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No one can claim to be Muslim without unconditional faith in Khatam-e-Nabuwat: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan in a decision on a criminal review petition No.2/2024 stated that no one can claim to be Muslim until he/she has unconditional faith in 'Khatam-e-Nabuwat' of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). It said that the court has clearly stated in the verdict that the both group, which called themselves Ahmadi, are non-Muslims in accordance with Sharia, Constitution and the law. These groups have no right to spread their be-

lieves in Muslims at public or private forums. The court has clarified this point while accepting the appeal of the Punjab government, it said. A press release issued by the top court said that the decision in the criminal review petition was announced on July 24, and it was written in Urdu language so general public can easily understand it. It said that the top court has sought guidance from authentic educational institutions and except this, other individuals were also given opportunity to submit written arguments

during hearing. The apex court also viewed the proceeding of Parliamentary Committee and took guidelines from on record statements of committee members including Mufti Mehmood, Maulana Zafar Ahmed Ansari, Maulana Abdul Haq, Maulana Shah Ahmed Norani, Maulana Abdul Mustafa Azhari, Maulana Syed Muhammad Ali Rizvi, Maulana Saddar Al-Shaheed, Maulana Nematullah, Professor Ghafoor Ahmed and other scholars. Except this, the writings of Syed Abul Ala Modoodi and others schol-

ars are also viewed, which has been mentioned in the order. The press release said that the decision has also been in line with the previous judgments of Supreme Court and Federal Shariat Court (FSC). Despite this, the people who didn't appear before the court after provision of repeated opportunities have started baseless allegations and presenting their opinion as more strong over the stance of worthy scholars, which is inappropriate act, it said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM, Tajik envoy discuss regional connectivity projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir Friday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House. The prime minister welcomed the ambassador and wished him a successful tenure in Pakistan.

Expressing satisfaction at the MoUs/agreements signed during his visit, PM Shehbaz Sharif urged that timely implementation and follow up would help to strengthen bilateral ties even further. He renewed his invitation to President Rahmon to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience, while adding that Pakistan was looking forward to Tajikistan's participation in the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad in October this year.

The Tajik Ambassador briefed the prime minister on a number of proposals aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields including education, agriculture and defence as well as connectivity through land and air routes. While noting the proposals, the prime minister tasked relevant ministries to get in touch with the Tajik Ambassador for further discussions. Regional connectivity projects including CASA-1000, also came under discussion. The Tajik Ambassador thanked the prime minister for receiving him, conveyed greetings of his President to him and expressed his country's desire to further enhance its relations with Pakistan.

While fondly recalling his recent visit to Dushanbe earlier this month, the prime minister said he was touched by the warm welcome extended to him and hailed the friendly and productive discussions with President Emomali Rahmon during the visit.



Dr Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, Head of the Dawoodi Bohra community, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House, Karachi.

Ambreen Jan appointed Federal Secretary Information & Broadcasting

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Friday appointed Ambreen Jan, a senior officer of the Information Group, Grade 21, as the Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting. The Cabinet Secretariat's Establishment Division issued a notification confirming Ambreen Jan's appointment to the position of Secretary for Information and Broadcasting. Prior to this appointment, Ambreen Jan served as the Executive Director General of the External Publicity Wing within the



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Her appointment was made under Section 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, the notification added.

Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin calls on President

KARACHI (APP): Head of Dawoodi Bohra community Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin called on President Asif Ali Zardari here at Bilawal House on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, President Asif Ali Zardari said that the Bohra community was playing a significant role in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The President said that the Bohra community was actively participating in the economy and business sectors of Pakistan. President Zardari said the services of Bohra community in education, health and other sectors are commendable. The President also appreciated the services of Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin for Pakistan in the field of social services.

Sardar Avaz Sadiq says Proactive, inclusive parliament, pivotal for strengthening democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Avaz Sadiq on Friday said that constitutional and parliamentary supremacy was key to lead country on the path of development and prosperity. He also said that bridging the gap between parliament and masses would render parliament stronger and more effective. "Educated and well-

nificance of proactive and effective parliament, he deliberated upon initiatives undertaken during his previous tenure as Speaker National Assembly. He said that there was no strategy document of National Assembly and All Parties Committee was formulated to prepare a Strategic Plan. As a result, 1st Strategic Plan 2014-2018 for the sus-



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf addressing the Commissioning Ceremony of Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN at Constanta Port, Romania.

CPPA seeks Rs 2.63 per unit increase in tariff for June

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has sought Rs 2.63 per unit increase in power tariff for June under monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism. In a petition submitted to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on behalf of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs), the CPPA-G maintained the actual cost of electricity remained Rs 9.77 per unit against reference fuel charges of Rs 7.14 per unit for the month of June. A total of 13,459 GWh electricity worth Rs 119,704 million was generated during the said period while net 13,071 GWh worth Rs 127,712 million was delivered to DISCOs.

Ji announces sit-ins at three locations in Islamabad, Rawalpindi amid crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced sit-ins at three locations in Islamabad and Rawalpindi following the arrest of its workers and road blockages at D-Chowk. JI workers removed containers at Faizabad and opened the route, allowing a convoy to enter Rawalpindi and set up at Liaquat Bagh. JI's central spokesperson, Qaiser Sharif, stated that due to the arrests and barriers at D-Chowk, JI decided to hold sit-ins at three locations. "We will hold sit-ins at Murree Road in Rawalpindi, Zero Point, and Chungi No. 26," he said. The sit-in at Murree Road will be led by Amirul Azeem, Deputy Amir Dr Osama Razi, along with provincial and district leadership. JI chief Hafiz Naecumur Rehman will lead the sit-in at Zero Point, with

Deputy Amir Liaquat Baloch, Mian Muhammad Aslam, and other provincial and Islamabad leaders joining. The third sit-in at Chungi No. 26 will be led by Deputy Amir Dr Attaur Rehman, Professor Muhammad Ibrahim, and provincial leaders. These sit-ins will continue until their demands, including the shutdown of IPPs and relief from tax burdens on the salaried class, are met. Qaiser Sharif declared, "Under the direction of JI leader Hafiz Naecumur, wherever there is an obstacle, participants will hold a sit-in. Jamaat-e-Islami will now hold multiple sit-ins." He claimed that the police had arrested 1,150 of their workers and subjected dozens to violence. "Seeing the large public turnout at the sit-ins, the government is panicking and resorting to fascism," he added.

Armed Forces pay glowing tribute to Captain Sarwar Shaheed

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: Armed Forces of Pakistan, CJS&S & Services Chiefs pay homage to Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his 76th Shahadat Anniversary today. His courage, steadfast determination and resilience will never be forgotten. The first recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, Captain Muhammad Sarwar who embraced Shahadat in 1948 at Tilpatra (Azad Kashmir), showed unwavering fortitude and heroism in defence of the motherland.



The anniversary of Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed martyrdom reminds us of the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan. Let us remember these brave sons of the soil who sacrificed their lives to protect our motherland.

President approves appointment of two ad hoc judges to SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the appointment of retired Justices Sardar Tariq Masood and Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal as ad hoc judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan for a one year term. Both judges have previously served on the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Their appointment is made under Article 182 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



Emphasizing the significance of proactive and effective parliament, he deliberated upon initiatives undertaken during his previous tenure as Speaker National Assembly. He said that there was no strategy document of National Assembly and All Parties Committee was formulated to prepare a Strategic Plan. As a result, 1st Strategic Plan 2014-2018 for the sus-

Govt ready to negotiate with JI for country's dev, prosperity: Tarar

Maintaining peace, law & order provincial govt's responsibility: Amir Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Friday announced the government's readiness to negotiate with the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on their demand in a bid to end their sit-in causing inconvenience to the general public. "We are ready to talk for peace, security and development of the country which is the main agenda of our government," the minister said while addressing a news conference along with Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Amir Muqam.



The minister said JI Chief Hafiz Naecumur Rehman was a seasoned and far-sighted leader whose guidance would be instrumental for the government to address the existing issues within the existing framework. He said the government was ready to form a three-member committee which would comprise of him, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Amir Muqam and PML-N Senior Leader Tariq Fazal. Tarar called upon the JI leadership to sit and guide the government in resolving the issues instead of doing the "politics of agitation".

The JI was given permission only to stage their sit-in at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi, he said, urging them to use only the dedicated place for the purpose. There was no need to obstructing a public servant in discharge of his/her duty and creating hurdles for the people, he said, regretting one or the other group had made it a routine to swarm the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad that caused traffic issues for the people including pa-

tients and professionals. The minister urged the JI leadership to have a faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had been working 20 hours a day to implement the agenda of home grown economic reforms that included privatization of loss making entities, digitization of the Federal Board of Revenue for documentation of non-documented economy, addition of new filers in the tax net and other initiatives.

He said it was top priority of the government to achieve home grown economic reforms that had started providing fiscal space to offer subsidy to the people in electricity bills. He said the privatization of the FBR was underway to plug loopholes in system to stop billions of rupee leakage and add new filers into the tax net. "We are moving forward rapidly on economic reforms to bring positive changes in people's life," he added. The minister said PM Shehbaz Sharif led the government during the tenure of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and took concrete measures to stabilize the rupee, reduce inflation and on top of that successfully averted a default for the country.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JI) Hafiz Naecumur Rehman addressing during Jamaat-e-Islami demonstration against the country's rising inflation, at Islamabad Expressway in the Federal Capital.

Kundi lauds Zardari's contributions to democracy, political harmony

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a special message marking the birthday of President Asif Ali Zardari, on Friday lauded his contributions to democracy and political harmony in the country. Faisal Karim Kundi described Asif Ali Zardari as a towering figure in the realm of democratic governance and political reconciliation, noting his significant role after the martyrdom of Benazir

Bhutto. He emphasized that Asif Zardari remains a prominent and challenging figure for those opposed to democracy and Pakistan's stability. According to Governor Faisal Kundi, Zardari's life has been characterized by resilience in the face of difficulties and a steadfast commitment to the stability of democracy and Pakistan. He praised Asif Ali Zardari for setting a high standard by transferring

powers to the provinces instead of concentrating them, showcasing his dedication to decentralization. The Governor highlighted Zardari's unique role in promoting Pakistan's stability, fostering regional trade, and upholding the Constitution. Governor Kundi's message underscores Zardari's influential and enduring impact on Pakistan's political landscape.

Dr Kalyan Singh says: Collective efforts vital to strengthen Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): The first Pakistani Sikh PhD scholar Professor Dr Kalyan Singh Kalyan said on Friday that it was necessary for all Pakistanis to play their due role in the development and prosperity of the country. While talking to APP here he said, "Pakistan is my pride and I am happy that I am a Pakistani Sikh." He further said, "I am Pakistani by choice as in 1947, the majority of Sikh families migrated to India, but our ancestors stayed here." He said that Government College University is a historical and great educational institution, where famous people of the Sikh community studied,

including Prof. Sahib Singh, Mir Singh and others. Sardar Dr. Kalyan Singh said that he had developed a booklet which made the Punjabi Gurmukhi script easy for students to read and learn. This manual was used in all educational institutions where Punjabi is taught, he added. Sardar Kalyan Singh Kalyan is the first Sikh professor in Pakistan who is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Punjabi at Government College University Lahore. Sardar Dr Kalyan Singh is also an author and researcher of several books while his research on Punjabi script is part of the syllabus.

Two died as a mud house collapsed

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two people have died as a mud house collapsed late last night on Thursday in the Misrial Road area. A family was sleeping when the mud roof of the house collapsed, resulting in two people buried under debris. According to emergency service, Rescue 1122 teams recovered two bodies which were shifted to the hospital after necessary action. The deceased were identified as Sajid 27, and his 7 years old daughter Malaika. The locals informed that the house was an old-fashioned construction in which mud was used. The single-story building's roof was too weak to hold any extra weight, they said.



LAHORE: Provincial Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir addressing the participants of 27th CEOs and MSs conference.

Apex committee approved demands keeping in view aspirations of people: CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Friday said that all the demands presented by Bannu Aman Committee (BAC) have been approved by Provincial Apex Committee. He was addressing a public gathering in district Bannu. He said that Apex Committee in its meeting thoroughly discussed each and every point of the peace committee and accepted all the demands as per aspirations of the people. The Chief Minister thanked the people and their leaders for co-

Couple killed as bus hits a motorbike in Chichawatni

ISLAMABAD (APP): A speeding bus crushed a man and his wife to death when they were on their way to market by a motorbike at Kassarwal by pass road in Chichawatni on Friday afternoon. According to details, Police sources informed that the bus was traveling when it lost control and hit a motorcycle coming from opposite side, in a result a couple on bike died on the spot, a private news channel reported. A police official said according to some passengers, the bus driver lost control on the vehicle which led to the incident. The police took the driver into custody and shifted bodies to hospital for further morgue for autopsy.

Rana announces ambitious matric, Inter-tech courses program for 300 schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): "In a major boost to the education sector in Punjab, Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Friday unveiled a groundbreaking initiative, announcing the launch of an ambitious Matric, Inter-Tech project to revolutionize the learning experience for students in 300 public schools across the province which will enable them hands-on experience and skill-building in their chosen fields. Talking to a Private news channel, he said the Matric, Inter-Tech project aims to address the long-standing issue of students graduating with theoretical knowledge but lacking the practical skills demanded by employers. To achieve this, the courses will be carefully crafted to integrate theoretical concepts with hands-on training, ensuring students are job-ready upon graduation, he mentioned. "Responding to a question, Provincial Minister for Education clarified that the government does not plan to build new school buildings for the Matric, Inter-Tech project, adding, instead, the existing infrastructure will be optimized by merging 600 to 700 school buildings, creating larger.



PESHAWAR: Members of Salaried Class Alliance are holding protest demonstration against high taxes on salaried class, at Peshawar press club.

Karachi loses protected mangroves for housing schemes, development projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Amidst Karachi's growing concrete jungle, mangrove forests which protect the city's coastline against cyclones, strong winds, coastal flooding or other climate change induced disasters, face serious threat of destruction. A recent report by WWF-Pakistan has identified several locations along the Karachi coast where significant tracts of mangroves have been cleared for housing schemes and commercial and industrial projects. The report also highlighted areas where mangrove lands are still under threat of massive deforestation. It proposed that to stop mangrove destruction along the coastline of Karachi, it is essential to implement strict enforcement of laws and encourage reforestation and natural regeneration programmes. It warned that if preventive measures are not taken in time, existing mangrove areas could potentially be removed or destroyed in the near future. Using Earth Observation Satellites, Remote Sensing and GIS tools, geospatial experts at the Richard Garstang Conservation Lab at WWF-Pakistan recorded data on mangrove cover in Karachi over the last two decades. They found that land reclamation and cutting of mangroves for housing schemes and development projects have resulted in the rapid decline of mangrove cover in Karachi. Based on this report, WWF-Pakistan emphasized the need to prevent the further destruction of mangroves along Karachi's coastline through better planning, effective implementation strategies, and coordinated actions by relevant organizations and departments. The Sindh Forest Department (SFD) has

been making significant progress in the conservation and management of the mangrove forests in the province. The department planted mangroves on 55,555 hectares along the Sindh coastline, mainly in the Indus Delta, through their ambitious projects between 2020 and 2024. They also initiated various mangrove reforestation and management programmes in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Pakistan (IUCN). As a result of these efforts, Pakistan's mangrove forest cover has increased from 1,338.16 km² in 2016 to 1,573.57 km² in 2020 [REDD+; Subnational GHG Inventory 2022]. Despite these efforts by the department and mangrove plantation drives by conservation organizations, Pakistan Navy and local communities dwelling in the coastal belt, mangroves are facing significant threats in Karachi. According to the SFD, approximately 200 hectares of mangrove forests along Karachi's coastline were lost between 2010 and 2022. This concerning trend is predominantly driven by land grabbing, residential schemes and development projects.



LAHORE: A delegation of National Women Journalists Forum meeting with Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan.

International News

Trump discusses US wiping Iran 'off the face of the Earth'

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Thursday invoked the annihilation of US adversary Iran in a social media post reminiscent of his most incendiary outbursts while in the White House. "If they do 'assassinate' President Trump, which is always a possibility, I hope that America obliterates Iran, wipes it off the face of the Earth — If that does not happen, American Leaders will be considered 'gutless cowards!' he wrote on his social media platform, Truth Social. Trump made the remarks alongside a brief video of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bringing up alleged Iranian plots against Trump in his address to the US Congress on Wednesday. US media reported last week that the US Secret Service had increased security for Trump weeks ago after authorities learned of an Iranian plot to kill him, although it was not linked to the recent attempt on his life in which a 20-year-old American fired shots during a campaign rally. CNN reported that US authorities received intelligence from a "human source" on a plan by Tehran targeting the former president, causing protection to be boosted for Trump. Other US outlets also reported the plot. But it was not connected to the campaign shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, in which gunman Thomas Matthew Crooks opened fire, lightly wounding Trump and killing a rally attendee, they said. Relations between Washington and Iran have long been strained and reached a breaking point as Tehran sought revenge for the 2020 killing of Revolutionary Guard commander Qasem Soleimani, ordered by Trump when he was president. The US National Security Council said it had been "tracking Iranian threats against former Trump administration officials for years."

France's high-speed railway hit by 'sabotage' during Olympics

PARIS: France's high-speed rail network was hit by "malicious acts" including arson attacks that have disrupted the transport system, train operator SNCF said on Friday, hours before the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics. A source close to the investigation told AFP that the attacks were coordinated acts of "sabotage". "This is a massive attack on a large scale to paralyse the TGV network," SNCF told AFP, adding that many routes will have to be cancelled. "SNCF was the victim of several simultaneous malicious acts overnight," the national train operator said, adding that the attacks affected its Atlantic, northern and eastern lines. "Arson attacks were started to damage our facilities," it said, adding that traffic on the affected lines was "heavily disrupted" and the situation would last through the weekend as repairs are conducted. Trains were being diverted to different tracks "but we will have to cancel a large number of them", the statement said. The southeastern line was not affected as "a malicious act was foiled". SNCF urged passengers to postpone their trips and stay away from train stations. French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said that security forces are hunting the suspects behind the arson attacks that hobbled the country's high-speed rail network. "Our intelligence services and law enforcement are mobilised to find and punish the perpetrators of these criminal acts."



Former US President and 2024 Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Humanity suffering from heat epidemic: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS: Humanity is suffering from an "extreme heat epidemic," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday, calling for action to limit the impacts of heat waves intensified by climate change. "Billions of people are facing an extreme heat epidemic — wilting under increasingly deadly heat waves, with temperatures topping 50 degrees Celsius around the world," he said. "That's 122 degrees Fahrenheit. And half-way to boiling." "Today, our focus is on the impact of extreme heat. But let's not forget that there are many other devastating symptoms of the climate crisis: evermore fierce hurricanes, floods, droughts, wildfires. Rising sea levels. And the list goes on," he said.

UN calls for probe into crackdown in Bangladesh

GENEVA: The UN rights chief called on Thursday on Bangladesh to urgently disclose the details of last week's crackdown on protests amid accounts of "horrific violence", calling for an impartial, independent and transparent investigation. "We understand that many people were subjected to violent attacks by groups reportedly affiliated with the government, and no effort was made to protect them," Volker Turk said in a statement. Last week's violence killed at least 193 people including several police officers, according to the source count of victims reported by police and hospitals, in one of the biggest upheavals of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year tenure. The unrest was sparked by protests against a public jobs quota scheme that critics say gives preference to allies of Hasina's ruling party.

Netanyahu, Biden meet for tense ceasefire talks

WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday he was ready to work with Joe Biden for the rest of his presidency, as the two leaders met for the first time at the White House for talks on a Gaza ceasefire. "I want to thank you for the 50 years of public service and 50 years of support for the state of Israel," Netanyahu said after they shook hands in the historic setting of the Oval Office. "And I look forward to discussing with you today and working with you in the months ahead." Biden stunned the world on Sunday when he announced that he was bowing out of the US presidential election, with Vice President Kamala Harris now set to be the Democratic Party's candidate. Relations between Biden and Netanyahu are tense over Israel's conduct in their campaign. They have met just three times during his presidency, once in September last year in New York, and then when Biden travelled to Israel after the attacks and hugged Netanyahu at the airport tarmac at Tel Aviv. The meetings come after Netanyahu vowed "total victory" against Hamas in a fiery speech Wednesday to the US Congress. The White House was surrounded by metal barriers and a heavy police presence, after rowdy protests broke out near the Capitol following Netanyahu's speech. Harris on Thursday condemned the "despicable" and "unpatriotic" burning of an American flag by protesters, after attempts by Donald Trump's Republicans to paint Democrats as pro-Hamas.

US vice president says she 'will not be silent' in face of Gaza suffering

WASHINGTON: US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Thursday that she expressed concern about the situation in the Gaza Strip to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting at the White House. "I made clear my serious concern about the dire humanitarian situation there, with over 2 million people facing high levels of food insecurity and half a million people facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity," Harris told reporters after the closed-door meeting with Netanyahu. The meeting came a day after Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the US Congress, where he claimed that the conflict in Gaza has "one of the lowest ratios of combatants to non-combatant casualties in the history of urban warfare". Harris said that what has happened in Gaza over the past nine months was "devastating". "The images of dead children and desperate, hungry people fleeing for safety, sometimes displaced for the second, third, or fourth time. "We cannot look away in the face of these tragedies. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering. And I will not be silent," she added. Earlier, Netanyahu met with US President Joe Biden, who ended his presidential re-election campaign on Sunday and endorsed Harris to replace him as the Democratic presidential candidate. With her remarks, Harris reflected a major shift in Gaza policy, while urging Netanyahu to reach a ceasefire in the besieged enclave.

US, Brazil to work together on climate partnership, says Yellen

RIO DE JANEIRO: The US and Brazilian governments announced a climate partnership agenda on Friday, seeking to deepen ties on an issue they see as key but treated as secondary by opposition in both countries. Speaking on the sidelines of a G20 finance leaders meeting in Rio de Janeiro, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that "advancing work on climate and on nature."

Fireworks factory blasts set off alert in Sofia

SOFIA (INP): Fire triggered a series of explosions at a fireworks factory that set off a major alert in the Sofia region on Thursday. An interior ministry official told BNT public television that two people had been injured in the explosions at Elin Pelin on the outskirts of the Bulgarian capital. Interior Minister Kalin Stoyanov said two or three more workers were reported to have been in the pyrotechnics depots at the time of the blasts.

