



**Chinese Charge'd Affairs called on Finance Minister**

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar highlighting deep rooted historical bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, commended the Chinese support for Pakistan and underscored the need for further deepening bilateral relations in economic and trade as well as financial sectors. (Details on Page 8)



**Army chief's China visit to determine country's foreign policy: Sh Rashid**

Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid said on Tuesday that visit of Army Chief General Asim Munir to China was very important and would determine the foreign policy of the country. In his tweet on the social networking site Twitter, Sh Rashid said that the government should respect the Constitution and law instead of hurrying threats at the judiciary otherwise they had already landed in hot water. . . (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Enjoyment**

ISLAMABAD: People are visits tourists spot Pakistan Monument to enjoy, on the last holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**President Alvi felicitates President of Bangladesh on assuming office**



**Spokesman Report**  
On his Twitter handle, the president said "I am confident that during your tenure our brotherly ties would be further strengthened. Wish you a very successful term in office and looking forward to work closely with you for the mutual benefit of our countries."  
President Alvi felicitates President of Bangladesh on

**Pakistan Army not leaning towards any political party, vision, ideology: DG ISPR**

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG-ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif has said that Pakistan Army is a national army and it does not lean towards a political party, vision or ideology.

While addressing his first press conference in Rawalpindi since his appointment as head of the military's media wing, DG ISPR Major General Ahmed Sharif said that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir believes that the centre of real power is the nation. "Pakistan Army is a national army and it respects all politicians and political parties."  
"Constitution of Pakistan gives right to every Pakistanis for freedom of expression, however, the same Constitution puts some boundaries for the use of the right under some laws and restrictions. Some people may use this right in personal capacity and others may have some political objectives."  
The head of the military's media wing further said that the institution gives importance to constructive criticism, however, Pakistani armed forces cannot be pressurised



by bullying and deception like any other military forces in the world. Major General Ahmed Sharif said that ex-servicemen are our assets and they rendered sacrifices for the country. The ex-servicemen associations were formed for their welfare but they do not have any political or commercial objectives. The DG ISPR clarified that veterans are not exempted from the law and their organisations should not wear the cloak of politics.  
He further said that the government and the army have constitutional and non-political relationships and should not be politicised. It is in the best interest of all that the army remains apolitical.

The DG ISPR added that only chaos has spread in that country where the military is used for a particular political vision, ideology or religion. The nation and the military do not want to see the armed forces leaning towards a specific political party because the political use of the military leads to chaos. He asked the political parties to promote the idea that the army is apolitical.  
**Election security**  
Maj Gen Sharif said that the military gives its opinion based on ground realities to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the court through the defence ministry regarding the election

security arrangements. He said that the defence ministry elaborated on the current situation before the Supreme Court (SC) and the ECP. He added that the details of the meeting between the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and the senior military officers cannot be made public.  
The DG ISPR said that the government implements military deployments under Article 245. The defence ministry apprised the ECP and the court regarding the provision of army contingents for election security, he added.  
He said that there is a strong accountability and justice system existing in the military institutions. Whenever we get evidence against anyone, then the individual faces accountability, said the DG ISPR. **'Military mindset against terrorists'**  
Maj Gen Sharif said that the army chief expressed his views about building national consensus to cope with the national challenges. He further said that negotiations with the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was the decision of the then government, whereas, the armed forces have a military mindset against terrorists.  
He added that the military

mindset of the armed forces will continue till the elimination of the last terrorists and the establishment of permanent peace.  
Regarding Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police, the DG ISPR said that the sacrifices of the KP police force are not hidden from the nation. "We are improving the efficiency of the KP police. It is sorrowful that the KP police is criticised for general incidents. We are standing with the KP police and will always support it."  
The head of the military's media wing said that baseless propaganda is being carried out against the armed forces through fake social media accounts of the ISPR. **Kabal incident**  
Maj Gen Sharif said that the Kabal incident was sorrowful and Inspector General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (IG KP) gave a detailed briefing regarding the blasts at the CTD police station. He said that evidence showed that it was not a terrorism incident. "Kabul incident was apparently an accident as the pieces of evidence show that weaponry was stored on the first floor of the building. Rescue operation of Pakistan Army and other security institutions is still underway."

**PM congratulates President Erdogan on maiden light combat Hurjet's flight**



**Spokesman Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday congratulated President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the successful maiden flight of Hurjet, a light combat aircraft.  
On his Twitter handle, the prime minister, responded to a tweet of President Erdogan and said that it was undoubt-

**Another convoy of 211 Pakistanis arrived Port Sudan for onward evacuation: FM**



**City Desk**  
ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while reiterating the government's commitment to the welfare of overseas Pakistanis, on Tuesday said that Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued to lead in the relief and rescue of Pakistanis in Sudan as today, another convoy of 211 Pakistanis dispatched from Khartoum, arrived in Port Sudan.  
"With the latest convoy, the total number of Pakistanis who have been evacuated to safety has reached 700. Ambassador Meer Bahroze Regi's team in Khartoum and Port Sudan are working day and night to facilitate the stay of Pakistanis who are still in Sudan until their evacuation to Pakistan," Foreign Office Spokesperson quoted the foreign minister in a press statement.  
The foreign minister, in his statement, further said that they remained engaged with the friendly countries in the region especially with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to facilitate the evacuation process.  
He also appreciated the hard work of Pakistan missions in the region and the entire foreign office team led by foreign secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, who was leading the inter-agency coordination process.

**Death toll in Swat CTD police station blasts rise to 18**

**News Desk**  
SWAT: At least 18 people martyred including 13 policemen and 70 others including a lady police official sustained injuries in twin bomb blasts inside a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) police station in Swat's Kabal town on Monday.  
According to initial reports, several cops lost their lives and others sustained injuries in two bomb blasts in the CTD police station in Kabal town of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Swat district. Police said that 10 cops were martyred and 53 others got injured in the bombing incident, whereas, four persons locked up inside the police station were also killed.

**EX-CJP Saqib Nisar reacts to alleged audio leak**

**Spokesman Report**  
ISLAMABAD: Ex-Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Retired Mian Saqib Nisar has reacted to his alleged audio leak and said that his patience and silence should not be mistaken for his weakness.  
Mian Saqib Nisar said in a statement that he has the legal right to take action against those who leaked the audio of his private conversation.  
"It is an illegal and unconstitutional act to record a private conversation of any citizen. What are they trying to get in return by recording a private conversation between individuals? These people are shattering the Constitution, law and moral values." He further said that the wrong deeds of some people cannot be covered by tapping someone's private conversations. "Khawaja Tariq Raheem is a senior lawyer and my friend. He sought legal advice from me which I gave him. I did not know for whom he was getting my opinion."  
"I am an independent citizen now. I am neither the chief justice nor part of any bench. If someone is seeking my legal opinion then I would definitely give it. I give legal consultancy without any charges to the people at my son's office."  
The former CJP questioned what message they are giving to the young generation by tapping into someone's private conversation. He added that the use of tapped private conversations for blackmailing is a serious crime.  
**Alleged audio leak**  
Earlier in the day, an alleged audio leak of the former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar and Khawaja Tariq Raheem surfaced.  
In a purported audio tape of a conversation the former CJP Saqib Nisar guided PTI's Khawaja Tariq told about the contempt court plea.  
He told Khawaja Tariq Raheem to study the 2010 sou motu then he will understand the contempt court plea. In response, Khawaja Tariq Raheem said in clause 3 there is a way out.  
The ex-CJP said that it is the only way out they have otherwise the case is closed. He added that after what happened in Azad Jammu Kashmir, it's a straight case of contempt court.

**MQM-P collects resignations from MNAs**

**Bureau Report**  
KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has collected resignations from its Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and it will decide the time of their submission in the next consultative session.  
The resignations of MNAs were collected in a Rabita Committee session chaired by MQM-P convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui today. Sources told ARY News that the participants of the session expressed reservations about the digital census.  
During the session, the convenor collected resignations of all MQM-P MNAs, however, the political party is yet to decide on the time to submit them.

## Workers Meeting

NAWAB SHAH: Former President of Pakistan and President PPP Asif Ali Zardari addressing during General Workers Meeting of PPP District Shaheed Benazirabad at Zardari House Nawab Shah.



## Chinese Charge'd Affairs called on Finance Minister

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar highlighting deep rooted historical bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, commended the Chinese support for Pakistan and underscored the need for further deepening bilateral relations in economic and trade as well as financial sectors.

Ms. Pang Chunxue extended Eid greetings to the people of Pakistan and the Finance Minister. She praised close and shared friendly relations between the two countries. She assured the Finance Minister of continuous support of Chinese Government to the people of Pakistan.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and avenues to

enhance exiting cooperation in multiple fields.

In conclusion, Finance Minister Mr. Ishaq Dar appreciated Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge'd Affairs for all the support and cooperation which Pakistan has been receiving from the leadership of China.

H. E. Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge'd Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, today.

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## Army chief's China visit to determine country's foreign policy: Sh Rashid

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid said on Tuesday that visit of Army Chief General Asim Munir to China was very important and would determine the foreign policy of the country.

In his tweet on the social networking site Twitter, Sh Rashid said that the government should respect the Constitution and law instead of hurdling threats at the judiciary otherwise they had already landed in hot water for disobey-



ing the constitution and the law. He said it was better for the rulers to go for elections rather than committing political suicide.

Mr Rashid maintained that Maulana Fazlur Rehman would take the government in a blind alley and rulers would have no way out to save them.

He said that Asif Zardari wanted to see Bilawal Bhutto as the Prime Minister.

Mr Rashid said in the month of April, 41 people committed suicide in the coastal belt of Thatta due to poverty. The entire Sharif family offered Eidul Fitr prayers inside the forewalls of their house. The former interior minister said that Zardari had put all the onus of failure on Shehbaz Sharif.

He (Zardari) himself was sitting aside as a virtuous person. Mr Rashid maintained that election will be held no matter it would be held in

Punjab or across the country. Bilawal did not bring even five dollars of aid from the whole world nor did he solve the problem with the IMF, said the AML chief adding, role of the judiciary was being undermined.

The head of Awami Muslim League further said that Shehbaz Sharif, interior minister, law minister and Maulana Fazlur Rehman should pack their luggage. The nation should prepare for salvation day.

If court's decision was not accepted, Imran Khan would give call and the whole nation would be on the streets.

## WHO urges collective action to promote use of vaccines to protect people against disease

UNITED NATIONS: The COVID-19 pandemic caused millions of children to miss out on routine vaccines and countries must act now to restore essential immunization coverage to a least 2019 levels, the World Health Organization (WHO), a Geneva-based UN agency, has said.

Under the banner of 'The Big Catch-Up', WHO and partners will support countries to get back on track so that more children and adults are protected from preventable diseases, as the agency marked the start of World Immunization Week.

The ultimate goal is to ensure more children, adults, and their communities, are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases, allowing them to live happier, healthier lives.

Particular focus will be given to the 20 countries that are home to three-quarters of the children who missed vaccinations in 2021, which include Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, North Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia and Myanmar.



The coronavirus pandemic saw essential immunization levels decrease in over 100 countries, leading to rising outbreaks of measles, diphtheria, polio and yellow fever. An estimated 25 million children missed out on vaccination in 2021 alone.

The decline in immunization was fueled by factors that included overburdened health services, closed clinics, and disruptions in the import and export of medical supplies such as syringes and vials.

At the same time, communities and families experienced lockdowns, which restricted travel and access to health services, while financial and human resources were limited as governments responded to the emergency. WHO also pointed to other contributing factors such as conflicts, climate crises and vaccine hesitancy.

World Immunization Week runs through Sunday, and WHO has joined forces with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF); Gavi, the Vaccine

Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and many other global and international partners.

WHO said it is also using the week to highlight successful vaccination campaigns underway in several countries, as well as some "bright spots of resilience", such as India, which saw a strong recovery in essential immunization last year, according to initial reports. Uganda also maintained high coverage levels during the pandemic.

Catherine Russell, the UNICEF Executive Director, underscored the need to unite to strengthen services, build trust and save lives.

"Routine vaccines are typically a child's first entry into their health system and so children who miss out on their early vaccines are at added risk of being cut out of health care in the long run," she said.

"The longer we wait to reach and vaccinate these children, the more vulnerable they become and the greater the risk of more deadly disease outbreaks." APP/ift

## Justice Sardar Tariq Masood not using any twitter account: SC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday clarified that Justice Sardar Tariq Masood was not using any twitter account, page or any other ID on any other social networking websites.

The clarification was given with reference to a fake twitter account with the name of Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Judge Supreme Court

of Pakistan, was being run on social media.

It is, hereby, clarified that the Judge is neither using any Twitter account nor any ID on other social networking websites. Moreover, FIA has also been asked to block such names, IDs and pages and to take legal action against the delinquents in accordance with the law, read the clarification issued by the PRO of SC.

## Saqib Nisar transcended all limits in enmity with Nawaz Sharif: Kh Asif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said he regretted the audio of former Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar and accused him of transcending all limits in his enmity with Nawaz Sharif.

In a tweet on his official handle, the Defence Minister said Saqib Nisar some 14-15 years back mentioned his two complaints with Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif which were totally baseless.

He asserted that he could reveal



these facts on the media.

Khawaja Asif alleged, "You (Saqib Nisar) took revenge with Nawaz Sharif and convicted him. How long will you continue to breed this venom."

## Sanaullah voices concern over Punjab PA polls

Mian Abdul Rasheed

FAISALABAD: (Dunya News) – Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday that simply holding the Punjab Assembly elections could cause irreparable damage to the country.

Addressing a public gathering, Mr Sanaullah said, "If the elections are divided, the country will face dire consequences. Expressing concerns over the alleged audio of the Chief Justice's mother-in-law, saying, "If the Supreme Court does not give a decision, the country will have to bear the consequences".

Mr Sanaullah clarified that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was not avoiding the elections.

Recalling the 1971 elections, Mr Sanaullah said that the country was divided due to the 1971 elections.

On Monday, Mr Sanaullah appealed the Chief Justice to hold simultaneous elections in the country.

Addressing an event, Mr Sanaullah took a swipe at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, saying, "Imran Khan is not ready to negotiate with the government despite being in the opposition. Imran Khan asks his supporters to abuse political opponents."

"Imran should tell what he did during his time. What projects did Imran initiate and complete during his four-year tenure? Imran was engaged in political revenge against opponents during his rule," Mr Sanaullah berated Mr Khan.

Taking a jibe at Mr Khan over his negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr Sanaullah said, "We have been dragged down by Imran Khan's talks with the international lender."

## Govt extends digital census process for fourth time

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has extended the date of the ongoing digital census process for the fourth time after failing to conclude the process within the given deadline.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) announced a fourth extension to the digital census process and fixed April 30 as the last date.

Prior to this development, the census process was due to be concluded in early April, however, it was first extended till April 10. Later, it was extended till April 15 for the second time and then April 20 for the third time.

According to the bureau, the fourth extension was approved to complete the verification of population data and growth rate in some districts, whereas, the institution witnessed undercounting of population in

major cities.

It added that the PBS recorded a low population count in seven districts of Karachi including Central, South, West, East, Malir, Keamari and Korangi.

Moreover, discrepancies were also detected in the population count in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Hyderabad and Quetta. The census officials were also continuing the data verification process in different cities including Gujranwala, Sialkot, Jhelum, Gujrat, Attock and Peshawar.

The PBS spokesperson said that the last date was also extended due to the data verification process in Peshawar, Dera Ismail Khan, Abbottabad and Tank.

The field operation of the digital census will be resumed on Wednesday once again after the conclusion of a five-day Eidul Fitr holiday.

## Punjab Elections: PML-Q issues party tickets to candidates

News Desk

GUJRAT: Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) has issued party tickets to the candidates ahead of the Punjab elections scheduled for May 14.

The PML-Q leadership ordered its candidates to start electioneering in their respective constituencies after issuing party tickets. The party tickets were issued by the PML-Q chief organizer Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar and Secretary General Punjab Chaudhry Shafay Hussain.

Chaudhry Sarwar said in a statement that the situation would be better if the government properly used the development budget of Rs2,500 billion in Punjab.

He vowed that there is no need to adopt any rocket science to change the state of the province and PML-Q will perform better after coming into power.

The chief organizer claimed that PML-Q has a strong team and they will give a surprise in Punjab. He ordered candidates to establish their election officers and also run a strong campaign on social media platforms.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that the past government did nothing for Punjab in 3.5 years. He added that his political party will contest the Punjab elections to provide alternative leadership to the nationals after the failure of the previous rulers.

# Tarar voices for transparency to ensure rule of law

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) believed in the supremacy of law and the constitution and wanted transparency in all matters as it was utmost necessary for ensuring rule of law in the country.

Addressing a press conference flanked by SAPM Malik Ahmed Khan here, he said that peoples' confidence in the national institutions could be ensured through transparency.

Parliament being the legislature and supreme institution of the coun-

try, was mandated to make legislation as per the constitution, he said and added that Practice and Procedure Act was passed by the upper and lower houses of the Parliament by using its constitutional right, however a ruling was given to stop the act before its imposition.

He said the Parliament and the political fora were the right place to discuss political matters. In the past, courts have tried to avoid questions being raised on political matters, Tarar said, adding when political matters were taken to court, it only harmed the country and the nation.

Tarar said that an audio leak

between former chief justice Saqib Nisar and the PTI lawyer Khawaja Tariq Rahim had raised questions as various political matters and cases which were in the courts had been discussed in the audio tape.

The conversation in the audio leak was aimed to create rifts among the institutions and to further deepen the prevailing crisis, he alleged. The country was passing through a tough situation, whereas, the audio leak was referring to further intensify it.

Matters pertaining to future were discussed in the call, he said adding that the perception regarding ousting of prime minister of elected PML-N

government in 2016-17 was getting strengthened that it was pre-planned.

SAPM Malik Ahmed Khan said that interpretation of the constitution was a right and duty of the courts, however, they could not rewrite the constitution. He said various powers were abundantly misused in the courts including the suo moto powers particularly in political matters.

He said the PML-N was never afraid of going into elections, however, it wanted a level playing field for everyone so that no one could raise questions over the conduct of elections and their transparency.

He said, a ruling was given for

conducting elections in the Punjab province in 90 days, whereas, the matter of elections in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was set aside.

The SAPM said that conspiracies were being hatched against the PML-N government from the day one. There should prevail sanity and political discourse in the country to take the things forward as the parliament was a supreme institution, he added.

To a question, Federal Minister Azam Nazeer said that some elements wanted to see the government in contempt of court, but the government did nothing which comes into

the purview of contempt of court. To another query regarding audio leak, he said that it was an era of information technology and anything could come out as it was not a matter of Pakistan only and it happened everywhere in the world.

Malik Ahmed Khan said while responding to a question, under the article 18 of the constitution, it was the responsibility of Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct elections and they had to ensure implementation over it.

The minister and SAPM Malik Ahmed Khan demanded forensic audit into the alleged audio tape.

## Camel ride

ISLAMABAD: A family is enjoying the ride of camel at "Play Land Park", on the last holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# Accused will be dismissed from their jobs and prosecuted for murder: Mohsin Naqvi

**Asim Tanveer**

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi today visited Shah Rukn Alam Colony, the residence of Samiullah, and Mohammad Usman's Mohalla Dogran, who died in police firing in Multan, and expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the deceased youths.

Mohsin Naqvi announced financial assistance for both families and government jobs to the brothers of the dead youth. He added that the police will also provide financial assistance from its own resources.

It's a murder and the accused persons will get exemplary punishment. One accused has been arrested and IG Punjab has been directed to



arrest the other two accused within the next 72 hours; he said and added that the accused persons will be dismissed

and prosecuted for slaying. Mohsin Naqvi directed to provide the best medical facilities to the injured

Muhammad Irfan and assured to provide justice to the bereaved families at any cost. The policemen, who have committed this atrocity, will be brought to justice. I can't bring back your loved ones but the Punjab government will go to the extreme to get you justice; he stated and concluded that the government was an equal participant in their grief. Information Minister Amir Mir said that it should be ensured that no pressure is put on the families of the deceased youths.

Addl IG (South Punjab) said that the constable has been arrested and raids were conducted to arrest other accused persons. Provincial Minister Dr Javed Akram, commissioner Multan, CPO Multan, deputy commissioner and DPO were also present.

# A high-level meeting was held in Jammu and Kashmir House Islamabad



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: A high-level meeting was held in Jammu and Kashmir House Islamabad under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq. Most Senior Minister Colonel (Retd) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Government Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Principal Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary/Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi, Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, Secretary Planning and Development and officers of the Planning and Development Department attended the meeting.

In the meeting, Secretary Planning and Development gave a detailed briefing regarding the disbursement of funds and expenditure against the development budget of the current financial year.

Apart from this, he explained that till the end of the third quarter of the current financial year, 11 billion 21 crore rupees have been spent against a total of 16 billion 80 crore rupees. Thus, in view of the availability of less funds against the development projects, the completion of the projects is being delayed and the development goals are being adversely affected.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir strictly directed that the timely and proper utilization of the funds spent against the projects should be ensured till May 15, 2023. Otherwise, such departments will not only be liable to impeachment, but after the due date the unused funds will be transferred to those departments which require additional funds to pay the arrears so as to enable the provision of better services to the public.

The Premier directed that the Departments should increase their capacity to utilize existing resources. Laziness will not be tolerated. Each person will have

to justify their presence. The Finance Secretary then gave a briefing with reference to the Funds.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir directed that the details of the additional funds given by the finance department in all the secretariats, including the Prime Minister's Secretariat, along with the relevant records and the process under which the funds were approved, should be submitted to the Prime Minister within 3 days. The prime minister has decided also to take up the issue of low release of funds at the federal level with the federal government to control the budget deficit.

## Six drowned in different incidents in Attock

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: At least six persons were drowned in different incidents in various parts of Attock district on Tuesday, police and rescue sources said. According to the police sources, the most casualties were reported were mostly youth and two of them brothers have lost their lives while bathing in river Indus.

In the first gloomy incident, three teenage boys belonging to the same family while two of them brothers drowned while taking bath in river Indus in Sojhanda village near Attock.

Police while quoting the family and eye witnesses said that the three youth were taking bath in river Indus when 13 years old Kashif Mumtaz starts drowning and in a bid to rescue him, his 17 years old brother Zahid Mumtaz jumped in to the water to save him but loses control and drowned while his cousin 17 years old Tanveer Ahmed also went to rescue him but also drowned.

The efforts to retrieve the bodies by rescue 1122 and other departments were continued till filing this news report. In the second incident, two persons belonging to the same family drowned in river Indus near Attock Khurd bridge.

According to police and rescue sources, the family came from Pabbi Nowshera to the river for a picnic where 16 years old Jabbar Khan and 20 years old Ahmed Khan drowned while taking bath in the river Indus.

## Hamza Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament held

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: Hamza Shaheed Memorial Cricket Tournament held at the Government Higher Secondary School Sabria Sarajia Hill Ground. The Chief Guest was Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra, Central President of Anjuman Tajran Cloth Board Itehad Group. Rana Tariq Javed and Rana Abid have shown the best sports spirit in their region by extraordinarily organizing this tournament.

Haji Sarfraz alias Bhola (Amritsariya) nominated prizes of 50,000 and 25,000 respectively for the first and second runners up in this tournament. On the arrival of Chief Guest Naseer Yousaf Vohra he was cordially welcomed where Vohra was not only garlanded but also garlanded with flowers and petals' leaves were showered on him. On this attractive occasion, Ejaz Gujjar, Rana Asim, Sohail and others played their full role in the tournament to make it successful and luxurious for the view viewers.

The central president of Anjuman Tajran Cloth Board not only distributed shields and cups among the players but also encouraged them by giving the best bowling, fielding, batting gifts and cash. At the end, Alhaj Naseer Yousaf Vohra pointed out that, it is the will and wish for those who are sitting in the ruling houses would that their own young daughters, sisters & old age mothers were also stand in the lines to get free flour. Vohra further expressed that, we get the rulers same as per our own pictures.

If we desire to forward in life, we will have to reform ourselves for the purpose of our coming generations.

May Allah Almighty give our country dear homeland like the ruler alike Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) who may has the power & potential to run this country in an Islamic way.

He further elaborated that the Protection of each and everything is the first and foremost duty of the public instead pursuing and securing their seats for themselves instead framing the required standard in the eyes of the world.

## All Pakistan Football Tournaments



**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: The ongoing All Pakistan Football Championship tournament at the Wana Scouts Complex with the support of IGFC South (KP) ended on the third day of Eid, the final match was won by Silab Club Miran Shah and took the trophy.

In the final football match between Silab Football Club Miran Shah and Wazir Club Wana, the match was tied with one goal each, the decision was decided by penalty kick.

According to the details, the ongoing All Pakistan Football Championship tournament with the support of IGFC South has ended at Wana Scouts Complex in District Lower South Waziristan.

IGF South (KP) Major General Haroon Hameed was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of the football match, accompanied by Commandant South Waziristan Scouts Muhammad Owais Shamim, tribal elders and a large number of spectators, A total of 46 teams participated in this All Pakistan Football Tournament 2023, in which 32 local and 14 non-local teams participated, the final match of the tournament was played between Silab Club Miran Shah and Wazir Club Wana.

Much to the delight of the spectators, the match between the two teams was tied at one goal at the end, and the final decision was decided by a penalty kick.

In which Seelab Club Miran Shah won the All Pakistan Football Tournament Wana 2023 by defeating Wazir Club Wana by 3 and 5 in penalty kick.

IGFC South (KP) Major General Haroon Hameed was the chief guest of the tournament held at Scouts Stadium Wana.

Who distributed cash prizes and medals to the players, the chief guest also distributed prizes to the teams and the organizing committee.

On this occasion IGFC South (KP) appreciated the performance of both the teams and encouraged them to participate in other provincial tournaments as well.

IGFC further said that sports activities are very important for a strong society and health, sports activities in an area are a sign of peace in that area.

## Sardar Tanveer Ilyas relieved from AJK PTI's party presidency

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Former Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas was relieved from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) party presidency in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Tuesday. He was earlier ousted from AJK premiership on contempt of court.

Former Prime Minister Abdul Qayyum Niazi had been entrusted with the responsibility of the chairmanship of PTI AJK.

Chairman PTI Imran Khan chaired a meeting of the PTI Azad Kashmir Parliamentary Party in which only seven assembly members participated instead of 31.

It was decided to sit on opposition benches in Azad Kashmir during the meeting.

Khawaja Farooq was nominated as the leader of the opposition in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly by PTI and the forward block led by Anwar-ul-Haq had already split from PTI.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

## SERVICES

## Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:56 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	4:50 pm
Maghrib	6:46 pm
Isha	8:16 pm

## EMERGENCY

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

## Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

## ENQUIRY

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

## HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
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

## JI, PTI express resolve to end political crisis



## Bureau Report

LAHORE: A meeting of the committees established by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was held on Tuesday, in which proposals were considered to end the political crisis in the country.

Both parties agreed that the negotiations between the political parties should be fruitful as soon as possible for the wider interests of the country beyond personal interests.

It was also decided to consult party leaders on the latest situation. PTI leader Ejaz Chaudhry, Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed, while JI Secretary General Amirul Azeem and Farid Ahmed Paracha participated in the meeting.

## Eid Mela events attract huge number of visitors

## News Desk

QUETTA: To celebrate the joyous occasion of Eid ul Fitr, two events marking Eid celebrations were arranged at Turbat and Gwadar which pulled over 6,000 visitors who were entertained with different colourful programmes.

In this connection, a football match was also played at district Dukki. About 200 spectators enjoyed the match in which the local players displayed their skills, providing entertainment to the enthusiastic gathering.

A large number of young people also converged to witness the events.

## CM Visit at Nishtar Hospital 2

## Mohsin Naqvi's order to complete the civil works of the hospital within the stipulated deadline

## Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Nishtar Hospital 2, Multan Mohsin Naqvi inspected the different blocks of the hospital, expressing his displeasure at the slow pace of work Mohsin Naqvi's order to complete the civil works of the hospital within the stipulated deadline Commissioner Multan Division appointed Focal Person Provincial Minister Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Dr. Javed Akram and the secretary were instructed to visit the project every week.

If the work is not completed within the stipulated time, the respective team will be responsible. Instruction to work

day and night in three shifts on Mohsin Naqvi's project A timeline of daily work progress should be made and submitted to the commissioner's office.

Commissioner Multan has full authority to take indiscriminate action against those who do not work. Horticulture work should also be started simultaneously.

The LC issue has been resolved. Delay in the completion of the project is not tolerated. Completion of Nishtar 2 will reduce the burden on Nishtar Hospital. The tendering process for the purchase of civil work machinery has been completed. Commissioner Multan Aamir Khattak's briefing, 9 billion 45 crore rupees have been released by the Punjab government in a briefing



6 billion 12 crore rupees have been spent on the Nishtar Two project built on 58 acres. The briefing Electricity and other installations have been started in

the interior of the building. The Laundry, radiology, medical gas highline system work awarded. The gray structure of the hospital building, cafe trays, outer gates has been completed.

In the first phase, a 500-bed hospital will be made functional. In this phase, 120 emergency trauma beds, 120 neuro-arthro beds, 50 ICU beds, 100 beds for mother and child, 110 beds for medical surgery have been allocated.

10 modular theaters are being built in Nishtar 2. The briefing Provincial Minister Specialized Health Care and Medical Education Dr. Javed Akram, Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, Commissioner Multan Division and related officials were also present on this occasion.

## Purchasing

ISLAMABAD: People are buying traditional handicrafts from huts at tourists spot at Daman-e-Koh, on the last holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## SAPM Malik emphasizes business-friendly environment to boost UK-Pakistan ties



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Jawad Sohrab Malik met with Andrew Dalgleish, High Commissioner to the British High Commission, and Hamed Kamal, Deputy Director (Trade) Department for International Trade, to discuss measures to enhance trade and investment relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

During the meeting, the SAPM highlighted the prospects of creating a business-friendly environment in Pakistan to attract more investment in the country's economy.

He emphasized the need for tangible measures to facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) from the UK, including the creation of a mechanism for prompt redressal of legitimate concerns, such as the issue of free flow of capital.

Matters related to UK Pakistani diaspora also came under discussion since UK is home to more than 1.6 million citizens of Pakistani origin therefore, their concerns need to be given due consideration.

Both sides emphasized the significance of bilateral trade between Pakistan and the UK, and discussed ways to explore new avenues and markets, diversify products and services, and create jobs under the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) in the Post-Brexit scenario.

They also highlighted the potential for tariff reductions and simpler terms for Pakistan, including duty-free exports from Pakistan to the UK.

High Commissioner Andrew Dalgleish expressed keen interest in harnessing Pakistan's economic potential for foreign investment in various sectors.

He acknowledged the longstanding strong economic relationship between Pakistan and the UK in many areas.

The meeting also addressed concerns of the Pakistani diaspora in the UK, with a commitment to give due consideration to their issues. Other bilateral and regional issues of importance were also discussed during the meeting.

## Khawaja Tariq Rahim to send legal notices to interior, law ministry

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: In a recent statement by Khawaja Tariq Rahim, he challenged the government's warning of legal action against him.

In a talk show on Dunya News, Mr Rahim clarified that he was not a lawyer in an election case that was currently being heard by a three-member bench.

He also revealed that he had spoken to Justice \* Saqib Nisar regarding the law, and only one part of the conversation was leaked.

Responding to the government's warning, Khawaja Tariq Rahim stated, "If you have the courage, then take action, and I will also tell you what the law says, and I will legally beat you."

He accused the government of violating the law by tapping his phone and announced that he would send legal notices to the ministry of interior and the ministry of law.

During the talk show, Mr Rahim claimed that he had never taken part in politics and revealed that the daughter of Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial was married to a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) member of the National Assembly (MNA).

He also accused the PML-N of using tactics to escape elections.

Mr Rahim cited the tapping of the phones of judges as the reason behind the ousting of Benazir Bhutto's first government.

## Baroness Warsi, SAPM Malik prioritize gender equality, poverty reduction

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, a current Member of the House of Lords and former co-Chairwoman of the UK's Conservative Party, recently discussed with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Muhammad Jawad Sohrab Malik the importance of serving the public interest and expanding the scope of charitable work for the betterment of humanity.

At a reception hosted by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Muhammad Jawad Sohrab Malik at his residence in Islamabad, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi and SAPM Malik, exchanged ideas on how to enhance the impact of charitable initiatives and address the needs of the community more effectively.

They exchanged ideas, goals, and visions for providing equal opportunities to the masses at all levels.



The meeting was an opportunity for both dignitaries to discuss their shared commitment to promoting equality and serving the public interest.

SAPM Jawad Malik, who comes from Gujar Khan - the ancestral home of both individuals - also runs a charity organization called the Sohrab Foundation.

During the reception, he praised Baroness Warsi for her philanthropic work in the Gujar Khan district, where she has been working towards poverty alleviation and promoting girls' educa-

tion through the empowerment of women.

The two discussed the importance of such efforts and the need to continue supporting initiatives that uplift marginalized communities.

The British MP Sayeeda was in Pakistan on a philanthropic visit to Gujar Khan, while running a charity foundation based in village of Bewal in Gujar Khan which is focused on supporting various charitable initiatives aimed at promoting community development and social welfare.

## The real estate sector needs revolutionary changes: Adil Bhatti

## News Desk

RAWALPINDI: There is a need for revolutionary changes in the real estate sector. Protection of people's capital must be ensured. Innocent Pakistanis not only need to be protected from illegal schemes, but they also need to be protected from their deception. Many big-name organizations are cheating the innocent and simple people by cheating them into fraudulent schemes and giving them comforts in return. People are walking around in their offices. These views were expressed by RECA General Secretary Adil Nawaz Bhatti while talking to the media on the occasion of Eid Milan. Adil Nawaz Bhatti said that there is a need for clear and effective legal reforms for the real estate sector in Pakistan. Real estate sector can become the most important source of economic development of Pakistan. Protection of public capital must be ensured. Rika is ready to play her role in this regard. A coordinated action plan can be drawn up with the cooperation of the government and RECA. Every member of RECA is registered and professionally qualified under all legal regulations. Rika holds a prominent place not only in the realtors community but also in all the business communities of Pakistan.

## Parvez Elahi meets PML-N bigwigs

## Political leaders suggest revival of Punjab, KP assemblies

## Sajid Naqvi

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi held on Tuesday an informal meeting with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership at former defence minister Pervez Khattak's residence.

The former Punjab chief minister reached the residence of Mr Khattak, where he condoled the death of his wife, while former federal minister Moonis Elahi also condoled over the phone. The PML-N leaders - Ayaz Sadiq and Khawaja Sadaq Rafique - came face-to-face with Mr Elahi on the occasion of offering condolences to Parvez Khattak over the death of the latter's wife.

Mr Rafique and Chaudhry Mr Sadiq shook hands with each other. Mr Sadiq

also hugged Mr Elahi. During the informal meeting, Mr Elahi and Mr Sadiq also whispered in each other's ear.

The political leaders talked about the solution to take the country out of the quagmire. Mr Rafique, while talking to former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser, said, "We are in touch with you. I heard PTI has changed names."

Mr Elahi said, "The caretaker government period has ended. We have filed petitions regarding Punjab and KP. All the talk is going on about how all the political parties respect and honour the Supreme Court so that the elections can be held simultaneously."

The political leaders suggested that the revival of the Punjab and KP assemblies could play a role in terms of addressing the crisis and also in the date of the upcoming elections, adding that

after the end of the caretaker government, a new crisis had emerged.

"If the assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are restored, the way to sit at the negotiation table can be paved," the political leaders added.

During the informal meeting, the political leaders also suggested that both provincial assemblies be restored simultaneously for the elections in October.

The government and the opposition should review the proposal so that the issues can be resolved later on at the negotiating table.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had summoned a meeting of the coalition parties for consultation on prevailing political situation as the Supreme Court is set to resume hearing on petition seeking simultane-

ous elections in the country on Thursday (April 27).

The meeting will be held on Wednesday and all parliamentary leaders of the coalition parties are expected to attend it at the Prime Minister's House. The premier would hold consultation regarding dialogue with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Punjab elections.

Before Eidul Fitr, a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar had given the political parties a week to develop a consensus on the date for holding national and provincial elections simultaneously.

The apex court had also directed them to submit a progress report on April 27 about the meeting of political leaders scheduled to be held on April 26.



The bench had issued the directives while hearing petitions seeking elections across the country on the same day, a key demand by the coalition government. However, the PTI is calling for snap polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where it had dissolved the assemblies earlier this year.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
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 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
 (mszk786@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.  
 Karachi office: Flat No. C. 3. A. One Comfort, Block No 11.  
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 Email: [spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com](mailto:spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com)  
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

# Margdarshan Resolution: Fact or fiction

**Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai**

I came across a statement in 'Scoop News', made by Dr. Ajay Chrungoo, Chairman, 'Panun Kashmir' that 'The return and rehabilitation of the persecuted Kashmiri Hindus is possible only when Margdarshan Resolution is adopted by the state of India.' As we know that 'Margdarshan Resolution' demands a homeland for Hindus of Kashmir. I am aware that this has been the consistent approach of Dr. Chrungoo all along. His outlook was the same when he invited me to meet with him at formerly Jurys Hotel (Now the New Dupont Hotel: 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20036).

When I knocked the door of his hotel room, he let me in. After greeting me, he immediately placed an order for tea and offered me some sweets which he had already purchased from the local market. We spent couple of hours together, discussing the past history of Kashmir when Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Christians used to live together. A person no less important than Mahatma Gandhi has eloquently elucidated those sentiments in 1947, "While the rest of the country burns in communal fire, I see a shining 'Ray of Hope' in Kashmir only."

I found Dr. Chrungoo articulate, intelligent, sharp, keen observer and very concerned about his community. The interaction turned out to be very informative in order to know each other's point of view and provided me an opportunity to put forth the facts rather than fiction.

Dr. Chrungoo expressed his anger and displeasure about the situation in the Valley. He made his inner feelings known to me by saying that Pandits were forced by majority community to leave their homeland in 1989-1990. He told me that "Pandits trusted their Muslim compatriots who let them down." I told him that we are acutely conscious of the

suffering of Pandit community, and our concern embraces his community and its current predicament.

The fact is that the Muslim community did not let Pandit community down. You have so isolated yourselves from Kashmir that not once, have you raised a voice against the barbarities being committed by Indian army on civilian population there. We ask you that you release yourselves from the dark mental confinement which bars the sight of your own future, I politely countered him.

I added that Pandits let themselves be swayed by a chronic mistrust of their Muslim compatriots. They fell into a trap devised by those who do not – and cannot – wish Pandit community well. Rather than seek an understanding with the leading elements of the Kashmiri Resistance Movement, they became willing victims of a scare campaign carefully plotted by the enemies of the resistance, led by Governor Jagmohan. The brutal forces of Indian occupation wanted you out of Kashmir in order to misrepresent – indeed, to disfigure – the resistance as an anti-Hindu campaign and also to clear the field for acts of mass slaughter, rape and arson. I doubt that you can be happy with the results. This was a fatal blunder. That is the sad part of the story. The happy part is that the blunder is reversible.

I told him that the time has come for you to extricate yourself from India's fatal grip and reattach to Kashmir. In Kashmir, you have same future as your compatriots. In India, you have no future at all.

Then Dr. Chrungoo put forth before me the plan of a separate homeland for Pandits. I told him that I see in it an attempt on part of the Government of India to create a state within the state and a ploy to make Kashmir next Palestine after robbing people of their land and driving a wedge between different communities. These separate homelands can be designed to change the demography of Kashmir. The design seems to

invite people from other parts of India and in particular belonging to RSS. No one will know who resides there. The identity of residents cannot be verified by anyone except the government which has the design and the capability of changing the demographics in any manner they choose. After decades, history proved me right when India enacted Domicile Law in 2021 to change the demography of Kashmir.

I pointed out that Kashmiri Pandits have their religious monuments and symbols situated in the midst of the areas of majority community. If they want their separate homeland outside majority community areas, how are they going to have access to these monuments and how are they going to protect them?

My viewpoint later after years was proved correct when Sunil Shakhdar, former president of Kashmir Samiti Delhi and chairman S K Foundation, rejected the composite township proposal. He blamed the Central Government for "embarrassing the community by arbitrarily deciding about their fate and the manner in which they would like to go back to claim their homes and hearths in Kashmir." "We treat the proposal for separate townships with same disdain while reserving our right to return to the Valley with honor and dignity and with our heads high," Shakhdar said.

Mr. Sanjay Tickoo, Chairman of Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti, likewise said that "the separate zones will set a dangerous precedent." He added, "Wherever there is minority (community) it should live with the majority."

I proposed to Dr. Chrungoo that the best solution of this dilemma is that the Pandit brethren should return to the Valley and the majority community must open their hearts and minds in order to give them moral support and sense of security. The rights and culture of Kashmiri Pandits must be respected and protected at all costs.

While I was leaving the hotel room, Dr. Chrungoo told me that I must meet with his colleague who stays at the same hotel and who has also come from Srinagar. He called his colleague to come to the room who turned out to be one of the best-known journalists of Kashmir – Yusuf Jameel—who has received so many international awards, including 'International Press Freedom Award' from 'Committee to Protect Journalists'. We spend few more minutes together before saying good-bye to my compatriots – one Muslim and the other a Hindu (Pandit).

Now, let us listen to the saner elements of Indian public square about the real situation in Kashmir and a possible way forward.

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a contributing editor to the Indian Express published "Sinking Valley" on April 15, 2017, "The roots of the Kashmir problem are deep, and the point should not be to gloat at one government's failure. The deep gulf between what the Indian state wants and what Kashmiris in the Valley want has always been unbridgeable...It's a fool's errand to think that coercion alone will win India Kashmir.... for the moment, Kashmir has been lost on Modi's watch."

And former Indian Army Chief, General Ved Prakash Malik spoke to Sandip Dighe of the Times of India on April 25, 2017, "It is not solely the task of the Indian army. Conflict resolution has to be done at the political level. A political solution is the final solution."

Kashmiri leadership has all along suggested that there is no military solution to the Kashmir problem. It is a political conflict and needs to be resolved through peace tripartite negotiations between Governments of India & Pakistan and the Kashmiri political resistance leadership.

*Dr. Fai is the Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice. He can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-6435. Or [gngfai2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gngfai2003@yahoo.com)*

## Sudan crisis

As the conflict in Sudan entered its second week, punctuated by short-lived truces, the battle for control of the capital Khartoum was inconclusive, with both sides in the internecine war claiming to have the upper hand. But as foreign missions are evacuated and doubts persist over diplomatic efforts to enforce a ceasefire, various possible outcomes are now unfolding and none are good for the future of the country.

As of Monday — before the latest attempt at a ceasefire came into effect overnight — battles between the Sudanese national army and the Rapid Support Forces were raging in and around key positions, including the military headquarters, the presidential palace and the international airport. The fact that fighting continued at these strategic locations indicated that neither side had been able to move beyond day one of the war. This is a worrying sign for the better-equipped and better-organized national army.

The RSF has been able to use its experience in urban warfare to entrench its fighters inside heavily populated neighborhoods of the capital and neighboring Omdurman, undermining the army's ability to use fighter jets and helicopters, as well as heavy armor. The most apt description of the situation in the capital — for now — is that there is a stalemate and, in strategic terms, this is better for the RSF.

The absence of a lasting truce has worsened an already catastrophic humanitarian situation. Most hospitals are out of service and those that are not have run out of vital medicines and lifesaving materials. Thousands of civilians are fleeing the city and many of those who are unable to leave have no access to water, electricity or food.

So far, armed forces and Sovereignty Council head Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan sees no benefit in accepting a permanent ceasefire to be followed by negotiations with his foe, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti.

This would be an admittance of defeat and a boon for Dagalo's gambit.

If anything, Al-Burhan is bent on chasing out the RSF from the capital before talk of peace is even contemplated. Without achieving this goal and soon, Al-Burhan will find himself in a weak position. For Dagalo, the fact that his fighters have been able to hold their positions in the capital has given him two things: The ability to air his message that he is fighting a corrupt junta that is associated with the toppled regime of Omar Bashir, and forcing the international community to treat him as an equal to Al-Burhan.

And here is the dilemma for Al-Burhan. Almost all countries that have commented on the crisis appealed to both sides to cease fighting. None, at least publicly, have taken his side. This works well for Dagalo and undermines Al-Burhan's claim that he represents legitimacy.



# Saved what? Thrives in politics & Parliament!

Day by day, people are presented with statements & slogans as gifts that there is still hopes for something better in the future and soon the spring season and goods willing & wishes be born in the country. We are standing in the queues that such a system of life should be designed in practice where whatever is going to happen is good so that the people do not live in the same ways of deprivations

Possible? Rays of progress would ever appear in our lost hopes for 76-years.

Call a spade a spade & get out of the circles of confusion and bring the golden words and cute actions that will make the people to hear the echo of good news.

In fact, we had such ideas and pictures in our eyes that what will happen next? Yes! surely a Messiah would coming! But alas! unaware of this, there is so much sorrow in the old stories that its clouds will continue to hover, there will be no need to bring more black clouds, and all the works of the people will be done by this messiah and we need & should have to change ourselves first of all which is required in all respect on priority?

ly, then a few people are and will be a challenge for the survival of millions of people.

Mir Taqi Mir in poetic lines said well that;

Is the beginning of love crying?  
 Let's see what's next.  
 There is a noise in the morning in the caravan,  
 That is, do we go to sleep, oblivious?  
 This land is not green at all,  
 Does the heart sow the seed of desire?  
 These are the signs of love,  
 Does the stain wash the breast vanity?  
 But I want to draw people's attention,  
 No doubt, the integrity of the ideology of Pakistan is our belief and philosophy of life & without it, all efforts are meaningless. We will suffer from restlessness and eagerness while turning away from our predecessors.

According to the poet;  
 That which was in us and in you, you may remember or not,  
 That is the promise of Nabah, whether you remember it or not.  
 Most of the pleasures that were on me were blessings on the dead.  
 I remember everything, please remember or not.  
 Those new hugs, those complaints, those funny stories.  
 She cries over every single thing, whether you remember it or not.  
 Ever sitting, everyone you talk face to face only with gestures.  
 That statement is a veil of passion, whether you remember it or not.  
 If I fall by chance, then I will show my loyalty, breath by breath.

Blame relatives, whether you remember or not.  
 If something happened that made you feel bad,  
 So forget even before the speech, whether you remember or not.  
 Sometimes we wanted you too, sometimes we wanted you too.  
 Once we were also familiar with you, whether you remember or not.  
 Listen, there is a mention of many years that you had a promise.  
 So, do you remember the mention of bathing or not?  
 He said, "I said that it came out of the dead heart of Kothe."  
 So he said, "I know, call me dead, whether you remember or not.  
 It is the night of the night of the relationship, and it is not believing in anything.  
 He did not do it, whether you remember it or not.  
 The one you used to count as familiar, the one you used to call loyal,  
 I am the same, believer, whether you remember or not.  
 Focus towards the reality that Those who are not aware of the manners of Islamic teachings, the battlefields are decorated contrary to morality, they do not follow us because of hunger and poverty. Love is from the personal interests of one's life, to serve beyond the personal "Education is not available in these institutions" instead of social role,



**Analysis**  
**Mian Rashid Asghar**

they have been arrested in the sphere of speech.

But what to do with such entertainment where the bonus of anxiety and unfaithfulness is also met with continuity along with the increase in those who are entertaining!

I spent my life making political Qawwals, but I could not distinguish between this voice and the Political lyrics.

See which is much better than political qawwali! Sung by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan!  
 You have to forget the fun  
 Come and see the ways of love  
 You will laugh at me if you don't care  
 If you ever have your heart set on someone, look

Loyalties are not expected of us  
 But try it once and see.  
 He saw the era as his own,  
 Make us your own too.  
 Leave this veil for God now  
 Today we are not you, but someone else!  
 Shab-e-Wasl is also why hijab so much  
 Just raise your head and look at it.  
 Jaffain has done a lot of injustice  
 Sometimes a look of grace in this direction too.  
 Always see me angry  
 If you ever smile, please see  
 The one who is the worst oppression in the world  
 This is all about loyalty to you otherwise.

You torment me day and night  
 Look at someone else by persecuting them like this.  
 If they are confused about something  
 Well, that's it, you do your own thing.  
 Whether they agree or not, this is their will,  
 But look at them after celebrating Pranam.  
 You have to forget the fun  
 Come and see the ways of love.  
 (Pranam Ila Abadi)  
 Once the decision to implement the idea of Pakistan and move forward with firm intentions, then with the grace and mercy of the system of nature, ease can be estimated for your tranquility in Dear country, this state of Pakistan is only connected with the integrity of the ideology of Pakistan, it is not connected with the hollow slogans of any political party!

The poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal says;  
 There is no one among you who likes hoors.  
 It is manifestly present, not Moses.  
 In other words, in view of your behavior, it seems that you do not have the desire to love women. In other words, it can also be said that the appearance of the mountain is present in its place, but Moses is not there to see it.  
 There is sectarianism in some places and castes in some places  
 Are these the things of flourishing in the age.  
 That is, when they are divided into groups. Although, apart from their profit and loss, the Prophet, the holy religion, God and the Qur'an are the same for all.

Despite this, in some places people are divided into sects and in some places they are divided into castes. Please tell me whether a nation can flourish in these conditions.

However, the people will have ego towards their real priorities, otherwise, where will they bring reforms to deal with such unfavorable situations?

We blame you never but complain our education system where less budget is given. Government ignores the institutions which make the institutions preparing minds and characters.

This way makes the most dangerous corruption in the world which comes out as the corruption of the teachers?

At the best time of training and character building, a child is under the shadow of a teacher, be it a school teacher, a seminary teacher or a mosque teacher. Now the teacher should mold it in any mode & methodology he wants. If the teacher works diligently, honestly and responsibly, the child will become a civilized, useful and successful citizen which we need, otherwise he will prove to be a scourge to the society whose training and habits, which have matured and become nature, are almost impossible to change.

But alas, in our country neither the teacher has such importance nor does the teacher consider the new generation as important.

It is the need of time to provide all facilities in education Institutions to grow the generation for future success, then a good institution will bring out a good generation to control the affairs in future.

# TIME Hotels to showcase sustainability credentials at ATM

The hospitality group's carefully designed exhibition stand has been made from recycled materials



**Spokesman Report**

DUBAI, UAE: In keeping with the overarching theme of Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023, UAE-headquartered hospitality company TIME Hotels will reaffirm its position as a steadfast advocate of sustainability during the four-day regional exhibition. From the design and production of its exhibition stand, to the eco practices on display, TIME Hotels will demonstrate its impressive environmental credentials at ATM 2023.

From a design perspective, the TIME exhibition stand at ATM has been made from recycled materials, with the structure painted with biodegradable paint—a more eco-friendly alternative to toxin-based paints which take longer to break



down. LED lighting illuminates the stand, which is more energy efficient and has a longer life span. To minimise the carbon footprint involved in the whole process, materials were delivered to the venue in a single trip.

The stand will be reused at future events for the next three years (for the 2024 and 2025 editions of ATM) and materials will be stored in a sustainably run warehouse. Any materials that are not able to be reused will be taken to licensed recycling centres so that their journey can continue elsewhere.

CEO of TIME Hotels, Mohamed Awadalla commented: "In the past decade, TIME Hotels has successfully implemented a number of market-leading environmental initiatives. We are delighted that sustainability takes the spotlight at ATM 2023 and look forward to sharing the latest news on our environmental practices. We have thought about every detail for our presence at ATM to ensure the sustainable goals and initiatives of TIME Hotels are

met onsite."

Visitors to the TIME Hotels stand at ATM 2023 will be able to learn about the hydroelectric energy and hydroponic farming initiatives at its properties in Egypt and Morocco. Hydroelectric energy is one of the oldest and largest sources of renewable energy, which uses the natural flow of moving water to generate electricity, which can then be stored and used for power. The version showcased is a sealed example of what has been implemented and will also be used to power elements of the stand during ATM.

Outside of ATM, TIME Hotels has implemented various initiatives to support the Net Zero drive. These include the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers at two of its Dubai properties, joining a Recycle, Reforest, Repeat initiative with the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), implementing several environmental policies over the past 12 months, such as tracking the amount of gasoline,

diesel and LPG consumed to monitor and ultimately reduce its carbon footprint. TIME has also achieved a goal of reducing single-use plastic use by 90% in 2022 and is on target to make this 100% in 2023.

The 30th edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), will run from 1-4 May 2023 at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) and explores the future of sustainable travel in line with its theme, 'Working Towards Net Zero'. Having officially initiated its journey to net zero, this year's conference programme will explore how innovative sustainable travel trends are likely to evolve, allowing delegates to identify growth strategies within key vertical sectors, while providing a platform for regional experts to explore a sustainable future ahead of COP28, which will take place in November 2023 at Expo City Dubai.

Arabian Travel Market 2023 takes place from 1-4 May and TIME Hotels is located in Sheikh Saeed Arena Hall Stand HC0625.

## Artists' Rendezvous-The Silk Road in Children's Eyes



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: With an aim to build a global network for inter-civilization dialogue and cooperation, to depict the splendid Dunhuang culture and to promote the mutual understanding and friendship among peoples of all countries, the Good-Neighborhood, Friendship and Cooperation Commission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in collaboration with China International Culture Association, the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the SCO Secretariat will organize "Silk Road: Artists' Rendezvous"—The Silk Road in Children's Eyes" the SCO Countries Art Exhibition of Children and Young Artists. Pakistani children and young artists aged between 5 and 16 years old are welcome to submit their paintings and artworks to the Organizing Committee before May 20, 2023.

Children and young artists who would like to join in the exhibition may visit the links of the official website of the Embassy of China in Pakistan ([http://pk.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zbgy/cultureservice/202304/t20230424\\_11064579.htm](http://pk.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zbgy/cultureservice/202304/t20230424_11064579.htm)) or the Facebook account of China Cultural Center in Pakistan (<https://www.facebook.com/centerinpak/posts/pfbid025chkNFxu9BWpVGFmSEzt4c6Jb-j7roZuox3SAPABzhndaF3Kys2HomtyJu4oJsWyl>) for more details, including the requirements of the artworks, the submission guidance and the contact info of the Organizing Committee.

## Foreign Minister Malki in UNSC speech: It is time to bring the Nakba to an end

**News Desk**

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Riyad Malki today stated that it was the time to bring the Nakba and the Palestinian people's dispossession and displacement from their land to an end.

"75 years ago our people endured the Nakba... Almost overnight, two thirds of our people became refugees. 75 years later, the Nakba continues. The denial of our rights and the displacement and replacement of our people is still underway with one objective, pursued in broad daylight: Annexation. It is time to bring the Nakba to an end," Foreign Affairs Minister Malki stated before the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in New York.

Malki made his remarks during a quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, chaired by his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

Highlighting the protracted denial of the Palestinian people's rights, he said: "This is the most protracted refugee crisis in the world. The most protracted denial of national, collective and individual rights in the world. The most protracted protection crisis in the world. The longest occupation of an entire territory in modern history. So the question begs itself. Why is it still ongoing?" He reminded the international community of its responsibility to "ensure international law is respected" regardless of the identity of the perpetrators and regardless of the identity of the victims as well as the UNSC of its responsibility to uphold the UN Charter and implement UN resolutions.

"The reality on the ground is the result of failure not fatality. Because while the international community has adopted clear positions, it did not back them with decisive action. Why is it that when it comes to Israel, the international community can take a stance but can not act upon it?"

He slammed the international community for its failure to end its policy of double standards in dealing with Israel and for fostering Israel's impunity. "There is nothing that undermines more the authority and credibility of international law than double standards, selectivity, schizophrenia. How is Israel being held accountable for breaching the law, the Charter, countless UN resolutions over decades and decades?" he said.

"How many Israeli officials have been held accountable in any form or shape for pursuing colonial settlements on our land, for forcibly displacing our people, for the targeting and indiscriminate attacks against our civilians, for demolishing the homes and structures many of you have funded? What consequences did they face?"

## Newspapers Review

Two Palestinians killed by Israelis in Jerusalem and Jericho highlight of the dailies



# Slave Boy who became ruler of Mamluks: Kazakhstan celebrates 800 years of Sultan Beibars

**Spokesman Report**

From humble beginnings as a slave boy to becoming one of the most eminent Mamluk sultans, the extraordinary story of Sultan Beibars is celebrated in Kazakhstan 800 years after his birth as an example of how one man can turn a region filled with ongoing political rivalry and warfare into a prosperous place.

Mamluks formed the military apparatus of 13th-16th century Egypt and Syria mostly made up of slaves of Turkik origin. Photo credit: "Chivalry" (Al-Furussiyah) 1836 painting by Janvier Suchodolski in National Museum of Poland/medievalreporter.com.

The man who would become the ruler of the Mamluks in Egypt and Syria was born in 1223. His rise was an extraordinary feat for a man who began his life as a slave boy of Kipchak origin, born in what was known as Desht-i-Kipchak located in the modern territory of Kazakhstan between the Yedil (Volga) and Zhaiyk (Ural) rivers.

In 1242, Mongols invaded the territories of Desht-i-Kipchak, and Beibars was taken as a slave for further training in the service of the Egyptian emir Aidakin al-Bundukdar. He was a sturdy and strong young man. Representatives of the Egyptian nobility usually ransomed such slaves.

Soon Aidakin al-Bundukdar fell out of favor with Sultan As-Salih II, who confiscated all his slaves. A skillful and courageous train-



ee, Beibars very soon caught the attention of Sultan Al-Salih, who consequently appointed him as the commander of his bodyguards.

**A hardy warrior**

Beibars built his military career through a series of successful battles under Turan Shah. One of his major military victories was at the city of Al-Mansurah in 1250 against the crusaders' army led by Louis IX of France.

Bronze bust of Sultan Beibars in Cairo, at the National Military Museum. Photo credit: Ahmed Y. Elmamlouk/wikipedia.org

According to historical records,

in the aftermath of the battle, King Louis IX, both of his brothers, many aristocrats, and nobles were taken prisoner, many fled, and the rest had no choice but to surrender. The Mamluks sank around 4,000 crusader ships on the Nile River. Later, King Louis IX was ransomed for a large sum of money.

With the death of Turan Shah in 1250, a shuffle of rulers began that lasted until Sultan Qutuz came to the throne in 1259. During this period, Beibars, along with other Mamluks, fled to Syria for the safety of their lives. As Sultan Qutuz

ascended the throne, he gave security guarantees to Mamluks to return to Egypt.

Under Qutuz's rule, Beibars defeated the Mongols and captured the city of Kit Buga in 1260. For his remarkable victory, Beibars expected to be rewarded by Qutuz. However, the sultan was hesitant, fearing Beibars's ambitions. An enraged Beibars killed Qutuz on his way back to Cairo and seized power to become the new ruler of the Mamluks.

**A powerful ruler**

In the 17 years of his reign, from 1260 until 1277, Beibars aspired to

build a civilizational model in his country and was largely untroubled by outside threats.

Beibars had fought dozens of battles: some against the Mongol empire, others against the crusaders. Having led the armed resistance against the invaders, Beibars united Muslim Syria and Egypt into a single state.

The Mamluks defeated the crusaders at the disaster of Mari in 1266. Photo credit: "Le Livre des Merveilles", early 15th century. From "Le Royaume Armenien de Cilicie", Claude Mutafian/wikipedia.org.

In an interview with Newtimes news agency, Kazakh historian Nikolay Lapin said during the rule of Sultan Beibars, the Middle East was shielded against threats from rival civilizations of Mongols and crusaders.

"Let me remind you that Sultan Beibars also became famous for his military actions against numerous crusader attacks in the Middle East. He is one of those who, in fact, stopped the very active Mongol claims to the territory of Egypt. Sultan Beibars carried out reforms within the state and managed to create one of the medieval empires of the time," said Lapin.

Continuing on why Sultan Beibars's legacy remained in the historical memory of the Middle East, Egypt, Syria, Iran, and some European states, Lapin said it was due to his "very powerful activity as he held the throne of the ruler of Egypt."

"This was the 13th century, a time of great tension and activ-



ity throughout the Old World, which was also connected with the Mongol conquests, the birth of the Mongol empire, the waning but still active crusades, and so on," he added.

In 17 years, Sultan Beibars conquered the towns of Atlit, Haifa, Safed, and Jaffa, conducted almost yearly raids against the crusaders, and engaged in nine battles against the Mongols of Persia.

**A man who built prosperous cities**

Sultan Beibars remains a noble figure and a source of inspiration for both Kazakhs and Egyptians for his contribution to making the region a wealthy and infrastructurally advanced place. Along with bringing political union to the region, he was credited with creating the most vibrant area of human development back then.

During his reign, new canals were built and the harbors

improved. He established a regular and fast postal service between Cairo and Damascus. In Cairo, a large mosque was built based on his drawings, and a madrasa (school) bore his name. The region became a prosperous place to live.

He is reputed to be a guardian of widows, orphans, the elderly, the destitute, dervishes, and ascetics. Children of people in need studied in his madrasas for free, and orphans were provided with everything they needed at the state's expense. Locals also studied geography, history, math, astronomy, and other disciplines besides Shariah law.

Beibars died in Damascus, Syria, in 1277. He did not survive the poisoning that is said to have been intended for someone else. He was buried under the dome of the present Madrasa Al-Zahiriyah, which he established under his reign.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,007.82	40,499.34	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,086.67	40,499.34	
Index Value	Change	
4,927,251,667	+508.48	
Percentage	Time	
+1.26%	20 Apr, 2023 1: 30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,891.13	-21.07	
Percentage	Time	
-0.27%	25 Apr, 4: 35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,583.97	-291.43	
Percentage	Time	
-0.86%	25 Apr, 1: 44 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
28,620.07	+26.55	
Percentage	Time	
+0.093%	25 Apr, 3: 15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	189	191
Bahrain Dinar	756.62	764.62
Canadian Dollar	210.5	212.5
China Yuan	41.37	41.77
Danish Krone	41.84	42.24
Euro	310	313.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.24	36.59
Indian Rupee	3.47	3.58
Japanese Yen	2.15	2.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	928.3	937.3
Malaysian Ringgit	64.96	65.56
New Zealand \$	176.41	178.41
Norwegians Krone	27.93	28.23
Omani Riyal	739.05	747.05
Qatari Riyal	78.6	79.3
Saudi Riyal	75.7	76.4
Singapore Dollar	210.5	212.5
Swedish Korona	27.32	27.62
Swiss Franc	316.77	319.27
Thai Bhat	8.33	8.48
U. A. E Dirham	78	78.8
UK Pound Sterling	356	359
US Dollar	287.5	290

# Dar gets briefing on FBR's revenue targets, performance

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on revenue performance of FBR, at Finance Division, today.

SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman FBR, and other senior officers from Finance Division and FBR attended the meeting.

Chairman FBR Mr. Asim Ahmad gave a detailed presentation on revenue targets and performance of FBR for the period July 2022 to March, 2023. It was expressed that FBR will make all out efforts to meet its targets in remaining months of financial year 2022-23.

The Finance Minister expressed satisfaction and extended his full support to FBR in performance of their duties for revenue collection. The Finance Minister further emphasized the FBR team to enhance their efforts to achieve the true tax potential in the country.



# People paying high cost of economic failure: Atif Ikram Sheikh

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Tuesday said that Pakistan is grappling with a monumental crisis due to the wrong priorities of our leaders while regional countries are growing rapidly.

Pakistan is facing a serious food crisis, inflation and unemployment are at a record high while the global community seems uninterested in supporting the country to get rid of these problems, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that unprecedented flash flooding in 2022 distressed 33 million people, killed over 1,600, and injured another 12,800.

The unprecedented floods destroyed millions of acres of agricultural land and crops and caused immense damage to livestock, the basic source of income for most of the population, he added.

The business leader said that this has led to a scarcity of basic food items, with their prices skyrocketing, triggering widespread food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition.

To ensure food security, the policymakers must take proactive policy steps to enhance the quality and quantity of crops, which seems difficult in the current scenario, he said.



Atif Ikram Sheikh said that on the other hand, India is making headlines. The country that was only seen as one of the fastest-growing IT hubs, or one of the most lucrative consumer markets, will now be trading with 18 countries in the Indian rupee.

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are termed as BRICS due to their unmatched potential to become the dominant supplier of services, manufacturing goods and raw materials. These countries represent 42% of the global population, 23% of the world's GDP, and 17% of world trade.

Now with BRICS countries coming together and other economies joining them, it is considering the idea of creating an inter-

national reserve currency which would be a new world order.

Saudi Arabia and Iran are also rewriting history, but after 75 years of political turbulence, we are still figuring our way around democracy at the cost of our economic future.

The world continues to shrink and operate in connectivity through commerce and trade, international supply chains, digital platforms, data sharing, and transportation. But where does Pakistan stand?

Pakistan is caught in a domestic feud that serves only the greed and personal benefit of a handful of politicians which is extremely unfortunate, especially in the evolving global context.

We can only boost friendly relations with China and Saudi Arabia. The fact that our economic ties are weakening with these nations should be enough to give nightmares to politicians and economists.

Pakistanis are caught up with a never-ending "election debate" with now the judiciary joining in. In 2021 experts dubbed Pakistan as the world's 43rd-largest economy with the world's 5th-largest population which is also one of the youngest in the world.

In 2023, lenders denied financial assistance to Pakistan based on its poor economic outlook and our "friends" followed in its footsteps.

# PFC delegation left to participate in 133th Canton Fair

**Commerce Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Furniture Council's delegation Tuesday left to participate in the world's top 133th Canton Fair to showcase Pakistan's products and explore new export markets besides attracting foreign investments.

Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said today that it's efficient trade platform for global business opportunities which is being held since 1957.

It will provide an opportunity to present a world class range of Pak made furniture products and all other allied services including import and export mainly with various and flexible pattern of trade.

He said PFC and Chenone will help find out new partnerships to increase the volume of exports and enter into new joint ventures in their areas of interest.

improving the quality of their products at par with international standards in order to bolster the rate of trade in the field.

He said nearly more than 25000 Chinese's best foreign trade companies and about 6000 overseas companies are likely to participate which he added will help determine market potential and evaluate competition besides initiating joint ventures and project partnerships.

Mian Kashif urged the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan to manage single-country expos in all major countries for the effective and result-oriented promotion of Pak products which can compete globally with their competitors in terms of its best quality.

He said these Pak expos will help find out new partnerships to increase the volume of exports and enter into new joint ventures in their areas of interest.

# RCCI to submit budget proposals to FBR

**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has asked for proposals from businessmen for the federal budget for the year 2023-2024 which will be submitted to the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq while addressing the executive committee meeting said that the Chamber's Standing Committee on Tax affairs is finalizing the budget proposals. These proposals will take into account the current economic challenges, particularly the depreciation of the rupee, problems faced by exporters and importers, rising inflation, increase in cost of doing business, income tax, sales tax, point of sales, FBR powers, SMEs, renewable energy and industrialization. The emphasis will be on broadening the tax net, overreach and harassment by tax authorities, documenting the economy, he added.

Saqib Rafiq said that at present the current account is in surplus. He appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Finance, however, he stressed on increasing exports, protecting local industry and industrialization will have to be promoted.

Chamber President Saqib Rafiq said that Rawalpindi Chamber has always been insisting to find new taxpayers and increase the tax net, the burden on existing taxpayers has been increased.

"The inflation has increased many times, we also demand that our sales tax, interest rate, income tax and duties are very high compared to the neighboring countries, we are far behind in the competitive environment," he added.

He said that currently the rate of sales tax is 18 percent, and in the recent mini-budget, the rate has been increased to 25 percent on certain items, this rate should be reduced to single digit in a phase wise.

He demanded that double taxation should be eliminated. Traders have severe concerns on Point of Sales installation especially with respect to the size of the shop. He suggested that the POS matter should be implemented after consultation with stakeholders and building consensus.



# Harvesting

LAHORE: Farmers are harvesting the wheat crop with machinery at Shahdara area as sowing of wheat takes place from October to December and harvesting during the month of March to May, and in Punjab sowing months of wheat are November and December whereas harvesting period is April and May.



Photo: Online

# Hyundai Motor finalises \$5bn US battery venture, doubles Q1 profit

**News Desk**

SEOUL: South Korea's Hyundai Motor Co (005380. KS) said on Tuesday it had finalised a \$5 billion electric vehicle (EV) battery joint venture in the U. S. , as it reported first-quarter net profit had more than doubled, exceeding expectations.

Hyundai and partner SK On, a battery unit of SK Innovation Co Ltd (096770. KS), will set up a new battery manufacturing plant in the state of Georgia, the companies said, formalising an earlier provisional agreement.

The move follows new U. S. requirements for 50% of the value of EV battery components to be produced or assembled in North America for car buyers to qualify for a



\$3,750 credit. The U. S. is Hyundai's largest market for sales.

The new plant is expected to start manufacturing battery cells in the second half of 2025 with an annual production capacity of 35 GWh, which is sufficient to support the production of 300,000 EVs.

Hyundai reported a net profit of 3.3 trillion won (\$2.47 billion) for the January-March period versus a profit of 1.6 trillion won a year earlier, thanks to a rise in vehicle output as a global chip shortage eased and demand for its high-margin sport-utility vehicles remained strong.

# Emaan Islamic Banking and TPL Insurance (WTO) join hands to launch Emaan All-in-One Account

**Commerce Report**

KARACHI: Emaan Islamic Banking, a division of Silk Bank Limited, and TPL Insurance Limited-Window Takaful Operation, have announced the launch of their latest offering, the Emaan All-in-One Account. The account is tailored to cater to the needs of new-to-bank customers and existing Emaan account holders.

TPL Insurance-Window Takaful Operation is pleased to be collaborating with Emaan Islamic Banking, as a Takaful solution provider for their All-in-One Account. Through this partnership, TPL Insurance-WTO aims to provide Emaan Islamic Banking customers with the experience of real-time and hassle-free coverages and

claim-to-service. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Aurangzeb J. Siddiqui - Head of FIG, TPL Insurance said, "Through our collaboration with Emaan Islamic Banking - (A division of Silk Bank Limited), our focus is to reach large audiences to build awareness and usage of our innovative takaful solutions. This collaboration between Emaan Islamic Banking and TPL Insurance-WTO will enable customers to opt for complimentary takaful coverages while enjoying several free-of-charge transactional benefits. The account is digitized, making it the first of its kind in Pakistan to offer the fastest claim processing. "We are excited to start this new journey with TPL Insurance-WTO by adding innovative and rewarding solu-



tions for our customers. This collaboration will enable our customers to opt for complimentary takaful coverage while enjoying several free-of-charge transactional benefits. Silkbank Limited is committed to continuously strengthening its retail product suit with a laser-sharp focus on service delivery and innovative products," said Mr Naveed Mushtaq, Head of Consumer Banking, Marketing & Phone Banking at Emaan Islamic Banking.

Adding to the conversation, Mr Syed Fahim Hassan, Head of Emaan Islamic Banking said, "Emaan All-in-One Account is tailored to be an ultimate power-packed account that provides various complimentary protections and transactional benefits for their customers. Unlike most retail-based banks which are not offering many value-added features to their customers, this alliance will allow individuals to maintain an average balance of Rs. 100,000 and above with Emaan Islamic Banking (A division of Silk Bank Limited) to avail FOC value-added features such as health, life, and travel takaful via TPL Insurance-WTO. Being digitized, it would be the first of its kind on accounts with the fastest claim processing."

# Twitter lauds Abbas for 'unreal consistency' amid County Championship

**A Sports**

KARACHI: Pakistan's right-arm pacer Mohammad Abbas, has been making headlines for his unreal consistency in the ongoing County Championship 2023.

Mohammad Abbas, who is currently representing Hampshire, enjoying a purple patch as the right-arm pacer is leading the wicket-taking chart by 21 scalps in just three fixtures of the ongoing season.

His wicket-taking ability, however, was not the case that earned him praise from the cricket fans but his consistency and accuracy were.

A cricketing update page, named Bazball on Twitter showered praises on Abbas and questioned if the latter ever bowled a bad delivery.

"Has anyone seen Abbas bowl a bad



ball? Please show me one. I dont believe it's ever been seen before," the user wrote

while replying to a video posted by the official Twitter handle of County Cham-

pionship of Abbas taking a wicket on the first delivery of an inning.

In reply, the official Twitter handle of the County Championship shared an astonishing fact about Abbas's consistency that left fans in awe of the pacer.

According to the County Championship, Abbas has thus far bowled 4592 first-class deliveries (765.2 overs) for Hampshire and never bowled a wide ball.

"At the time of tweeting (he's bowled 4 overs at Northampton), Abbas has bowled 4592 first-class deliveries for Hampshire - that's 765.2 overs. He's never bowled a wide," wrote County Championship.

Notably, Abbas also completed his 100 wickets for Hampshire earlier this month during his side's County Championship 2023 fixture against Nottinghamshire.

# Smart City 62nd National Amateur Golf Championship

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) backed Smart City 62nd National Amateur Golf Championship of Pakistan will be contested at the notable, par 72 Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course. This National Amateur Golf Championship was declared open by Shaikat Javed, Convenor Golf of Lahore Gymkhana when in the presence of foreign players and leading amateur golf players of the country, he hit a perfect looking opening tee shot that looked massive and stood applauded. And now for four days starting from 26th April to 29th April, golfing prowess will be visible as aspirants seek to perform expertly through application of golfing skills. As the title signifies, this is the premier and acclaimed amateur championship of the national golf calendar where the cardinal performer will be validated as the national amateur golf champion of Pakistan for 2023. While the principal title at stake is the national men's championship title, also there is the fixture and encounter for the ladies champion and Pakistan now has ladies capable of play-

ing under par rounds, so the rivalry for success between the participating ladies is expected to be vibrant.

Besides the event for the mens amateur category, plus the ladies category, other noteworthy events are the senior amateur engagement for honors and also there is the Inter Association team match between amateur teams and senior amateur team from all provinces of Pakistan namely Balochistan, Sind, KPK, Federal Territory and Punjab.

Hosting of this national amateur championship is a matter of admiration for Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club and the facility gives a thumbs up to Pakistan Golf Federation for allotting and earmarking this national golf championship to Gymkhana Golf Course

A most heartening breakthrough this year is the participation of foreign teams. Sri Lankans are here and also represented is Egypt. From Qatar we have the ladies team. Bangla Desh had committed to come but did not come as Government clearance was not available.

Prominent Pakistani teenagers Omar Khalid and Saad Habib are the dynamic seekers of national honors and they will

have to faced experienced adversaries like Qasim Ali Khan, Salman jehangir, Hussain Hamid and Saim Shazli. Omer Sheko Khan. The Sri Lankan players possess playing strengths that are assertive and potent and their Rankings are impressive. M. H. C. Pushpika, R. A. U. Akash and M. U. Chanaka Perera enjoy top rankings in Sri Lanka. From Egypt we have Dean who is likely to prove a threat.

Eligibility for participation in this national championship for amateur golf players is stringent and only golfers with a handicap of 7 and below are qualified to be a participant. And in golf, acquiring a handicap of 7 and below is an enormous task requiring effort, exertion, yearning plus painstaking practice.

As for the individual amateur championship it will be played over 72 holes, four days from 26th April to 29th April 2023.

Ladies will play over 54 holes, three rounds from 27th to 29th April 2023 while senior amateurs also fight it out over three rounds. Only the Inter Association Team Match for men and men senior will be over 36 holes. Dates are 26 and 27 April. Match for J. R.

Jayewardne Trophy takes place between Sri Lankan and Pakistan Team on 26 April and International Team Match will be contested over two days, 26 and 27 April.

The list of hopefuls who seek acclaim and exaltation through masterly golf play is long indeed. From Sind the searing ones are Syed Yashal Shah, Omer Sheik-hoo and Arsalan Sheik-hoo. Remarkable ones from Federal Golf Association are Umer Khokher, Umair Saleem and Ahmed Zafar. Formidable ones of Punjab are Nouman Ilyas, Muhammed Arsalan and Rafay Raja. Balochistan Golf Association is represented by Asif Khan, Muslim Abbas and Basit Ali.

Ladies section has to be proud of marvelous players like Parkha Ijaz, Rimsha Ijaz, Suneya Osama and Syeda Iman Ali Shah.

Senior Amateurs who stand out as prime challengers are Col M. Shafi, Shafiq Bhatti, Asif Mehdi and Tariq Mehmood.

The playing arena is the Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course with its tree lined fairways, water hazards and out of bounds

# Record Ireland Test score as Stirling, Campher hit tons in Sri Lanka

**Sports Desk**

GALE: Ireland posted their highest Test score of 492 on Tuesday as Paul Stirling and Curtis Campher became only the third and fourth Irishmen to hit centuries in cricket's longest format.

Before rain stopped play on day two in Galle, in reply Sri Lanka were 81 without loss, 411 runs behind, with Nishan Madushka unbeaten on 41 and Dimuth Karunaratne 39 not out.

But the day belonged to Ireland, with Stirling scoring 103 and Campher 111 after captain Andy Balbirnie made 95 on day one.

Lorcan Tucker scored a useful 80 while Prabath Jayasuriya, the home hero of the first Test, took five wickets for 174. Asitha Fernando and Vishwa Fernando took two wickets each.



Ireland only gained Test status in 2017 and have lost all five games so far.

The previous highest Test score was 339 against Pakistan in their inaugural match in 2018.

In punishingly hot and humid conditions, Stirling had retired hurt with cramps on Monday

after reaching 74, but came back to the crease on Tuesday after Tucker fell.

Stirling reached his maiden Test hundred in style, upper-cutting Asitha Fernando for six over deep point. He now has centuries in all three formats of the game.

Soon afterwards the same bowler dismissed Stirling for 103 as the batsman hooked a short delivery into the hands of Dhananjaya de Silva on the fine-leg boundary.

Campher was well caught by a diving De Silva at first slip to give Jayasuriya his third wicket in the innings.

Sri Lanka's openers negotiated the final session without much trouble although Ireland's quicks found the outside edge of the bat of Madushka with the new ball.

Ireland lost the first Test by an innings and 280 runs.

# F1 shakes up sprint race format in time for Baku

**News Desk**

Paris Formula One approved a shake-up to the sprint format on Tuesday in time for this weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

In Baku, which stages the first of this season's six sprints, the 100-kilometre dash becomes a standalone event on the Saturday of race weekends.

A shortened qualifying version will be held in the morning of the approximately 30 minute race to define the starting order for the sprint first introduced in 2021.

Qualifying for Sunday's Grand Prix will now be held on Friday, the traditional three-session qualifying preceded by a first practice session.

The shake-up was given the green light by the teams at the Australian Grand Prix at the start of the month, with the changes rubber stamped by the FIA's F1 commission on Tuesday.



Up to now, the three sprints held in 2021 and last year have shaped the grid for Sunday's main event.

Teams and Formula One believe the revised race weekend will now give Saturday's action added excitement to fans with the doing away of

the often less than enthralling second practice session.

Saturday's qualifying will be known as 'the Sprint shoot-out' with the first qualifying session or Q1 running for 12 minutes, Q2 for 10 minutes and Q3 for eight minutes.

F1 hopes that with its new standalone status drivers will have an added incentive 'to go for it', knowing any incidents will not have a bearing on where they start in the Grand Prix.

The Sprint points system remains unchanged, with eight going to the winner down to one for eighth place, meaning a maximum points haul of 34 on offer to a driver winning the sprint, grand prix, and posting the fastest lap.

Announcing the changes the F1 Commission hoped the new format would deliver "more jeopardy" through a reduction in practice time and providing a greater incentive to drivers to race hard on Saturday.

After Baku there are sprints scheduled for Austria (Red Bull Ring), Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps), Qatar (Lusail Circuit), the United States (Circuit of The Americas) and Brazil (Interlagos).

# Ajinkya Rahane returns as India name squad for WTC Final



**A Sports**

NEW DELHI: Experienced top-order batter Ajinkya Rahane returned in national colours as the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) on Tuesday, named a strong 15-member squad for the World Test Championship final against Australia.

Ajinkya Rahane, who has been in prolific form in the domestic circuit, got the reward as he was recalled to India's Test side after a long hiatus of more than one year.

Shreyas Iyer's back injury also played a significant role in Rahane's return as the former is still on the road to recovery after undergoing surgery in the United Kingdom for a lower back stress fracture.

Rahane last represented India in January 2022 against South Africa and could score only 10 runs in two innings of the match.

Rahane's inclusion further strengthened India's strong batting order, comprised of skipper Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, K L Rahul and KS Bharat.

The 15-member squad also features spin all-rounders in the form of Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel while five pacers - Shardul Thakur, Mohammad Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav and Jaydev Unadkat.

It is worth mentioning here that India will take on Australia for the World Test Championship mace from June 7 at The Oval in London.

# Mohammad Rizwan achieves major T20 milestone



**A Sports**

RAWALPINDI: Wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan carried on his exceptional form to amass a unique milestone in T20 cricket amid the fifth PAK vs NZ T20I here at Pindi Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Mohammad Rizwan, who spearheaded Pakistan to a commendable total of 193/5 with a sensational 98-run unbeaten knock, became the first batter to complete a thousand runs in T20 cricket in the ongoing year.

Notably, Rizwan scored thousand runs in a calendar year for the third consecutive time. He scored 1817 runs in 2022 and a record 2036 runs in 2021.

Besides representing Pakistan on the international stage, Rizwan also enjoyed successful runs in franchise cricket; representing Multan Sultans and Comilla Victorians.

It must be noted here that Rizwan's momentous 98-run knock, however, went in vain as Mark Chapman's scintillating century knock trumped his efforts and steered New Zealand to a stunning series-levelling victory over Pakistan.

Chapman, alongside James Neesham, lifted New Zealand from 73/4 to a comprehensive six-wicket victory over the home side.

Chapman top-scored for New Zealand with a 57-ball 104, which featured 11 boundaries and four sixes. Neesham, on the other hand, also played a pivotal role with an unbeaten 45 off 25 deliveries.

# Mark Chapman added to New Zealand squad for Pakistan ODIs



**A Sports**

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Tuesday, recalled Mark Chapman to their ODI squad for the upcoming five-match away series against Pakistan, scheduled to commence on April 27.

Chapman, who wreaked havoc in the fifth PAK vs NZ T20I here on Monday by scoring a match-winning century, got the reward of his scintillating knock as the young left-handed batter has been recalled to New Zealand ODI squad.

He scored an unbeaten 104 off 57 deliveries, laced up with 11 boundaries and four sixes to power New Zealand to a series-levelling victory over nervy Pakistan.

Chapman was sensational throughout the recently-concluded five-match T20I series as the left-handed batter's runs tally of 290 was the most by any batter and was followed by Mohammad Rizwan, who had 162 runs to his name.

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead lauded Chapman's performance in the T20I series against Pakistan and expressed his delight in having the in-form batter in the ODI squad as well.

"The way Mark's played against one of the best T20 bowling attacks in the world has been nothing short of outstanding. "His match-winning knock in the fifth and deciding match was particularly special and we're happy to have someone in such strong form added to our ODI squad."