater performances, multiple series of radio programs, seminars, workshops, sessions, trainings, social media campaigns, letter-writing campaigns initiated from communities addressed to members of the provincial assembly.

In a significant meeting with MPA Sarah Ahmad, Chairperson of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau Punjab, the PODA team received a reassuring commitment to take all necessary measures to ensure a legal amendment protecting adolescent girls. The Chairperson emphasized that safeguarding the right to education is pivotal to fulfilling all child rights, and she pledged to champion this cause, paving the way for the protection of girls' fundamental rights. She described working on children's issues as "highly sensitive", explaining that it's a challenging task since it involves helping children who have faced trauma in precarious situations, such as those living on the streets. In response to a question, she noted that often, people abandon 'girl children' and leave them in vulnerable situations, only to be rescued later by the communities.



Briefs

Four Botswanan children die from diarrhea

GABORONE: Botswana health authorities announced on Thursday that four children, aged between three and nine, have died from diarrhea in August alone. Christopher Nyanga, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, said the country has been experiencing a surge in diarrhea cases with dehydration since the beginning of August. "A total of 271 diarrhea cases have been reported across the country, with four deaths occurring in the northeastern part of the country," Nyanga said during an epidemiological meeting held in Francistown, Botswana's second-largest city. Nyanga said this is a known diarrhea season in Botswana and urged citizens not to panic, but to maintain high standards of hygiene. Symptoms of diarrhea include loss of body fluids, stomach pain, abdominal swelling, frequent bathroom visits and fever, according to the Ministry of Health. Epidemiological experts said diarrhea mainly affects children under the age of 10.—APP

UK voices concerns at Israel's 'methods' in West Bank raid

LONDON: The UK on Friday said it was "deeply" concerned by the Israeli military's ongoing operation in the occupied West Bank, urging it to "exercise restraint" and adhere to international law. Israel's large-scale military operation in the occupied territory entered its third day Friday, with the death toll rising to at least 19. Israel has described its raids on towns and refugee camps across the northern West Bank as "counter-terrorism" operations. "We recognise Israel's need to defend itself against security threats, but we are deeply worried by the methods Israel has employed and by reports of civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure," a spokesperson for the UK foreign ministry said. The spokesperson added in a statement that the risk of regional instability was serious while "the need for de-escalation is urgent". The statement called on Israeli authorities to "exercise restraint, adhere to international law, and clamp down on the actions of those who seek to inflame tensions". Britain also criticised comments made earlier this week by Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, a settler and proponent of West Bank annexation.—Agencies

Eurozone inflation falls to three-year low in August

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: Eurozone inflation fell to its lowest level in more than three years this month thanks to falling energy costs, official data showed on Friday, raising expectations of a European Central Bank interest-rate cut. Consumer price rises slowed to 2.2 percent in August compared to the same month last year after reaching 2.6 percent in July, closing in on the European Central Bank's two-percent target. The August inflation rate was the lowest since July 2021 and in line with expectations by analysts for FactSet and Bloomberg. But core inflation, which strips out volatile energy, food, alcohol and tobacco prices and is a key indicator for the bank, cooled slightly to 2.8 percent in August from 2.9 percent in July, Eurostat said. Energy prices in the 20-country single currency area fell by 3.0 percent in August, after a rise of 1.2 percent in July, according to the EU's statistics agency. Food and drinks prices rose by 2.4 percent this month in the eurozone, at a slightly faster rate than the 2.3 percent registered in July. Friday's data will provide some relief after inflation unexpectedly edged up in July.—APP

Envoy of OIC for Afghanistan meets Afghan foreign minister

The meeting stressed the importance of continuing the constructive dialogue with the de facto government in Afghanistan on issues of utmost importance, such as tolerance, moderation in Islam, women's education, and participation in public life

DNA

JEDDAH: The Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan Ambassador Tariq Ali Bakhit, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, Dr. Qutub Sano, and the Executive Director of the Women's Development Organization, Dr. Afnan Al-Shuaibi, met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the de facto government in Afghanistan, Malawi Amir Khan Mutaqi, on Thursday, August 29, 2024, on the sidelines of the 50th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers in the Cameroonian capital Yaounde. The meeting discussed the follow-up of the previous visits of the Secretary-General of the Academy and the groups of scholars from Afghanistan and the visit of the Director of the Women's Development Organization to Kabul, which discussed the issues of girls' education, women's work and participation in public life, within the framework of the follow-up to the resolutions of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in this regard. The meeting stressed the importance of continuing visits of Muslim scholars to Afghanistan, in addition to the good preparation



of the Conference of Scholars of Afghanistan with their counterparts in the Muslim world, which was called for by the recent Islamic Summit in Banjul to be held under the umbrella of the Islamic Fiqh Academy and in coordination with the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The meeting stressed the importance of continuing the constructive dialogue with the de facto government in Afghanistan on issues of utmost importance, such as tolerance, moderation in Islam, women's education, and participation in public life.

Harris election bid galvanizes Black students at her alma mater

WASHINGTON: At Howard University, the historically Black college that educated Kamala Harris four decades ago, students are dreaming about how her victory in the US presidential election could elevate the institution — and their own ambitions. "I like seeing people that look like me and are doing such great things, like Kamala," said Serena Evans, who said she experienced racism at majority-white schools in her native North Carolina before she enrolled at Howard two years ago. Evans followed in the footsteps of Democratic presidential nominee Harris, who began her studies in 1982 at the university, located in the nation's capital — one of around 100 such institutions

nationwide that cater primarily, though not exclusively, to African Americans. For many, these so-called "historically black colleges and universities" or HBCUs serve as safe havens in a country still marred by racism — even if those same racist attitudes lead to some doubting Howard's credibility. "People think that we're underdeveloped compared to Ivy League schools like Harvard," said Evans, who is studying classics. But with Harris aiming for the White House in November's vote, Howard students are feeling "on top of the world," 20-year-old Jomalee Smith told AFP. "I feel like once Kamala wins, (Howard) will not only be an American thing, it will be a global thing,"

said Smith, an international relations student. "More people will know about Howard. It will showcase more job opportunities internationally, not just domestically," Smith added. Among the red-brick buildings and their tall columns, white students are rare, and it's difficult to find anyone who isn't proud to be studying at the vice president's alma mater. For her part, Harris, 59, regularly returns to the Washington campus — and was there earlier this month to prepare for her September debate against Donald Trump, according to the New York Times. Thursday, she released a letter addressed to HBCU students, calling on them to mobilize for the election. Your vote has never mattered more," she wrote,

as her campaign announced it would specifically target these campuses with advertising. She loves Howard," said Yusuf Kareem, who came from Texas on the advice of a cousin who was disappointed by her experience at a majority-white university. "For people to see that a Black woman could be the president of the United States, and she went to Howard University — they can't take us as a joke," Kareem said. Other major figures have passed through Howard, including Nobel Prize in Literature winner Toni Morrison, and the first Black Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall. "All we want is a fair shot, you know, a foot in the door," said Kareem, a second-year finance student.—Agencies

China-Pakistan collaboration in education strengthened

URUMQI: The 2024 Online Summer Camp for Training Local Chinese Teachers in Pakistan successfully concluded, marking the end of a comprehensive four-day programme aimed at enhancing the skills and expertise of local educators on Friday. The event, which took place from August 23-26, was hosted by Xinjiang Agricultural University (XAU) and co-organized by the Confucius Institute at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (CIUAF), alongside the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Education International Exchange Association. A total of 37 local Chinese teachers and international Chinese language enthusiasts participated in the summer camp, representing seven universities, five Confucius Institutes, and two Confucius Classrooms across Pakistan. The camp was to bolster the teaching capabilities of its participants, ensuring a robust and competent teaching force in the country. The training sessions were enriched by the involvement of professors and experts from prominent Chinese academic institutions, including Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Hebei University, Zhejiang Normal University, and XAU. Teachers from various Confucius Institutes also contributed their valuable knowledge and experience to the program. The summer camp's curriculum was divided into two modules, each tailored to meet the specific needs of the participants. The first module, "International Chinese Education Theory and Practice," comprised five lectures covering topics such as technology-assisted Chinese language teaching, syllabus development, grammatical case studies, vocabulary instruction strategies, and professional planning for local Chinese teachers.—APP

Far-left rebel seeking peace with Putin rocks German politics

JENA, GERMANY: A radical far-left politician who wants to make peace with Russia's Vladimir Putin looks set to play a key role in regional elections in the former East Germany on Sunday. Sahra Wagenknecht, 55, born in communist East Germany to an Iranian father and a German mother, defected from the far-left Die Linke to form her own party, BSW, last year. Wagenknecht has caused a stir in Germany by calling for negotiations with Putin, an end to the government's support for Ukraine and a radical crackdown on immigration. But BSW won an impressive 6.2 percent in June's European Union elections and looks set to pick up between 15 and 20 percent of the vote on Sunday in Saxony and Thuringia. At a rally in her hometown of Jena, Wagenknecht spoke passionately about her upbringing in East Germany and "the fear that nuclear bombs could fall here in Europe". "Now the fear is back," she said. BSW wants to stop weapons deliveries to Ukraine and rejects plans to allow the United States to periodically station long-range missiles in Germany. Wagenknecht also called for tougher immigration laws, days after a Syrian man allegedly stabbed three people to death in the western city of Solingen. BSW wants to "reverse" the current government's immigration policy, she said. "We cannot welcome the whole world in Germany."—APP

Swiss city of Basel to host Eurovision 2025

GENEVA: Basel will host the 2025 Eurovision Song Contest after the Swiss border city was chosen Friday to stage the 69th edition of the glitzy annual TV extravaganza. Swiss singer Nemo's 2024 Eurovision victory gave Switzerland the right to host next year's event, with a huge global audience guaranteed. Right on the borders with France and Germany, Switzerland's third-biggest city was given the nod ahead of Geneva. The contest will be staged at the St. Jakobshalle indoor arena, with semi-finals set for May 13 and 15, while the final is to take place on May 17. "Basel's strategic location at the crossroads of Europe makes it the ideal setting for an event that celebrates the power of music to connect people across borders," Eurovision executive supervisor Martin Osterdahl said in a statement. From its earnest black-and-white 1950s beginnings, Eurovision has ballooned into a colourful giant kitsch celebration that never takes itself too seriously. The contest puts host cities in the spotlight, with 163 million viewers worldwide watching this year's event in Malmö, Sweden, where Nemo triumphed in May with the highly personal song "The Code". Hosting also has a knock-on boost for the hotel and tourism industries as Eurovision fanatics, artists and country delegations flock in.—APP

OGDCL makes hydrocarbon discovery in Sindh

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Friday announced to make a discovery of hydrocarbon deposit at the Baloch-2 well in the Sanghar district of Sindh. "Based on the results of wireline logs interpretation, Drill Stem Test-3 in the Sembar Formation has tested 6.8 Million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas and 388 Barrels of Condensate per Day (BCPD) through choke size 32/64" at Well Head Flowing Pressure (WHFP) of 2180 Pounds per Square Inch (Psi)," the company said in a news release. The discovery of the result of a joint venture at Sinjhor Block among OGDCL operating with 76 percent, Orient Petroleum 19 per cent and Government Holdings (Private) Limited (GHPL). Sharing further details, an OGDCL spokesman said the Well was spud-in on February 24, 2024 and drilled down to total depth of 3920m TVD in Sembar Formation as an exploratory effort by OGDCL, with in-house evaluation and technical support from its Joint Venture Partners (JVPs). "This discovery marks the first milestone in Sinjhor Block from Sembar Formation, known for its promising source potential and is widely distributed across the Middle and Lower Indus basin of Pakistan," he added. He said the discovery confirmed the untapped potential of the Sembar Formation and opened a new play, paving the way for further exploration and development of hydrocarbon reserves in the Block.—DNA

Typhoon Shanshan barrels up Japan as five reported dead

OITA, JAPAN: Typhoon Shanshan slowly barrelled up the Japanese archipelago Friday, dumping torrential rains and causing transport havoc as its reported death toll reached five. The typhoon, one of the strongest to hit Japan in decades, had weakened by early morning, though gusts were still reaching 126 kilometres (78 miles) per hour. Even before making landfall on the island of Kyushu, a landslide caused by the heavy rains preceding it killed three members of the same family late Tuesday in Aichi prefecture, around 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) away. Two more people were reported to have died including a man last seen on a small boat in Kyushu and another whose two-storey home partially collapsed in Tokushima prefecture on the neighbouring island of Shikoku. At least 81 others have been injured, including many hurt by broken glass after the typhoon smashed windows and ripped tiles off roofs when it slammed into Kyushu on Thursday with gusts up to 252 kph. Authorities issued their highest alert in several areas, with more than five million people advised to evacuate, although it was unclear how many did. As far away as the town of Ninomiya near Tokyo, authorities urged residents to take "immediate measures" to secure safety such as moving to higher floors after a local river flooded. Some parts of Kyushu saw record rains for August, with the town of Misato recording a staggering 791.5 millimetres (31 inches) in 48 hours, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Power cuts hit more than 250,000 Kyushu households but the utility operator said Friday that only 6,500 were still without electricity as engineers repaired damaged transmission lines. Overnight, many motorways were fully or partially closed in Kyushu, as well as others further afield, media reports said. Shinkansen bullet trains remained suspended in Kyushu and were also halted on the major route between Tokyo and Osaka, with operators warning of disruptions elsewhere. Japan Airlines and ANA had already announced the cancellation of more than 600 flights between them for Friday, having scrapped a similar number the previous day, affecting almost 50,000 passengers. Auto giant Toyota suspended production at all 14 of its factories in Japan. Nissan and Honda also halted operations at their Kyushu plants, as did chipmakers including Tokyo Electron, reports said. Shanshan comes in the wake of Typhoon Ampil, which dumped heavy rain that disrupted hundreds of flights and trains this month but caused only minor injuries and damage. Typhoons in the region have been forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change, according to a study released last month. Another released by World Weather Attribution (WWA) on Thursday said that climate change turbocharged Typhoon Gaemi, which killed dozens of people across the Philippines, Taiwan and China this year.—DNA

Efforts afoot to address Isoolites water woes

ABDUL SAMAD TARIQ

ISLAMABAD: As the federal capital's population continues to grow unhindered, the city's natural resources are under extreme pressure with water availability becoming the top most challenge for the authorities. Although Capital Development Authority (CDA) — the top civic amenities provider to the capital residents — is making every possible effort to overcome the shortfall in water availability through numerous measures, the situation demands a holistic approach for a long-term solution. Since Islamabad's population grew more than double during last 20 years or so, the pressure on already available resources like Simly, Rawal and Khanpur dams has increased manifold. Then the development of more and more housing societies to meet the residential demands of people shifting to capital from other cities has made the situation further challenging. Depleting underground water resources and climate change is another looming challenge. "Although the situation is challenging,

yet the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has initiated several measures to address the shortfall," stated Sardar Khan Zimri, Director General of Water Management at the CDA. "With the population growth and emergence of new settlements, increase in water demand is natural and the Authority is fully cognizant of its duties," he said. "Therefore, we are looking for more options and proposed construction of two new dams, Shahdra and Chiniot Dam, to augment existing water supply." To improve efficiency of water system, Zimri said, the CDA plans to modernize water distribution network and sewage treatment plants. "These upgrades aim to reduce water losses and enhance overall effectiveness of water management system." Zimri said the CDA Board has approved pre-feasibility studies for Shahdra and Chaniot Dam to speed up the planning process and has requested WAPDA to conduct pre-feasibility study for Dotara Dam, a site located 41 km upstream of Khanpur Dam. "If the civic agency succeeds in laying gravity tunnel from Dotara Dam via Shahdra, it would be able to generate around 10

to 13 megawatt electricity as well." He also mentioned to a project for enhancing water storage capacity of Khanpur Dam, controlling seepage, unfair use of water and its theft through open channels resulting in loss of 40 to 50 per cent water share for the Capital. The CDA has requested WAPDA to conduct pre-feasibility and once federal capital gets its due water share, the CDA would be able to supply water to at least 10 more sectors," Zimri said. "We have also decided to resume work on non-completed water conduction pipeline from Shah Allah Ditta reservoir to Sector I-11, I-12, I-14, I-15, I-16 etc. Tenders have been called for three missing portions from Shah Allah Ditta to Sector G-13 with starting work on one portion. Moreover, the CDA Board's has also approved amendments in building by-laws for rooftop rainwater harvesting." Additionally, the CDA, he said has installed 94 filtration plants across Islamabad to ensure clean drinking water for residents as per the WHO standards. "The quality of water supplied through these plants is regularly monitored by the CDA Lab and cross-checked by

organizations like PCRWR, NIH, and Pak-EPA." Zimri informed that CDA is also undertaking significant long-term projects to secure more reliable water supply and "one such project is the 'Conduction of Water from Indus River System at Tarbela Dam for Islamabad and Rawalpindi. This project aims to develop a perennial source of potable water to meet both current and future demands for twin cities." The growing population has rose water demand to around 120 million gallons per day (MGD) and if this trend continues the demand would further increase exerting extra pressure on available water resource. Similarly, the groundwater table that was around 10 meters deep in 1960s has now gone down to 60 to 120 meters. Moreover, climate change is also impacting water availability with altering precipitation patterns as Islamabad experiences an average annual rainfall of about 1300 mm that is insufficient to counterbalance the high demand. Meanwhile, the residents have urged to frame a comprehensive strategy for once and for all settling this issue as rising population may lead to difficult times ahead. "We

need timely measures to ensure that our future generations live in a better environment with all required basic facilities available for them," said a concerned mother Maria. Ahmed, another resident emphasized that keeping in view urgency of the matter, the government should take immediate action to address the water issues. Fatima, a business woman also commented that she has been living in Islamabad for last 20 years but seeing the situation in recent years, I feel that it is high time for urgent measures. Their concern is justified but if we look into this issue in broader perspective, water provision and conservation is a shared responsibility of both the civic agencies as well as the residents. The CDA's ongoing projects and proposed solutions are definitely the steps in right direction, but there is also dire need that residents to avoid water wastage and use this resource responsibly. As there is no mechanism to curtail or control population, it would become imperative for civic agencies and the residents to devise a parallel mechanism for uninterrupted provision of civic amenities to them.

Briefs

Third offshore patrol vessel PNS Hunain arrives Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Third Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) PNS HUNAIN arrived in Karachi. Upon arrival, an impressive reception ceremony was held at PN Dockyard. Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was Chief Guest on the occasion. While addressing the ceremony, Commander Pakistan Fleet highlighted that addition of PNS HUNAIN in PN fleet will significantly enhance Pakistan Navy's capability of safeguarding Maritime frontiers of Pakistan. He also emphasized that induction of such multipurpose state of the art platforms will provide vital support to ongoing PN Maritime security patrol in Indian Ocean. PNS HUNAIN is a multipurpose medium sized Offshore Patrol Vessel equipped with state of the art electronic warfare, anti-ship, anti-air warfare weapons and sensors, self protection and terminal defence system. The ship was built and commissioned in July this year at Damen Shipyards, Romania. Reception ceremony of PNS HUNAIN was attended by large number of PN Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and families of crew members.

12 family members killed in KP's Upper Dir

Police say two women, one man and nine children were killed in deadly incident

SHAMIM SHAHID

UPPER DIR: At least 12 members of the same family, including nine children, were killed when a massive landslide hit a house in the Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the police, the tragic incident took place in the Maidan area of Upper Dir in the wee hours of Friday. The law enforcers said all 12 bodies have been retrieved from the debris and sent to the hospital for medico-legal formalities. "Two women, one man and nine children were killed in the incident," said the officials. President Asif Ali Zardari expressed his condolences to the family members of the deceased. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif expressed regret over the incident, saying he is deeply saddened by the deaths of 12 family members due to landsliding. "We are standing with the bereaved families in this difficult time of sorrow," said Barrister Saif while directing all authorities concerned including Rescue 1122 to remain on alert.

Opprotests over empty row of ministers

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The members of the Opposition Benches on Friday rendered a heated protest over empty row of ministers in the Senate session calling it a disregard to the Upper House of the Parliament. The second meeting of the 342nd Senate session started 18 minutes late under the chairmanship of Presiding Officer, Senator Irfan Ahmed Siddiqui who initiated the proceedings with the question hour and the debate on the August 26th Balochistan carnage. However, the question hour was later keeping in view the sense of the House was suspended and the other agenda was taken up. Speaking on the occasion, Presiding Officer of the Session, Senator Irfan Siddiqui apprised the House that an emergency cabinet meeting was called at the PM Office, whereas the ministers would be available in the House after the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman. - DNA

Govt lacks two-thirds majority for constitutional amendment

Aleema Khan believes a quick conviction is being sought against Imran Khan amid growing restrictions and legal battles

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar the chapter of constitutional amendment by the government had been closed as the government had no two-thirds majority. Talking to Dunya News at Lahore High Court (LHC), he berated the incumbent government saying it's all efforts went in vain as it has no backing of two third majority required in the Parliament for constitutional amendment. He highlighted that the government had not held any consultation on constitutional amendment and PTI members couldn't cast votes cooperating with the government. Talking about speculations of PTI founder Imran Khan, he stressed to challenge the military trial of Imran Khan as civilians couldn't be a military trial. Responding to the appointment of a new Chief Justice of Pakistan, he suggested Justice Mansoor Ali Shah must be CJP. He also clarified that the judicial system must be amended but the government should take matters with due diligence and patience. Barrister Ali Zafar insisted that PTI founder Imran Khan would be acquitted as witnesses in the Al Qadar Trust case exposed everything. Giving his response on the election of Imran Khan as Oxford University chancellor fiasco, he reiterated that Imran Khan would be Oxford University chancellor and blamed that PML-N had conspired and showed dissatisfaction on Daily Mail story about the matter. However, Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar and Attaullah Tarar negated the claims of con-

Imran will not be granted NRO, says Ahsan Iqbal

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Friday Imran Khan would not be granted National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) and he had to prove his innocence in courts. As for provision of facilities to Imran Khan in Adiala Jail, Iqbal said the best possible facilities equivalent to those of a five-star hotel had been provided to the PTI founder in the jail. The minister said almost all PML-N senior party leaders, including Rana Sanaullah, Khawaja Asif and himself (Ahsan Iqbal), faced the ordeal of imprisonment with courage and proved their innocence in courts instead of begging senators of US Congress for relief. He stressed that the PTI had to face the music due to its acts. Iqbal recalled that the PTI leaders during their rule kept asking for receipts from the PML-N leaders but now they were not providing their receipts to courts in corruption cases such as 190 million pounds reference. "PTI leaders should follow those principles which they set for the then opposition members (PML-N) during their tenure," he said. The PML-N leader said the PTI leaders were now seeking NRO but it would not be given to them, rather they had to prove their innocence in courts.

stitutional amendment for extension of CJP tenure. Azam Tarar also asserted that the Punjab government would decide about the military trial of Imran Khan. Meanwhile, Aleema Khan, the sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, has claimed that authorities have intensified pressure on her brother, aiming for a swift conviction in the £190 million case. Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, she expressed concerns over the increasing restrictions on Imran Khan, including limitations on family visits. Aleema Khan stated that no more than three people are being allowed to meet the former prime minister at a time, attributing this to the upcoming 8th September rally, which she believes has caused apprehension among the authorities. She noted that only Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz were permitted to visit him yesterday, while many others were left waiting outside. During her address, Aleema mentioned that when they filed a bail application in the Toshakhana case, the prosecution claimed they were unprepared, leading the judge to adjourn the hearing until Monday. She expressed concern that efforts are being made to secure a quick conviction for Imran Khan in the £190 million case, citing remarks allegedly conveyed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa. Aleema further warned that a conviction in the £190 million case could lead to additional legal challenges for Imran Khan in the High Court. She also raised questions about the future of the Al-Qadir Trust, suggesting that if the trust is shut down, it would adversely impact the students studying there.

7 terrorists killed in Tirah IBOs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Since 20 August 2024, Security Forces are conducting extensive Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) in Tirah Valley, Khyber District, on reported presence of Khwarij. On 28 & 29 August, own troops effectively engaged the Khwarij' locations where after intense fire exchange, twelve khwarij of Fitna-Al-Khwarij were sent to hell. These operations have resulted into major setback to Fitna-Al-Khwarij & its affiliates, and so far, thirty seven terrorists have been sent to hell, while fourteen terrorists have suffered serious injuries. The IBOs will continue till peace in the area is restored and khwarij are eliminated, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

OGRA clarifies diesel supply concerns amid maintenance

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has taken note of reports circulating in various newspapers regarding a slowdown in diesel upliftment due to imports allowed to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). In response, OGRA wishes to clarify the situation and provide the necessary context for the current developments. Pakistan's reliance on imported petroleum products requires meticulous planning, often conducted two months ahead of time. Given the complexities of this process, some variation in supply and demand is inevitable. The demand of diesel is influenced by several factors, like fluctuating pricing trends, changes in the upliftment behaviour of OMCs, and varying demand patterns. Additionally, challenges such as the porous borders also play a role in the overall planning and availability of fuel in the country. It is important to note that the demand for HSD traditionally increases during the agricultural season, which coincides with the months of October and November. This seasonal spike in demand necessitates the import of additional HSD volumes well in advance to ensure that the market remains adequately supplied.



BAKU: Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Sikandar Sultan Raja, met with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan, Mr. Mazahir Panahov, at the Central Election Commission. - DNA

Israel's aerial, artillery strikes continue across Gaza

NEWS DESK

GAZA: At least six Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli regime's aerial and artillery attacks on various parts of the besieged Gaza Strip, raising the number of civilian deaths since early Friday to 23. According to medical sources, a number of civilians also sustained injuries during the Friday strikes, the Palestinian outlet Wafa reported. Local sources reported that at least 4 civilians were killed and several others injured when the Israeli forces shelled a group of citizens in Ajarma Street in the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. A child was also killed and a number of others were injured in the Israeli bombing of a house in the Maghazi camp in the central Gaza Strip. A mother and her three children lost their lives and the father was wounded in an airstrike by an Israeli drone on the town of Abasan al-Kabira, east of Gaza's southern city of Khan Yunis. As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 329 on Friday, aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound and target different areas and massacre more civilians. Reporters for the Palestinian In-

formation Center (PIC) said that the Israeli occupation army continued to bomb homes and shelter centers and attack citizens in different areas of Gaza during the past 24 hours. Witnesses reported that the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) withdrew from Al-Katiba and Al-Mahta areas, the vicinity of Dar Al-Salam Hospital, Al-Zana area, and the outskirts of Abasan Al-Jadida in Khan Yunis after 22-day aggression. The Israeli artillery also shelled, at dawn today, the southeastern areas of Gaza City; mainly Al-Sabra and Al-Zeitoun neighborhoods, where several casualties were reported. Five citizens, including a child, were killed at dawn today, in Israeli shelling east of Khan Yunis, and Jabalia camp. Meanwhile, the Israeli warplanes targeted a house in Abasan al-Kabira town, east of Khan Yunis, killing at least three people. Two other Palestinians, including a child, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a residential apartment near the al-Hawja intersection in Jabalia camp, north of the Gaza Strip. A similar attack was reported in a house east of Jabalia camp, north of Gaza, but residents confirmed that "the missile did not explode." On the other hand, the Israeli occupation officially announced that it attacked a humanitarian aid convoy in Gaza despite prior coordination, claiming that gunmen had taken control of a Jeep at the front of it.

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