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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Uruguay's legend Luis Suarez confirms international retirement

Detailed News On Page-06

Russian missile strike kills 41, says Zelensky

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

Detailed News On Page-08



Ahsan for integrated energy model **Detailed News On Page-04**



'Inflation easing gradually'

PM Shehbaz vows to ensure country's economic growth

Efforts of finance minister, SBP, and other institutions in controlling inflation are commendable, says Shehbaz Sharif

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a federal cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad on Tuesday. At the start of the session, he expressed satisfaction over inflation falling into single digits in August. "The efforts of the Ministry of Finance, the State Bank of Pakistan, and other relevant institutions in controlling inflation are commendable," Shehbaz said. "The burden of inflation is gradually easing. We need to bring more stability to the economy, and creating job opportunities remains our top priority." The federal cabinet approved a post-facto framework trade agreement between MERCOSUR and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, following a recommendation from the Ministry of Commerce. The agreement was ratified, with Shehbaz noting that the South American market could be a valuable opportunity for Pakistani products, which have yet to benefit from it.

PICTURE ON BACK PAGE

He directed swift action on all pending economic agreements and memorandums of understanding. "All agreements related to the economy that have seen no progress must be expedited," the prime minister instructed. The cabinet also approved a memorandum of understanding for bilateral political consultations between Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Albania's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Additionally, the cabinet ratified the convention on privileges and immunities for the Secretariat, its staff, and representatives of member countries for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. In other decisions, the cabinet extended the tenure of Senior Joint Secretary Syed Junaid Akhlaq as Chairman of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education until a regular officer is appointed. Furthermore,

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Briefs

Terrorists

operating

from

Afghanistan

No plans for a

military operation in

Balochistan, interior

minister informs

Senate panel

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has informed the Senate Standing

Committee on Interior that

most individuals involved in

recent terrorist activities

in the country had been

released under a previous

agreement and were op-

erating from Afghanistan.

While briefing the Senate

committee on Tuesday,

Naqvi stated that there

were no plans for a military

operation in Balochistan. He added, "The incident on

August 26 was orchestrated

by banned organisations, involving multiple groups."

Judicial

reforms Govt's top priority,

> says Tarar Says the govt is

actively working on it

DNA ISLAMABAD:Minister for

Law and Justice Azam Nazeer

Tarar has said that judicial

reforms are the top priority

of the present government.

Speaking in the National

Assembly today, he said

the government is actively

working on it over the last

five months. Eight bills were

laid before the house today.

These included: The Consti-

tution Amendment Bill, 2024,

(Article 184); The Criminal

Laws Amendment Bill, 2024,

the Constitution Amendment

Bill, 2024 (Amendment in

Article 51, 59 and 106); The

Bill, 2024 (Article 177, 193

and 208); The Contempt of

Court (Repeal) bill, 2024.

Amendment

Constitution

Fin min calls for 'collective efforts' from all sectors

Urges to expand tax net to sustain the economy

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday stressed the need for "collective efforts" from all sectors while speaking about increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio amid resistance to tax reforms from traders. Traders and retailers nationwide have gone on multiple strikes against new tax measures introduced by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), particularly its Tajir Dost Scheme. The scheme, which aims to formalise the retail sector by bringing traders and wholesalers into the tax net, has been opposed by various trade bodies since its inception. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad today, the finance minister talked about the issue of taxation in the country and urged that it needed to be expanded to sustain the economy. "Look, we are very clear that we need to take this forward and there is a very basic reason for it - last year, we only increased our

Continued on Page 06

Top military brass vows

Hard-earned gains against terrorism won't be allowed to reverse

Resolve comes after COAS Gen Asim Munir presides over CCC at GHQ in Rawalpindi, says ISPR



RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over the Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ. Participants offered Fateha and paid profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives in Balochistan

and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuit of peace and stability of Pakistan. The forum was briefed on the prevailing geo-strategic environment, national security challenges, and strategic and operational responses to emerging threats. In assessing the inimical forces, malicious actors, subversive proxies, and the facilitators of Pakistan's external and internal adversaries, particularly those active in Balochistan and KPK,

Continued on Page 06



NATIONAL DAY OF MALAYSIA

ISLAMABAD: Jam Kamal, Federal Minister of Commerce, Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh, High Commissioner of Malaysia, Puan Amelia Amani Lee Abdullah along with others are cutting cake on the occasion of the 67th National Day of Malaysia. - DNA

Deputy PM to embark on 5-day visit to UK

Ishaq Dar will meet Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and others

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Ishaq Dar, will undertake an official visto the United Kingdom from Wednesday to Sunday. During his stay in London, Ishaq Dar will meet Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and hold extensive talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs, David Lammy.

Continued on Page 06

Da'ish claims Kabul attack that killed 6

Group says it was in response to the revival by Taliban of detention facilities at the high-security Bagram base

News Desk

KABUL:Da'ish on Tuesday claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Afghanistan's capital Kabul that killed six people a day earlier, saying it was in response to the revival by Taliban authorities of detention facilities at the high-security Bagram base. The historic Soviet-built air strip was the main base for American forces in Afghanistan

Continued on Page 06

Demands fair trial Imran petitions IHC against 'possible' military custody

Imran has previously claimed that there is a plan to try him in the military court. He had also said that arrested former intelligence chief Gen (retired) Faiz Hameed was being forced to turn approver against him

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan on Tuesday petitioned the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against his possible military custody for the trials under way against him related to the May 9 cases. Countrywide protests erupted on May 9 last year after the paramilitary Rangers whisked away Imran from the IHC in a corruption case. While the protests were underway, social media was flooded with footage of rioting and vandalism at various spots, including the Lahore Corps Commander's residence and General Headquarters, the army's head of office in Rawalpindi. The already incarcerated former prime minister was "arrested" in these cases

Continued on Page 06

PTI has every right to hold rally on Sept 8

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the party has every right to hold its planned rally on September 8, stressing that no obstacles should be placed in its path, reported 24News-HD TV channel Tuesday. In a conversation with journalists during a trial in KotLakhpat jail in Lahore, he said that the party showed respect for all including state institutions during

Continued on Page 06



STAFF REPORT

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Experience ultimate comfort with breathtaking views, your serene escape amidst the stunning landscapes of Hunza Valley awaits.



Mengal resigns from NA over Balochistan crises

BNP-M leader says he has "no confidence" in the state, the president and the prime minister

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal on Tuesday resigned as the National Assembly member over the worsening situation in the province, declaring no confidence in the state, the president and the prime minister. "I announce my resignation from the Assembly today. I made this decision after witnessing the situation of Balochistan," said Mengal during the National Assembly session. Regretting the he could not do anything for the people of the province, the politician said they have not been given the right to rule for a year and that he has lack of trust in the whole system. "People are not interested in the issues of Balochistan and everytime this issue is raised, we face a blackout," he said. "This assembly does not listen to us, what's the point of sitting here?" Speaking to a private news channel, Mengal said that the decision is made by his conscience. He questioned where they would go when the roads to the Parliament are all blocked. Mengal, who is the member of NA-256, said the prevailing

Omar Ayub blames government for plummeting economy

Says PTI leaders and workers just fear Almighty Allah

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan on Tuesday blamed the government for destroying a better-performing economy. He made these remarks while speaking to media in Lahore. The opposition leader stated that economy was improving during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. He accused Defence Minister Khawaja Asif for being desperate when former premier

Continued on Page 06

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DPM Dar, US envoy discuss bilateral ties, cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States in Islamabad Donald Blome on Tuesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the meeting, they discussed various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including the avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, according to a foreign ministry's press release. They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.—APP

RDA appoints two superintendents, four surveyors to strengthen field surveillance

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) taking a significant step to curb illegal construction and enhancing the monitoring of private housing schemes appointed two new superintendents and four surveyors. According to a RDA spokesman, these appointments are part of the RDA's ongoing efforts to ensure strict compliance with building regulations and to protect the urban environment. The newly appointed officials would play a critical role for field surveillance, ensuring that all construction activities within the RDA's jurisdiction adhere to approved plans and legal requirements. The two new superintendents, known for their extensive experience in urban development, would lead the teams responsible for overseeing field operations. Their expertise would be crucial in identifying and taking immediate action against unauthorised construction activities, the spokesman

He said that the four surveyors, equipped with modern tools and techniques, would conduct regular inspections of private housing schemes and their task would be to ensure that these schemes comply with the RDA's regulations, helping to prevent any illegal expansions or alterations that could compromise the city's infrastructure and planning. The spokesman said, the appointment of these new officers reflects the commitment of RDA to maintain the integrity of urban development in Rawalpindi. By enhancing the field surveillance capabilities, the Authority aims to provide a safer and more regulated environment for the residents of our city, he

KP govt to implement 10-year new agriculture policy to ensure food security

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture Sajjad Barkwal has said that the provincial government would soon approve a 10-year new agriculture policy to ensure food security in the region. Presiding over a review meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Agriculture Department here, he said that under the new policy, the barren land would be made cultivable while additional suitable land would be selected for the successful cultivation of Saffron and other crops and increase the production. He directed that a committee should be formed to ensure the use of the funds allocated by the government for various agricultural projects promptly and in the best interest of the landowners. The meeting attended by Secretary Agriculture Atta-ul-Rehman, DGs of all wings, and other relevant officials gave a detailed briefing to the provincial minister and told that agricultural projects in the province include 21 ADP schemes for settled areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and eight ADP schemes for the merged districts. Various suggestions for development also came out during the meeting._-APP

Ethiopian cultural troupe set to enthrall audiences at ICCI hall

Ambassador Beker announced that the Embassy plans to host a cultural ceremony at the Chamber House on September 11, coinciding with Ethiopian National Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Ethiopia have a long history of cooperation and friendship with strong ties in various fields such as trade, culture, and education. The similarities between Pakistan and Ethiopia are numerous, including their commitment to sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic development. Both countries also share a rich cultural heritage and a strong desire for regional peace and stability. This has been stated by Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula Ambassador of Ethiopia while talking to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his visit to the Chamber House. The Ambassador praised Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's endeavors in fostering stronger ties between Pakistan and Ethiopia as well as with African nations at large. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to further strengthen the strategic partnership and bring the people of both countries closer together. He stressed that collective efforts are essential to deepen mutual understanding, promote economic cooperation and enhance the overall bilateral relationship. Ambassador Beker announced



that the Embassy plans to host a cultural ceremony at the Chamber House on September 11, coinciding with Ethiopian National Day. The event aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Ethiopia, featuring a cultural troupe that will perform for the audience. This initiative seeks to foster greater understanding and closeness between the people of Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Furthermore, on September 12, the Embassy will organize a marathon in Islamabad, which will bring together esteemed runners from Ethiopia, diplomats, dignitaries, students, and other participants. On this occasion, the 'Green Legacy' initiative of H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed was discussed as a potential area of collaboration. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari acknowledged Dr.

Jemal Beker Abdula's efforts and pledged his wholehearted cooperation and support to the Embassy in strengthening the existing relationship. He stated that hosting an event at ICCI on Ethiopian National Day would be an honor for the Chamber. Bakhtawari recognized the Ambassador's contributions to deepening the partnership by warmly terming him the "Ambassador of Pakistan.

He also commended the Ambassador's initiatives for a green and clean Islamabad, stressing that collective efforts are necessary to raise awareness about climate change among the masses. Bakhtawari also expressed hope that Ethiopian Airlines' direct flights will significantly boost bilateral relations, particularly in the tourism sector. He noted that the Airlines' direct operations from Lahore and Islamabad after Karachi will be a notable achievement during the Ambassador's tenure.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group and Chairman Pakistan-Africa Friendship Association, praised Ambassador Beker's initiatives by emphasizing that African states hold paramount importance for Pakistan in terms of exploring new business opportunities and boosting its exports. He recognized the immense potential for trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Africa and expressed optimism that collaborative efforts will bear fruit and lead to deepening of relations in all fields. ICCI member Kashif Zaheer, Zia Chadurhy, Nisar Mirza, Secretary General Ghulam Mustafa Siddique were also present on the occasion.

Drive against plastic bags underway

BAHAWALPUR: The Punjab Environment Department had intensified the campaign against plastic bags in the region to make environment pollution-free,said Inspector Waheed Murad Lashari. According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, measures were being taken to overcome use of plastic bags at large scale. He highlighted that "the bags having thickness less than 75 micron would not be allowed". Traders and shopkeepers were urged to ensure not pack products, groceries and other items in plastic bags have thickness less than 75 micron.-APP

Elected LG representatives announced sitin in front of CM House

PESHAWAR: The elected lo-

cal government representa-

tives of Khyber Pakhtunkh-

wa on Tuesday announced a stage a sit-in in front of the Chief Minister's House here for the resolution of their problems including release of funds and other issues. In this regard, the Provincial Action Council (PAC) meeting of local body representatives held here at the office of Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali. All mayors, chairmen, Nazimeen and councilors including Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali participated in the meeting. It was unanimously decided that a sit-in would be held outside the Chief Minister's House on September 4, in which all elected local body representatives would participate. The participants would gather at Jinnah Park and march to the CM Secretariat where they would stage a sit-in. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Mardan Bakhtullah Mayar said that the provincial government was not giving administrative and financial powers to local government representatives, that the current provincial government through unnecessary amendments in the local government act reduced their powers and ceptable in any case. On this occasion, Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali said that all local body candidates of ANP, Jamaat-e-Islami, PTI, PPP and PML-N would participate in the sit-in, adding that the provincial government should immediately empower the local government representatives financially and administratively. Mayor Hamiyatullah said that local body representatives should be given powers according to the 2019.-APP

Huge debts threatened the integrity of the country

Economic manager's time is wasted on borrowing and repayments Terrorism should not be mixed with political issues: Mian

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Tuesday that those who consider borrowing the solution to every problem of the country have jeopardized the economy and threatened the integrity of the country. He said the country is now buried under a mountain of debt, and it has become difficult to get out. Mian Zahid Hussain said that if all the time and energy of the Ministry of Finance

officials and CEOs of large state-owned companies is spent dealing with energy and loans, how will the country develop? Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the economic managers and the heads of big institutions like PIA and Railways have to deal with one borrower after another. Repayment of loans also keeps them busy, draining away all the time needed for planning and development. Mian Zahid Hussain said that, similarly, economic managers spend most of their time repaying old loans and obtaining new loans to keep the system afloat. The business leader said that arranging loan repayments and taking new loans has become a routine that prevents anyone from

doing anything constructive. Mian Zahid Hussain said that debt management is becoming more complicated and time-consuming. At this time, the IMF wants Pakistan's friendly countries to first roll over the debt of twelve billion dollars, after which it will start lending. In contrast, the friendly countries and other lenders want Pakistan to start the IMF program first, after which they will start lending. In this conflict, the country is experiencing a delay in receiving the IMF loan, causing and increasing losses investors' anxiety. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country's resources limited, which the IMF is concerned about. Some important sectors of the country's economy

are not ready to pay taxes, worsening the situation instead of improving it. The anti-Pakistani forces have successfully mixed terrorism with political issues, which have ignited hatred in the two provinces. Instead of being confused by this agenda of anti-Pakistan forces, terrorists need to be crushed with full force. The non-stop apprehension of past rulers who tried to solve even minor political issues with the help of a stick has turned these minor issues into militancy and insurgency, which has raised questions about the future of CPEC, Gwadar, and big dam projects. These projects' costs have increased enormously while their security costs are climbing.

AIOU inaugurates adult literacy center ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) proudly inaugurated its new Adult Literacy Center in a ceremony

held on Tuesday, demonstrating its continued commitment to accessible and inclusive education. The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, who emphasized the university's dedication to bringing education directly to the people and underscored its mission of universal education without compromise. In his keynote address, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood highlighted the importance of teamwork in institutional growth and stressed that every individual who engages with the university should be positively influenced by its ethos. "Our goal is to ensure education for all," Dr. Nasir stated, "There is no substitute for education, and we are committed to providing it at every doorstep. Institutions advance through collective effort, and it is vital that everyone performs their duties with excellence, as this brings both respect and success." The ceremony also honoured 30 participants who completed a training program on hospitality management for university hostels and guest houses. The training, conducted by Abid Salam Agha from Islamabad Club, was coordinated by Dr. Zaheer Ahmed of the Special Education Department. Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, Chairman of the Distance and Non-Formal Education Department, reiterated the university's dedication to expanding educational programs to regional centers, noting, "Education is vital, and our employees' expertise is crucial for our development." The university remains committed to advancing educational opportunities and supporting its employees through comprehensive training programs, ensuring that its mission of accessible education continues to thrive. -APP

RDA appoints two superintendents, four surveyors to strengthen field surveillance

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) taking a significant step to curb illegal construction and enhancing the monitoring of private housing schemes appointed two new superintendents and four surveyors. According to a RDA spokesman, these appointments are part of the RDA's ongoing efforts to ensure strict compliance with building regulations and to protect the urban environment. The newly appointed officials would play a critical role for field surveillance, ensuring that all construction activities within the RDA's jurisdiction adhere to approved plans and legal requirements.

The two new superinten-

experience extensive in urban development, would lead the teams responsible for overseeing field operations. Their expertise would be crucial in identifying and taking immediate action against unauthorised construction activities, the spokesman said.

He said that the four surveyors, equipped with modern tools and techniques, would conduct inspections of private housing schemes and their task would be to ensure that these schemes comply with the RDA's regulations, helping to prevent any illegal expansions or alterations that could compromise the city's infrastructure and planning.

The spokesman said, the appointment of these

dents, known for their new officers reflects the commitment of RDA to maintain the integrity of urban development in Rawalpindi. By enhancing the field surveillance capabilities, the Authority aims to provide a safer and more regulated environment for the residents of our city, he added. He informed that RDA

had urged all the developers and residents to cooperate with the newly appointed officials and ensure that all construction activities conducted within are legal framework. The Authority remains dedicated to its mission of sustainable urban development and would continue to take all necessary measures to prevent illegal construction practices, he added.

New agri policy to ensure food security

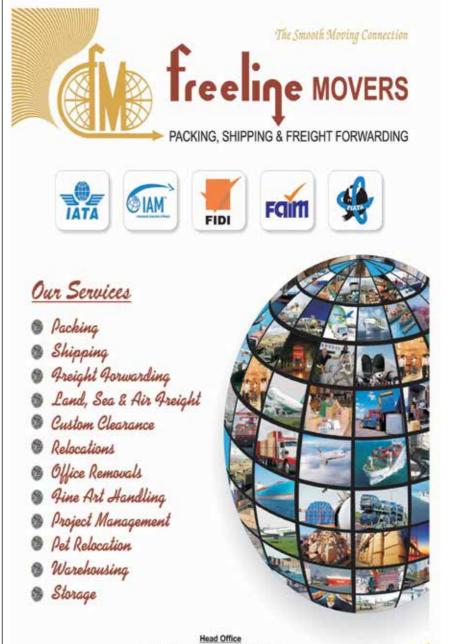
PESHAWAR: The Joint Coordination Committee of the Agriculture Department met under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister of Agriculture Sajjad Barkhwal to implement the new agricultural policy, aiming to ensure food security in the region after it's approval by the provincial government. The minister announced that out of 49 agricultural projects for 2024-25, 21 schemes will be allocated to settled districts and 8 to merged districts. The projects focus on utilizing available resources to make barren lands cultivable and selecting suitable land for increased saffron cultivation and production. He emphasized the need to select suitable land for cultivation and increase saffron yield, highlighting the importance of this crop for the region's economy. The new agricultural policy aims to boost agricultural productivity and ensure food security in the region.-APP

CDNS to achieve mark of Rs 160 billion in fresh bonds

'We surpassed the 100 ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 160 billion in fresh bonds and achieved 10.3 percent of the annual target in the first months of current fiscal year, from July 1 to August 31st. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here Tuesday. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 170 billion in investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which will lead to growth in the Islamic economy in the country. Replying to a question, he said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30th. National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is

encouraging that this year,

percent of the annual target." CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the financial year (2021-22) which will promote a savings culture in the country, he said, adding that given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added. The official added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds.-DNA



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National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

SEPTEMBER

Sept01/Libya **Revolution Day**

Sept01/Tanzania **Defence day**

Sept01/Uzbekistan **Independence Day**

Sept07/Brazil

Independence Day Sept09/DPR Korea

National Day Sept09/Tajikistan **Independence Day**

Sept16/Malaysia

Armed Forces Day Sept16/Mexico **National Day**

Sept16/Papua New Guinea **Independence Day**

> Sept18/Chile **National Day**

Sept21/Malta **Independence Day**

> Sept23/Saudi Arabia **National Day**

Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel....111 133 133 Marriott......051-28261210334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency Rescue (Police).....15

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



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Railway Exchange9	270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.	.5555489
CAA	.9281092



Hospitals

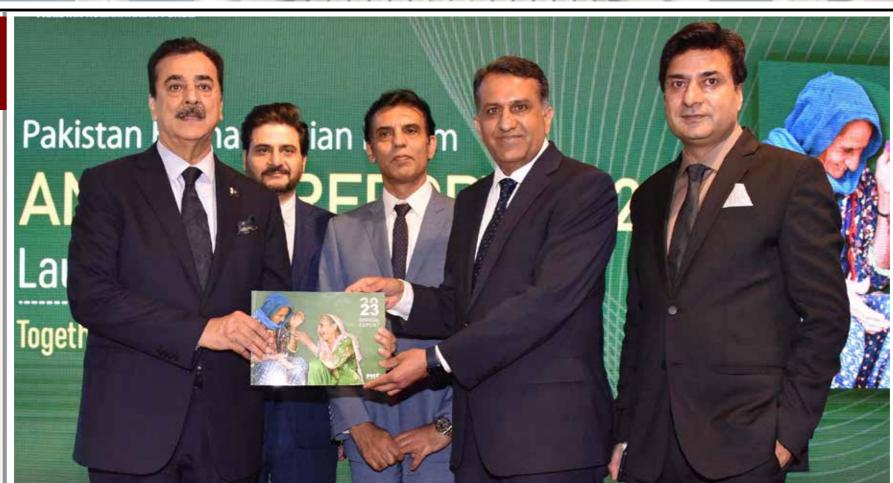
-	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	nal 4603666



pehai riileiira		
CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment Be	oard 9270151-3	

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani is being presented the annual report of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum.—DNA

ANF launches operation against drug dealers

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and Airport Security Force (ASF) in a joint operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport recovered 53 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a Jeddah bound female passenger, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. The spokesman informed that 53 capsules containing 318 grams heroin were recovered from the handbag of the accused

DNA

RAWALPIND: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has launched a grand operation across the country to curb the drugs from educational institutes, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

special directives of Director the operation in the vicinity of educational institutes to net the drug dealers supplying drugs in Islamabad. Elements involved in Jamrud Road Peshawar.

educational institutes. He said, two suspects involved in selling drugs in educational institutions in Jhelum and Rawalpindi were arrested during last 24 hours. Over 2438 grams drugs were recovered from the possession of the accused arrested in Rawalpindi while over 2400 grams hashish was recovered from He informed that ANF on the the possession of two accused arrested in Dina, Jhelum. The General (DG) ANF launched arrested accused confessed to supplying drugs to a big private educational institution in

educational institutions do not deserve any concession, ANF spokesperson said.

He informed that a grand operation had been launched to keep educational institutions safe from drugs. 60 intoxicated tablets were also recovered from a parcel at a courier office in Rawalpindi and an accused was arrested. In another operation. 5 kg heroin worth Rs 9 million was recovered from the posses-

supplying drugs to students of
It is first priority of ANF to arrest the anti-national elements who are trying to destroy the future of the youth. Cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigations are under process

Meanwhile, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and Airport Security Force (ASF) in a joint operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport recovered 53 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of a Jeddah bound female passenger, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

The spokesman informed that 53 capsules containing 318 grams heroin were recovered from the handbag of the accused.

A case has been registered against the accused under Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation is under process. The spokesman said that there is an alarming increase in the use of women and children in drug trafficking and ANF is fulfilling its responsibilities in this

SECP Issues warning against fraudulent social media groups

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a public alert regarding the increasing number of fraudulent social media and WhatsApp groups that are operating under the guise of investment training courses. A press release issued by the SECP said that these groups are impersonating well-known local and international business personalities or reputable international financial companies to deceive the public. The operators/handlers of these groups are charging fees from individuals to grant them membership, promising exclusive access to insider tips and training on investments. SECP warns the public that these activities are fraudulent and are aimed at looting innocent people.-APP

Death anniversary of playback singer Habib Wali Muhammad observed

ISLAMABAD: 10th death anniversary of Playback singer Habib Wali Muhammad observed on Tuesday. He was born in Rangoon, Burma in 1924, Habib Wali Mohammad embarked on a singing career during the 1950s when he was in his early 20s in Bombay. He participated in several local music competitions winning the first prize in one such competition in 1941 slowly establishing his reputation as a singer, PTV news channel reported./ Habib gained fame by singing Bahadur Shah Zafar's ghazal Lagta nahi hai ji mera, Ujray diyar mein. In 1970, he sang two ghazals for the film Baazi, 'Aashiyaan Jal Gaya' and 'Raatein Theen Chaandni' establishing his reputation in his new homeland.-APP

Eight bills referred to concerned committees

ISLAMABAD: As many as eight bills were referred to the concerned committees on Tuesday for further deliberation and consideration as well. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 184) introduced by Noor Alam Khan, this bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It pertains to suo motu powers and proposes that a bench of nine judges should decide on such cases. The bill was referred to the committee. The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 introduced by Sohail Sultan, this bill seeks to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. It proposes increasing the punishment for cheque bounce cases. The bill was referred to the committee. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Amendments to Articles 51, 59, and 106) Noor Alam Khan introduced this bill to allocate reserved seats for overseas Pakistanis in the national and provincial assemblies. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar acknowledged that the government is working on this issue, emphasizing the significant role of overseas Pakistanis in the country's development. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Articles 177, 193, and 208) Noor Alam Khan also introduced this bill, which seeks to prevent individuals with dual nationality from being appointed as judges of the courts. The Contempt of Court (Repeal) Bill, 2024 Noor Alam Khan introduced a bill to repeal the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003 (V of 2003). The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Article 198) introduced by Changaze Ahmed Khan, this bill proposes amendments to Article 198 of the Constitution. The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Noor Alam Khan introduced this bill, which proposes that bureaucrats should not hold dual nationality. The Allocation of Special Seats for Deserving Persons in Universities Bill, 2024 introduced by Syed Rafiullah, this bill aims to reserve special seats for deserving students in universities and higher education institutions. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Introduced by Danyal Chaudhary, this bill seeks to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, by increasing the number of judges to address the growing number of cases. However, the bill was deferred by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Senate has discussed the bill in detail and highlighted the need for judicial reforms in the country. The bill also faced objections from Gohar Ali Khan of the Sunni Ittehad Council.-DNA

Plan devised to bring barren land for cultivation under green Pak initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Water Resources Dr Musadik Masood Malik on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that under Green Pakistan Initiative, a plan has been devised to bring barren land in the country under cultivation and enhanced per acre crops productivity through employing various modern techniques.

Responding to a calling attention notice raised by Syed Naveed Qamar and others regarding the news in the media of 4.8 million acres of land being given for corporate farming resulting in diversion of water, he said 812,000 acres of land has been acquired so far to bring barren land under cultivation. He said it would a joint venture and so far Punjab and Sindh have transferred land. However, other provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan have not yet transferred land. The minister said a company has also been reg-

istered under green initiatives.

Under the plan, 40 per cent revenue each would be given to the respective province and investors while remaining 20 per cent revenue would be purely specified for research and development (R&D) in this sector. He said required irrigation water for the scheme would be provided from share of the respective province. Around 400,000 acres command area would come under the Cholistan scheme in Punjab, he said. He said the project would cost Rs 211 billion under which 296 kilometer long canal would be constructed. It would consist of 176 km long Cholistan Canal and 120 km Marur Canal, he added.

He categorically said that water distribution in the said canals would be purely met through the share of respective provinces and Indus River System Authority (IRSA) would issue proper certificate in this regard. The Cholistan Canal would get water for four months from share of Punjab province while for 2 months it would feed through flood water, he said.

Responding to a point raised by Syed Naveed Qamar, the minister said the federal government could not ask from the provinces about their water share distribution in their respective provinces after the 18th constitutional amendment. He went on to say that two provinces-Punjab and Sindh have signed agreement so far and identified land for the said scheme under Green Pakistan Initiative.

Musadik Malik said that telemetry system was being installed on water distribution system which would completely address reservation of provinces in judicious water distribution as per the water accord. He said the project mainly aimed at enhancing per acre yield through drip irrigation, tunnel farming and productive farming which required massive investment. It was also an attempt to bring barren land under cultivation, he added. The minister also urged the Speaker to set up a committee of the House under chairmanship of Naveed Qamar or Khursheed Shah to thoroughly discuss the issue.

NA passes resolution for provision of improved healthcare facilities

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution urging the government to take immediate steps to provide state-of-the-art medical facilities in federal government hospitals and ensure high-quality healthcare for all patients. The resolution was moved by Aliya Kamran, who stated, "The government should take immediate steps to provide state-of-the-art medical facilities in federal government hospitals and ensure high-quality healthcare for all patients." The session was adjourned to meet again on Wednesday at 11 a.m. after Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan (MWM) member Hameed Hussain pointed out the lack of quorum. Death anniversary of playback singer

Habib Wali Muhammad observed.-DNA





Inflation rate drop to **9.6% not an** accident but results of govt efforts: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the reduction in Pakistan's annual inflation rate to 9.6% was not an accident rather it was the outcome of the government's efforts. "Pakistan's annual inflation rate has dropped to 9.6% in August, first single-digit figure in nearly 3 years according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. This is not an accident! These are results," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. He said that his government's focus was on providing relief to the common man. "Our work is not done, and a lot more needs to be done but we are making real progress," he remarked.—APP

Around 40 technical trade centers blacklisted: **BEOE**

ISLAMABAD: Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HD) had blacklisted around 40 technical trade centers across the country due to the complaints and involved in fraud cases with innocent citizens. An official source told APP that the main function of this department is to control and regulate emigration under the Emigration Ordinance, 1979, and promote the Emigration of Pakistani Citizens. It is also the responsibility to look after the emigrants' interests and welfare and advise the Federal Government on emigration policies and procedures. Monitoring and supervision of Overseas Employment Promoters through 7 Protectorates of Emigrants Offices and Processing of Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) Licences, he added. BEOE also provides the platform for pre-departure briefing to Emigrants and mandatory Insurance coverage to Pakistani workers abroad. Memorandum of Understating with Foreign Countries for Export of Manpower and Management of State Life Emigrants Insurance Fund (SLEIF) were the main functions of this department. He said that BEOE has advised the foreign job-seekers to only reach out to the valid Overseas Employment Promoters to avert any loss of time, money, and their energies. He said there were only 2.577 Overseas Employment Promoters (OEP) licenses that were valid as more than 5048 licenses had been pronounced invalid. Out of the invalid OEPs, the licenses of some 670 were canceled on various grounds while 805 expired and the rest had surrendered. They said all foreign job-seekers must visit the official webpage of BEOE regularly to get fresh and valid information and protect themselves from unauthorized OEPs. The officials said that the BEOE was mandated to regulate emigration under the Emigration Ordinance, of 1979, promote the Emigration of Pakistani citizens, and look after the interests and welfare of the

Briefs

PIDE hosts 4th RASTA conference to unveil key research findings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted the 4th RASTA Conference, a two-day event that showcased pivotal research findings in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, exports, and investment. Attended by policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, the conference underscored the importance of research-driven strategies in shaping Pakistan's future. The event commenced with a detailed RASTA Progress Report presented by Dr. Faheem Jehangir, Project Director of RASTA. He highlighted that the conference would feature five technical sessions and two showcase sessions, covering topics such as food and agriculture, fiscal management, and more. These sessions brought together 17 research teams to present their findings, fostering an extensive knowledge network and promoting high-quality, evidence-based policy research.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Chairman of RASTA and

Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the essential role of research in policy development. He noted that the conference featured presentations of cutting-edge research, including studies on the mental health and well-being of healthcare professionals, the potential of Pakistan's IT industry for software export growth, and the impact of government policies on olive production. In addition to the technical sessions, the conference included showcase sessions highlighting significant projects, such as improvements in Pakistan's electricity billing system and findings from the 2024 round of the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS). Dr. Haque further elaborated on RASTA's mission, describing it as Pakistan's largest and most comprehensive social sciences research network, dedicated to bridging the gap between research and policy to enhance public policy and guide government decision-making. The first session of the conference, titled "Education and Healthcare," featured an array of critical insights into the challenges and opportunities within Pakistan's pharmaceutical, mental health, and higher education sectors.



Kazi Afaq Ahmed from the Institute of Business Management, Karachi, opened the session with a presentation on the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan. His study provided an in-depth analysis of the manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), emphasizing the country's heavy reliance on imports. Ahmed highlighted the necessity for strategic investments in local API production, which he argued would not only reduce import dependency but also stimulate growth within the sector. His research pointed towards a comprehensive industrial policy that could foster domestic capabilities and promote self-sufficiency in pharmaceutical manufacturing. Following this, Mir Muhammad Shah from Sukkur IBA University presented a study focusing on the mental health challenges faced by healthcare professionals in Pakistan. Shah's research underscored the severe impact of resource shortages, such as inadequate

staffing and insufficient mental health support systems, which contribute to the high levels of stress and burnout among healthcare workers. He proposed several policy recommendations, including the implementation of a General Practitioner (GP) system that could alleviate pressure on specialists and a national initiative for enhanced training of healthcare providers to better manage stress and improve overall healthcare delivery. Aamer Raza from the University of Peshawar then provided a critical examination of the 18th Amendment's impact on Pakistan's higher education system. His analysis focused on the governance and funding challenges that have emerged since the devolution of powers to the provinces. Raza argued that the decentralization has led to inconsistencies in educational standards across regions and created significant hurdles in terms of funding allocation. He suggested a re-evaluation of the amendment's implementation, advocating for stronger federal oversight to ensure uniformity and

quality in higher education. The session concluded with Rafiullah Kakar, Member of the Social Sector, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, who provided closing remarks synthesizing the insights from the presentations and emphasizing the need for integrated policy approaches to address the multifaceted challenges in education and healthcare.

The second session, focusing on "Pakistan's Export Potential," was a deep dive into the opportunities and challenges within the halal beef and IT industries. Shahzad Kouser from COMSATS University, Islamabad, began the session by analyzing the global demand for halal beef and Pakistan's potential to become a leading exporter. He identified key challenges, including adherence to international standards, logistical bottlenecks, and limited market access, which currently hinder Pakistan's competitiveness in the global market. Kouser proposed a multi-faceted strategy to overcome these barriers, including improving standards compliance, enhancing supply chain infrastructure, and exploring new markets through targeted trade agreements. Following this, Naveed Arshad from LUMS, Lahore, presented a compelling case for the IT sector as a significant driver of economic growth. Arshad highlighted the untapped potential in software exports, emphasizing the need for strategic investments in education and infrastructure. He advocated for policy reforms aimed at creating a more conducive environment for IT businesses, which could significantly boost Pakistan's standing in the global IT market. His proposals included upskilling the workforce, improving internet infrastructure, and offering tax incentives to attract foreign tech firms to invest in Pakistan. The session was moderated by Zafar ul Hasan, Joint Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, who provided additional context and facilitated discussions on how Pakistan could effectively position itself in these emerging global markets. In the RASTA Showcase-I session, Afia Malik, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, presented her research on improving efficiency in Pakistan's electricity billing system. Malik's study explored innovative approaches to reduce energy wastage and enhance the financial health of the energy sector. She discussed the importance of technology adoption in billing processes and proposed policy interventions that could streamline operations.

IFA inspects 1272 food outlets, discards 10,176 kg/L unhygienic food items

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Dr. Tahira Saddique, stated that the authority inspected 1,272 food outlets last month and imposed fines totaling Rs 2 million on 100 outlets found flouting regulations. Talking to APP, she said that with an unwavering commitment to quality assurance, the authority's latest report underscored its relentless pursuit of adherence to food safety standards across the Federal Capital. On the directions of Director Food, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the Food Safety Teams (FSTs) inspected 1272 establishments and sealed 22 outlets due to substandard food quality and inadequate arrangements, with legal actions initiated against three offenders, the DDO added. Additionally, she said a staggering total of 120 oral warnings and 910 improved notices were issued, signaling a zero-tolerance approach towards violations. Responding promptly to citizens' concerns, the authority diligently addressed 41 public complaints, ensuring accountability and responsiveness in its operations, Dr Tahira said. Highlighting its commitment to combating adulteration and excess, Dr Tahira said the IFA disposed of 10,176 kg/L of compromised food items, which includes expired foods, meat, dairy, leftover/ stale foods, rancid oil, MSG, and other foods. On the occasion, she appealed to the masses to cooperate with the food department in identifying illegal food production units that were operating in small houses to ensure public safety. Notably, the authority imposed a complete ban on the sale of Chinese salt, and gutka, emphasizing its commitment to upholding stringent standards of food safety and hygiene. Dr Tahira reiterated the authority's dedication to fostering a healthy environment for the citizens of the federal capital. She emphasized that strict action would be continued against those food outlets that were involved in selling adulterated or unhygienic food items. The safety of citizens was the topmost priority of the IFA and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard, she warned.-DNA

Ahsan highlights importance of integrated energy model for future needs

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, emphasized on Tuesday that the integrated energy model is crucial for meeting the country's future energy needs through efficient, reliable, affordable, clean and renewable resources. Speaking at the 'National Workshop on Integrated Energy Plan' organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, the minister stressed the need to address the challenges faced by the common man, particularly the high electricity tariffs, by utilizing the integrated energy model. He informed that the integrated energy model was developed to organize and optimize all energy resources to

identify an affordable energy mix that can efficiently meet local energy requirements. He added that the unit had developed a leading framework, organized workshops and trained various ministries. Ahsan Iqbal urged the Ministries of Energy and Petroleum to utilize this framework to overcome the issues plaguing the energy sector and to explore solutions and future mapping of resources for a sustainable energy mix. The minister pointed out that the imbalance between energy demand and supply was another issue causing price fluctuations and capacity payments. He noted that electricity demand rises to 30,000 MW in the peak summer season and drops to 12.000 MW in winter. He suggested that a dynamic pricing formula is needed to switch from electricity to gas during the winter season, utilizing excess electricity to reduce pressure on gas supplies. This, he explained, would also help resolve capacity payment issues and payments to idle powerhouses. The Planning Minister recalled that when the Pakistan Muslim League resumed power in 2013, the country was facing terrorism, severe energy crisis and economic instability. The government decided to initiate energy sector projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by utilizing local

75 Pakistani pilgrims participate in Urs

ISLAMABAD :A group of 75 Pakistani pilgrims participated in the 411th annual Urs of Hazrat Mujadid Alf Sani (RA) in Sirhind Sharif town of India where they paid their respects and prayed for Pakistan's progress and prosperity. The Charge d' Affaires of Pakistan to India Saad Ahmad Warraich laid the traditional chaddar on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan at the shrine, according to a press release received on Tuesday. On arrival at the shrine, the Charge d'Affaires and the Pakistani pilgrims were greeted by Sajjada Nasheen (custodian) Khalifa Syed Mohammed Sadiq Raza and other trustees. Speaking at the occasion, the Charge d' Affaires paid homage to the great Islamic scholar Hazrat Mujadid Alf Sani (RA), known for his contribution to revitalizing Islam.—APP

BISP to expand scope of country's largest nutrition programme

ISLAMABAD: In order to combat malnutrition, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has planned to expand the scope of Benazir Nashonuma initiative which is the country's largest nutrition programme. In this regard, BISP has signed a two-year agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) in a ceremony held at Rome to extend the Benazir Nashonuma Programme which is also one of the major government-funded initiative in WFP's history. According to an official source, this partnership strengthens BISP's commitment to combat malnutrition in Pakistan, providing essential support to over four million pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children less than two years of age. The initiative will help build a healthier future for Pakistan's children through collaborative efforts. World Food Programme (WFP) has been the lead implementing partner for Benazir Nashonuma initiative since its stunting among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and their children less than two years of age through the provision of additional cash of Rs. 2,500 per quarter per PLW and boy child each and Rs. 3,000/- per quarter per girl child of BISP beneficiary families. While Rs.1500/ are given to the girls aged between 15-19 years. For the flood affected areas, Rs. 3500 are given to per PLW and boy child each and Rs. 4000 for girl child. In return, mothers are required to attend regular antenatal health checks and awareness sessions during pregnancy, consume specialized nutritious food (SNF), and take their children for immunization and regular health checks. According to the statistics, Pakistan's high rates of malnutrition (40.2 percent stunting, 28.9 percent underweight, and 17.7 percent wasting) are indicative of an ongoing child nutrition crisis. The first 1,000 days of a child's life are a window of opportunity to lay a strong foundation for later achievements. This time frame is a period of enormous change characterized by a high degree of plasticity in the child's neurological development.-DNA

PTA receives proposals for spectrum auction consultancy in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD :The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has received five proposals from international consultants to enhance the experience of Next Generation Mobile Services (NGMS) in Pakistan for providing consultancy services for the upcoming spectrum auction. Aetha Consulting Limited,

Detecon Consulting FZ-LLC, Frontier Economics KomKonsult Limited, (Private) Limited and National Economic Research Associates Inc. have submitted their technical and financial bids said a news release issued here on Tuesday. The PTA will now undertake a detailed evaluation of the technical and financial bids in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules.

Encroachments, roadblocks & suspension of mobile signals

TANVEER HUSSAIN

emigrants.—APP



NCROACHMENT and road blocking of roads is the most serious problem of the country which has made the lives of millions of Pakistanis miserable but unfortunately no government or organization is taking this important issue seriously. Illegal encroachment not only creates social and economic problems but also leads to the loss of thousands of precious lives. Islam also forbids blocking roads. The Holy Prophet forbade sitting idly on the roads. Even on the occasion of Iihad, blocking the roads was forbidden. Once in a journey of Jihad, people narrowed the destinations and blocked the roads. When it was known, the Prophet of Islam sent someone to announce among the people that whoever narrows the destination or blocks the way, there is no jihad for him. Reference Abu Dawud Hadith No. 2629. But despite such clear instruc-

tions, people don't care. The shopkeepers set up their shops outside their limits, which is a violation of the right of pedestrians. Roads are jammed due to improper parking and carriages. The footpaths have become a hub for motorbikes, and makeshift shops. Everywhere is the home of the qabza mafia. People walk on roads due to lack of footpaths which results in daily accidents. Those who set up shops on the footpath, usurping the rights of pedestrians, complain that there is no blessing in these provisions. There is no system in this country that can stop these encroachments, so these people consider encroachment as their right. Blocking roads in the name of security has also become a norm. But these encroachments cause countless problems and accidents for ordinary citizens. Even the drains are not safe from

the occupation mafia. Occupying groups are making wealth by building houses, markets and plazas on the canals, but due to the blockage of the water channel of the canals, the water diverts to the nearby communities. This water causes precious loss of life and property during flood days. Political parties block the roads of cities by organizing rallies and Dharnas for their interests. Public officeholders and government officers usurp the rights of citizens in the name of security and route. People are made to stand for hours in the sun and rain during traveling of royal rides. Barriers installed in front of government offices and road blocks are causing problems for people. People have to take a long detour to go a few hundred meters away. The religious community is also not behind in this work. There is a race to get publicity. In the name of worship, these people shut down the entire country. Currently, the population of the world is around eight billion. There are 200 countries in the world. Every country has people of different religions, but jamming the entire country in the name of religion is a practice only in Pakistan. Closing roads and shops for religious processions and meetings has become a routine which effects people's daily work and jobs.

Due to road blocks students cannot reach school and examinations halls. Many patients cannot be taken to hospital in case of emergency. Due to suspension of mobile phone signals, the communication system disturbs badly. The shutter down of markets leads to food shortages. Many injured and sick people lose their lives due to lack of access to ambulances. Who is the responsible for the lost of these precious lives? of course, they will be answerable on the Day of Resurrection. The irony is that these processions last not for a day or two but for many months and cause trouble to the citizens. In the 21st century, the civilized world is paying attention to human rights, but our people are deprived of these rights. This abusive system should be ended so that the citizens realize that they are living in a free country.



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Collapsing empire

N investigation of July 19th laid bare the US Navy's crushing defeat by Yemen's AnsarAllah, in Washington's initially-vaunted Operation Prosperity Guardian. Western media has finally acknowledged the Empire's comprehensive trouncing by God's Partisans, in an epic David vs Goliath triumph. Elsewhere, reporting on the much-hyped USS Eisenhower aircraft carrier strike group's return to base after months of relentless bombardment by the Resistance amply underlines how aircraft carriers - the core component of US hegemony for decades - are quite literally dead in the water. The New York Times innocuously headlined USS Eisenhower's humiliating retreat as, "the end of a strategic deployment", while simultaneously hailing a heroic homecoming. The article records how as the grand vessel neared Virginia's Norfolk Harbor, one of the world's largest US naval installations, a plane carrying National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan touched down on its deck. He addressed "thousands" of returning sailors, "all eager to be home", in what the outlet dubbed "an extraordinarily pumped 'all hands' call'." Recounting "how he would walk into the Oval Office and tell President Biden about the exploits of the Eisenhower and its strike group, shooting down all manner of Iranian-made drones and rescuing sailors attacked by the Houthis," Sullivan volubly burnished the Navy's courage and successes. "Man, what stories I got to tell: You guys played defense, you played offense," he boasted. "When somebody comes at us, we come back harder at them." A similar bombast was present in remarks Sullivan made in an accompanying "exclusive" interview with The Times. He spoke of how in the immediate aftermath of Oct. 7, his White House national security team decided strident "military muscle movements that could show decisiveness' were absolutely vital. As such, Washington sought to "over-deliver on speed, and scope and scale of American power protection to reassure the Israelis, and to deter adversaries." USS Eisenhower's dispatch was considered the boldest "military muscle movement" possible. Sullivan expressed delight with the results of Operation Prosperity Guardian, suggesting USS Eisenhower's "fight" with Ansar Allah in the Red Sea "showed that [aircraft carriers] could still battle effectively at close ranges." This appraisal was echoed by US Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro. He dismissed "critics" who "predicted the end of the usefulness of carriers", claiming Operation Prosperity Guardian was a "valuable lesson" demonstrating that US aircraft carrier naysayers had gotten it badly wrong. This is a truly bizarre analysis. Operation Prosperity Guardian can only be considered a deeply embarrassing cataclysm. As NBC reported following the effort's launch, USS Eisenhower's mere presence in the Mediterranean was initially calculated by White House apparatchiks to be a "blunt message" that would scare off Iran, Lebanon's Hezbollah, and Yemen's AnsarAllah from striking the Zionist entity. However, the Resistance was not deterred one iota from its collective anti-genocide crusade. And now the flagship aircraft carrier has beaten a hasty retreat back to base. The Times understatedly concedes the conclusion of the US Navy's Red Sea "strategic deployment" was n"obviously an imperfect result". As the outlet acknowledges, the Zionist entity's 21st century Holocaust in Gaza continues apace, "fighting between Hezbollah and Israel could spiral", and AnsarAllah's blockade not only endures, but may expand if and whenever the movement's leaders deem it necessary.

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US-China science pact's fate

HE expiration of the US-China Science and Technology Agreement (STA) on August 27 marks a critical juncture in the scientific collaboration between the two global giants. It was one of the formative bilateral agreements signed between US president Jimmy Carter and China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping on January 31, 1979. The agreement was designed to foster mutual advancement in science and technology by promoting joint research efforts, information sharing and enhancing bilateral ties. After renewals every five years until 2018, and six-month extensions last August and in February this year, its expiration increases uncertainty over the future of US-China scientific relations. Initially, it was a landmark bilateral accord aimed at strengthening cooperation in scientific and technological domains. It was built on the principles of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit, emphasising collaborative research and the exchange of experts. The renewal of similar agreements between the US and other countries - such as Thailand, whose STA with the US was extended for another decade on August 5 - highlights the ongoing importance of such bilateral collaborations and underscores their value for fostering long-term scientific progress and international cooperation. The contrast between the US' extension with Thailand and the expiration of the STA with China underscores the complexities and shifting dynamics of US-China relations. Discussions between the two nations on the agreement's future are ongoing, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian. The outcome will weigh heavily on the trajectory of US-China scientific collaboration. China's attitude to the STA reflects a broader competitive approach to advancing its scientific and technological capabilities. Investment in research and development (R&D) has surged since the turn of the century. Despite the impressive growth, China's overall R&D spending in 2021, at US\$668 billion, still lagged behind the US' US\$806 billion. The STA was designed to guide US-China interactions, offering American researchers essential access and protections in China, including in fields that were previously restricted. The Chinese government has shaped its economic and research landscape to align with national priorities, using the science and tech agreement to fill research gaps and bolster intellectual property in targeted sectors. China's research output in terms of scientific papers and patent registration applications has reached new heights in the past decade. Indeed, the nation has now established itself as a global player in science and technology. Simon Marginson, a professor of higher education at Oxford University, has said "Tsinghua is now the number one science and technology university in the world." There are 13 Chinese universities or institutions in this year's global top 15 Leiden Ranking of volume of scientific research output and six in the top 10 of the latest Nature Index. The exchange of students and scholars between the two countries has also played a significant role. Many Chinese students are studying in the US and contributing to China's scientific advancements.

Governor Kundi: A guiding light in KP crisis response and recovery

Humera Ambreen

N times of crisis, true leadership shines brightest. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has merged as a figure of resilience, hope, and unwavering commitment to his people during one of the most challenging periods in the province's history. Faced with threats from terrorism, economic hardships, and the need for social empowerment, Governor Kundi has taken a multifaceted approach to governance that has not only addressed immediate crises but also laid the groundwork for long-term recovery and development. Combating terrorism with strength and compassion Terrorism has been a persistent threat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, disrupting lives and sowing fear across the province. Governor Kundi has made it his mission to combat this menace with both strength and compassion. Understanding that security is paramount, he has worked closely with law enforcement agencies and the military to ensure that robust measures are in place to protect the people. His proactive leadership has prevented threats and responded to them through improved intelligence and coordinated efforts. However, Governor Kundi's approach to fighting terrorism goes beyond security measures. He has consistently reached out to victims and their families, offering comfort and support during their darkest hours. His visits to hospitals, where he meets with those injured in terrorist attacks, demonstrate his deep empathy and personal commitment to the well-being of his people. Additionally, he regularly attends condolence meetings and prayer sessions for families who have lost loved ones, offering words of solace and solidarity. This compassionate side of his leadership has helped to heal wounds and bring communities together in the face of tragedy. Governor Kundi's strong stance against terrorism has also been evident in his public statements, where he has condemned acts of violence and called for unity among the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has said the province will fight terrorism and destabilizers. His leadership has been crucial in fostering a sense of resilience and determination among the people, reinforcing the belief that together they can overcome even the most daunting challenges. Revitalizing the economy through strategic initiatives While security is a pressing concern. Governor Kundi has also recognized the critical importance of economic stability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's recovery. The province has faced significant economic challenges, including high unemployment, inflation, and a struggling business environment. Governor Kundi has tackled these issues head-on, implementing a series of strategic initiatives aimed at revitalizing the economy and creating new opportunities for growth. Governor Kundi has promoted the local handicrafts industry as one of his key economic initiatives. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is known for its rich cultural heritage and skilled artisans, and Governor Kundi has sought to elevate this sector as a cornerstone of

the province's economy. He has called on the provincial government to provide financial support and create opportunities for artisans to showcase their talents both locally and internationally. He aims to preserve traditional crafts while also generating income and employment for thousands of families. Governor Kundi's commitment to economic development extends to large-scale infrastructure projects that are vital for the province's long-term growth. He has been instrumental in advancing projects such as the construction of the Dera Ismail Khan to Rajanpur road, the Chashma Right Bank Canal, and the establishment of an international airport in Dera Ismail Khan. These projects are designed to improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and attract investment, ultimately driving economic growth and development in the region. In addition to infrastructure development, Governor Kundi has actively engaged with the business community to address economic challenges. He has held numerous meetings with local and international business leaders to discuss ways to attract investment and stimulate economic activity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. His efforts to foster partnerships and encourage entrepreneurship are helping to create a more dynamic and resilient economy that can withstand external shocks and provide a stable foundation for future growth. Empowering women and youth for a brighter future Governor Kundi has long understood that the true progress of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa depends on the empowervomen and youth. These future of the province, and Governor Kundi has made it a priority to ensure that they are given the opportunities and support they need to thrive. In the realm of education, Governor Kundi has taken decisive action to promote gender equality. He issued directives to universities across the province to ensure that women are adequately represented in both the syndicates and senates, as mandated by the Universities Act 2012. This move is not just a matter of compliance; it reflects Governor Kundi's deep commitment to creating an inclusive educational environment where women can take on leadership roles and influence the future of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. By advocating for equal representation, he is helping to break down barriers and pave the way for more women to participate in decision-making processes that shape the province's future. Governor Kundi's focus on women's empowerment extends beyond education. He has supported initiatives that provide women entrepreneurs with the resources they need to succeed, from financial assistance to business development training. By encouraging women to participate actively in the economy, Governor Kundi is helping to build a more inclusive and dynamic economic landscape in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. His efforts to empower women are not only about promoting gender equality but also about unlocking the full potential of the province's workforce. The youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are another key focus of Governor Kundi's leadership. He has championed vocational training programs designed to equip young people with the skills they need to enter the workforce and contribute to the province's economy. Understanding the importance of engaging the youth in positive activities, he has also supported sports and recreational programs, recognizing their role in promoting physical and mental well-being. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring that the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are prepared to lead the province into a prosperous future. Governor Kundi's dedication to youth empowerment is evident in his efforts to link education with employment opportunities. He fostering partnerships between educational institutions and industries, he is helping to create pathways for young people to transition smoothly from education to meaningful employment. His vision for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's future is one where every young person has the opportunity to realize their potential and contribute to the province's growth. Preserving and Promoting Cultural Heritage Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a province rich in cultural and historical significance, and Governor Kundi has made it a priority to preserve and promote this heritage. Recognizing the importance of the ancient Gandhara civilization, which is of global cultural significance, Governor Kundi has worked to enhance religious tourism, particularly for Buddhist pilgrims. He has engaged with international stakeholders, such as the Bangkok Chamber of Commerce, to discuss cultural exchanges and the promotion of tourism linked to the Gandhara heritage. Governor Kundi's efforts to part of a broader strategy to leverage the province's historical assets for economic and cultural development. By improving infrastructure around these sites and fostering cultural ties with countries like Thailand, Governor Kundi is helping to attract international tourists and boost the local economy. His vision is to position Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a hub of cultural and religious tourism, showcasing the province's rich history to the world. Compassionate Leadership in Times of Crisis Throughout his tenure, Governor Kundi has demonstrated a deep sense of compassion and empathy for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in times of crisis. His consistent support for victims of terrorism, natural disasters, and other tragedies has provided comfort and reassurance to those in need. Whether visiting hospitals, attending condolence meetings, or offering prayers for the deceased. Governor Kundi has shown that he is not only a leader but also a caring and supportive figure within the community. Governor Kundi's compassionate approach extends to his broader governance style. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that the needs and concerns of the people are addressed, whether through policy initiatives or direct engagement. His commitment to unity and social harmony has been a driving force behind his efforts to maintain peace and stability in the province. By fostering a sense of community and shared purpose, Governor Kundi has helped strengthen the social fabric of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Energizing the Governorship: A New Era of Active and Engaged

Leadership For the past six years, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have not witnessed the kind of dynamic and proactive leadership that Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has brought to the office. His tenure marks a significant departure from the passive governance of the past, as he has infused the role with energy, enthusiasm, and a deep commitment to the people he serves. Under his leadership, the governorship has evolved into a force for positive change, one that is visibly engaged with the public and dedicated to addressing the province's most pressing challenges. Governor Kundi's approach to leadership has been characterized by a hands-on, democratic style that actively involves the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the decision-making process. Unlike his predecessors, who were often perceived as distant and detached, Governor Kundi has made it a point to be a visible and accessible figure. Whether it's meeting with community leaders, visiting areas affected by crises, or engaging with the youth and women of the province, he has shown that he is a governor who listens to the people and works tirelessly on their behalf. His leadership style is not just about making appearances; it's about making a real impact. Governor Kundi has reinvigorated the governor's role, turning it into a symbol of hope and action. His energy and enthusiasm have breathed new life into the office, making it a powerful platform for advocating for the needs of the people and driving forward initiatives that promote economic the heart of Governor Kundi's leadership is a deep sense of empathy. He has shown time and again that he is not just a political figure but a compassionate leader who genuinely cares about the well-being of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. His responses to crises, whether natural disasters or terrorist attacks, have been marked by personal engagement and emotional support. Governor Kundi's visits to hospitals, his meetings with grieving families, and his participation in condolence gatherings have all demonstrated his commitment to standing with the people in their times of need. This empathetic approach has made Governor Kundi a beloved figure in the province. The people see him not just as a leader but as one of their own-someone who understands their struggles and is dedicated to alleviating them. His ability to connect with people on a personal level has been a key factor in his success, helping to foster a sense of unity and collective purpose in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Governor Kundi's tenure has also been marked by a renewed sense of visibility and democratic engagement. For too long, the office of the governor in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was seen as a largely ceremonial position, with little real influence on the day-to-day lives of the people. Governor Kundi has changed that perception entirely. By actively involving himself in the affairs of the province and making the governorship a driving force for change, he has shown that the office can be a powerful tool for promoting development and improving the lives of the people.

Palestinian Gaza and West Bank: Overt and covert cleansoide

Makram Khoury-Machool

t is true that Cleansocidal Netanyahu escalated his aggression on the West Bank in late August and early September 2024 in terms of the pace of crimes, scale of brutality, and bloody killing. However, why has this triggered a media uproar? After all, the Israeli Occupation has neither stopped plundering the land and establishing settlements, nor has the occupied Palestinian West Bank ever been calm in particular over the last 25 years, let alone since its occupation in 1967 or during the first Palestinian intifada which broke out back in December 1987. The crime of CleansOcide (Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing) which Netanyahu and his criminals have been perpetrating in the besieged Gaza Strip since October 2023 was made possible after the return of extreme right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu to the premiership of the Israeli occupation government on December 29, 2022, armed with "Zionist-religious" fascist forces, making it doubly important to evaluate once again his original scheme known as "Annexation", which he was expected to announce in early July 2020 when he was prime minister and his ally Trump was in power in the White House, but temporarily retracted its announcement. It is true that the practices of the Bennett-Lapid government were racist and practiced the most heinous forms of oppression and killing against the Palestinians in Eastern Palestine occupied in 1967, and that Netanyahu is on the extreme right... However, Netanyahu's fusion with what is on the right of the extreme right offers us endless degrees of the curve of fascism. Although war criminal Ariel Sharon, until the second Palestinian intifada (which erupted on 28 September 2000) and the siege of Yasser Arafat (2002-2004) and his consequential killing, was a symbol of the massacres and destructions perpetrated against the Palestinian people, what Netanyahu did since he took over the occupation government back in mid-1996 (with the exception of one period until the advent of Ehud Barak for a period briefly negotiating with Arafat at Camp David 2, and then Sharon's advent until he fell into a coma and Ehud Olmert's assumption of power until his dismissal and Netanyahu's return to power after a decade in 2009 until 2021) exceeds all that the leaders of the Israeli occupation did, regardless of their different political parties. Even though Netanyahu did not invent a new fascist product (i.e.) settler colonialism, he overshadowed it with

blatant fascism that might, between shock and awakening, seize all of Palestine in a project that began with the publication of Herzl's "State of the Jews", passing through the Balfour declaration, the decision to partition Palestine in 1947, the culmination of the Nakba until 1949, the setback of the occupation of the second/eastern part of Palestine, the Oslo treaties, and even Trump's project called the "deal of the century" and the "annexation" project. What this essay doesn't do is deal with possible Palestinian reactions to the additional steps that will be taken by Netanyahu. Indeed, the 'Deal of the Century' document deals several times, especially on pages 8, 12, 13, and 14, with these points, as it turns evasive and is linked to several impossible conditions that have proven in the last quarter century to have been placed within the framework of providing a certificate of 'good conduct', but it is nothing but a deception in order to loot more land. It reads, "Palestinian leaders must embrace peace by recognizing Israel as a Jewish state, rejecting terrorism in all its forms, allowing special arrangements that address the vital security needs of Israel and the region, building effective institutions and choosing pragmatic solutions. If these steps are taken and the criteria set forth in this vision are met, the United States will support the establishment of a Palestinian state.' ("Deal of the Century" document - p. 8). The "Deal of the Century" is only a clear reading that the document paves the way for Netanyahu to try to do whatever he wants in Palestine. It is true that in order to serve Netanyahu and Trump, all existing plans must be put in a blender and repackaged for the purpose of political marketing. However, ideological thinking about the "entitlement of the Jewish people," which was "invented," as stated for example in former minister Shaked's document (which uses religious symbols even though it is secular), did not need new innovations. The various political proposals to extend the Zionist occupation's control over the largest percentage of the lands of Palestine, including natural resources, and with the least material losses, go back directly as a "modern" Zionist capitalist "secular" scheme to less than a month after the Naksa (Setback) of 1967 and not necessarily to the arrival of the fascist settler extreme Right to power. The "patent" for the marginalisation of the Palestinian people and the destruction of their homeland belongs to Yigal Allon, the secular Labour figure who held the position of minister of labour during the occupation of the eastern/ second part of Palestine in 1967, and a figure with a mili-

"The Palmach" (1941) during the Nakba, which joined the organisations 'Etzel' (1931) and 'Lehi' (1940) to escalate terrorism against the Mandate government and the Palestinians during the period of preparation for the onslaught on Palestine. In a cabinet session on June 19, 1967. Allon acknowledged that foreign policy should be as dynamic as military plans, and suggested the annexation of al-Khalil [Hebron] (south of al-Quds [Jerusalem] and Beit Lahm) in order to ensure control of occupied al-Quds. However, he returned and formally presented to his government on July 13, 1967, under what was titled "The Allon Plan". The "Allon Plan" that Allon presented to the Labour government (Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Security Minister Moshe Dayan) is based on the colonialist ideology that believes in the absolute right of the Jews to Palestine and in the application of security and economic control. This is based on three points: The application of the Torah doctrine of a Jewish right to Palestine Drawing security borders on Palestinian lands between the Occupation and Jordan Finding a method (settlement and the extension of military control to rob resources) to ensure a Jewish majority for the socalled "democratic Jewish state," and for this, it is possible to give some Palestinians a formula to manage their limited affairs only in regard to service issues The "Allon Plan" also suggested seizing most of the Jordan Valley, returning what they do not need to Jordan, and establishing a border between them, i.e. losing the external borders of any future Palestinian entity and controlling a third of the occupied West Bank as well. Although Allon's proposal was not officially adopted by the government, the spirit of the plan was followed, and sometimes Allon's decisions personally, as a minister, encouraged colonisation on the land since the end of the 1960s. And on this basis, 'Ma'aleh Adumim' (currently 40.000 settlers) was established as one of the largest colonies east of al-Quds. The Allon scheme was described as a "compromise" by the Zionist occupation between those who wanted to "return the occupied territories" and those who wanted to hold onto them and establish settlements in them. Yoram Cohen, the former head of the Shin Bet, had no preoccupation with the monotony of repeating the same plan and not being innovative. What he has done recently is a "modified mixture" that takes into account some changes on the ground. When Allon presented the idea of his plan for the Jordan Valley to the government immediately after the 1967 Naksa, the Occupation government kept the matter a secret at first, and the mo-

tary background, as he headed the terrorist organisation

tives for this secrecy were not disclosed. The subject of the Jordan Valley was of great expansive importance to Yigal Allon. In order to control its natural resources, the occupation would need to secure its stolen goods by planting "guards" as colonists. Understanding the importance of the Jordan Valley indicates that the occupation is not 'static', but rather is a series of systematic penetrations and violations that are embodied by changing and renewable operations. When the ambitions in the imagination and plans for the lands of Palestine are under constant renewal, the gradual takeover of these lands is a daily process that is confronted by the indigenous citizens with their stubborn struggle and whatever tools they can muster. The Occupation adopted the method of attrition to steal the land inch by inch, and this is what happened and is happening in every part of Palestine in general, but in the eastern part occupied in 1967 in particular, and in this context, the time for of finishing off the Iordan Valley has come. The Jordan Valley, or the "Ghors" (al-Aghwar), is the border between Jordan and Palestine, making it the eastern and outer border, as it extends from Safad in the north to the Negev in the south. The total area of the Jordan Valley exceeds 700,000 dunums [about 900 square meters], and its breadth (at different points) ranges from 15 to 30 km from the Jordan River. It is home to nearly 70,000 Palestinian citizens in 27 permanent gatherings on an area of 10,000 dunums, and dozens of pastoral and Bedouin gatherings. The area of arable land in the Jordan Valley is 280,000 dunums, i.e. 38.8% of the total area of the Jordan Valley; Palestinians use 50,000 dunums of it. Meanwhile, colonists from the Jordan Valley used 27,000 dunums of agricultural land. The Occupation controls 400,000 dunums under the pretext of using them as closed military areas or 55.5% of the total area of the Jordan Valley. The Palestinian residents are prohibited from practicing any agricultural, urban, or any other activity in these areas. The Occupation has established 90 military outposts in the Jordan Valley since its invasion in 1967. Control exists, therefore, but not legally, and the looting project aims to legitimise the Occupation's control. The Jordan Valley areas are divided into: Areas A, which are under the control of the Palestinian National Authority, with an area of 85 square km, and 7.4% of the total area of the Jordan Valley: Areas B, which are a joint sharing area between the Palestinian Authority and the Occupation, with an area of 50 square km, and represents 4.3% of the total area of the Jordan Valley; and Area C, which is under full Israeli control, with an area of 1,155 square kilometres, and constitutes the largest area of the Jordan Valley (by 88.3%).

World / Sports



Briefs

PM Shehbaz vows to ensure...

From Page 01 the cabinet formed a com mittee to review draft policies on religious tolerance and interfaith harmony. This committee will consult with all stakeholders and present its report within a month. The cabinet also endorsed decisions made during the Legislative Committee on August 26, 2024.

Finmincalls for 'collective efforts'...

From Page 01 tax revenue by 29 per cent, but we are still at 8.8pc tax-to-GDP," he said. "This is not sustainable at all. No country is sustainable at this level, so we need to increase it to 15pc." The finance minister added the FBR will have to "be absolutely clear about the implementation and the execution" of taxes, and request the sectors to make a "collective effort" by paying taxes. He said there was no room left for avoiding taxes in the country, stressing that the current situation, where the salaried class and the manufacturing industry were already contributing more than their fair share relative to their GDP contribution, cannot continue. "How long will this country keep being run like this?" he asked, "So my wholesalers, distributors, retailers my brothers and sisters - l am requesting once again, please take a step forward to contribute to the country's economy". Aurangzeb also addressed the reduction of inflation in August, which reached single digits, and said that the State Bank of Pakistan's policy rate

Mengal resigns from NA over...

would likely follow suit.

From Page 01 situation in Balochistan has compelled him to take this step. "Our province has consistently been marginalised and ignored by this House. Each day, we are pushed further to the wall, leaving us with no choice but to reconsider our roles. The lack of genuine representation in this assembly for the people of Balochistan have left voices like mine unable to bring meaningful change," said the resignation letter. Mengal said that their attempts to speak or protest are "met with hostility. Our people are either silenced, labelled as traitors, or worse, killed."

Omar Ayub blames...

From Page 01 Nawaz Sharif was trying to get out of jail in 2019, adding that Asif used to submit fake medical reports of Sharif to get him acquitted of all cases and make him fly to London. He said the PML-N itself was tired of the defence minister's attitude. Speaking about apology in May 9 cases, Ayub said the PTI leaders and workers were just afraid of the Almighty Allah while ruling out any chance of tendering apology to anyone He blamed former Army Chief General retired Qamar JavedBajwa, PPP and PML-N for dethroning the PTI government, deploring that young people were moving out of the country for greener pastures as they had no hopes left here.

Imran petitions...

From Page 01 on July 15 - just a day after he and his wife, Bushra Bibi, had been apprehended in a new Toshakhana case, following their acquittal in the Iddat case. Imran has previously claimed that there is a plan to try him in the military court. He had also said that arrested former intelligence chief Gen (retired) Faiz Hameed was being forced to turn approver against him to pave the way for his trial in a military court on May 9 cases. Government spokesperson for legal affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik earlier hinted that Imran's May 9 cases might go to the military courts.

BD outclass Pakistan to complete historic series win

Pakistan have now lost five straight Tests



OUR CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Bangladesh defeated Pakistan by six wickets in the second Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium to complete historic 2-0 series win. The Tigers chased an 185-run target on day five with veterans Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan registering their first-ever series win over Pakistan, Pakistan now lost five straight Tests - three against Australia and two against Bangla-

desh -in the ongoing World Test Championship. Bangladesh opener Zakir Hasan provided a blistering to the run chase by attacking Pakistan bowlers. The left-hander smoked 40 runs off 39 balls. He was the first man to depart as Mir Hamza shattered his stumps on the team score of 58. Shadman Islam (24) departed soon after as Khurram Shahzad got the better of him. Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mominul Haque continued the start they were given by the openers. Najmol made 38 and was dismissed by Salman Ali Agha while Mominul walked back for 34, giving Abrar Ahmed his first wicket. Veterans Mushfigur (22*) and Shakib (21*) stayed till the end and completed the chase. The guests continued their innings from 42-0 today after the rain ended the play early on Monday. A day earlier, the visitors bowled out Pakistan for 172 after pacers Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana wreaked havoc, picking five and four wickets, respectively.

and had a decent start courtesy of Saim Ayub and skipper Shan Masood, adding 38 runs.

Ayub was the first man to depart as Taskin Ahmed took his wicket. He made 20 runs off 35 balls. Rizwan made 43 runs off 73 balls which included five fours. Meanwhile, Abrar Ahmed departed after facing 12 balls for his two. Mahmud dismissed Mir Hamza (4) to wrap up Pakistan's innings on 172. Salman added vital runs for Pakistan and remained unbeaten on 47. Mahmud registered his first fifer in Test cricket, becoming the first Bangladesh pacer to take this many wickets in an innings in Pakistan. Before that, Responding to Pakistan's first innings of 274. Bangladesh were reduced to 26-6 and in danger of following on amid fiery fast bowling in the morning but Litton Das hit a defiant 138 and Mehidy Hasan Miraz scored 78 runs as the tourists recovered from a precarious position to post 262 all out after Shahzad bagged six wickets on the third day of the

Uruguay's Luis Suarez confirms international retirement

NEW YORK: In a heartfelt and emotional announcement, Uruguay striker Luis Suarez has officially retired from football on Monday. "Friday will be my last match with my team," Suarez said. The 37-year-old, known for his prolific goal-scoring record, confirmed that the Uruguay's World Cup qualifier against Paraguay scheduled on Saturday will be his last game.



Speaking in a press conference, Suarez expressed excitement on playing his last match. "I've been thinking about this and analysing this. I believe this is the right time," said Suarez. "I want to be relaxed when I play my last game with the national team. I'll be just as excited to play as I was in 2007 when I played for my national team for the first time. Meanwhile, the former Liverpool and Barcelona forward is regarded as the all-time leading scorer with 69 goals in 142 matches. Suarez, 37, made his debut for Uruguay against Columbia in February 2007. During the press conference, the veteran player recalled his achievements: "That 19-year-old kid is now a veteran player an older player - however you want to call it - with an incredible history with the national team, that will give his life for the team." Previously in 2011, Suarez led Uruguay to victory in the Copa America in Argentina, ending up as the tournament's second top scorer with four goals. In addition, he scored twice against England in the 2014 World Cup. -APP

New Zealand awards central contracts to Smith, Clarkson

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has given central contracts to all-rounders Nathan Smith and Josh Clarkson after their commendable performance in international domestic cricket. In this regard, Smith and Clarkson will be replacing Devon Conway and Finn Allen, who decided to leave NZC's central contracts to focus on franchise cricket. The top-order batter Kane Williamson not only declined the contract but also stepped down as Black Caps' captain. Earlier in March, Smith, 26, was awarded the Men's Domestic Player of the Year at the NZC awards. This was based on his performance in the Plunket Shield, finishing as the top wicket-taker with 33 at an average of 17. In white-ball formats, he bagged 11 wickets in

in the Super Smash tournaments. Clarkson, on the other hand, made his

the Ford Trophy while 13 former in domestic cricket for some time," said head coach Gary Stead. "He's been particularly impres-



international debut in December 2023. Since his debut, the 27-year-old has played in three ODIs and six T20Is. Head coach Garv Stead praised both players for receiving central contracts. "Nathan's been on our radar for a while having been a significant per-Osimhen includes

Chelsea, Arsenal

clause in agreement

LONDON: Chelsea missed out on signing Victor Osi-

mhen on Deadline Day but have been given renewed

hope for a January move following a request from the

striker. Osimhen was the Blues' top target in the final

days of the summer transfer window, but they ultimately

failed to reach an agreement with the player for a trans-

fer. As the transfer deadline for Europe's top leagues

passed without Osimhen securing a move, the striker

faced months of exile at Napoli after being excluded from

the squad. Galatasaray then came knocking, and Osimhen

quickly agreed to the surprise switch, albeit with two con-

ditions. According to Sky Sport Italia, Osimhen now has a

lower release clause in his Napoli contract, reduced from

130 million (£109.5 million) to 75 million (£63.2 mil-

lion). Napoli also has the option to extend the striker's

contract until 2027 if he isn't sold next summer. .-APP

sive in red ball cricket and we think he has the skills to be successful in international cricket when he gets a chance. Continuing further. Stead appreciated Clarkson,27, for performing well on the international stage, especially in the white-ball cricket. "Josh has

Blundell, Michael Bracewell. Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Will O'Rourke, Aiaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Sears, Nathan Smith, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Will Young -APP

ICC confirms dates for 2025 World Test Championship final

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: The ICC have confirmed the dates for next year's ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's. The one-off Test will take place at the iconic London venue from 11th to 15th June 2025, with 16th June available as a reserve day if needed. This will be the first time Lord's has hosted the World Test Championship final, with Southampton and The

Oval serving as the venues for the first (2021) and second (2023) editions, won by New Zealand and Australia respectively. The match will feature the top two sides in the standings at the conclusion of the current cycle, with Rohit Sharma's India currently leading ahead of reigning champions Australia. However, there are still plenty of points up for grabs, with New Zealand (third), England (fourth),

been involved in both white

ball squads over the past

twelve months which shows

the strides he's made in his

game," he said of Clarkson.

"He's a hard-hitting player

with plenty of skills and

has shown in his chances

so far that he can offer a

lot with bat and ball on the

international stage. Along-

side Glenn Phillips, Rachin

Ravindra, and Ben Sears,

Smith and Clarkson were

part of the U-19 World Cup

squad of New Zealand. NZC

central contracts list: Tom

Santner, Ben

Sri Lanka (fifth), South in the cricketing calendar Africa (sixth), and Bangladesh (seventh) all still in contention for a spot in the one-off final. Fans will have the opportunity to register their interest in tickets for the World Test Championship final, and ICC CEO Geoff Allardice expects high demand for the eagerly awaited contest. "The ICC World Test Championship Final has quickly become one of the most anticipated events

and we are pleased to announce the dates for the 2025 edition," Allardice said. "It's a testament to the enduring appeal of Test cricket, which continues to captivate fans around the world. Tickets will be in high demand so I would encourage fans to register their interest now to ensure they are in with a chance of attending the Ultimate Test

Sinner and Medvedev set up quarter-final clash

Australian Open champion Sinner made last eight for second time by seeing off US 14th seed Tommy Paul

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: World number one Jannik Sinner and former champion Daniil Medvedev set up a US Open quarter-final showdown on Monday as both men look to exploit the hole left by the shock exits of Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz. Australian Open champion Sinner made the last eight for the second time by seeing off US 14th seed Tommy Paul 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/5), 6-1. Medvedev, the 2021 champion and runner-up to Djokovic last year, outclassed Portugal's Nuno Borges 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals for the fifth time in six years. Women's world number one Iga

Swiatek, meanwhile, stayed on course for a sixth Grand Slam title with a straightsets win over Russia's Liudmila Samsonova. The Italian Sinner recovered from 4-1 down in the first set to see off Paul, who had been hoping to join compatriots Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe in the quarter-finals in New York. "It will be another tough match with Daniil. There will be a lot of rallies so I have to be ready physically," said Sinner. Medvedev is the only former champion left after the first week defeats of fourtime winner Diokovic and 2022 champion Alcaraz. The world number five easily downed 34th-ranked Borges, whose challenge fizzled out under the weight

of 51 unforced errors while Medvedev broke serve eight times. Sinner and Medvedev will be meeting for the fourth time this year. Sinner came back from two sets to love down to defeat the mercurial Russian in the Australian Open final and came out on top in the Miami semi-finals. Medvedev then triumphed at Wimbledon in a five-set quarter-final. "I will try to think more about Wimbledon than the Australian Open," said Medvedev. "With Jannik, I feel like we know our games, what we will try to bring to the table, and then it comes to always this moment's deuce, breakpoint, maybe try to surprise him or not, what he will do, what I will

do." - Draper hails 'icon' Murray - Jack Draper became the first British man since Andy Murray in 2016 to reach the quarter-finals by seeing off Tomas Machac of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-1, 6-2. The 22-yearold left-hander has only dropped serve once over four matches on his way to a maiden Slam quarter-final, winning 47 of 48 service games and saving 20 of 21 break points. Draper hailed the influence of Murray, the former world number one and 2012 US Open champion who retired from tennis following the Paris Olympics. "He's a legend and an icon and if I have half the career that he had I will be a happy man," said the 25th seed, who goes on

to face Alex de Minaur. The 10th-seeded De Minaur won an all-Australian battle with Jordan Thompson 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. Four-time French Open winner Swiatek, the 2022 champion in New York, celebrated her 100th Grand Slam match by cantering to a 6-4, 6-1 win over 16th-ranked Samsonova. The Pole will take on American sixth seed Jessica Pegula for a place in the semi-finals. "There will be some long rallies and intense hitting," predicted Swiatek of facing Pegula, who she also beat in the quarter-finals on her way to the title two years ago. Pegula made the last eight for the second time with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Russia's Diana Shnaid-

er. Beatriz Haddad Maia became the first Brazilian woman to reach the quarter-finals since Maria Bueno in 1968 when she defeated 2014 runner-up Caroline Wozniacki. The 22nd-ranked left-hander converted a third match point to defeat the former world number one 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. She will next face 2023 semi-finalist Karolina Muchova, who knocked out French Open and Wimbledon runner-up Jasmine Paolini, the fifth seed, 6-3, 6-3. Muchova, ranked 52 and who only returned to the tour in June after 10 months out with a wrist injury, has yet to drop a set and knocked out two-time champion Naomi Osaka in the second round.

Hard-earned gains against terrorism...

From Page 01

the forum deliberated on a range of measures to neutralize these threats. The forum reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army, with the unwavering support of the people, will not allow the hard-earned successes against terrorism to be reversed. The forum emphasized that the Army is a disciplined institution, upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and loyalty to the state and institution. The institution's well-established and rigorous system of accountability ensures that these values are preserved with unwavering commitment, allowing no room for exceptions or partiality. This strict adherence to accountability fortifies the Army's integrity, ensuring that no individual is above the law or exempt from scrutiny. Recognizing the urgency and significance of a robust and effective legal system, COAS emphasized that the Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and Law Enforcement Agencies in taking swift and lawful action against terrorists, anarchists, and criminal mafias. The forum also expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts against illegal spectrum operating in collusion with terrorist networks. The critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent cybersecurity measures was also underscored.

Deputy PM to embark...

From Page 01 The Deputy PM will also engage with members of the UK Parliament and representatives of the British-Pakistani community. It is to be recalled that to secure foreign investment to hold off the pressure on flagging economy, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in July had reconstituted the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) by adding Deputy Premier Ishaq Dar to the fold of its cabinet commitée. Dar, was earlier made chairman of the Privatisation Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) by the prime minister, would now be part of the all-important SIFC. Moreover, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Information Minister Ata Tarar also have been included in cabinet committee for the SIFC.

Da'ish claims...

From Page 01 following the September 11, 2001, attacks up until their 2021 withdrawal led to the takeover by the Taliban. "The attack came in retaliation for Muslim prisoners in Taliban prisons, especially after their transfer to the notorious 'Bagram' prison, in a repeat of the American era and its practices against prisoners," Da'ish said in a post on its Telegram channel. In the early years of the Afghan war under President George W Bush, the CIA used Bagram as a "black site" detention centre for terrorism suspects, subjecting them to abuse that President Barack Obama would later acknowledge as torture. The Acting Head of Prison Administration under the Taliban government, Mohammad Yusuf Mestari, said on Sunday that the prison at Bagram was being 'reactivated" after it had not been in use for years.

PTI has every right...

From Page 01

the last month, and now it is time for that respect to be

reciprocated. "Whether one likes it or not, PTI is a reality in this country. Stability cannot be achieved without engaging with PTI." He further added that the founder of PTI is currently contesting elections at Oxford University, an achievement that brings pride to Pakistan. Criticizing those who oppose this move, he labeled them as narrow-minded and urged that the Oxford election be viewed beyond the lens of political affiliations. Addressing the ongoing political discourse, Qureshi dismissed any notion of a PTI minus its founder.

Business / World



Briefs

OHCHR demands release of 6 colleagues

WEB DESK

GENEVA: The UN human rights office on Tuesday asked for the immediate and unconditional release of its six staff members who have been held in Yemen for almost three months. "Their whereabouts remain unknown and the Houthi de facto authorities have not permitted physical access to any of them, despite our repeated requests," spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told a UN briefing in Geneva. The six human rights staffers - one woman and five men - were arrested on June 6 together with seven other UN personnel. Shamdasani reminded that two human rights staff and two colleagues from other UN agencies have been detained by the de facto authorities since 2021 and 2023 respectively, bringing the number of UN staff "arbitrarily" detained in Yemen to 17. "Once again, the high commissioner (Volker Turk) demands their immediate and unconditional release, and the release of all human rights and humanitarian workers similarly arrested and detained without legal protections," she said. She also urged the de facto authorities in Sanaa to "facilitate rather than hinder" UN entities and other human rights and humanitarian actors in their efforts to serve the people of Yemen, including for the promotion and protection of their hu-

Iran President reiterates full support for **Palestine**

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reiterated his administration's unconditional support for the Palestinian resistance in its fight against the occupying Israeli regime. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a message delivered during the 9th Interna tional Conference of "Mujahideen in Exile" which was held in the Iranian city of Damghan in the northern province of Semnan on Tuesday, with guests from different Muslim countries and national and provincial officials in attendance. "Over the course of nearly half a century, the legacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has consistently championed justice and advocated human rights globally, has been to fully support the oppressed Palestinian nation's resistance against the Zionist usurper regime, as well as the struggle of all the oppressed nations in the world," he said. The president said from the beginning of his tenure, he has declared his steadfast support for the Palestinian people and the oppressed around the world. He also said the 14th Iranian government will continue its unwavering support for the Palestinian resistance just as the previous govern-

Lebanon's ex-central bank chief arrested

BEIRUT: Lebanon's former central bank governor, Riad Salameh, was arrested on Tuesday following a judicial hearing in the capital Beirut. Salameh has been charged in Lebanon with financial crimes including money-laundering, embezzlement and illicit enrichment. He has denied all wrongdoing. Lebanon's former central bank governor Riad Salameh was arrested Tuesday after being questioned over alleged embezzlement, a judicial official told AFP. The public prosecutor "arrested Salameh after questioning him for three hours on suspicions of embezzlement from the central bank exceeding \$40 million", the official said, requesting anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media. It is the first time Salameh has appeared before Lebanon's judiciary since he left his post of 30 years at the end of July last year without a successor. Widely viewed as a key culprit in Lebanon's dramatic economic crash Salameh faces numerous accusations. - Agencies

Israel presses West Bank raids killed 27 Palestinians

On the seventh day of Israel's major "counter-terrorism" operation in the northern West Bank, the focus remained in the Jenin area, where according to the Palestinian health ministry at least 18 have been killed since Wednesday

News Desk

JENIN, Palestinian Territories: Israeli forces were operating Tuesday in the northern West Bank, nearly a week into military raids in the occupied territory that the Palestinian health ministry said killed at least 27. An Israeli air strike overnight that the military said targeted militants in Tulkarem killed a 15-year-old Palestinian, said a hospital source in the city. In total, "there are 30 martyrs and about 130 wounded in the West Bank since Wednesday," when the Israeli military launched a series of coordinated raids, the Palestinian health ministry said in a statement. The toll

Hebron area in the southern West Bank, in incidents unrelated to the raids in the north. On the seventh day of Israel's major "counter-terrorism" operation in the northern West Bank, the focus remained in the Jenin area, where according to the Palestinian health ministry at least 18 have been killed since Wednesday. The military on Monday said its forces had killed 14 militants in Jenin and apprehended "25 terrorists." In a separate incident, a 16-year-old girl was killed by the Israeli army in the town of Kfar Dan, in the Jenin governorate, the health ministry said Tuesday, without specifying whether she was part of the 18 killed

includes three deaths in the in the area. An AFP correspondent said the streets were empty and shops were closed in Jenin on Tuesday, with Israeli armored vehicles and army bulldozers as well as ambulances among the few vehicles on the roads. The correspondent said paved streets had been overturned by Israeli bulldozers in several areas, which the army says is a way to detonate explosive devices hidden under roads. The Jenin city council said that 70 percent of roads and streets have been destroyed since the start of the raid. Bashir Matahen, a municipality spokesperson. said about 20 kilometers of water, sewage, communication and electricity lines were destroyed, including

80 percent of the city's water pipes.

The municipality lacked the funds to carry out all the necessary repairs, he told AFP. Jenin and its adjacent refugee camp - where army bulldozers also destroyed infrastructure - have long been a bastion of Palestinian armed groups fighting against Israel, which has occupied the West Bank since 1967. The military carries out regular incursions into Palestinian population centers, but such operations are rarely conducted simultaneously as in the northern West Bank in recent days. In Tulkarem, near Jenin, the Israeli military said on Monday night that its aircraft struck a Palestinian militant cell

Turkey seeks

to join BRICS

ANKARA: Turkey has sub-

mitted a request to join

the BRICS group of major

emerging market nations,

the spokesman of President

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's

ruling party said Tuesday.

Turkey has taken no con-

crete steps towards meeting

its stated desire to join the

BRICS group of emerging

economies but "a process

is underway", Omer Celik,

spokesman for the ruling Jus-

tice and Development Party

(AKP), said on Tuesday. If

admitted, Turkey would be-

come the first NATO mem-

ber in the group which sees

itself as a counterweight

to the Western-led global

order. "Our president has

many times stated that we

want to become a BRICS

member. The process is now

under way," said Celik. After

"that shot at security forces during the counter-terrorism operation." A medical source at the Tulkarem government hospital told AFP on Tuesday that a 15-year-old teenager was killed in the strike that also wounded his father and four others. The Palestinian Red Crescent said its teams handled several shrapnel injuries in Tulkarem, including one of its paramedics.

On Tuesday Israeli military vehicles including bulldozers were seen on the streets of Tulkarem, where roads have also been damaged or destroyed, said an AFP journalist. One man. holding a Palestinian flag, was standing defiantly in front of the bulldozers. Further south, Israeli

University campus near Ramallah before dawn on Tuesday, confiscating property from the student council, the institution said in a statement. Violence in the Palestinian territory has surged since Hamas's October 7 attack triggered war in the Gaza Strip, which is separated from the West Bank by Israeli territory. Israeli troops or settlers have killed at least 637 Palestinians in the West Bank since the start of the Gaza war, according to the UN figures from last week. At least 23 Israelis, including soldiers, have been killed in Palestinian attacks during the same period, according

UK defends arms sales suspension

LONDON: Downing Street reiterated Tuesday the UK's position as a "staunch ally" of Israel in response to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's criticism of a decision to suspend certain arms sales to Israel. British media said during a lobby briefing that the UK's prime minister's spokesperson defended the decision. emphasizing the government's commitment to adhering to export licensing laws, while downplaying concerns that the move would strain diplomatic relations with Israel. Netanyahu earlier described the UK's decision as "shamesparking concerns about a potential diplomatic fallout. The Downing Street spokesperson, however, refrained from addressing Netanyahu's remarks, instead stressing the UK's ongoing support for Israel. The spokesperson highlighted the UK's recent actions to defend Israel, including efforts in April to intercept Iranian missiles aimed at the country, which prevented significant loss of life. "The decision to suspend some arms sales was not taken lightly," said the spokesperson. "We remain a staunch ally of Israel. Our actions demonstrate our commitment to Israel's security and our broader ambition to end the ongoing conflict in the region." The UK has been working closely with international partners to broker a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinian resistance group, Hamas, to bring an end to escalating violence that has seen nearly 41,000 victims killed in the Gaza Strip.

Sisi to visit Türkiye today

ISTANBUL: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi will pay an official visit to Türkiye on Wednesday to co-chair the first meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, the Turkish Communications Directorate said in a statement. Sisi will visit Türkive at the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "As part of the visit, President Erdogan and President el-Sisi of Egypt will co-chair the first meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, which was restructured in accordance with the Joint Declaration signed during President Erdogan's visit to Cairo on February 14. 2024," the communications office said. All aspects of Türkiye-Egypt relations will be reviewed, and potential steps aimed at further deepening bilateral cooperation will be addressed at the meeting. Besides bilateral relations, views on regional and global issues, particularly Israeli attacks on Gaza and occupied Palestinian territories, will be exchanged during the talks. Various bilateral agree-

ments will also be signed. - Agencies

Iran

summons

Australian

ambassador TEHRAN: Iran has summoned Australia's ambassador in Tehran to protest the publication of a defamatory post on social media by the Australian Embassy. The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that it has summoned Ian McConville and expressed Iran's strong objection to the derogatory content posted on the embassy's official Instagram page a day earlier. The director general of the ministry's Regional Department strongly condemned the publishing of the "norm-breaking" content, saying the "insulting" content published by the Australian embassy is "against Iranian and Islamic tradition, customs and culture." He also stated that such an action must not be repeated by any means, and that it is in violation of international law and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The head of the regional department said the history of Iran's foreign relations shows the high sensitivity of public opinion and their reaction to such behavior that violates norms. Emphasizing that his country's embassy definitely did not intend to insult the people and values observed by the Iranian society, the Australian ambassador said that the Islamic Republic was not mentioned in this

message. - Agencies

Bangladesh floods leave 71 dead

DHAKA: The death toll from floods in Bangladesh rose to 71 on Tuesday with millions of people still stranded in devastated areas and increasing concern about outbreaks of waterborne disease as the inundation recedes. The floods, triggered by relentless monsoon rains and runoff from upstream waterways, have wreaked havoc over the past two weeks, causing widespread destruction and affecting around five million people. More than 580,000 families are still marooned in 11 flood-hit districts and in urgent need of food, clean water, medicine, and dry clothing. Nearly 500 medical teams were helping provide treatment, with the army, air force, navy, and the border guard assisting in relief efforts. Authorities are now focusing on prevent

ing the spread of waterborne diseases, a common aftermath of such disasters, and ensuring the availability of clean drinking water. The Directorate General of Health Services said nearly 5,000 people had been hospitalised over the past 24 hours for cases of diarrhoea, skin infections, and snake bites. Heavy rain in

the capital Dhaka on Tuesday swamped many districts, submerging roads in knee-deep to waist-high water, causing massive traffic jams as vehicles struggled through waterlogged streets. Crops worth 33.5 billion taka (\$282 million) have been damaged, affecting more than 1.4 million farmers, according to a preliminary assessment by the agriculture ministry. A 2015 analysis by the World Bank Institute estimated that 3.5 million people in the South Asian country were at risk of annual river flooding, which has only increased in recent years due to climate change. The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has said two million children are at risk from Bangladesh's most severe flooding in three decades. Unicef has launched an urgent appeal for \$35 million to provide essential supplies to those affected. Year after year, the lives of millions of children in Bang-



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi inaugurating a photo exhibition titled "Pakistan in Frames: A Visual Journey by Chinese Tour Operators" organised by Embassy. - DNA

11 dead as school bus hits students in eastern China

Six parents and five children killed in the incident while one remains in critical condition

Foreign Desk

HONG KONG: Eleven people were killed in China's eastern Shandong province on Tuesday after a school bus lost control at a busy pedestrian junction, broadcaster CCTV reported, with disturbing footage showing bodies lying on the road and trapped under the vehicle. Six parents and five children were killed in the incident while one remained in critical condition. More than two dozen were injured, CCTV said. State news agency, Xinhua reported that the students were waiting outside of their school in Tai'an city in Shandong when the bus slammed into them. Dongping Police Department said in a statement on WeChat that the vehicle picking up students lost control at a junction in Dongping County, Shandong on Tuesday morning. The accident is under investigation, it added. Numerous such incidents have been reported in the country recently including stabbing events targeting children in schools as well as school buses accidents.

This year in March, a car crashed into several people in Dezhou, a city in Shangdong. The careening car killed two people and significantly injured six people, as per state media reports. In the same month, another school bus suffered an accident when it collided with a dump truck in Nantong in the province of Jiangsu. The collision killed one person and eight others were injured, as per CNN. In 2023, a stabbing incident killed six and injured one outside a kindergarten during early morning hours. A similar stabbing occurred in 2022 in the eastern Jiangxi province of China outside a kindergarten, killing three and injuring six.

UAE pardons Bangladeshis jailed for protesting

DUBAI: The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pardoned 57 Bangladeshis who were sentenced to long prison terms for staging protests in the Gulf state against their own government. Three of the defendants received life sentences in July, while 53 others were jailed for 10 years and one for 11 years. They had been charged with gathering in a public place with the aim of inciting unrest. The protests were held against the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, in the weeks before she was ousted from power. Protests are effectively illegal in the UAE, where foreigners make up almost 90% of the population. Bangladeshis are the third largest expatriate group. Hundreds were killed during weeks of unrest in Bangladesh, which were sparked by student-led demonstrations against quotas on government jobs. - Agencies

Putin welcomed in Mongolia despite ICC warrant

"We call on the Mongolian authorities to comply with the mandatory international arrest warrant and transfer Putin to the International Criminal Court in the Hague," the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said on Telegram.

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has arrived in Mongolia, his first visit to an International Criminal Court (ICC) member since it issued a warrant for his arrest last year. He was welcomed by Mongolia's leader at a lavish ceremony in the Asian nation's capital Ulaanbaatar on Tuesday. The Russian leader is wanted by the court for the alleged illegal deportation of Ukrainian children. A spokesperson from the Kremlin said it was not concerned Mr Putin would be arrested during the visit.

Soldiers on horseback lined the capital's Genghis Khan Square as martial anthems were played by a live band to welcome the Russian leader, who met with the Mongolian president Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh. A small group of protesters gathered at the square on Monday afternoon, holding a sign demanding "Get War Criminal Putin out of here". Another protest is planned for midday Tuesday at Ulaanbaatar's Monument for the Politically Repressed, which com-

memorates those who suffered

under Mongolia's decades-long Soviet-backed communist regime. Other protestors were prevented from getting close to the Russian president on his arrival by security forces. Ahead of his visit, Ukraine had urged Mongolia to arrest Mr Putin."We call on the Mongolian authorities to comply with the mandatory international arrest warrant and transfer Putin to the International Criminal Court in the Hague," the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said on Telegram. The court alleged last year that the Russian president was responsible for war crimes, focusing on the unlawful deportation of children from Ukraine to Russia. It has also issued a warrant for the arrest of Russia's commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, for the same crimes. It alleges the crimes were committed in Ukraine from 24 February 2022, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion. Moscow has previously denied the allegations and said the warrants were "outrageous". ICC members are expected to detain suspects if an arrest warrant has been issued, but there is no enforcement mech-



anism. The Hague-based court last week said members had "an obligation" to take action. Mongolia has not publicly responded to Ukraine or the ICC's call. The former Soviet satellite state has maintained friendly relations with Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It has not

condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and declined to vote on the conflict at the United Nations. The landlocked country, which also borders China, also relies on Russia for gas and electricity. Russia has been in talks for years about building a pipeline to carry 50 billion cubic metres

(bcm) of natural gas a year from its Yamal region to China via Mongolia. The project, known as Power of Siberia 2, is part of a strategy to compensate for the drop in gas sales in Europe, following widespread boycott of Russian resources due to the invasion of Ukraine.



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Briefs

Deputy PM, US envoy discuss bilateral ties

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Tuesday called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the meeting, they discussed various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including the avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields, according to a foreign ministry's press release. They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.

TTAP, APP agree on increasing contacts

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Tehreek TahafuzAyen-i-Pakistan (TTAP), a coalition of six opposition parties, and the Awam Pakistan Party (APP) have agreed to increase their contacts.

Sources said Shahid Khaqan Abbasi met Mahmood Khan Achakzai in Islamabad and both leaders exchanged views on national situation. In the meeting, it was agreed to hold dialogue to steer the country out of crisis. Achakzai also invited Abbasi to join the TTAP.

ATC cancels Aliya, Sanam's arrest warrants

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore has canceled the arrest warrants of PTI leaders Aliya Hamza and SanamJaved in connection with the May 9 arson cases at the Shadman and Mughalpura police stations. During the hearing, which took place in jail, prominent PTI leaders including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Umar Sarfraz Cheema, and Dr Yasmin Rashid were present.

Dr Yasmin Rashid attempt ed to speak, but Judge Khalid Arshad advised her not to argue. The judge mentioned that he was relinquishing his charge and suggested that when the new judge assumes duty, they could discuss matters openly. "We have been in jail for the last 15 months, and four judges have been transferred. They want a Capitol Hill-like decision in the May 9 cases, but the cases aren't even being heard," Umar Sarfraz Cheema told the judge.

Bitter exchange between CJP, Naeem Bokhari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice
Qazi Faez Isa and senior
counsel Naeem Bokhari
had an exchange of words
during hearing of the case
related to commercial activities in Margalla Hills.

A three member bench

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Isa, heard the review petitions against the closure of Monal and other restaurants. During the hearing, Naeem Bokhari, the counsel for the restaurants' owners, argued that the decision to close the restaurants was not vol untary and that they were not given a fair chance of hearing. The CJP remarked that the order was passed with the consent of the restaurants' owners. Advocate Bokhari responded that there were only two options before the owners. He noted that the respondents were not properly heard while making the decision. He said the FIA had probed the case and found that the owners of restaurants were not doing any illegal activitv. The chief justice questioned the relevance of the

FIA investigation

PILING TO THE PI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet. – (News on Page-01) DNA

FLSmidth CEO eyes further investments in mining sector

Finance Minister discusses investment opportunities with FLSmidth's Global CEO



Khayam Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Mr. Mikko Keto, the Global CEO of FLSmidth, a leading global provider of engineering and equipment for the mining and cement industries. The meeting was also attended by H.E. Mr. Jakob Linulf, Ambassador of Denmark, alongside senior officials from FLSmidth and the Finance Division. During the meeting, the Finance Minister

emphasized Pakistan's strategic shift towards an export-led growth model aimed at ensuring sustainable economic development across various sectors. He also highlighted the government's ongoing efforts in the form of comprehensive reforms in the energy and power sectors, privatization of ernment's commitment to facilitating private sector-led growth, with the state focusing on creating a business-friendly environment. "We are determined to pursue our change agenda despite resistance from those favoring the status quo. The private sector must lead the way, and our role is to ensure maximum facilitation," he added. Mr. Mikko Keto, the Global CEO of FLSmidth, expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Government of Pakistan and shared insights into the company's growing presence in the country. He highlighted FLSmidth's increased investment in Pakistan's mining sector, which has led to enhanced local value addition, increased taxation contributions, and the creation of employment opportunities for locals. "We have a comprehensive understanding of the mining potential in Pakistan, and we are keen to explore further investment opportunities through local partnerships and collaborations," stated Mr. Keto. The Finance Minister assured the delegation of Pakistan's dedication to providing a favorable and conducive investment climate for foreign investors. The meeting concluded with both parties

state-owned enterprises, and restructuring

of the tax system and public expenditure.

Senator Aurangzeb underscored the gov-

expressing a strong commitment to strengthening the economic ties between Pakistan and Denmark, particularly in the mining and cement industries, which hold significant potential for growth and development.

12 migrants dead after vessel capsizes in English Channel

T least 12 people died after a boat carrying migrants capsized off the coast of northern France on Tuesday during an attempt to cross the English Channel, the French authorities said. It was the deadliest episode in the waterway this year as the French and British governments struggle to prevent attempts at the perilous crossing.

GéraldDarmanin, France's interior minister, said on the social media platform X that the vessel sank off the coast of Wimereux, in an area of the Pas-de-Calais region where several similar tragedies have occurred this year. Two people were still missing and several others were injured, Mr. Darmanin said.

"All government services are mobilized to find the missing and care for the victims," he said. The French maritime authorities said in a statement that dozens of people fell into the sea after their vessel encountered unspecified difficulties on Tuesday morning off the coast of Cap Gris-Nez, which at some points is less than 30 miles from the British coastline. – Agencies

'Capacity payments issue will be settled soon'

Ayaz Sadiq said it is not government to do business but to regulate it

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the issue of capacity payments was under discussion hoping that the issue would be settled soon. While addressing a ceremony of privatisation of the Discos, the NA speaker said that the Pakistani parliament in 2015 became the first green parliament in the world. He said that it was not the job of the government to do business but to regulate all such frameworks.

He noted that there is currently a global issue with energy prices and highlighted the difference in the dollar rate now compared to when the independent power producers (IPPs) were set up.

Govt employees can no longer use social media without permission

"Govt employees cannot express opinions or facts that affect reputation of govt," reads memorandum

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Establishment Division has barred the government employees from using social media without permission to prevent disclosure of official information and documents. In an office memorandum issued on Tuesday, the government has bound employees to abide by the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1964. According to the memorandum, a government servant will not be able to use any social media application without permission. "Government employees cannot express opinions or facts that affect the reputation of the government," read the memorandum, adding that employees are not allowed to

speak against government policy, decisions, national sovereignty and dignity. It added that public servants cannot express their opinion or rhetoric on social media without permission, while strict action will be taken against them for violation of the instructions.

The memorandum stated that a government servant cannot share official document and information with unrelated persons. It maintained that employees cannot speak to the media in a way that affects relations with other countries. "Civil servants have often been seen debating on social media. The guidelines are not intended to ban the positive use of social media," it read. The memorandum also urged institutions to monitor their social media platforms to remove objectionable content. "Government servants of all services, groups are bound to follow the instructions. Violation may lead to misconduct proceedings against the employees concerned," it maintained, directing federal secretaries, additional secretaries, heads of departments, chief secretaries execute the memorandum.

Russian missile strike kills 41 people and wounds 180

The strike appeared to be one of the deadliest carried out by Russian forces since the war began more than 900 days ago on February 24, 2022. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from Russia

News Desk

KYIV: Two Russian ballistic missiles struck an educational facility and hospital in central Ukraine's Poltava city, killing at least 41 people and injuring another 180, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says. Many people were still trapped under the rubble, Zelenskyy said in a video posted on his Telegram channel on Tuesday. The strike appeared to be one of the deadliest carried out by Russian forces since the war began more than 900 days ago on February 24, 2022. There was no immediate confirmation of the attack from Russia. "One of the buildings of the [Military] Institute of Communications was partially destroyed. People found themselves under the rubble. Many were saved," Zelenskyy said. Poltava is located about 350km (200 miles) southeast of the capital, Kyiv. The city is on the main highway and rail route between Kyiv and Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is close to the Russian border. "All necessary services are involved in the rescue operation," he said, adding that he had ordered "a full and

prompt investigation" into the attack. Zelenskyy pledged that Russia would "surely pay" for the attack. "We continue to urge everyone in the world who has the power to stop this terror," he said, calling for a prompt delivery of air defence systems and missiles to the war-torn country. "Long-range strikes that can protect us from Russian terror are needed now, not later. Every day of delay, unfortunately, means more lost lives," he added. Video Duration 3 minutes 58 seconds3:58 Earlier, Ukraine's Ministry of Defence said Poltava was "experiencing a terrible day". The missiles hit shortly after the air raid alert sounded, when many people were on their way to a bomb shelter, the ministry said in the statement. "Thanks to the coordinated work of rescuers and medics, it was possible to save 25 people, 11 of whom were retrieved from under the rubble. Currently, rescuers continue their work," it said. Poltava Governor Filip Pronin announced three days of mourning starting on Wednesday. "A great tragedy for Poltava region and entire Ukraine," Pronin wrote on Telegram. "The enemy certainly must answer for all [its] crimes against humanity."

