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فرمانرسول

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

PM Shehbaz to be in jeopardy in case of election delay: Aitzaz Ahsan

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Aitzaz Ahsan on Saturday said if Prime MInister Shehbaz Sharif did not allow election in Punjab on May 14, he would stand disqualified. Addressing a round table conference of lawyers and jurists, he said election in Punjab would be held.... (Details on Page 8)



Azam Tarar says legislation is prerogative of parliament

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Saturday that rliament would not give its right to any other institution. Addressing at the Punjab Bar Council, he said efforts to

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 25, Sunday, April 16, 2023



🔛 www.dailyspokesman.net



🔰 @daily spokesman 🕂

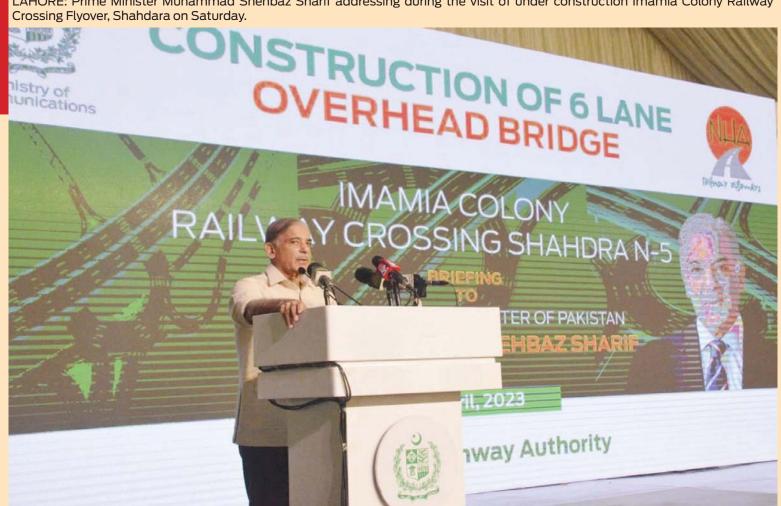


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Construction of Flyover

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing during the visit of under construction Imamia Colony Railway



PM asks nation to decide its future course sans foreign debts

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that there existed economic challenges but the nation would have to decide whether they would live on foreign debts or to stand on its feet by carving a niche among the comity of nations with honesty, dedication and hard work.

The prime minister expressed the optimism that despite different challenges. Pakistan would be soon out of all difficulties

If the chronic issue of load shedding, the scourge of terrorism could end, free medicines could be provided to the poor, road infrastructure could be laid, then surely, the country could move on the path of progress and prosperity,

The prime minister was addressing a ceremony after reviewing the construction work on six-lane overhead bridge of Imamia Colony railways crossing Shahdra N-5.

He said that those nations always achieved milestones that took lead with definite decisions over their future.

The country was not created to move on debts and act like beggar because their forefathers and different generations had given sacrifices for the mother-

The prime minister referred to the terms of International Monetary Fund (IMF) for seeking loan agreement and said that they did

every effort to implement them. Even, they sought bilateral financial support from the friendly nations including China that realized their problems and provided a rollover of \$2 billion loan besides, returning back previous debt amount paid back by Pakistan.

The prime minister also expressed his gratitude to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The UAE had committed a

loan of \$3 billion. He lauded the efforts of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and the chief of army staff for making efforts in

this regard. The ceremony was attended by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, parliamentarians, chief secretary, National Highway

Authority chairman and relevant

The prime minister said that inflation and price hike, no doubt, had made the lives of ordinary people difficult, but the coalition government was cognizant of these

He urged the nation to work hard by day and night and transform the country into the visions of Quaid and Allama Iqbal.

The prime minister cited the pace of development and uplift projects across Punjab province during Nawaz Sharif' tenure, regretting that during the last four years of PTI's tenure, brakes were applied, ending a number of public welfare-oriented projects, besides putting other vital projects into the cold storage.

Recounting the public welfare projects initiated during Nawaz Sharif's tenure in the province, he said, some of them included the greater Iqbal park, metro bus service, cricket ground, power projects to overcome 20 hours load shedding which was ended in 2018 and that was a huge achieve-

But during 2018, he said through 'a fraud and fake election', polling results were rigged and the

results were changed. With such move, the development pace was snatched which also saw a height of corruption in the province during PTI's government. Whereas, the PML-N government had strived to eliminate the curse during its terms, he added.

Army assures to pursue NSC goals to turn tide against terrorism



跨 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The 257th Corps Commanders' Conference held here at GHQ, chaired by Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, on Saturday expressed its assurance to pursue the goals set by the National Security Committee (NSC) to turn the tide against terrorism through the coordinated application of all elements of

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the forum reviewed domestic and regional environment, including external and internal security challenges confronted by Pakistan.

The forum affirmed that military leadership is cogni-

to shoulder its constitutionally mandated responsibilities with support of the resilient people of Pakistan.

The forum reiterated the commitment of the armed forces to fully support national responses against internal and external threats.

It highlighted that while security forces are undertaking intelligence based operations in areas along the western border, there was a need to adopt a whole of the nation and whole of the government approach to eradicate the menace of terrorism on long

This focused Counter Terrorism campaign against terrorists as approved by the Government, through whole of the system approach will lead towards eradicating permissive zant of the full spectrum of factors of terrorism, extremism the challenges and it resolves and instability in the country.

Eight terrorists killed, two soldiers martyred in South Waziristan IBO

Adam Khan Wazir rity forces and killing of inno-

WANA: According to ISPR Security Forces conducted

an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Zarmilan, Lower South Waziristan District. During the conduct

of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorist's location. Resultantly, 8 x terrorists were sent to hell.

Weapons and

ered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists terrorism and such sacrifices remained actively involved in terrorist activities against secu-

cent citizens.

However, during intense exchange of fire, Lance Naik

> Shoaib Ali (age 25 years, resident of Parachinar, District Kurram) and Sepov Rafi Ullah (age 22 years, resident of District Lakki having Marwat)

gallantly, fought embraced shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried

out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Security forces of ammunition was also recov- Pakistan remain determined to eliminate the menace of

of our brave soldiers further

strengthen our resolve.

JI Amir calls on PM



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Siraj ul Haq along with a three-member delegation on Saturday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, the current political situation in the country and the judicial ent during the meeting.

crisis were discussed, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The leaders agreed that issues should be resolved with collective wisdom. Minister for Economic

Affairs Division Sardar Ayaz Sadig and Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique were also pres-

Jawad Sohrab briefs PM on assigned tasks

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday here held a meeting with his Special Assistant Jawad Sohr-

The Special Assistant

detail about the completion of the tasks assigned to him.

He lauded the prime minister for his steps taken for the restoration of the economy of

Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction at the briefing

Saqib Nisar responds to PMShehbaz Sharif's allegations



LAHORE: The former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar responded to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's allegations.

As per details, the former chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar said that he never halted or banned the projects start by the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government.

The allegations that the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made are not true but it just for their political gains, he added.

The former CJP said that PM Shehbaz Sharif should not drag judiciary in poli-

Earlier, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that the former chief justice Saqib Nisar had banned the projects started by the PML-N government.

PTI's Ali Zaidi arrested in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh police on Saturday arrested the president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh chapter Ali Zaidi from PTI's Sindh house.

According to details, the PTI senior leader Firdous Shamim Naqvi confirmed that the Sindh police arrested Ali Zaidi - the president of PTI Sindh - from the party's Sindh house on Saturday evening.

Firdous Shamim Naqvi alleged that the Sindh police vandalized PTI's Sindh House prior to the arrest ing the PTI leader Ali Zaidi, while of Ali Zaidi, while the police officials did not show any legal search warrant police station was spotted during Ali or First Information Report (FIR) Zaidi's arrest.



before taking Ali Zaidi into custody. He said that the raiding party not only broke the cell phones of the party workers who were trying to record the arrest but also took some devices with them.

However, South Zone Police Karachi - in a statement - denied arrestthe police mobile of Ibrahim Hyderi

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan Strongly condemned the arrest of Ali Zaidi - the party's president Sindh Chapter – in a tweet, while alleging that the arrest of Ali Zaidi is a part of the London [Nawaz Sharif's plan].

He wrote in a tweet that over 3000 PTI workers were arrested, abducted, and terrorised, while PTI senior leaders Ali Amin and Ali Zaidi were abducted.

The former prime minister alleged that a new plan is underway for more illegal police action in Zaman Park after 27 Ramadan or over Eid to terrorize and weaken PTI for the upcoming election.

Imran Khan announces peaceful protests after Eidul Fitr

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has announced to stage peaceful protests after Eidul

While addressing PTI workers and supporters, Imran Khan said that PTI will stage a series of protests after

leaders and workers after April 27. He added that the caretaker

planned to start crackdowns on PTI

government has not yet arrested a protecting the nation. single person associated with the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N). Khan said that tion of fresh elections. Imran Khan 3,000 PTI workers were arrested by the government.

The PTI chief said that they will Eidul Fitr. He alleged that the rulers not remain silent on the atrocities. He

appealed to the nation to start preparations for peaceful protests after Eid. He asked the rulers to take steps for He reiterated that the economic

crisis will not end until the organisasaid that the Supreme Court (SC) is protecting democracy in the country and the nation will have to back the top court and the Constitution.

Religious Minister Abdul $Shakoor\, dies\, in$ road accident



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Abdul Shakoor on Saturday evening died in a road accident when a vehicle rammed into his car near Secretariat Chowk, police said.

Shakoor was heading towards Secretariat Chowk from Marriott near Iftar timings when a Hilux Revo carrying five men hit his car. Maulana Abdul Shakoor

The Police spokesper-

son said Maulana Abdul

was shifted to Polyclinic Hospital but he could not survive and succumbed to his injuries. Senior police officers rushed to the scene while the

vehicle and occupants have

been taken into police custo-

dy. Further investigation is

underway, police added.

ab Malik. briefed the prime minister in given by Jawad Sohrab.

Pakistan.

The Spokesman

Ruined car

ISLAMABAD: A view of the ruined car of Federal Minister of Religious Affairs Mufti Abdul Shakoor as he died in road acci-



G-20 meeting: India attempting to dupe world with fake normalcy in IIOJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : India has recently released a list of upcoming Group 20 (G-20) meetings it will host in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as this year's president of the group in an attempt to fake normalcy.

"However, by other measures, little has changed. In the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley, public anger with New Delhi remains rife. The region remains heavily militarized, with continuing crackdowns on the right to protest and freedom of speech," writes Michael Kugelman, in Foreign Policy's weekly South Asia Brief.

attempting to dupe world with their safety, said that India's



fake normalcy in IIOJK Kugelman is a writer and was just an "attempt to fake a director of the South Asia normalcy." Institute at the Wilson Center

in Washington. He said that one Kashmiri contact, who requested G-20 meeting: India anonymity out of concern for "drastically eroded" since 2019, with electoral uncertainty.

Press restrictions in Indian-administered Kashmir were

G-20 meeting in Srinagar

especially draconian.

miri journalist.

G-20 meeting: India attempting to dupe world with fake normalcy in IIOJK

"Newspapers are reduced to 'extensions of the government's PR department," another said.

A source confirmed that last Thursday marked the beginning of the trial of journalist Fahad Shah, editor of the Kashmir Walla and a previous Foreign Policy contributor.

Shah was arrested on terrorism charges in February 2022 for publishing what police described as "anti-national" material and faced potential

life imprisonment if convicted. Kugelman further said that The space for media has Kashmiris were also grappling

had elections since 2014.

G-20 meeting: India attempting to dupe world with fake normalcy in IIOJK

The G-20 meeting will mark the first international event in the disputed region since August 2019, when India revoked IIOJK's special autonomous status, he added.

The writer further opined that contrary to the facts, New Delhi also probably wanted to signal that IIOJK was stable, peaceful, and ready to engage with the world after the 2019 decision.

He further regretted lack of world's focus on the serious issues in IIOJK by saying "When it does, it's increasingly seen through a lens of oppor-

FM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to stable, peaceful Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

The foreign minister held a telephonic conversation with Acting Afghan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi.

They discussed a range of issues



of mutual concern, Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on her Twit-

NA Speaker & Deputy Speaker expressed deep sorrow of demise Mufti Molana Abdul Shakoor

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf expressed deep sorrow and grief over the sudden demise of Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Molana Abdul Shakoor in a tragic traffic accident in Islamabad tonight. He said, "Mufti Molana Abdul Shakoor was a learned and well versed religious scholar whose services for preaching true teaching of Islam would remain ever-alive.'

He said "we share the grief and sorrow of millions of Molana Abdul Shakoor's followers" Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf prayed for depart- and also prayed for granting solace ed soul and said," Molana Abdul to bereaved family members.

Shakoor' sudden death in a tragic accident during the sacred month of Ramadan indicate his closeness to Allah and His prophet (peace be upon him). He prayed for grant of patience to bereaved family.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani also said that his party has lost a great religious leader and sudden demise of Molana Abdul Shakoor has left an unbridgeable void. He also said that Molana Abdul Shakoor was his mentor as he was very near to heart of millions of Muslim across the world. He prayed for departed soul

Germany to Switch off Its Last Three **Nuclear Reactors**

News Desk

off its last three nuclear reactors on as it seeks to wean itself off fossil fuels and manage an energy crisis caused in Ukraine. by the war in Ukraine.

its nuclear age.

Europe's largest economy has been looking to leave behind nucle- Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which ar power since 2002, but the phase- put an end to cheap gas imports, and out was accelerated by former chan- the need to quickly cut emissions has cellor Angela Merkel in 2011 after upped calls in Germany to delay the

The exit decision was popular in ISLAMABAD: Germany will switch a country with a powerful anti-nuclear movement, stoked by linger-Saturday, exiting atomic power even ing fears of Cold War conflict and atomic disasters such as Chernobyl

"The risks of nuclear power are While many Western countries are ultimately unmanageable," said upping their investments in atom- Environment Minister Steffi Lemke. ic energy to reduce their emissions, who this week made a pilgrimage to Germany is bringing an early end to the ill-fated Japanese plant ahead of a G7 meeting in the country.

But the challenge caused by the Fukushima nuclear disaster in withdrawal from nuclear power.

Petrol soars to Rs282 per litre as govt hikes fuel prices

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Saturday night increased the prices of petrol by Rs10 per litre for the next 15 days, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced.

In a televised address, the finance behind a hike in the price of petroleum products was the "increase in petroleum prices in the international market and exchange rate vari-

As a result, price of petrol has been increased to Rs282 per litre, while high-speed diesel (HSD) and light diesel oil rates will remain Rs13 per litre.

stable at Rs293 per litre and Rs174.68 per litre, respectively.

Meanwhile, the government increased the price of kerosene oil by Rs5.78 per litre, moving it from Rs180.28 per litre to Rs186.07 per

Earlier on March 31, Finance minister said that the rationale Minister Ishaq Dar announced that the prices of petrol and diesel will remain unchanged for the next 15 days. The federal government decided to maintain the petroleum products prices for the next 15 days.

On March 15, the government increased the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs5 and

Punjab Cabinet expresses resolve to fight terrorism

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The thirteenth meeting of the Punjab Cabinet, chaired by Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, was held in Lahore on Saturday.

The Cabinet approved entering into an agreement with the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan regarding cooperation in the computerization of land records. Punjab Cabinet also accorded approval to new schemes of Children's Hospital in Annual Development Program 2022-23.

The Inspector General Police Punjab Usman Anwar briefed the cabinet about the ongoing operation against terrorists and criminals in the



During the meeting, the Cabinet expressed resolve to bring the ongoing operation to a logical end and approved the release of funds meeting expresses of the operation.

Addressing the meeting, the chief minister said the provincial ministers, administrative and police officers and staff are working day and night to make the free flour package a success.

PM Shehbaz to be in jeopardy in case of election delay: Aitzaz Ahsan

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Aitzaz Ahsan on Saturday said if Prime MInister Shehbaz Sharif did not allow election in Puniab on May 14, he would stand disqualified.

Addressing a round table conference of lawyers and jurists, he said election in Punjab would be held on May 14 at every cost adding that anyone violating the Supreme Court's (SC) order, directing the elections in Punjab on May 14, would be disqualified.

He went on to say that the country was witnessing a historic conflict between the parliament and the judiciary adding that political parties were now. "We need to think whether the constitution reigns supreme or not,"



"The constitution binds elections within 90 days [of the dissolution of assemblies," he said. He added that our country was reeling under debt.

Mr Ahsan said that the verdict issued by the apex court was final at daggers drawn to each other right adding that PM Shehbaz and his brother Nawaz Sharif said they rejected the bench hearing elections' case.

"I have been saying since day one that the court's order needs to be followed." he added. Ealier, after the National Assem-

the writer said, quoting a Kash- Jammu and Kashmir hasn't

bly's standing committee rejected the bill seeking release of Rs21 billion in funds for elections, a three-member SC bench directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to immediately release Rs21 billion to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for election in Punjab.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar tabled the bill, seeking release of election funds, in the assembly as SC had ordered the federal government to release funds for elections until April 10 alongside ordering the ECP to hold elections in Punjab on May 14. The court subsequently ordered the electoral watchdog to present a report on the provision of funds on April 11.

The ECP, on April 11, apprised the SC in a report that the government had not provided funds to the commission for holding elections in Punjab. According to the Election Commission, the government had not yet provided Rs21 billion despite SC's order and the Punjab caretaker government had agreed to provide only 75000 personnel for security. "There is a shortage of three lakh security personnel for the

elections in Punjab," the ECP noted. Upon this, the court issued notices to top officials including Attorney General Manssor Awan, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad, Secretary of the Finance department, and Secretary of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over failing to provide funds for upcoming Punjab

Naanbais announces strike as flour prices surge

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Following an increase in the prices of flour, the naanbais across Pakistan announced to observe a shutter-down strike on May 5.

In a statement, Naanbais Association president Shafiq Qureshi said that the rates of flour and fine flour increased rapidly in a month. The association president announced to observe a shutter down strike on May 05, if the government failed to decrease the price of flour.

He pointed out that the flour sack which used to cost Rs 3,000, is now available at Rs 13,000.

The tandoor owners announced holding a $\,$ protest at D-Chowk, "not for any political agenda but to demand their basic rights".

Country's prosperity linked with supremacy of Parliament: Muqam

跨 Adam Khan Wazir

SWAT: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture, Engr Amir Muqam here on Saturday said that the progress and prosperity of the country were linked with the supremacy of Parliament and the Constitution.

Addressing an inauguration of NADRA office here at Kabal, he said that Parliament was a supreme institution with unlimited powers to do legislation and no one would be allowed to make interference in its constitutional jurisdiction.

He said that the people the country were the custodian able. of 1973 Constitution whom would defend it as well as the supremacy of the Parliament.

Muqam said that it was Parliament that had given a unanimous Constitution to



the country in 1973 and fixed

of all the state institutions including the judiciary. He said that interference in the affairs of Parliament was unaccept-

He said the economically rising Pakistan in 2013-17, has been pushed back after the disqualification of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on the ground of not taking racy, Parliament, and the

salary from his son in the so-called Panama case. Amir Muqam said that PTI

has deceived and misled the youth on the name of change and attractive slogans. Amir Muqam appreciated

the recent statements of Army Chief General Syed AsimMunir and senior most judge of Supreme Court, Justice Qazi-FaezEsa in support of democ-

He said that PTI has failed to address people's problems during its 10 years long rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Amir Muqam said that PTI

ity signboards on the projects completed and launched by the previous PML-N Government. The Prime Minister's Adviser said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were fed up with slogans and lies based politics

He said the people of KP were now looking towards PML-N for the resolution of their problems as it was the only party that can steer the country out of all difficult chal-

Earlier, Amir Muqam inaugurated NADRA office at Barikot Swat.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

PTI tough time to the PMLN & PPP in the upcoming elections: Qureshi

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that the people of Sindh have given full support to Tehreek-e-Insaf in the 2018 elections. In the Sindh Assembly, Tehreek-e-Insaf showed a strong performance in the opposition. Due to the corruption and performance of PPP, the condition of Interior Sindh has become very bad. The recent floods have revealed the efficiency of the PPP government. The people of Sindh are angry with PPP.

They will enter Sindh with full preparation in the upcoming elections. People of Sindh will fully welcome Tehreek-e-Insaf. Tehreek-e-Insaf will give a tough time to the People's Party in the upcoming elections. He expressed these views while meeting GDA Secretary General Safdar Abbasi yesterday. He said that Bhutto's ideology has been buried with late Benazir Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and GDA

preparation



KARACHI: Workers are busy at "Peco Shop" at local market as due to the Eid preparation the markets are extremely busy

to rid the people of Zardari rule were

discussed in detail. During the meeting,

it was decided that Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf Vice Chairman Makhdoom

Shah Mahmood Qureshi will meet

GDA chief Pir Sahib Pagaro very soon.

strategy. It should be clear that Paki-

stan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran

And they will discuss the future joint

Bhutto. The condition of interior Sindh is very bad. People have neither bread to eat nor clean water to drink.

People's Party has become Zardari's party. Sindh, which was once the stronghold of the People's Party, has been limited to some areas of Sindh. In the upcoming elections, PP will be wiped out from there as well. In the meeting, the current political situation of Sindh and the joint strategy of

ago. This meeting It is also a link in the same chain. Earlier, Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice Chairman Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi spent a busy day in Multan. He met Qari Hanif Jalandhri, a well-known religious scholar and the central leader of Federal Madaris Pakistan in Multan On this occasion, he said that it

with other political parties some time

is a welcome thing that Qari Hanif Jalandhri has received the medal of distinction from the government. Qari Hanif Jalandhri's immense services for peace in the region. And receiving the medal of distinction in connection with your services is a tribute to your long religious services. He presented flowers and congratulated Qari Hanif Jalandhri on receiving the medal of distinction from the Government of

He stayed at Madrasah Khair al-Ma-Khan gave Vice Chairman Makhdoom daris for some time. He inspected the Shah Mehmood Qureshi the task of different departments of the seminary. starting a communication campaign Later, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood

Sardar Attique appreciation for the statement of Army Chief in National Assembly

Abdul Majeed Tahir
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RAWALPINDI: The President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has expressed great appreciation for the statement of Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir in the National Assembly and

has paid heartfelt tribute to the Army Chief.

In his tweet, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said: "We the people of Jammu and Kashmir welcome the visionary statement of Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir that the people are the center of gravity. Authority should be exercised by the people's representatives." This statement is a strong guarantee of Pakistan's ideological and geographical stability. We pay our heartfelt tribute to the country's army chief for this strong national commitment. We stand behind the brave forces of Pakistan as always supported he added.

38 cases were registered in the month of fasting and 13,000 inspections were conducted: DC

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: To give relief to the public, the district administration has decided to make hawalat tours for hawalats on Eid-ul-Fitr. A fine of more than 20 lakhs was imposed after arresting the vendor. Price control magistrates also conducted raids in respect of Ramadan Ordinance and sealed 10 hotels and imposed heavy fines on the owners.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that 38 cases were registered in the month of fasting and 13,000 inspections were conducted. Umar Jahangir clarified that Eid-ul-Fitr of wholesalers and hoarders will be spent in prison is given

All institutions should work together:Umar Jahangir



MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that all institutions should work together for the improvement of commercial infrastructure. The platform of District Planning and Development Committee will be mobilized. Legal action will be taken against buildings without NOC He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting of the district departments.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir directed that all the departments should complete the legal process and issue NOC to the pending conversion cases. The cases with incomplete data and documents should be suspended and the concerned person should be informed. Umar Jahangir said that the branches of the district departments are being fully activated to provide facilities to the people.

Security forces distributed the Holy Qurans for the mosques & Eid clothes

Mazir

WANA: Near Pak-Afghan border Angoor Adda, security forces officials distributed Holy Quran for the mosques and Eid clothes to small children of Shaheedan and Zama Jan villages in different areas of Birmal Tehsil of Lower South Waziristan (LSW) Tribal District.



Security officials say that free clothes were distributed to the poor children of the area to celebrate Eid, apart from this, they also distributed Holy Quran among the people for mosques in some villages.

The residents of the area expressed special gratitude for the cooperation of the security forces and said that they will continue to support the security forces in the area.

The local people said that they will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the establishment of peace and will not allow anyone to spread terrorism and chaos in the area.

Security forces and tribal elders have sacrificed a lot for the country and the region and we can never forget them

We will continue this series of cooperation with Pak Army, FC South and other security agencies.

Four terrorists arrested

3) FIR No. 12/23 dated 13.04.23 MULTAN: CTD Spokesman Said effectively counter the menace of terrorism, CTD Punjab has conducted extensive IBOs across the Puniab to avert any untoward incident. CTD Punjab conducted 26 IBOs in different districts of Punjab. In which 26 suspects were interrogated.

During these IBOs, following 04 suspects belonging to defunct organizations were arrested namely: 1) Ayaz s/o Muhammad Subhan

- from TTP
- 2) Yaseen s/o Ilm Din from Other 3) Muhammad Asad s/o Muham-
- mad Ashraf from Al-Qaida 4) Muhammad Saleem s/o Lal from
- * Al-Qaida*
- Accordingly, 04 FIRs were registered against the arrested persons:
- 1) $\overline{\rm FIR}$ No. 11/23 dated 12.4.23 u/s 4/5 ESA, 7-ATA, PS CTD Rawal-

2) FIR No 168/23 dated 08.04.23

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Furthermore, during this week, 419 Combing operations were conducted with the help of Local Police/LEAs. During these Combing Operations, 21897 persons were checked, 94 suspects were arrested and 63 FIRs were registered, 40 recoveries were made.

u/s 298-A, 16-MPO PS Piplan

u/s 11W(2), 11G(2), 21(c)/ATA

u/s 13(2a)20/65AO, 4/5ESA,

11G(2),21-C(6)/7ATA-1997 PS

with the following Recoveries:

01 Pistol 30 bore with ammuni-

Mianwali, Sargodha

1997 PS CTD Multan) FIR No. 13/23 dated 14.04.23

CTD Multan.

Detonators 05,

Explosive 1414gm,

Prima Card 4.92 ft

Safety Fuse wire 12.3ft,

Mohafiz Youm-e-Alquds protest against Israeli incursions on Al-Aqsa

ATTOCK: The demonstrators of Mohafiz Youm e Alquds Committee Attock while lodging their strong protests against the Israel have vowed to continue their struggles till the liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Palestinians, from the clutches of Israel. The protest rally was taken out from Imam Bargah Hussania Attock Cantt disbursed peacefully at Katchery chowk Attock after crossing through the traditional route of Session Court, Ziarat Park. Among others, the rally was also participated by a large number of people from all walks of life to express their complete solidarity with their Palestinians, brethren. The rally was also addressed by the Markazi Khateeb Syedan Moulana Syed Sibtul Hassan, Syed Waqar Naqvi, Moulana

Hasnain Naqvi and Malik Asad.

On this occasion, they also presented their eight points resolution to condemn the aggression of Israel against the Palestinians by stressing upon the Muslim ummah to forge unity and harmony among their ranks when the longstanding differences between Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bahrain and Qatar were settled. The religious scholars in their fiery speeches have reiterated to close all kinds of bilateral, socio-political, trade and military relations with Israel being the killers of the Muslims. They also expressed their support to the oppressed Muslims of Kashmir, Afghanistan, India, Syria, Iraq and Nigeria who were being victimized by the anti-Muslims rulers for their nefarious designs.

The religious scholars of the rally also said that Palestine and Kashmir are the two burning issues of the Muslim Ummah are constantly bleeding since decades while the unity of Muslim Ummah is the ultimate solution to the problems of Muslims adding that the international and Islamic world should take immediate practical steps to solve the problem of Kashmir and Palestine. They said that restoration of relations between Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bahrain and Qatar will bring relief to the Muslim Ummah, said religious scholars. The clerics also stated that Indian government will be failed to convene the G-20 meeting in Occupied Kashmir. The religious scholars also urged the countries part of G-20 to thwart the Indian ambitions and refuse to attend the G-20 meeting in Srinagar, Indian

Occupied Kashmir. The leaders said that Pakistan will not establish relations with Israel under any circumstances until the establishment of an independent and

sovereign Palestinian state. They said that the scholars of all schools of thought in Pakistan strongly condemn the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque. That said hat it is unfortunate that when Ramadan begins, mosques are sealed in Occupied Kashmir and Al-Aqsa in Palestine is stormed and desecrated with Israeli races. While lashing out the air strikes of Israeli forces over Palestinians they vowed to stand with the oppressed Palestinians and Kashmiris and believe that at this time the Ummah has started moving towards unity and stability in which we see Arab countries restoring relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia from Svria.

Pakistan's total population reaches 234 million as census deadline extended

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has once again extended fieldwork of the first-ever digital census for five more days till April 20 as the country's total population reached 234

In a statement, the PBS spokesperson said that Pakistan's total population has reached 234 million (23.4 crores), increasing by 8.06 percent as compared

The spokesperson noted that the country's population swelled by 10.71 million as compared to the statistics of

According to the bureau's spokesperson, 100 percent census work has been completed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Kashmir, 99 percent in Punjab, 98 percent in Sindh, 90 percent in Islam-

abad and 82 percent in Balochistan.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal chaired the eleventh meeting of Census Monitoring Committee today to review the progress of field operation of digital census and other allied matters.

Chief Census Commissioner, Dr Naeem uz Zafar presented the progress of the census operation. He apprised the forum that out of 156 districts, 100 percent work has been completed in 122 districts while over 90% work has been completed in remaining districts.

Overall, 230 million population has been enumerated and 40 million households have been geo-tagged. Zafar apprised that the 5-day extension proved to be very successful, enumerating an additional 5 million people in 80 thousand households.

It was also informed that after conducting an in-depth analysis to idenof officers from PBS Headquarter are consensus and with the assurance that facilitating DCS and ACS by visiting big cities like Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore, Faisalabad and Peshawar etc. to ensure complete coverage of all structures/houses and leftover structures. As a result of this exercise significant

increase has been seen in population and no of households.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal lauded the efforts that have been made on ground to detect the causes of undercount then working that has been done to improve the population specially after extension.

He said that completion of 122 districts is a clear indication that the exercise is going to be completed with success. He monitored the progress of all provinces and asked them to indicate if further extension is required. "The oper-

tify the reason behind undercount, teams ation must be concluded with mutual no controversy should left behind," he

On the other hand, IT Minsiter Ameen ul Haq appreciated the work done by PBS team and all stakeholders for conduct of this National exercise and identifying the abnormalities timely for rectification of the same to avoid any controversy on results of the national gigantic exercise and ownership of process.

He proposed to extend the census operations till 20th April, 2023 in big cities for complete coverage.

Keeping in view the recommendations of provinces, the Field operation of 7th Population and housing Census has been extended till 20th April, 2023 by Census Monitoring Committee to ensure complete coverage.

CTD Punjab operation:

Asim Tanveer





Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police

Sta	ations
Islamabad	9222590
Rawalnindi	9270601-20

FNOLIRY

FIIVOI	
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43			
CDA	9208301-04			
Met Office	9250360-6			
RDA	5555864			
TMA	5770886			
Cantonment Board	9270151-3			
Islamabad Metropolitan				
Corporation				
Potohar Town	9209224			
Rawal Town	5773343			

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

Islamabad police constitute special JIT to probe case against Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Capital police on Saturday constituted a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe the case against Imran Khan.

According to details, the police formed a JIT to investigate the sedition case against Imran Khan and appointed DIG Operations Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari as the convener of the team.

As per the police officials, representatives from other law enforcement agencies (LEAs) will also be part of the special JIT.

In a statement, the police said that propaganda and baseless allegations against capital officers were part of a plan. The police said they have provided security to all the accused during their appearance before the

Moreover, the police said all cases have been registered as per law and are being processed, adding Police is using all resources to enforce the rule of law, it added.

Pakistanis in Khartoum: FO says closely monitoring situation in Sudan

 $ISLAMABAD: The \ Foreign\ Office\ (FO)\ on$ Saturday said it was closely monitoring the security situation in Sudan and Pakistani mission was in contact with Pakistanis living in Khartoum.

In a statement, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "We are closely monitoring the security situation in Sudan. There are around a thousand Pakistanis in Khartoum. Our Mission is in contact with them to ensure their safety."

Earlier in the day, Sudan's paramilitaries said they were in control of several key sites following fighting with the regular army, including the presidential palace in central Khartoum.



In a statement, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said it had taken "full control" of the presidential palace as well as the airports in Khartoum and Merowe in the north of the country.

It said the moves came in response to attacks by the regular army on RSF bases in south Khartoum.

Explosions rocked the Sudanese capital Saturday as paramilitaries and the regular

army traded attacks on each other's bases, days after the army warned the country was at a "dangerous" turning point.

The eruption of violence came after weeks of deepening tensions between military leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his number two, paramilitary commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, over the planned integration of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) into the regular army.

Witnesses reported "confrontations" and loud explosions and gunfire near an RSF base in south Khartoum.

The RSF said its forces had taken control of Khartoum airport, after witnesses reported seeing truckloads of fighters entering the airport compound.

Beating the heat

ISLAMABAD: Younger's are swimming in spells ways water of Rawal Lake along the park road to cool off during high temperature in the month of holy Ramazan at Federal Capital.



IHC stops SCSE from taking action against NFML management

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court has issued a stay order in response to plea challenging legality of the National Assembly Special Committee on Sacked Employees (SCSE) interference in human resource affairs of National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) for regularization of

past and present employees. Pending the next date of hearing, no coercive action shall be taken by the respondents or by any other agency under their administrative control against the petitioner company, its board of directors, its CEO, and its management, on account of any directions or instructions issued by the Parliamentary Committee on Sacked Employees

Barrister Umar Riaz and Umer Ijaz Gilani invoked the jurisdiction of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on behalf of the Managing Direc-larize the services of a large of Pakistan. tor of the NFML. Petitioner number of past and present made Federation of Pakistan, employee. They also informed through Secretary, Ministry the court that the Committee state-owned corporations till April 27. TLTP

Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat, Establishment Division, through its Secretary, Pakistan Secretariat, and through its Secretary, Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad as respondents in the matter.

After hearing preliminary arguments, the Court restrained the Establishment Division and other federal government bodies from taking any adverse action against the Board, CEO on account of the Special Committee directions.

Appearing before the single-member bench of the IHC comprising Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan in the matter, petitioner's counsels apprised the Committee head- of the company owe a fidued by MNA Qadir Mandokhail had directed NFML to regu-

of Industries and Production, had also threatened the MD of Special Committee on Affect- the company that his serviced Employees, through its es would be terminated if he failed to comply.

Umer Ijaz Gilani argued that neither the Constitution nor the Rules of Proce-Ministry of Law and Justice, dure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007 grant any powers on parliamentary committee to issue directions of an executive nature to any state entity including the petitioner.

Umer Ijaz Gilani referred specially to Article 66 and Rules 214 to 244, and contended that a "holistic and management of NFML review of the entire Rules shows that nowhere do they make any mention of the power of committee to issue "directives" to state officials regarding executive matters." Counsel further argued that the directors and the officers ciary duty to the principal shareholder, the Government

It was against the interest of the government to pack

with redundant employees. Courageous civil servants who put up a stand on account of fiduciary duties should not be penalized for resisting the political pressure of a parliamentary committee.

According to a 2-page order of the IHC, copy of which available with TLTP, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan said, "Pending the next date of hearing, no coercive action shall be taken by the respondents or by any other agency under their administrative control against the petitioner company, its board of directors, its CEO, and its management, on account of any directions or instructions issued by the Parliamentary Committee

on Sacked Employees". After hearing preliminary arguments of counsel of the petitioner, the Court issued notices to the respondents and restrained them from taking any adverse action against the Directors, CEO and management of the petitioner Company. The matter was adjourned

Azam Tarar says legislation is prerogative of parliament

LAHORE: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Saturday that the parliament would not give its right to any other insti-



He said the passage of the Supreme Court (practice and procedure bill) was a longawaited demand while adding only the parliament had the privilege to make and amend laws and no institution should intervene in its domain.

Rawalpindi, 15 April 2023: On 15 April 23, Security Forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Zarmilan, South

During the conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorist's location. Resultantly, 8 x terrorists were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens. However, during intense exchange of fire, Lance Naik Shoaib Ali

(age 25 years, resident of Parachinar, District Kurram) and Sepoy Rafi Ullah (age 22 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Security forces of Pakistan remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strength-

Sargodha ATC approves three-day physical remand of PTI's Ali Amin Gandapur

Example 2 Correspondent

SARGODHA: An anti-terrorism court on Saturday approved threeday physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader in a case registered under terrorism charges.

The court has handed over Mr Gandapur to Bhakkar police for interrogation, directing them to complete the investigation in three days and produce him again before the court on Tuesday (April 18) in next week.

A day earlier, District Magistrate Muhammad Asif Niaz discharged his name in the illegal weapons case, while the area magistrate Muham $mad\,Waseem\,sent\,him\,in\,police\,custody\,on\,a\,three-day\,physical\,remand$ in Sarai Mahajir police station case registered under various charges, including attempted murder.

The Bhakkar police have registered three cases against the PTI, including one that includes anti-terrorism provisions.

On Friday, Ali Amin Gandapur was transferred from Islamabad to the Bhakkar Saddar police station where three cases had been registered against him under the provisions of terrorism and attempted murder.

The district and sessions court in Islamabad on Thursday handed over the PTI leader to the Bhakkar police on one-day transit remand. The Bhakkar police had sought three-day transit remand of Mr Gandapur. However, duty magistrate Naveed Khan handed over the PTI to the Bhakkar police on one-day remand.

Additional District Judge uses Chat GPT tool to strengthen court decision

PHALIA: Additional District & Sessions Judge Muhammad Amir Munir who presides over the Phalia court in Mandi Bahauddin District is using the Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool to ask legal questions before making decisions in civil and criminal matters.

After deciding a pre-arrest bail matter of a juvenile during last month using ChatGPT as research tool for determination of legal questions, the Judge recently tested the potential of the AI software chatbot in improving the quality of judicial decision making.

It is pertinent to mention that the Judge didn't grant pre-arrest bail to juvenile relying over responses of ChatGPT exclusively but he has applied judicial mind after securing legal information from the AI source.

Granting or refusing application for stay order always requires extra care of a presiding officer of a court including clarity of thought of a judge on law and facts of the case. Taking up an appeal against Civil Judge dismissal order in response to stay application in a matter, the Additional District & Sessions Judge Muhammad Amir Munir decided to infer more grounds and sought ChatGPT4 response by asking a question, "What are principles to grant injunction in civil cases in Pakistan?"

Authoring a 21-page verdict in the appeal in hand, the Judge Amir Munir wrote, "These points formulated by the ChatGPT-4 are very impressive as our law of Civil Procedure (Code of Civil Procedure, 1908), developed over the years has also guided the courts to deliberate on these dimensions while deciding such an application, if circumstances so justify".

He further expressed while citing a number of judgments of the Supreme Court of Pakistan saying, "Generally, for deciding an application for Injunction, we formulate three points for determination, i.e., arguable case, balance of convenience and irreparable loss-The remaining three points shown by the ChatGPT-4 are also within the domain of our statutory laws and precedents developed over the years". The Judge Amir Munir was of the view that nothing suggested by the ChatGPT-4 is violative of our laws, adding instead, it is helpful in crafting a quality order or judgment by a judge.

Dismissing the appeal in the matter the Additional District & Sessions Judge Amir Munir sent a copy of the verdict to Lahore High Court and Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. "I deem it necessary to send a copy of the same to Hon'ble Lahore High Court as well as to the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan to consider discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this Civil Appeal as a law reform proposal. TLTP

Parvez Elahi's aide Zubair Khan recovered after 38 days

№ News Desk

 $LAHORE: Following the \ Lahore\ High\ Court's\ (LHC)\ order\ to\ recover$ abductees until April 17, former Punjab chief minister (CM) complaint cell chairman Zubair Ahmad Khan was on Saturday recovered after

Mr Khan is considered a close aide of Parvez Elahi. He had allegedly been abducted from outside his house.

The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) court also absolved Mr Khan of a case lodged against him a day ago after he was produced before the establishment. Lawyer Amir Saeed Ran represented him in court. Mr Khan called on Mr Elahi after the release. The former CM said

he and his aides were being targeted for being loyal to PTI chief Imran Khan. "We will steer clear of fake cases," he added. Earlier, Punjab police had once again carried out a raid at Mr Elahi's residence in Gujrat. Police surrounded the residence of the former chief minister, the Kunjah House, and left after two hours without taking

any action. No member of Elahi's family was present in the house at the time of the raid. It is not the first time that police conducted raid on Mr Elahi's residence. In February, the authorities carried out raids at the Kunjah House. At the time, Mr Elahi alleged that the raids were being conducted at the behest of Punjab caretaker set-up and the federal government.

Speed up journey of development in city of Saints: Multan Amir Khattak

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: To speed up the journey of development in the holy city, the reconstruction agencies have come together on a platform Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khattak ordered new reforms to make the master plan foolproof. He presided over the high level meeting and said that A review commission was formed to revise the master plan according to

modern requirements A special sub-committee of MDA, Municipal Corporation and District Council representatives will formulate proposals. All institutions will also determine their limits for improving the city's infrastructure. Master Plan Upgradation will help in improving the



important for us. Development of the country is impossible without the positive role of the community. Commissioner Aamir Khattak said that the master plan of the

the need. Upgradation of cleanliness, drainage and traffic system of the city should be taken into account. Complete removal of encroachments, beautification of the city. should be taken into consideration. In the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Multan Umar Jahangir, ment officers were present.

city is being checked on the modern DGMDA Zahid Ikram, Director Develsuggestions.

Corporation Chaudhry Farmaish, Zilla Council, MD Waste Management Company Shahid Yaqub, MD Wasa Chaudhry Danish Wasa, PHA and other development depart-

Sunday, April 16, 2023

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Pride of Pakistan

t the Hainan International Convention and Exhibition Center, Ageel Ahmed Chaudhry, a jeweller from Pakistan, was busy showing his dazzling products to visitors attending the third China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE).

Scheduled from April 10 to April 15, the 3rd CICPE, or Hainan Expo, is being held in Haikou, Hainan, China, drawing over 3,300 brands from 65 countries and regions to share the dividends of the world's second-largest consumer market.

Foreign business leaders and exhibitors, including those who come from Pakistan, have voiced hope for expanding their presence in the Chinese market.

It was Chaudhry's first time attending the consumer products expo. Living in China for more than a decade, he launched WINZA Jewelry in Shanghai's glitzy business district. How can people seek a foothold in China's increasingly competitive jewellery market? Chaudhry knows it back to

China's consumer market has seen notable progress in scale and quality over the past decade. Retail sales of consumer goods in China exceeded □40 trillion (about \$ 5.81 trillion) in 2019 and hit \Box 44 trillion in 2022, more than double the 2012 figure, said Xu Xingfeng, director of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC)'s consumption promotion department, at a global consumption innovation, duty-free and travel retail conference being held as part of the ongoing expo.

To ride this wave, Chaudhry signed agreements with Zhuhai Duty-Free Enterprises Group Co., Ltd. (Zhuhai Duty Free) and Hainan Tourism Investment Duty-Free Co., Ltd. (HTDF), to brighten the brand with new opportunity of offshore duty-free shopping in Hainan.

"We plan to open a retail store in Zhuhai Duty Free complex, which is expected to be completed by 2025," Chaudhry told China Economic Net, adding that a 3-year agreement was also signed with HTDF at the 3rd CICPE to boost the brand's offshore duty-free sales.

Back in April 2018, China announced a decision to support Hainan in developing the whole island into a pilot free trade zone and gradually exploring and steadily promoting the establishment of a free trade port with Chinese characteristics.

According to a master plan on the Hainan free trade port (Hainan FTP) released in 2020 by the Chinese government, the Hainan FTP is scheduled to initiate independent customs operations throughout the whole island by the end of 2025.

"I have already registered a company in Sanya to prepare for the coming 2025," the Pakistani entrepreneur mentioned, "I am paying close attention to the latest policies."

Over the past five years, Hainan has made solid strides in building itself a high-level free trade port. As one of the country's major opening-up measures in the new era, China aims to build its largest tropical island into a globally influential and high-level FTP by the middle of the century.

Chaudhry was no exception among those foreign entrepreneurs who will never miss the chance to tap a market full of potential. He told the reporter that in the future, he plans to process imported raw stones in Hainan and train local technicians. "In this way, the price of products will be more advantageous whether they are sold duty-free on the island or duty-paid outside Hainan," he noted.

Shabina Gatherings and Respect for Mosques

important places for the Islamic world. Prayers are offered in mosques, Holy Ouran is recited. And religious education is obtained from scholars. There are mosques, houses of Allah, pieces of paradise and places of worship of Muslims. As Muslims, it is our moral and religious duty to respect these holy places of worship. In the manners and respect of the mosques, it is forbidden to talk about frivolous and worldly things. Sitting in the mosque while waiting, the reward of the prayer and sitting after the prayer. Allah's luminous creatures, the angels, keep praying for forgiveness. On the Day of Judgment, it will be said, Where are my neighbors? The angels will inquire, O Allah, who are your neighbors? It will be said that those who settle the mosques. It should be remembered that the settlement of the mosques is only through worship and not through useless and senseless actions. No other work should be done in the mosques apart from prayers, nawafil, recitation of the Holy Quran and prayers, which would affect the manners and respect of the mosque. The Messenger of Allah, # said: Keep away from the houses of Allah your little children, the madmen, your quarrels, your buying and selling, the criticism of your limits, and the drawing of your swords (Ibn Majah) Is a hadith of Sahih Bukhari that one should not raise the voice in the mosque.

us. The Holy Prophet # also indicated the appearance of Shab-ul-Qadr in the odd Al-Mu'minin Hazrat Aisha (May Allah

be pleased with her) narrates from the tives, they are busy taking pictures of the fore, their respect and honor is obligato-Prophet # that Laylata-ul-Qadr Search in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. That is, in the nights of 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th of Ramadan.

During these auspicious days, the international famous mosques of our country, including the federal capital,

Mosque Lahore and other provincial capitals, gatherings are held. A large number of people also join these mosques with the intention of Iitikaf. This is how some people feel during these auspicious days every year, during the Shabina gatherings in the big

mosques of the cities in our country. In these days sacred places are creating the atmosphere of a park, amusement park or festival. Because in these big places of worship during these days and the sanctity of the houses of Allah is not taken into account. Rather, if it is said that today we have given the status of these holy and pure places as picnic points and places of entertainment. Have we ever thought that instead of pleasing Allah on these important nights, we are not making Allah angry. Women are brightly colored and inappropriately dressed. Besides, it is normal to carry food and drink utensils, mats, pillows, children's toys. It is often seen that groups of different families are busy gossiping in mosques every-The last decade of Ramadan is leaving where. Children are playing and running around in the mosques. While other men and women are busy eating and drinking nights of Ramadan. About which Umm and making loud calls on their mobile phones, apart from talking to their rela-

sights. It is our hobby to make pictures and videos of people together and make them viral on social media. It is also seen that relatives and neighbors are often taken along on these occasions. In fact, there is no place of greater fun than the mosque If we spend all our time humbly Faisal Mosque Islamabad, Badshahi in worship and supplication before Allah.

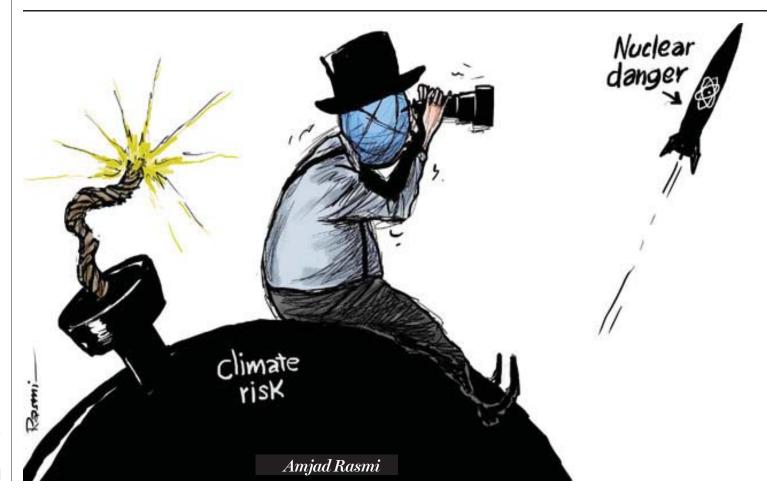
Therefore, we leave no stone unturned in violating the sanctity of these holy places. As Muslims, we have never thought about whom we are harming with such factors, it is obvious that we are harming ourselves. It would not be right to say that

by pleasing Devil, Today we are suffering from hundreds of physical and spiritual diseases and various problems. Our social problems are also due to this reason. All kinds of problems surround us. Because today we are busy in displeasure of Allah. Today the media is so fast that these movements and actions of us can be seen by Muslims and others from all corners of the world. People from other countries are also directly watching. What will they think of us because of our actions?

We should not forget that mosques are sacred places of worship in Islam and their importance is very high. Mosques are given a very high status in Islam and mosques are a very important place for Muslims. Mosques are places of religion, places of worship of Allah and places of mercy. Where angels keep visiting. Mosques on earth they are the best places. Allah has declared them as his house as a place of honor and respect. There-

ry on all of Muslims. Before entering the Masjid, keep in mind the many orders of literature we have for honor and respect of Mosque. Such as leaving shoes and mobile phones outside the mosque, not taking small children with them, wearing clean and appropriate clothes, and maintaining silence in the mosque is very important. Always respect them inside the mosques. And it is our duty to take full care of respect. Always take care of our actions so that there is no inconvenience to the people who are engaged in worshiping in the mosque due to any of our shortcomings. Praying in mosques, reciting nawafil, reciting the Holy Quran, making duas and doing other acts of worship in mosques it should not be done that harms the sanctity of the mosque. Mosques should be given great respect, because they are houses of Allah. Always protect them from dirt and do not wear un-Islamic clothes. Enter the mosque bowing, and remain silent during the prayer. Here people can put their hearts in front of Allah. It is very important for us to take care of the manners and respect of the mosques and houses of Allah. At the same time, the administrators of the mosques are also strongly requested to take appropriate measures keeping in mind the respect of the mosques during these days. Lets come and turn towards Allah by truly repenting. For yourself, for your loved ones, for the entire Ummah, and especially for the safety, prosperity and survival of the country. Pray to Allah that the entire month of Ramadan will be accepted. There are watches. May Allah grant us all the ability to understand and follow the religion of Islam. Aamin, Alla-

hummah Aamin.



Mohabat Khan Mosque: A Jewel of Peshawar

Hussna Khattak

eing a gateway to the subcontinent, Peshawar was always a strategic city where kings, warriors and invaders constructed mosques. churches and gurdwaras at prime locations to perform their religious practices

After passing through the historic Khyber Pass from Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Afghanistan, the kings, warlords and Muslim commanders had first stayed at Peshawar where they had constructed scores of mosques and worship places for minorities to promote interfaith harmony and bring people of all faith closer before marching to India.

"The recent GorKathri excavations revealed that Islam had first spread in the border areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghanistan after Sabuktigin, a Turkic slave commander laid the foundations of Ghaznavi dynasty at Ghazi in 977 AD in Central Afghanistan," said Bakht Zada Khan, senior research officer of the Archaeology and Museums Department while talking to APP.

After the death of Sabuktigin and revolt against his son Ismail, he said Mehmud Ghaznvi had gained control over the Ghaznavi kingdom and extended his influence to Punjab after defeating Raja of Jaypala of the Kabul Shahis at the battle of Peshawar in 1001 AD.

Resultantly, Islam has made deep inroads in Bannu, Waziristan, Khyber and other border areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and construction of large and small mosques was started here," he said.

In 1984, he said an inscription in Arabic engraved on a black marble was found on the slopes of the hill below the castle of Raja Gira, which authenticated the foundation of

the historic Odigram Mosque in Swat (also known as Sultan Mahmood Ghaznavi mosque constructed in 1048 CE on the order of General Amir Nustagin of Ghaznavi, which attracted a large number of worshipers in Ramazan besides promoting religious tourism. In 1982, the Augaf department declared it a

historical site and took control of its administration. After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the refugee tribal elders congregated in the mosque in order to forge unity amongst Afghans against the Soviets invaders.

Built on a high mound at Andar Sher bazaar near historic Chowkyadgar at Peshawar City, the worshipers enter its 30,155 square feet vast open courtyard with

capacity to accommodate 20,000 to 30,000 worshipers at a time besides a centrally located ablution pool and a single row of rooms lining the exterior walls with two tall minarets that magnified its look.

The facade of the prayer hall is also capped by six smaller decorative minarets that flank the mosque's five arched entryways, with an additional two minarets and its prayer hall capped by three awesome domes that draw visitors' attention.

The mosque's ceiling was embellished with elegant red frescoes in geometrics and floral motifs while its exterior was decorated with Mughal frescoes that amplify its beauty.

"Mohabat Khan Mosque is the identity of Peshawar due to its unique architecture and glorious ancient history. For the last 10 years, I regularly came to this historic mosque of Peshawar for Mahfil-e-Shabina and Khatam-e-Quran in the last three days of Ramazanul Mubarak and its spiritual environment take the worshipers to a new world," said Professor Ehtisham Qaiser, a resident of Wapda Town Nowshera told to media

He said the shopkeepers, who had been rented shops by the Auqaf department, increased the size of their shops many feet by digging more small cabins and encroaching on the entrance and surrounding area of the mosque that negatively impacted its exterior outlook.

He said the construction of illegally built large plazas and shops around the mosque have adversely affected its exterior architecture and demanded demolition of all these illegal structures to restore its original grandeur and architectural designs.

"The mosque had gone through manmade vandalism in the past because of which some serious damage had been made but fortunately through timely intervention and the use of scientific techniques and original material, it was made reversible and the building was saved from collapse," said Bakhtzada.

"The mosque recently underwent heavy conservation work after approval of Rs87.70 million Mohabat Khan Mosque's conservation project. We have completed sixty per cent rehabilitation and conservation work on its minarets, domes, ablution area and other portions without compromising on its Mughal era architecture designs.

He said former Chief Minister Mahmood Khan during his visit to Mohabat Khan mosque last year had increased the allocation of the project to Rs160 million with direction for expansion of work and the amount would be used on its beautification, decoration and lighting system to magnify its look at night on the pattern of Peshawar Museum to promote religious tourism.

He said the PC-I of the project had been revised under the supervision of the Director of Archeology and Museums and conservation experts to be engaged to complete the project as per international standards by 2024.

Reset climate opens door for stronger Turkiye-Gulf ties

Sinem Cengiz

he Middle East is going through a recalibration process, with many regional countries resetting their diplomatic relations by signing accords and exchanging unprecedented visits. Turkiye is trying to seize the benefits of this climate of rapprochement by looking for a more institutionalized touch in its relations with regional countries that could bring solid outcomes in the long term.

Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Burak Akcapar, an experienced career diplomat, this week paid visits to both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for political consultations with his Saudi, Kuwaiti and Yemeni counterparts. Bilateral relations were certainly discussed, but the ongoing regional climate of reconciliation and the ways in which countries can benefit from this likely dominated the talks. The two-leg visit was significant in both its timing and its content, as well as the region-

Firstly, the meeting in Riyadh was the first round of political consultations between Turkiye and Saudi Arabia for many years. The two sides are trying to reap the benefits of their reconciliation by discussing ways to materialize their cooperation in various fields. Secondly, the political consultations with Gulf countries came at a time when the region is going through a diplomatic reset and Ankara wants to be actively involved in regional diplomacy. Thus, the visit highlighted the importance of diplomacy and demonstrated Ankara's eagerness to work closely with regional actors, particularly Saudi Arabia. Riyadh is not only the heavyweight of the region, but also the main actor in the reset climate.

One important aspect of Akcapar's visit to the Council Secretary-General Jasem Mohammed Turkish-Gulf relations.

Albudaiwi. The two sides concluded their talks by agreeing to stage more meetings between the joint technical teams that were formed under the framework of the joint action plan between the GCC and Turkiye, adopted at the third ministerial meeting of the strategic dialogue in Kuwait in 2010. This commitment was a significant indication that a new era in Turkiye's ties with the bloc has begun.

Also, Turkiye and the GCC states should revitalize the platforms that enabled them to enhance their cooperation both bilaterally and regionally. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is one of those platforms to foster relations. Ankara should go beyond the economic and political issues in its coordination council meetings with the individual GCC states. These meetings could include ways to promote public diplomacy. It is clear that the strengthening of bilateral relations between Turkiye and the GCC states has to be backed by reciprocity, not only by economic pragmatism.

The second important aspect of Akcapar's Riyadh visit was the meeting with his Yemeni counterpart, Mansour Baggash. The latest developments in Yemen, bilateral relations and cooperation opportunities between Ankara and Sanaa were on the agenda. Ankara is certainly interested in the ongoing talks between Saudi and Houthi representatives. From the very beginning, Ankara has sided with the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, offering moral and rhetorical rather than military support.

A new era is dawning in the region, in which the personalized nature of foreign policymaking is being replaced by a more diplomatic and institutional approach. The bilateral coordination councils and multilateral dialogue platforms that were suspended due to regional tensions are now set to be revived. The recent visits and talks should move beyond commitments and more action Kingdom was his meeting with Gulf Cooperation should be taken to ensure concrete outcomes in

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Press release on the round table 'New Formats of Cooperation in the International Information Environment'

oday, on April 14, 2023, a round table was held at the Institute of Inter-"New formats of cooperation in the international information environ-

The event was attended by representatives of international and national media, private media, relevant ministries and state agencies of Turkmenistan, press attaches of diplomatic of further improvement and activamissions accredited in Turkmenistan, experts and specialists in the field of information and communication policy, as well as teachers and students of the Faculty of International Journal menistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov ism of the Institute of International

In frames of an extensive agenda, various aspects and directions of international information activities were

Opening the round table, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Myahri Byashimova noted the historical traditions of the peoples the important role played by the outlet in the modern media space. In this centuries-old foundations of their life. context, she stressed that the current format of interaction is a platform mass-media in establishing links in the international information field, aimed to bridge positions.

It was stated that the Government of a Central Asian media forum dedicat-Turkmenistan sets priority tasks for the ed to security issues with the particidomestic media sphere. Today, there pation of state news agencies, print national Relations of is a need for more active promotion the Ministry of Foreign in the global digital space of up-to-Affairs of Turkmenistan on the topic date and reliable information about Turkmenistan, news reports on the transformations and achievements taking place in the country, studying the best world experience, the emergence of new formats and standards of broadcasting, print, and electronic press. Along with this, the expediency tion of the activities of private media in Turkmenistan was noted.

> Particular attention was drawn to the initiatives of the President of Turkregarding regional cooperation in the media space, announced at the 4th Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia.

> In particular, was told about the illegal use of information technology, the implantation from the outside of ideas and attitudes that run counter to of Central Asia, the basic values and

In this regard, a proposal of the head of the state to make joint efforts so that for discussing the importance of the Central Asia remains a zone of stability and trust, not subject to risks for peace and development, was commented

In this context, the idea of holding

media, and electronic media has been put forward.

The head of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat, Ambassador John MacGregor, during his speech noted that media development issues are high on the agenda of the Organization. At the same time, this "round table" is a vivid example of constructive cooperation between the Government of Turkmenistan and the OSCE Center in Ashgabat in the field of media development. The initiative to hold the current forum in Ashgabat testifies to the growing role of Turkmenistan in promoting commitments within the OSCE and, thus, shows the desire to take an active position in the international media space.

continued in the framework of two sessions devoted to the issues of information sustainability in the 21st century and information policy in the context of the widespread development of social networks. During the sessions, with the active participation of OSCE international experts Marek Bekerman and Yakub Parusinski, an exchange of views took place on such topical issues of our time as the role of the state in creating a sustainable information space, aspects of media literacy in society, the development of

The work of the "round table"



information awareness among youth, issues of tackling misinformation and fake news, as well as the importance of education and continuous professional development of journalists in countering the above-mentioned challenges and problems in the media field.

Participants noted the important role of social networks and PR technologies in the modern digital information space, as well as issues of intercommunities. In this context, aspects of the effective use of social networks as an important tool for communication and cultural exchange were discussed.

At the end of the sessions, interactive communication was held in the "question-answer" format, during which a thorough and constructive exchange of views took place on issues and topics on the agenda of the forum. Great interest was shown in the educational process action between the state and media and creative work of the future genera-

tion of journalists studying at the Institute of International Relations.

The participants of the "round table" noted the role and constructive activities of Turkmenistan in matters of close cooperation with all stakeholders in the region and beyond in the information and communication sphere.

The parties also viewed the exhibition of specialized foreign policy publications, deployed on the sidelines of the

Pak-Azerbaijan Relations

PESHAWAR: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov met with Advocate Sawal Nazir, Minister for Local Government, Elections & Rural Development Depart-



Sudan unrest: RSF captures presidential palace as violence rages

Amid deadly clashes for the coup in Sudan, the paramilitary force Rapid Support Forces (RSF) captured the residence of the army chief - presidential palace — and Khartoum international airport on Saturday after deadly fighting with the army.

The RSF maintained that it was first attacked by the army, highlighting that they had "seized the airports in the northern city of Merowe and in El-Obeid in the

In response to prevent the paramilitary group from taking control of other crucial state institutions, the Sudanese air force has started its operations against the RSF, said

Several footage on TV show military aircraft over Khartoum. Gunfire could be heard in several parts of Khartoum and eyewitnesses reported shooting in adjoining rities, said Reuters

Cannons and armoured vehicles were seen stationed in streets by the Reuters journalists with hearing heavy weapons fire near the headquarters of both the army and RSF.

Pakistan, Portugal reaffirms to further expand mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: During a third round of 'Bilateral Political Consultations' between Pakistan and Portugal held in Lisbon, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to further expand and diversify mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Pakistan delegation was headed by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Muhammad Saleem while Director General for Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rui Vinhas led the Portuguese side, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Saturday.

Pakistan, Portugal reaffirms to further expand mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation

Agenda included discussion on a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues of common interest including regional security, climate change and cooperation at the multilateral fora.

Expressing satisfaction at the current state of bilateral relations, the two sides agreed to enhance bilateral trade and investment, and collaboration in agriculture, water management, ICT, blue economy, green technologies and employment opportunities for Pakistani workforce. Pakistan, Portugal reaffirms to further expand mutually beneficial

It was agreed to hold regular sessions of the political consultations with the next session to be held in Islamabad for which the Portuguese delegation would visit Pakistan on mutually agreed dates.

Azerbaijan calls on Armenia to immediately bring person who burned Azerbaijani Flag, to justice

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijani Flag was set on fire at the opening ceremony of the European Weightlifting Championship held in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia on April 14, APA reports.

Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented on the burning of the Azerbaijani Flag in Yerevan.

Azerbaijani Assistant to the First Vice President visits Netherlands Azerbaijani FM and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office held expanded meeting-VIDEO-UPDATED-1

Azerbaijani Ombudsman makes an appeal regarding the next provocation attempt of Armenia

The commentary reads:"We strongly condemn the act, which is the embodiment of ethnic hatred against Azerbaijan in Armenia.

As the party organizing the event, the Armenian government should have prevented such incidents in time and taken appropriate security measures. Although the perpetrator was initially detained, his subsequent release with lavish applause is a matter of serious concern. The Armenian side should immediately bring the person who committed this hate crime to justice.

We call for strict condemnation of this act, which is a gross violation of the rules of conduct adopted by the International Weightlifting Federation, the International Olympic Committee and other relevant international organizations for sports competitions, and to take appropriate punitive measures against the organizers within the framework of the rules."

Magnolia: Korea's National Flower

Spokesman Report

The more than one hundred countries of the world all have their own national flowers.

Each country chooses a national flower that is especially beautiful, of which its people are fond, and which relates to the features and culture of the country, its legends and traditional life style and its customs; the economic value of the flower and its symbolic meaning are also taken into consideration.

Some countries choose such lovely national flowers as the mume, carnation, rose or tulip; others worship the lotus that grows in ponds as a sacred national flowers the red chile-bells belonging to the Liliaceae family so such northern areas of Korea as Jagang

that they will remember forever the bloodshed by their people in the war for independence.

In its full shape and beauty, magnolia symbolizes the national character and mettle of the resourceful and indomitable Korean people.

Magnolia Sieboldii–Korean Species National_Flower_of_The_DPRK_Magno-

Magnolia is a deciduous, broadleaved tree belonging to the Magnoliaceae family. It is a Korean species which has been propagated in wide areas of the country from ancient times and has existed throughout the time-honoured history of our nation.

It grows thickly in all areas that are at flower, and yet others make their a lower altitude than 1,400 metres, so excluding the mountainous regions of



and Ryanggang Provinces.

In particular, it thrives at the foot of mountains of such areas as Kangwon, North and South Phyongan and South Hamgvong Provinces.

It also grows naturally in some areas of northeast China and Japan. But, the Korean peninsula is the original centre of the worldwide distribution of the tree.

Magnolia grows well in places where the average annual temperature is 8-10 degrees C., with the minimum tempera-

ture being 30 degrees C. below zero and the maximum, 33 degrees C.

It requires good soil and humidity

for growing; it does not grow well in extremely dry soil or in standing water. It grows well in loamy sand which is half in shadow and contains a great deal of nutrients and a reasonable amount of moisture, as well as in clayey loam mixed with some gravel.

Many shoots grow from the crown of the root of magnolia. There, if left alone, it forms a cluster like shrubs.

Its roots do not grow deep, the main part generally going down to some 40 centimetres below ground level; it has a small number of straight roots and many lateral roots and fibrous roots.

Magnolia is extremely resistant to the cold and to damage by blight and harmful insects.

Gandhara art exhibition continues to attract visitors at Palace Museum in Beijing

long exhibition jointly organized by the Palace Museum and Department of Archaeology and Museums of Pakistan, supported by the Pakistan Embassy Beijing, continued to attract general visitors, professionals, scholars and other lovers of art and culture.

The exhibition opened last month, and also included a multimedia presentation, art installations, and interactive activities to help visitors understand the cultural history of the region.

A total of 203 artefacts, of which 173 come from seven museums in Pakistan and 30 from the Palace Museum are

being showcased. Ancient Gandhara was a thriving center of trade along the Silk

to celebrate 2023 as the Year of China-Pakistan Tourism Exchanges.

Talking to APP, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque said that the exhibition has generated a lot of interest among Chinese people and it will further promote cultural and people exchanges between Pakistan and China.

He said that initially, the exhibition was organized for three months but owing to interest shown by people, it is expected to continue for months.

Federal Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division, Ms Fareena Mazhar who led the Pakistani delegation in the opening ceremony told APP that exhibition will help promote The exhibition is also one of the shared heritage and enhance

stan and China. Underlining the centrality of

this exhibition as a landmark event in the cultural cooperation between the two countries, she hoped that the event would be beneficial not only to the general public but also to Chinese scholars and professionals to understand the cultural heritage of Pakistan.

In exchange for scholars from both countries, the federal secretary informed that the Chinese scholars could visit sites in Pakistan and scholars from Pakistan come and visit China.

The Chinese side has also offered to train Pakistani experts and we will send our young professional to get expertise, she

Deputy Director Museums,

BEIJING: The three-month- the major events being held people to contact between Paki- Dr. Mahmood ul Hassan who was present at the launch of the exhibition said that Pakistan should further learn from China's successful efforts to preserve their own ancient art.

By studying how China has successfully preserved their own ancient Gandhara art and applying similar methods to Pakistani stone crafts, Pakistan can ensure that these beautiful works are preserved for generations to come, he added.

Pakistan has a rich cultural heritage, particularly in the form of Gandhara art. However, due to a lack of resources and infrastructure, it is difficult for Pakistani artisans to preserve this ancient art. In order to better preserve this precious cultural asset, Pakistan should look to China for guidance and inspiration.



He stated that Chinese culture heritage is preserved for future has a long history of preserving traditional arts and crafts through the use of modern tech- mainly spread across the southnology and techniques. By learning from China's example, Pakistani artisans can ensure that their country's unique cultural stan. This also is an area of the ence on China and East Asia. APP

generations.

Gandhara archaeological sites ern end of the present-day Hindu Kush and Karakorum mountains ranges in northern Paki-

with Mediterranean civilization, Iranian civilization and Indian civilization. China and Pakistan are both

ancient Silk Road that intersected

ancient civilizations on the Silk Road with a long history of cultural and artistic exchanges. Historical records show that between 400AD and 630AD, ancient Chinese monks traveled to Pakistan and left written materials about Gandhara culture. Chinese artifacts, inscriptions, and coins have also been discovered in many archaeological sites in Pakistan, giving remarkable evidence of historical China-Pakistan exchanges.

The exhibition, lasting until June 15, aims to demonstrate the artistic charm of Gandhara culture and its far-reaching influ-

PLAF opposes too many holidays on Eid as trade, industry to suffer

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), while rejecting the government's notification of almost week-long holidays for Eid, appealed the authorities to withdraw the decision, as the nation cannot afford this luxury amidst poor economic growth and serious financial crisis in the country.

He observed that the national economy is already in distress and can ill afford such

The PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol, expressing grave concern over the long period of holidays on Eid, said that the government has made it a precedent to declare long holidays to please the government employees, who already do not have tendency to work seriously.

He said that in the view of the present economic condition of the country, the decision should be reviewed, adopting a pragmatic approach which suits the national

He urged upon the policymakers to refrain from allowing such a long spell of holidays, which the nation cannot afford both economically and socially.

Due to long holidays' spell during Eidul Fitr together with weekly holidays, the country will remain cut off from the rest of the world for almost one week having halted all kinds of trade and exports with foreign countries. He regretted that due to these long and unnecessary holidays the country has had to bear an irreparable mone-

The PIAF Chief said that due to closure of transport there will be problem to transfer the finished goods from one to other places, as the long five-day holidays would cut-off Pakistan commercially from the world.

Petrol price likely to increase by Rs5 per litre

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) on Saturday moved a summary, delineating factors to increase petroleum prices or keep them unchanged for the next fortnight, to the federal government.

The authority recommended an increase of Rs5 per litre in petrol price and Rs8 increase per litre in the price of diesel in accordance with the soaring petroleum prices in the international market. On the other hand, the authority also put forward factors to keep prices unchanged.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar will consult PM Shehbaz to take a final decision in this regard. New prices will take effect from

FPCCI asks govt to protect jobs, exports

KARACHI: Anticipating negative economic growth by the end of FY23, the business community has warned of a steep increase in unemployment especially in export-oriented sectors.

Based on the data and economic performance during the first eight months of the current fiscal year, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank have cut Pakistan's growth to 0.4-0.6pc for FY23.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh on Friday said the country's exports and export-oriented industries must be protected at all costs, otherwise, the entire economy would collapse.

IMF appreciates friendly nations for aiding Pakistan in unlocking loan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has welcomed the commitments made by Pakistan's friendly countries to assist the cash-strapped South Asian country in reviving its months-long delayed \$1.1 billion IMF loan tranche.

Nathan Porter, the IMF's Mission Chief to Pakistan, welcomed the announcement of financial assistance from the South Asian nation's "key" friendly countries, saying that the Washington-based Fund backs the efforts of the Pakistani authorities.

Pakistan has less than a month's worth of foreign exchange reserves and is awaiting a bail-



out package of \$1.1 billion from the IMF that has been delayed since November over issues related to fiscal policy adjustments.

To unlock the funding, the government has cut back on subsidies, removed an artificial cap

on the exchange rate, added taxes and raised ities".

A Pakistani delegation comprising top officials of the finance ministry and the central bank is currently in Washington to attend the Spring meetings of the IMF.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar yesterday said that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has confirmed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that will provide support of \$1 billion to Pakistan.

"UAE authorities have confirmed to IMF for their bilateral support of US \$1 billion to Pakistan," Dar said in a tweet.

Dar added that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was now "engaged for needful documentation for taking the said deposit from UAE author-

The IMF's managing director Kristalina Georgieva said the previous day the fund was also in talks with friendly countries of Pakistan to provide financial assurances so it can complete the programme.

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has hoped that Pakistan won't face Sri Lanka and Ghana-like situations. "Pakistan won't default. "It is best not to get there, and currently, we are not there yet," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said at a news briefing in Washington.

The IMF and Pakistani officials, she said, were also discussing how to support Pakistan "in terms of providing financial assurances so we can complete the programme".

Coca-Cola and Rizq pledge to scale their 3-year partnership

KARACHI: Long term partners Coca-Cola and Rizq have pledged to scale their partnership to help create a hunger free Pakistan, addressing the crucial issue of growing food insecurity. Last year, together, the partnership distributed over 5 million meals to those in need, nationwide.

This Ramzan alone, Rizq are providing an additional 1 million meals across Pakistan. In addition to this, they are also enabling 1000 farmer families, providing seeds to grow crops which will help in the rehabilitation of 5,000 acres of farmland in flood-affected areas along with safe drinking water intervention.

Coming together with Rizq, business, media and public stakeholders at an event in Karachi, Fahad Ashraf, Vice-President, Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan, shared, "Through our partnership with Rizq, now in its third year, we look to help $address\,this, honoring\,our\,commitment\,to$ working closely with the communities we serve. Through our campaign, 'Aoo Mil Ker BhookMitayain', for every Coca-Cola bottle sold in Ramzan, a meal is being donated. We invite the wider community to join us year."



in scaling this effort together."

At the iftar, Rizq Co-founder, Qasim-Javaid shared the critical importance of the iftardastarkhwans this year specifically, given the growing economic challenges. "Together with Coca-Cola, we hope to double our social impact by the end of this

The iftar was attended by members of Karachi's civil society, corporate sector, media stakeholders and NGOs, along with organizations who partner with Coca-Cola on projects focused on women empowerment, flood relief, food security, water replenishment, sports diplomacy and World Without Waste initiatives.

PAAPAM asks Dar to ease auto industry imports to save Auto & **Auto Parts Industries** from total closure

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has sent an SOS to Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, appealing to him for removal of imports of auto/auto parts industries from the 'non-essential'items'list, as the auto parts manufacturers save valuable foreign exchange to the tune of USD 1.5 billion per annum through import substitution and contribute over 5% of the country's tax revenues.

The Chairman PAAPAM, Munir Bana, informed the Honorable Minister that its members, the auto parts manufacturers, provide direct and indirect employments to over 3 million Pakistani workers, technicians, engineers and management professionals, who face layoffs as the entire sector is on the verge of closure.

PAAPAM requested that permanent closure, amidst of our currency and record high markup rate, making it impossible to maintain

In the above letter, PAAPAM Chairman observed that, unless immediate counter measures are taken to save the "mother of all industries", a massive tragedy would unfold, as the entire auto parts industry would shut down permanently, leading to losses of millions of jobs, rollback of localization and repatriation of foreign investments by all the automotive assemblers.

"The auto industry needs support from the government and the State Bank of restrictions on imports blers.



as well as raw materials by parts makers. "This would help recovery of volumes to a certain extent and assist the industry in sustaining its operations at a breakeven level" he added.

Munir Bana argued that the entire automobile industry needs approximately USD 125 million per month to survive through breakeven capacity utilization.

He said that PAAPAM is the representative of 350 Tier-I and 1,200 Tier-Il auto parts manufacturers located all over Pakistan. He emphasized that Pakistan is not just an automoall banks may kindly be bile assembling country, as directed to open all L/Cs for our members are manufacimports by genuine manu- turers and suppliers of thouturers, as the entire indus-sands of locally produced try is currently faced with auto parts & components worth over PKR 150 billion rising inflation, devaluation per year to all the foreign assemblers of passenger cars, light commercial vehicles, motorcycles, tractors, trucks and buses in Pakistan. Our members produce components as per global quality standards, tested and approved on Japanese, Korean and Chinese speci-

> Despite our humble contributions to job creation, GDP growth and domestic value addition, our industry is currently facing a life and death situation.

Due to State Bank policies, Commercial Banks are not willing to open L/Cs for imports of our members' raw materials and CKD compoof Pakistan through easing nents of automobile assem-

ICCI Eid Shopping Festival kicks off in Islamabad

Tarig Khattak

val has kicked off in F-7 and F-10 Marakaz, which will continue till Chand Raat. The festival in both markets has been organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with ICT Administration, MCI, concerned Market Associations and J7 Group to provide Eid shopping opportunities to the citizens at affordable prices. Irfan Nawaz Memon, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad along with President ICCI inaugurated the Eid Shopping Festival. The people took great interest in the festival as they got the opportunity of such activity after many years.

Speaking at the occasion, Irfan Nawaz Memon, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad lauded ICCI and other partners for organizing the Eid shopping festival as it would provide good shopping opportunities to the citizens. He said that traders are playing an important role in the economy and ICT Administration would cooperate in organizing such activities to promote trade activities.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President,



Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the purpose of the shopping festival is to facilitate the inflation-stricken people to do Eid shopping at discounted prices. He said that the festival would also provide good entertainment to the shoppers as it will include traditional food area, art & crafts corner, mehndi stalls, kids' area, corporate stalls, live music stage,

lucky draws, quizzes, laser lights, lighting displays. He hoped that the shopping festival would increase footfall of customers and provide a good chance to the traders to generate more business. He said that ICCI would organize a full-fledged Summer Festival in Islamabad, which would be held in all markets to facilitate the traders in promot-

China protests US sanctioning of firms dealing with Russia

News Desk

BEIJING: Beijing on Saturday protested U.S. sanctions against additional Chinese companies over their alleged attempts to evade U.S. export controls on Russia, calling it an illegal move that endangers global supply chains.

The U.S. Commerce Department on Wednesday put five firms based in mainland China and Hong Kong on its "entity list," barring them from trading with any U.S. firms without gaining a nearly unobtainable special

Washington has been tightening up enforcement of sanctions against foreign firms it sees as providing assistance to Russia in its war against Ukraine, forcing them to choose between trading with Moscow or with the U.S. A total of 28 entities from countries ranging from Malta to Turkey to Singapore were added to the list.

A statement from China's Commerce Ministry said the U.S. action "has no basis in international law and is not authorized by the United Nations Security Council."

"It is a typical unilateral sanction

and a form of 'long-arm jurisdiction' which seriously damages the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises and affects the security and stability of the global supply chain. China firmly opposes this," the statement said. "The U.S. should immediately

correct its wrongdoing and stop

its unreasonable suppression of

Chinese companies. China will resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies," it added. The latest sanctions were leveled against Allparts Trading Co., Ltd.; Avtex Semiconductor Limited;

ETC Electronics Ltd.; Maxtronic International Co., Ltd.; and STK Electronics Co., Ltd., registered in Hong Kong.

The list identifies entities essentially businesses — that the U.S. suspects "have been involved, are involved, or pose a significant risk of being or becoming involved in activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States," the department said.

Entities named were designated as "military end users" for "attempting to evade export tions there. A Luxembourg-based of its neighbor.



controls and acquiring or attempting to acquire U.S.-origin items in support of Russia's military and or defense industrial base," it said.

The Chinese protest was similar to one issued in February after the U.S. announced sanctions against the Chinese company Changsha Tianyi Space Science and Technology Research Institute Co. Ltd., also known as Spacety China.

The department said the company supplied Russia's Wagner Group private army affiliates with satellite imagery of Ukraine that support Wagner's military opera-

subsidiary of Spacety China was also targeted. At that time, China's Foreign

Ministry accused the U.S. of "outright bullying and double standards" for sanctioning its companies while intensifying efforts to provide Ukraine with defensive weapons.

China has maintained that it is neutral in the conflict, while backing Russia politically, rhetorically and economically at a time when Western nations have imposed punishing sanctions and sought to isolate Moscow for the invasion

China has refused to criticize Russia's actions, blasted Western economic sanctions on Moscow, maintained trade ties and affirmed a "no limits" relationship between the countries just weeks before last year's invasion.

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Moscow last month and China announced Friday that Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu would visit Russia this coming week for meetings with counterpart Sergei Shoigu and other military officials.

However, Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Friday said China won't sell weapons to either side in the war, responding to Western concerns that Beijing could provide outright military assistance to Russia.

"Regarding the export of military items, China adopts a prudent and responsible attitude," Qin said at a news conference alongside visiting German counterpart Annalena Baerbock. "China will not provide weapons to relevant parties of the conflict, and manage and control the exports of dual-use items in accordance with laws and regulations."

Short-term inflation spikes to 44.6pc on costly food

ISLAMABAD: Short-term inflation, based on the Sensitive Price Index (SPI), rose to 44.61 per cent vear-on-vear for the week ended on April 13, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Friday.

On a week-on-week basis. the SPI eased by 0.60pc. However, food items are getting costlier, particularly fruits, potatoes, onions, chicken, meat, eggs and cooking oil in the wake of the Ramazan-related demand

On a year-on-year basis, weekly inflation has stayed above 40pc since late February. However, after hitting a record high of 46.7pc in the week ending March 22, it has slightly eased in the previous

The retail price of sugar surged to Rs130 per kg in markets after the government allowed its export under pressure from mill owners and

politicians sitting in the PDM government. At the same time, the price

of 20kg flour rose to Rs3,400 in markets. A similar trend was seen in the prices of cooking oil and vegetable ghee in recent weeks. Out of 51 items in the SPI $\,$

basket, prices of 26 items soared while those of 09 items decreased. However, the rates of 16 items remained unchanged During the week under

review, the items whose prices increased the most over the same week a year ago were wheat flour (126.09pc), gas charges for Q1 (108.38pc), diesel (102.84pc), eggs (99.37pc), tea Lipton (97.63pc), bananas (90.18pc), potatoes

(87.18pc), rice basmati broken (84.46pc), rice Irri-6/9 (81.31pc), petrol (81.17pc), pulse moong (67.43pc), pulse mash (58.54pc) and bread plain (55.36pc).

KSA gears up to create world's richest T20 League

Sports Desk

RIYADH: Following the recent Saudi Arabian expansion into sports, the Saudi government has expressed its intention to set up a new T20 league, the world's richest.

As per reports, owners of the Indian Premier League (IPL) have been approached by the Gulf state to ensure participation of Indian players in the league. Indian players are not allowed, as per rules of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), to participate in overseas T20 competitions.

The league would also need to be sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and approved by member countries. Earlier, the ICC chairman Greg Barclay had also confirmed Saudi Arabia's inter-

He said he thought cricket was some- authorities were pretty keen to invest in



thing he imagined would be attractive to them. He said cricket would work quite well for Saudi Arabia. He added that Saudi

sport, and given their regional presence, cricket would seem a pretty obvious one to pursue.

Saudi Arabia's Prince Fahd bin Abdu- him to June 2025.

laziz also highlighted that sports and entertainment will play a key role in the Kingdom's ambitious Vision 2030 in August last year. He said people could really sense how excited Saudis would be to see some of the world's biggest sports events taking place in the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia will host the FIFA Men's Club World Cup later this year, having already hosted the Spanish Super Cup and events in Formula One, Golf, and boxing. A group led by Saudi Arabia's sovereign investment fund purchased the Premier League football team Newcastle United

Meanwhile, legendary footballer Cristiano Ronaldo signed for Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia last year in a deal believed to be worth more than 200 million euros. The 37-year-old penned a contract that will take

Sajid Sadpara achieves another feat by scaling Annapurna peak without oxygen support

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: Achieving yet another milestone on Saturday, Sajid Sadpara became the first Pakistani to go on top of the Annapurna peak without the supplemental oxygen.

After the Sadpara's latest feat, Kathmandu-based operator Seven Summit Treks congratulated him in an Instagram post

"Confirmed by Chhang Dawa Sherpa (the enterprise's director), Sajid Ali Sadpara, a son of legend Ali Sadpara, successfully reached the top of mountain Annapurna this afternoon, unsupported and without using supplementary oxygen, as a part ulated Sadpara. of Seven Summit Treks'



Earlier, a tweet posted on Sadpara's account on Friday said he was at Annapurna's camp four at the time along with the rope fixing team of

"Congratulations Sajid lated the mountaineer on cially Gilgit-Baltistan. Best Ali Sadpara," the post read. Twitter, saying: "Heartiest wishes and prayers for his Also, Abu Zafar Sadiq, congratulations to Sajid future endeavours." President and secretary Ali Sadpara for summiting Karar Haidri also congrat-Annapurna peak in Nepal without oxygen and sher-Gilgit-Baltistan Chief pa. Indeed, a great, great Annapurna Expedition Minister Khalid Khursh- achievement and a proud eed Khan also congratu- moment for Pakistan, espe- Seven Trek's summit.

PAK vs NZ: Pakistan beat New Zealand in second T20I, extend dominance

By A Sports -

LAHORE: nant Pakistan displayed all-round brilliance to breeze past nervy New Zealand in the second PAK vs NZ T20I and moved one victory within sealing the series victory.

The second T20I of the five-match series between Pakistan and New Zealand was played here at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam, once again opted to bat first after the coin flipped in his favour and his men proved his decision right by posting a massive total on the scoreboard.

Green Shirts eventual-



The target set by the for the touring side as they

ly proved to be too much straight defeat in the series. Monday (April 17th) with The two sides will lock

Babar-led Pakistan eyeing

returning from a leg injury which forced

PAK vs NZ T20I: Babar ton aids Pakistan to thump New Zealand



By A Sports -

LAHORE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam smashed an unbeaten century before Haris Rauf's four-for stormed the hosts to a dominating 38-run victory over New Zealand in the second PAK vs NZ T20I at Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan managed to accumulate a massive total on the scoreboard at the back of an unbeaten century by their skipper Babar and brisk half-century by Rizwan.

Watch Live: New Zealand Tour of Pakistan in HD Streaming at AR ZAP.

Earlier, the opening duo, once again scripted a solid start for the home side; raising 99 runs for the first wicket before Rizwan fell briefly after amassing his half-century in PAK vs NZ second T20I.

Matt Henry, who tested Pakistan openers in the early phase of the innings, finally tested success in his second spell as he outdid Rizwan, who miscued one straight to Daryl Mitchel at mid-off in the

He scored 50 off just 34 deliveries, hitting six boundaries and a six.

Rizwan's dismissal filled New Zealand with momentum as their bowlers made three more quick strikes to produce a brilliant comeback in the middle phase.

However, Babar held his ground firm and stitched a valiant 87-run unbeaten partnership with Iftikhar Ahmed to get his side back on track for a massive total.

Iftikhar supported his skipper with a sensible 19-ball 33 while Babar, switched gears at the death to bring up his third T20I century.

He top-scored for his side with an unbeaten 101 off just 58 deliveries, laced up with 11 boundaries and three sixes.

For New Zealand, Henry led the way with two wickets while Rachin Ravindra and James Neesham made one scalp

succumbed to the second horns in the third T20I on the series triumph. Mane incident with Sane 'dealt with', says

Bayern's Tuchel Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The incident between Sadio Mane and Leroy Sane has been "dealt with" after the Senegal star was fined and suspended by Bayern Munich, coach Thomas Tuchel said on Friday.

Mane was suspended for this weekend's Bundesliga game against Hoffenheim after reportedly having a physical altercation with Sane following Tuesday's Champions League defeat at Manchester City.

German daily Bild said Mane struck Sane in the face after the 3-0 loss, leaving the Germany international with a cut lip.

Mane has also reportedly been fined around 500,000 euros (\$550,000). "Of course it concerned us," Tuchel told a press conference. "A limit was crossed

that we don't want and that we didn't "But we cleared the air. There was an



apology which was absolutely credible... The matter is dealt with."

him to miss last year's World Cup in Qatar Mane has struggled for form since and has not scored since October.

the sacked Julian Nagelsmann last month. "I have known him for so long, I know his entourage. I know him exclusively as a super professional, I have never, never, never, seen anything that we can blame him for... "Everyone has the right to make a

Tuchel, who did not see the incident himself, said the 31-year-old apologised to the entire team and that the way it had

"I am his first lawyer and his first

been dealt with had a "cleansing effect". Mane will be available for the quarter-final second leg against Manchester City at the Allianz Arena on Wednesday.

Bayern were also knocked out of the German Cup by Freiburg in the quarter-finals and only hold a two-point lead over Borussia Dortmund as they chase an 11th straight Bundesliga title.

Zim Afro T10 Schedule in August 2023



Sports Desk

DUBAI: Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC), in association with T10 Global Sports, has unveiled the country's eagerly awaited franchise-based T10 tournament that is aiming to feature cricket stars from across the world.

The inaugural edition of the new competition, known as the Zim Afro T10, will be played in August this year, with six privately-owned teams involved.

The participating franchises, player auction dates, fixtures and other details will be announced in due course. This is the latest T10 tournament to be established by T10 Global Sports, the same company behind the Abu Dhabi T10 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Lanka 10 in Sri Lanka.

Announcing the launch of the Zim Afro T10 at a media conference held in Harare on Friday, ZC Chairman Tavengwa Mukuhlani said he was confident the league will provide great entertainment for the fans, top-level competition for the players and vast exposure for the investors.

"We are thrilled to unveil our own franchise-based T10 league, a powerful format that we believe is exactly what our changing, fast-paced world needs right now," Mr Mukuhlani said.

TTen Global Sports Founder and Chairman Mr Nawab Shaji Ul Mulk – the UAE-based investor behind the state-of-the-art Zim Cyber-City real estate project that is being developed in Mount Hampden on the outskirts of Harare - said he was excited to be bringing the magic of T10 cricket to Zimbabwe.

"As our association with cricket continues to grow, we are delighted to bring to Zimbabwe an exciting format that will not only advance the reach, attractiveness and growth of the sport but will also present a massive opportunity for private investment into the franchises," Mr Mulk said.

Rayo Vallecano sink Osasuna to end winless La Liga streak

By A Sports -

MADRID: Rayo Vallecano at home on Friday outclassed Osasuna 2-1 to end their winless streak in the ongoing La Liga 2022/23. Osasuna's defender Aridane Hernández attempt to make a tackle close to the goal line but instead pushed the ball into his own goal in the 40th minute.

Isi Palazón then took just three minutes to double Rayo's lead when the midfielder latched on to a clearance by the defence and volleyed the ball just inside the post.

Osasuna's Moi Gómez scored a stunning long-range goal in the 66th minute to cut Rayo's lead to 2-1, but the hosts held on to its advantage to earn its first victory in nine games.

With their first victory, after more than two months, Rayo managed to leapfrog the visitors and moved into eighth place with 40 points, two clear of Osasuna.

Meanwhile, both teams still have a chance to finish sixth at the nd of the season, which would earn them a Conference League

Bumrah begins rehab after back surgery

№ News Desk

NEW DELHI : India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has begun his rehabilitation after undergoing back surgery in New Zealand, the country's cricket board said on Saturday.

The 29-year-old right-arm seamer has been sidelined since September and missed last year's T20 World Cup in Australia and the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Bumrah is also set to miss the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in June but India are hoping to get him fit for the ODI World Cup on home soil in October-November.

The fast bowler was advised by the specialist to start his rehab six weeks after the surgery and accordingly, Bumrah has commenced his rehab management at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru from Friday," the Indian board (BCCI) said in a statement.

Batsman Shreyas Iyer, who has been ruled out of the IPL and the WTC final at The Oval with a lower back injury, will undergo surgery next week.

Medvedev happy with run in Monte Carlo despite quarterfinal exit

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Daniil Medvedev's run at the Monte Carlo Masters came to an end in the quarter-finals on Friday but the world number five was happy with his performance at the event as he aims to improve his game on clay.

Third seed Medvedev lost 6-3 6-4 to Danish teenager Holger Rune at the ATP Masters 1000 event, a day after his comeback victory over Alexander Zverev.

The Russian, who has often admitted his preference for hard courts over clay, said he would build on his performance ahead of other claycourt events in the run-up to the French Open. "It was not bad," Medvedev told reporters. "I beat good players

on clay. Yesterday evening (against Zverev) was magic. It was very tough on clay. It's not easy to win matches like this. "He (Rune) played very well. I could have played a bit better,

but if we talk about clay again, I'm not as at ease as he is on clay... So overall, it's very positive. "There are other big tournaments coming up. We'll see what

I do there, but I'm very happy with this tournament in Monte Carlo," Medvedev added. The 2021 US Open champion has been in impressive form this season, and was asked what he would change in his game to be more efficient on clay.

"I'm trying to change the directions and have a bit of more topspin, because if you play flat on clay, it doesn't work, especially against the better players.

"I believe my game was not so bad (against Rune), except that he was more decisive in important moments and he feels when he needs to be aggressive or defensive.

This is something I feel well on hard courts and not as well on clay. So, I'm not sure I can change that, but I will try. If one day I'm able to become a monster on clay, I'm happy."