

Metting ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs federal cabinet meeting on Friday.

PM deplores 'double standards of justice' with Imran Khan in corruption cases

President signs amended employees benevolent fund bill into law

腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday gave his assent to the Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2023.



The president signed the

bill in exercise of the powers the Constitution, a President conferred under Article 75 of House statement said.

IHC bars Imran Khan's arrest in cases across **Pakistan till Monday**



😂 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday barred authorities from arresting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf former premier pointed out PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in that Interior Minister Bana

worker who was killed during a party rally in Lahore earlier this year - for 10 days against surety bonds worth Rs50,000. During the hearing, the

Khan's lawyer - Salman

Safdar - pleaded to the court to grant his client protection in all

the cases filed against him since

腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday disapproving the "double standards of justice" being meted out to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan in his corruption cases said the coalition would take every step to ensure the rule of law in the country.

Chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet, he said other political leaders in the country faced trials and tough handling, while Imran Khan was given a "privileged treatment".

"These are the double standards of justice," he said and expressed astonishment over the remarks of the Chief Justice yesterday's hearing where he said that he was pleased to meet Imran Khan.

He pointed out that thou-



sands of cases by the gener- judiciary earlier also protected al public were pending with Imran Khan in his corruption of the Supreme Court during the courts while some politi- cases including the Bus Rapid cal figures were specially given Transit Project (BRT), Billion the favour of bail on a priority basis.

Tree Tsunami tree plantation, and Malam Jabba developof corruption by PTI but the er, he was in prison but passed cases were not pursued.

of an agenda to bring fascist riots. rule in the country for 10 years.

He said May 9, after the debacle of December 16, 1971, was a painful day in the country's history when Imran Khan's party unleashed havoc by attacking national and military installations.

He recalled that despite the tragedy of the assassination of Pakistan Peoples Party leader Benazir Bhutto, his husband raised the slogan of 'Pakistan Khappay' meaning 'We want Pakistan' as a great gesture of nationalism. Also, nobody hit

the military installations even after the "judicial murder" of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, he added.

Sharif recalled that at the The prime minister said the ment projects had solid proofs time of the death of their moth-

the time with patience rath-He said Imran Khan was part er than inciting the public for

Photo: PID

He said Imran Khan was the mastermind and planner behind the attacks on military institutions. He termed it a disgrace to the martyred military personnel who sacrificed their lives for the motherland.

He said the country was passing through a difficult time and the coalition government was making efforts to address the inherited challenges

He lambasted the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to push the country toward the brink of a dangerous situation. He recalled that the PTI chief for months made false and shameless claims about his ouster from the rule through "regime change" by the United States.

all cases, even those are undis-Sanaullah had warned to arrest closed, registered across the him again, saying that there was country until Monday (May 15). no rule of law enforced in the According to details, Imran country currently.

Khan - who is still present inside the IHC - decided not to leave the court premises until written orders are issued in a bid to evade his arrest.

Islamabad High Court (ICH) Chief Justice (CJ) Aamer Farooq constituted a two-member divisional bench - Justice Ejaz Ishaq Khan and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri to hear Khan's bail pleas in a number of cases.

Meanwhile, the court also granted protective bail to PTI chief in three terrorism cases registered against him in Lahore and stopped authorities from arresting him till May 17 in any case registered in Islamabad after May 9.

Justice Jahangiri also approved Imran's protective bail in a case pertaining to the death of Zille Shah — a PTI of" till Monday morning.

PTI leaders go underground as

May 9. "Government machinery is being misused," the lawyer added. The judge presiding over the hearing said the incumbent government had a case registered against former interior minister Sheikh Rashid a resident of Rawalpindi - in

North Waziristan's Baka Khel. However, he also noted that the PTI government had registered similar cases against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Javed Latif and others.

Then, the court granted bail to Khan and issued orders that he should not be arrested in the "cases that he has no knowledge

Shazia for protecting constitution to ensure freedom, justice, human rights

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Ms. Shazia Marri has said that the Constitution must be ensure freedom, justice and protection of human rights.

She was chairing the International Parliamentary Convention titled "My Constitution Guarantee of Friday.

The convention aimed to highlight the importance the country. of constitutional guarantees for the protection of human rights and the role the same.

Ms. Marri introduced her role as the minis-



protected at all costs to ter and chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme, which has empowered 9 million women in Pakistan through various initiatives.

She stressed the impor-My Freedom" held here on tance of the Constitutional provisions and their protection for the development of

Talking about democracy in Pakistan, she said that separation of power is the of the judiciary in ensuring fundamental principle of democracy which if trampled can impede development in the country.

PDM Session: Nawaz Sharif suggests 'power show' outside SC

腾 🛛 🗛 Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former premier and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif has suggested to organise a power show outside the Supreme Court (SC) during the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) heads sessions.

The PDM heads session was held under the chair of Maulana Fazlur Rehman in Islamabad today. During the session, Nawaz Sharif suggested to stage a power show outside the SC on Monday.

Sources said that some PDM leaders expressed fear of confrontation in case of organising a protest. It was learnt that the PDM leaders will hold a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today.

While addressing a press conference, Maulana Fazlur Rehman alleged that 'criminal' Imran Khan is being given protection after he was arrested Rs60 billion corruption case. Federal cabinet mulls over imposing

'emergency' The federal cabinet has been mulling



over the imposition of emergency in the country following the political unrest after the arrest of former premier and PTI chief Imran Khan, sources told.

The federal cabinet session was held under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Sources told ARY News that the cabinet members mulled over using the option of imposing emergency.

During the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) session, the coalition parties suggested to impose emergency. The cabinet members also held consultations over necessary steps to cope with the political and economic challenges.

The federal cabinet held discussions over the verdicts, as well as reviewed the recommendations of extending the tenure of the assemblies, sources added.

NAB Amendments: SC fixes Imran Khan's plea for hearing

腾 City Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday will hear the plea filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against the amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) on March 16.

A three-member special bench of the apex court, comprised of the Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, heard the case

It is pertinent to mention here that in May, the National Assembly approved amendments to the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 in a bid to curtail the powers of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB)

Imran Khan.

PESHAWAR: Several Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders went underground after the federal government intensified its crackdown against the lead-

crackdown intensifies

ership, citing sources. The federal government intensified its crackdown against PTI leaders across the country following the political unrest

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

caused by the arrest of former premier and Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf chairman Imran Khan.

Earlier today, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) single bench barred authorities from arresting former prime minister Imran Khan in any new case registered against him after May 9. IHC single bench Mian Gul Hassan heard Imran Khan's plea and barred authorities from arresting him in any new case till May 17. The single bench also orders authorities to provide foolproof security to

However, several PTI central leaders Shireen Mazari, Dr Yasmin Rashid and Malik Aamir Dogar have been arrested in different cities today.

Sources said that the federal government expressed displeasure over authorities fail to arrest the nominated PTI leaders. In several raids at the politicians' houses, police nabbed family members in the absence of the leaders.

Additionally, the interior ministry prepared a list of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders who will be arrested in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) including Peshawar, Khyber, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mohmand. Kohistan, Abbottabad, Tank and other districts.

Women leaders of the political parties were also among the 99 keaders who were included in the interior ministry's list.



The Spokesman

Saturday, May 13, 2023

British Parliamentarian

ISLAMABAD: Members British Parliament (House of Commons) MP Khalid Mahmood, MP Tahir Ali and MP Mohammad Yaseen met today Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. Bilateral relations between Pakistan and the UK as well as issues of regional importance were discussed during the meeting on Friday.



CCTV footage of Imran Khan's arrest stolen from court

😂 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The CCTV footage of arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has been 'stolen' from Islamabad High Court (IHC), ARY News reported on Friday, quoting the former premier's lawyer.

During a hearing, Imran Khan's lawyer – Salman Safdar - said that argued that the CCTV footage of former premier's arrest was stolen.



The Islamabad High Court sure over 'stealing' of CCTV (IHC) has expressed displea- footage from court premis- into custody by Rangers

es and sought a report from Advocate General of Pakistan (AGP) in this regard.

"It is unfortunate that the footage was stolen from the High Court," the IHC judges said.

It is pertinent to mention here that former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan was arrested by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the Al-Qadir Trust case. The PTI chief was taken

personnel, who were acting on the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) warrant, from the premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC) where the former premier had gone to seek bail in multiple cases registered against him.

Later on, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) termed the arrest of former premier 'legal.' The court also issued contempt court notices to Interior Secretary and IG Islamabad.



😂 Spokesman Report

Khar to attend **2nd EU Indo-Pacific Forum in Sweden**

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar will undertake an official visit to Stockholm, Sweden on May 13 to participate in the 2nd European Union Indo-Pacific Forum, the Foreign Office said Friday.

The visit is taking place at the joint invitation of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom.

At the Forum, the Minister of State will highlight Pakistan's perspective on important regional and global issues and explore avenues of cooperation with the European Union especially in trade, investment, digital technology, climate, environment and health and connectivity.



She will also meet thr leaders participating in the forum and discuss issues of bilateral cooperation.

Murad Saeed's residence raided in Swat



腾 🛚 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police on Friday raided Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Murad Saeed's house in Swat.

The PTI leader was not present at his home during the raid, according to police.

It is pertinent to mention here that police have arrested several senior leaders of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) in different cities of the province since May 9 as crackdown against PTI workers continues.

Earlier today, Police have arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including senior vice pres-

ident Shireen Mazari and PTI Central Punjab President, Yasmin Rashid.

According to sources, the police raided the house of the former federal minister located in E/7 area of the federal capital and arrested Shireen Mazari. The PTI leader has been

shifted to Abpara police station. Iman Mazari, Shireen Mazari's daughter, in a message on Twitter, claimed that around 50 policemen raided their house and arrested her mother.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and former deputy speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Suri was arrested from Islamabad.

AJK police to have its e-magazine on professional skills, services to masses on latest lines

ISLAMABAD : The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on Friday announced the completion of the China Exhibition and Trading Center in a record time of six months at the Gwadar deep-sea port with the cost of \$12 million.

The project was launched in November 2022 on the direction of Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal for promoting business and related activities at the Gwadar Port, a news release said.

Following the direction of the minister's directives, the China Offshore Ports Handling Company (COPHCL) started construction of the project which has been completed on Friday.

Ahsan Iqbal has further directed to conduct the third International Expo Gwadar in the newly established EXPO center in June 2023, coincid-



ing with the 10-year celebrations of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in July this year.

The Gwadar Ports hold immense significance as a key component of the CPEC and the broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Located strategically on the Arabian Sea, Gwadar serves as Pakistan's premier deep-water port, offering a gateway to the Arabian Gulf, Middle East, and Central Asia.

The development under CPEC aims to transform Gwadar into a major trade and economic hub, facilitating regional connectivity and enhancing Pakistan's maritime trade.

Gwadar's potential as an energy and transport corridor, coupled with its strategic location, makes it a focal point for international investment and economic cooperation, driving economic growth and regional integration.



😂 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has vehemently condemned a terrorist attack on Frontier Corps (FC) camp in Muslim Bagh area of Balochistan here on Friday.

He expressed his grief over the martyrdom of two soldiers in the attack.

He prayed for the martyrs and condoled with their families.

Delegation ofmerged areas calls on CMKP 腾 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of the merged areas here on Friday called on Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan and apprised him of the problem being faced by the people of the merged areas.

Talking to the delegation, Muhammad Azam Khan said that he was well aware of the problems being faced by the people of the merged districts. He said that steps would be taken on a priority basis to resolve these problems. He also assured that special meetings of the concerned departments would be called for concrete progress in this regard.

 $\operatorname{Specia\overline{I}}\operatorname{attention}\operatorname{will}\operatorname{be}$ given to the timely completion of ongoing development works in the merged districts, Mohammad Azam Khan said.

Saad strongly condemns Tarnol Railway Station arson by PTI miscreants

😂 Spokesman Report

> ISLAMA-BAD: Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday strongly condemned the setting on fire the Tarnol **Railway Station**

by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) violent protesters after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Chairing high-level meetings at the ministry, he said that the miscreants who were involved to damage the government properties would be brought to justice at any cost.

"No one will be allowed to damage the government installations as the protection of life and property of the citizens is the top priority of the government," the minister added.

Saad Rafique directed the official concerned to investigate the matter and ects of PSDP of the year 2022-23.



submit the report in that regard.

Divisional Superintendent (DS) Rawalpindi Railways Inam Ullah, Inspector General (IG) Railways Rao Sardar Ali and other senior officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the possibilities for reducing the estimated cost of Main Line-I (ML-I) and the draft of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) of the year 2023-24 also came under discussion during another meeting.

The meeting also considered stock taking of completed and ongoing proj-

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😂 🛛 Bureau Report

MIRPUR : Under the spirit to highlight the initiatives of AJK police for services delivery harmonious to the need of the modern age besides the welfare of constabulary along with the focus on the perspective of general public towards police.

This was disclosed in a detailed meeting of Editorial Board of AJK Police E-Magazine held at Central Police Office (CPO) in the State capital city of Muzaffarabad on Friday with SSP, Project Incharge Kamran Ali in the chair.

Later, SSP Kamran Ali told APP that the meeting, held on special directives of Inspector General of Police AJK Amir Ahmed Sheikh, tion.

Lawyers have been arrested from the bar room

🐞 Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Our lawyers have been arrested from the bar room. Arrest is not a double sign for us. Genghis Ahmad Khan Kakar member Punjab Bar Council said in his address. If they were against, we made arrests at that time as well.

The arrest is a matter of honor for us he said and added.

But with the brazen manner, with the high tactics, at that hour of the night, when a few lawyers were sitting together, they came there on the night blood was killed, the Chief Police Officer of Faisalabad (CPO), the Regional Police Officer (RPO), I warn other agencies of this city and under the cover of police that we will take revenge on you.

On which thousands of lawyers present in the bar room supported in Hum language slogan.

discussed and reviewed the draft devised for finalization of the first edition of AJK police E-Magazine, scheduled to be appeared on 1st of June this year.

"It will be first of its own kind of publication, the official organ of AJK police to highlight the due services and achievements of the force to the masses in Azad Jammu Kashmir", Kamran Ali said.

"The e-magazine project also involves an area of focusing in the digitalization in AJK Police besides highlighting the education purpose through editorials, writeups including features for public awareness", the project incharge added while responding to a ques-

Rupee jumps Rs13.85 against Dollar

😂 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rupee jumped Rs.13.85 against the Dollar in the interbank trading on Friday and closed at Rs 285.08 against the previous day's closing of Rs 298.93.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of Dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 292 and Rs 295, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 15.90 to close at Rs310.95 against the last day's closing of Rs 326.85, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen declined by 10 paisas to close at Rs 2.11, whereas a decrease of Rs19.36 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs356.96 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs376.32.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal went down by Rs 3.77 and Rs 3.69 to close at Rs77.63 and Rs76.01, respectively.

ISLAMABAD : The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan on Friday conducted the second cohort of capacity building training programme for faculty

sion in collaboration with HED Punjab in Pakistan (HEDP) project.

A three-day capacity building workshop was conducted by the HEDP team at the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, for the faculty of 50 Affiliated Colleges (ACs) of Lahore Division. The batch comprising 91 participants included more than 60 percent women.

These included teachers from Lahore, Sheikhupura.

The training was comprised of ten

HEC conducts capacity building workshop 腾 City Desk

of Affiliated Colleges (ACs) of Lahore Diviunder the Higher Education Development

Shahdara, Kasur, Pattoki, Phool Nagar, Chunian, Kot Rada Kishen, Mustafaabad, Kanganpur, Khudian Khas, Changa Manga, Muridke, Nankana Sahib, Narang Mandi, Shahkot, Sangla Hill, Bucheki and

modules: a) Transition to Semester System; b) Semester System Planning and Management c) Academic Advisement and Career Progression; d) Use of Technology in Teaching e) Use of Technology in assessment f) Learning Assessment and Feedback; g) Quality in Learning h) Curriculum development i) Course Devel-

National

Saturday, May 13, 2023

The Spokesman **The Millennium Education** wins leading Education Brand of the Region Award 2023

腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The Millennium Education Group has been honoured with the prestigious Leading Education Brand of the Region Award at a first ever Education Excellence Recognition Ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr Islamabad, hosted by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry RCCI says a press release.

Founder & CEO of The Millennium Education Group, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, received the award from the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Dr. Arif Alvi at a graceful ceremony held in Presidency Islamabad.

This recognition is a testament to the remarkable contribution that The Millennium Education Group and The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC have made towards transformation of education through their world-class curriculum, their 21st century teaching methodologies, foreign languages programme, beyond the classroom initiatives, Extended Learners Enrichment and Essential Learner Development Programmes, and digitally inclusive classrooms. The awards ceremony only vital for individual success but also



was organized by Rawalpindi Cham- for the overall prosperity and progress of ber of Commerce & Industry RCCI to honour excellence, and recognize the creativity, hard work, and success of educational brands.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq emphasized the importance of quality education in ensuring the success of the youth in Pakistan. He stressed that quality education is not

the country. Dr. Faisal also highlighted, the significance of promoting academic excellence, student achievement, social entrepreneurship, and equal opportunities for all.

The Millennium Education Group is the third-largest educational group in Pakistan, providing K-12 education for the past 35 years. It boasts the largest K-12 teacher training insti-

tute, with over 9,150 active alumni, more than 25 educational qualifications and eight prestigious examination and qualification boards globally. The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC is the Transnational Higher Education Wing of The Millennium Education Group, recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The Millennium Education Group also established The Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MiTE) in Sindh, its first chartered university in the heart of Karachi, recognized by HEC and chartered by the government of Sindh. The Institute, based on the ethos of entrepreneurship, technology, and design, is another first and is set to become a hub of higher education. The Millennium Education Group and The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC are the ONLY educational institutes to receive the Leading Education Brand of the Region Award in Pakistan. This award is a recognition and acknowledgement of their commitment to providing world-class education and their continuous efforts to transform the education landscape of Pakistan

Cotton cultivation campaign started by Punjab government in full swing. Capt (R) Saqib

🐞 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Cotton Cultivation Campaign started by Punjab government is in full swing and action plan is being implemented to get the best cotton harvest.South Punjab Secretariat has taken all the stakeholders on board related to cotton crop. In this regard, a high-level meeting was held in South Punjab Secretariat Bahawalpur which was presided over by Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt.(Retd) Saqib Zafar. Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahu, Commissioner Bahawalpur Dr. Ehtesham Anwer, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel, all the deputies of Bahawalpur Division, officers of the irrigation and agriculture department and representatives of farmer organizations particinsted in the meeting Additional (Retd) Saqib Zafar, while addressing the meeting ,said



the wheel of industry and as well

vation and to get the set target of its production. He said the cotton sowing target has been set at 50 lakh acres in the province and production target at 82 lacs bales. Iftikhar Ali Sahu said,in South Punjab, the cotton cultivation target has been set as 45 lakh 54 thousand acres thus 91percent of cotton cultivation will be obtained from South Punjab.

He further informed that a subsidy of 60 cror rupees is being provided on 12 approved varieties of cotton seed while subsidy of Rs.1000 per acre is being given on DAP fertilizer. Iftikhar Ali Sahu said monitoring of fertilizers will be done through tracking system and licenses of dealers involved in profiteering will be suspended. Achievement of cotton target would lead to the acquisition of 3 billion dollars in foreign exchange for Pakistan he concluded. Commissioner Dr.

Imran Riaz, Aftab Iqbal arrested 🐞 News Desk

LAHORE: Anchorpersons Imran Riaz Khan and Aftab Iqbal were arrested by the police on Thursday. Imran Riaz Khan was arrested at Sialkot Airport for allegedly inciting violence during clashes between security forces and supporters of former prime minister Imran Khan. Sources said Imran Riaz was about



to fly to Muscat from Sialkot Airport when the FIA offloaded him from the plane and handed him over to the police. The anchor has been shifted to an unknown place by the police. However, police have not released any statement regarding Imran Riaz's arrest. Meanwhile, anchor and television host Aftab Iqbal was reportedly arrested from his farmhouse in Lahore. Daughter of Aftab Iqbal confirmed the news of his arrest on Twitter. Both journalists are staunch supporters of Imran Khan and his policies and were very vocal in their support.

Islamic Calligraphy Exhibition held at PAC

The beauty of writing is our Islamic cultural heritage: Řehmanzad Faramarz

RAWALPINDI : An exhibition of Islamic calligraphy works was organized in the Punjab Arts Council. The chief guest of the opening ceremony of the exhibition was Director General Khana Farhang of the Islamic Republic of Iran Rahmanzad Framerz. More than 50 works of various calligraphers including Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, Muhammad Azim Iqbal, and Muhammad Yunus Rumi were placed in the exhibition. Addressing the opening ceremony, Director General Khana Farhang of the Islamic Republic of Iran Rahmanzad Framerz said that Hussain Tahrir is our Islamic cultural heritage. At the beginning of the Islamic civilization, the importance of preserving the tradition and sanctity of the word was given. As a result of the deep attachment of Muslims to the promotion and publication of sciences and arts, the art of calligraphy gained extraordinary importance and the word acquired the same aesthetic value and status as a picture. The chief guest described the art of calligraphy as an important heritage of Islamic civilization and said that this art is similar to the Holy Quran. Director Punjab Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said on this occasion that Islamic calligraphy is the legacy of Muslims. The tradition of calligraphy is centuries old and our calligraphers are the trustees of this tradition who have kept this art alive. We should focus on teaching our children creative literature along with formal education. Arts Council is taking a lot of steps to promote Islamic calligraphy. Islamic calligraphy classes are a link in this chain. Assistant Director Muhammad Sulaiman said that there is immense talent of calligraphy in Pakistan, which only needs to be developed. Pakistani children can shine the name of the country in calligraphy competitions around the world. Shields and certificates of appreciation were also distributed to all the calligraphers at the end of the exhibition. A large number of people from the twin cities participated in the exhibition.

District administration cracked down on illegal depots and oil agencies

腾 Kiran Asim



MULTAN: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, the district administration cracked down on illegal depots and oil agencies. The team of police and civil defense took action against 3 oil agencies established in Sher Shah area and arrested 2 persons. The oil agencies were sealed. Accused

Agib Ali and Mohammad Asif Irani were involved in the storage and illegal delivery of oil. Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir said that the crackdown

gencies and depots will continue

Cotton is the guarantor for the prosperity and it is lifeline of the country economy, so the South Punjab Secre- cash crop that will not only make the Iftikhar Ali Sahu said the governtariat is planning far beyond the set farmer prosperous, but will also run ment's full focus is on cotton culti- ed to get the best cotton crop.

Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. cotton cultivation will be revived creat employment opportunities. in the region and new spirit will be breathed into research institutions ble for cotton cultivation and the doing reserch on cotton crop.Capt. (Retd) Saqib Zafar said cotton is a

He said the weather is very favorafarmers should take full advantage of it. Secretay Agriculture Punjab

Ehtesham Anwar said all the deputy commissioners of the division have been given the task of achieving the cotton cultivation target. Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel said field visits have been start-





腾 🛛 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Under the auspices of the Pakistan Ulema Council, the Ulema across the country celebrated Pakistan Stability Day today with great enthusiasm and national devotion.

Allama Tahir-ul-Hasan, Central Deputy General Secretary, Pakistan Ulama Council, while addressing the congregation of Jamia Masjid Osmania today, said that the violence in the country by the evil elements in Pakistan is fully condemned by the government history of Pakistan.

military and attacks on public property. An example by taking the strictest action against the elements mark should be made

We appeal to the people to stay away from such evil elements and to condemn this kind of anti-national action. And it is regrettable and open terrorism, till today no enemy of the country daresIt happened that such elements damaged the reputation of Pakistan under the guise of politics and this type of terrorism did not come together in the 75-year

As part of a systematic conspiracy, the places associated with the People's Government Forces of Pakistan were targeted instead of stopping the evil elements, they were encouraged by the leadership of Tehreek-e-Insaaf. While presenting, he said that all institutions were patiently demonstrating, they want to foil the conspiracies of anti-national elements and make it clear that the entire nation is standing by the side of its security agencies and police and will make every plan ineffective under the guise of politics.

He further said that the evil elements are looking for an opportunity and fulfill their wrong ambitions in accordance with the chance availability.

He elaborated that, It is quite possible that those elements who want to create obstacles in the development of the country and the nation have also oined in this protest in disguise.

He said that justice requires that investigations be carried out with honesty and impartiality, and it is possible that unexpected faces will come out in this game.

3-day National Polio Campaign Starts from May 15 in Multan

腾 🛛 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir has said that the 3-day national polio campaign will start from May 15 in the city of Saints and has given the task to the police and district departments to make the polio campaign successful. He expressed these views while presiding over the meeting of the previous district departments. In the meeting, polio campaign and anti-dengue measures were reviewed in detail. Dengue activities are being monitored under modern online system. Umar Jahangir said that cases have been registered against property owners when dengue larvae are found.

Earlier, focal person for dengue campaign, Dr. Attaur Rahman also gave a briefing on dengue campaign.

2 soldiers martyred as terrorists attack FC camp in Balochistan

腾 🛛 Raja Furqan Ahmed

RAWALPINDI: At least two soldiers embraced martyrdom, while two terrorists were killed during intense exchanges of fire, as security forces repulsed attempts to attack their camps in the Muslim Bagh area of Northern Balochistan on Friday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a group of terrorists attempted to attack security forces' camps in the early hours of the morning. "The attack has been repulsed while inflicting heavy casualties on terrorists." ISPR further said the area has been cordoned off while the operation by the security forces was underway to capture the terrorists who had been cornered into a building complex. In the process of the clearance operation, two terrorists were killed while two soldiers embraced martyrdom. Further, three soldiers were also injured. However, a heavy exchange of fire is underway. During his maiden press conference, on April 25, as director general of the ISPR, Maj-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry had revealed that a total of 8,269 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) had been conducted since January as a result of which 1,535 terrorists had been killed or apprehended. Of these, 4,040 IBOs were conducted in Balochistan, another 3,591 in K-P, 119 in Punjab and 519 operations were conducted in Sindh. On average, over 70 IBOs were being conducted daily by the army, police and LEAs since January, he continued.

RPO Dera has given DSP rank to the newly appointed DSP Kalachi Abdul Rasheed

腾 🛛 Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: In Regional Police Office Dera, Regional Police Officer Dera Ismail Khan Abdul Ghafoor Afridi conferred DSP rank on newly appointed DSP Kalachi Abdul Rasheed Khan.

On this occasion, Regional Police Officer Abdul Ghafoor Afridi said that we are proud of the services of our police officers and men, the services of Dera police are not hidden, their services will always be remembered.

The Spokesman



Islamabad 15º – 23º Clear

namaz	imings	
Fajr		
Zohr	12:04 pm	
Asr	4:57 pm	
Maghrib	6:59 pm	
Isha	8:34 pm	
EMERGENCY		

Rescue (Police) 15 Bomb Disposal . 15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance...... 1122 & & Rescue Services 4451122 ...9266044 Motorway Police . Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

...... 9222596 . 9270601-20 Islamabad Rawalpindi

.115

ENQUIRY Edhi Ambulance

PIA Flight Info PIA Cargo. . 9280979 Railway Inquiry 117 ...9270831-5 Railway Exchange WASA Rawalpindi ..5555489 9281092

HOSPITALS		
CMH		
MH		
MH		
Cantt Hospital	9270907-	
DHQ	5556311-	
RGH	9290301-	
Holy Family	9290322-	
PIMS	9261170-7	
Polyclinic	9218300-0	
Shifa International	460366	

DEDADTMENTS

PEFARI	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	.9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316

HEC conducts *capacity building* workshop for teachers in Punjab affiliated colleges

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan on Friday conducted the second cohort of capacity building training programme for faculty of Affiliated Colleges (ACs) of Lahore Division in collaboration with HED Punjab under the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project. A three-day capac ty building workshop was conducted by the HEDP team at the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, for the faculty of 50 Affiliated Colleges (ACs) of Lahore Division. The batch comprising 91 participants included more than 60 percent women. These included teachers from Lahore, Shahdara, Kasur, Pattoki, Phool Nagar, Chunian, Kot Rada Kishen, Mustafaabad, Kanganpur, Khudian Khas, Changa Manga, Muridke, Nankana Sahib, Narang Mandi, Shahkot, Sangla Hill, Bucheki and Sheikhupura. The training was comprised of ten modules: a) Transition to Semester System; b) Semester System Planning and Management c) Academic Advisement and Career Progression; d) Use of Technology in Teaching e) Use of Technology in assessment f) Learning Assessment and Feedback; g) Quality in Learning h) Curriculum development i) Course Development; and j) Teaching Methodology: Andragogy and Pedagogy.

President directs varsity to return \$11,270 to a student in a 15-year-old case

😂 🛛 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) to refund an amount of \$11,270 as it committed maladministration by unjustly confiscating the admission dues of a student 15 years ago who vacated the seat at the initial stages and joined another university. He said that NUST, having been established/controlled by the Federal Government, fell under the definition of "Agency" of the Government, was not a private commercial entity but a service provider in the public sector, and confiscating the dues of a student was tantamount to exploitation and malpractice.

The President gave these directions in a 15-year-old matter, referred to him in 2022. As per details, a student was admitted to MBBS on the Foreign SAT basis session 2007 in NUST and his father (the complainant) deposited the admission fee of \$11,420. The complainant's son got admission in another medical university of Pakistan and he applied to NUST for a refund. NUST refused his request

on the basis of its Refund Policy. Feeling provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan aggrieved, the complainant approached Wafaqi Mohtasib in 2008, which directed NUST to refund the amount. NUST, then, filed a representation which was rejected on the ground that NUST did not explain how its policy was lawful and it failed to show that it suffered any financial loss due to the student's decision to join another university.

The President in his decision said that since the "provisional admission" offered to the student could not be converted into final admission and another student was admitted by NUST on the seat vacated by him, therefore, NUST charged double dues against one seat which, prima facie, was tantamount to exploitation and malpractice. He said that the act of declining a refund in the present case amounted to "forfeiture and confiscation" which was not permissible except backed by the law.

The President stated that any provision of the Prospectus of NUST could not travel beyond the limit prescribed by the law and the Policy or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) cannot overrule the

i.e., in Articles 3 and 4 regarding the elimination of exploitation and rights of individuals. He added that since NUST had committed maladministration, therefore, it was advised to refund all the dues to the student by deducting only the admission fee of \$150 as NUST had initiated some process which involved expenses which were liable to be deducted.

It was further observed that NUST was established under the Act of the Parliament namely "the National University of Science and Technology Act, 1997" having the President of Pakistan as Patron-in-Chief under Section 6 and the Prime Minister of Pakistan as Chancellor under Section 8 of NUST Act, 1997, and that having been established/controlled by the Federal Government, and thus, NUST fell under the definition of "Agency" as defined in Article 2(1) of the Establishment of the Office of Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Order, 1983.

The President, therefore, directed NUST to pay the confiscated amount while only deducting \$150 out of the total deposited amount of \$11,420.

Patrolling

FAISALABAD: Vehicles of Army are patrolling at Satyana Road during Flag March to maintain law and order situation in City on Friday



Peaceful protest is our legal and constitutional right, says Shah Mehmood Qureshi

腾 Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Before his arrest Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Vice Chairman Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi told PTI workers in his video message not to take the law into their hands and not to damage property. Peaceful protest is our legal and constitutional right. Continue to protest peacefully using legal and constitutional rights. To express solidarity with PTI Chairman



Imran Khan, people came out of their homes and continued peaceful protest. I pay tribute to the workers of Tehreek-e-Insaf who are fighting peacefully for a cause. A few days ago, PTI Chairman Imran Khan announced the candidates of Tehreek-e-Insaf from 297 provincial constituencies of Punjab.

I would expect those 297 provincial candidates to lead the people in their respective constituencies to record a peaceful protest against the possible arrest of party chairman Imran Khan once again. Workers should remain peaceful. Show courage. Don't lose patience. The struggle of the workers will bring members. He said that this morning I tried to meet Imran Khan, when I reached the police line guest house, neither me, nor the lawyers nor the media were allowed access. We tried to contact the G XI SP. That we could contact Imran Khan but he also refused to meet

We have filed a petition in the High Court, which is being followed by Faisal Chaudhry, in the petition, the PTI leadership and lawyers are requested to be given access to Imran Khan. In our view, the decision of the Islamabad High Court is not correct in the eyes of the law. We have decided to challenge this decision in the Supreme Court, the petition of which will be filed in the Supreme Court today, instructions have also been issued to our legal team. He said that a heavy contingent of police was sent to the Islamabad High Court to arrest me and Asad Umar.

I say to all PTI workers and all citizens who love Imran Khan that peaceful protest is your legal right to continue it, we have decided to protest at a few places immediately, at Karachi Insaf House at 2 pm. Later, all the workers reached the Insaf House and recorded their peaceful protest, Liberty Chowk in Lahore at 5 pm, Bala Hessar Fort in Peshawar, Nawashhar Chowk in Multan, H XI in Islamabad where Imran Khan is detained. Yes, in the same way, the place of protest has been determined in Sadar in Rawalpindi

Pak students to visit Japan under Asia youth exchange program



😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : 9 students from various educational institutions in Pakistan are leaving for Japan today (May 13) for a 7-day visit Under the "Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science" (SAKURA Exchange Program in Science). Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) organized an orientation session at Allama Iqbal Open University. Dean, Faculty of Science AIOU, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad presided over the event while Joint Education Advisor MoFEPT, Nasreen Bano was the chief guest of the event. Director General, Pakistan Institute of Education, Dr. Zaigham Qadeer,

Parliament has to reclaim its space on foreign policy: Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee

😂 News Desk

ISLAMABAD : The National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs conducted a pubic hearing on the 'Present and Future of Pak-India Relations' on Friday. Chairing the Public Hearing, MNA Mohsin Dawar asserted that Parliament has to reclaim its space on foreign policy ceded to non-elected officials. He also added that all matters of domestic and foreign policy shouldn't be seen only through the prism of security and stressed meaningful internal dialogue on the future engagements with India. Being the first in a series of potential public hearings of

the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, the session promoting people to people country feels it is on a differwould serve as prelude to sustained engagements with despite the inherent tensions in the civil society, academia, think tanks, media and other relevant stakeholders on matters China and India's trade contin-



of foreign policy. The Public ue to expand while Pakistan-In-Hearing examined the evolvdia trade has completely halted. ing regional geopolitical dimen-

One of the experts, reflecting sions, political, economic and on Pakistan's internal political instability and state's declining legal underpinnings in Pak-India relations, track II diplocapacity, stated that India has macy and confidence buildno incentive to engage with a failing state. Given India's ing measures as low hanging fruits in bilateral relations. The sustained rapid economexperts and participants under- ic growth and emergence as lined the need for reviving and economic super power, the contacts and trade relations ent league. The panelists also regretted that Kashmir has bilateral relations. The experts been deprioritized in Pakistan's cited that despite tensions policy priorities.

The keynote speakers rv Services.

included Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs MNA Mohsin Dawar, MNA Ramesh Kumar, Former Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Former Diplomat Ashraf Jahangir Qazi, Journalists Zahid Hussain and Munizae Jahangir, Professor Salma Malik, Lawyer Jamal Aziz and Director ISSI Muhammad Arshad. Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Civil Society and students participated in the Public Hearing at Pakistan Institute for Parliamenta-

Dr. Rifat Jabeen from Directorate of Education, Director Student Affairs AIOU, Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali, Dr. Kanwal and Dr. Afshah Huma were also present at the event.

Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad said that these children who have been selected for the visit to Japan are a source of pride for us. He encouraged students and said that this visit will prove to be a turning point in your lives, your skills will increase further, and this will enable you to compete with international students in every field. Nasreen Bano said that there is no shortage of talent in Pakistan. She said that the Federal Ministry of Education always strives to provide talented students with opportunities to increase their skills. She congratulated the students and their parents for being selected for this tour.

Jawad Malik lauds EU's unwavering support as development partner

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Jawad Sohrab Malik lauded the European Union's (EU's) role as a steady development partner and expressed gratitude for their consistent support.

In a meeting with EU envoy Riina Kionka here Friday, the SAPM discussed future prospects of EU-Pakistan business, trade and development cooperation.

Both considered the prevailing political and economic context of Pakistan while having these discussions.

The EU's humanitarian support for Pakistan's post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction program was also highlighted, and they reviewed the progress made on three new development programs funded by the EU with EUR87 million.

The EU representative informed the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) about the implementation of EU's forthcoming grants for improving agricultural value chains, providing access to clean energy, and uplifting the skilled labor force in the country through the Team Europe Initiative.

'Blocking mobile internet service endangers public safety'

🏷 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Police officers detain Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party activists and supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, during an ongoing protest against the arrest of their leader, in Islamabad, Pakistan, 11 May 2023.

ensure access to information at a time of political uncertainty following the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

This statement was originally published on pakistanpressfoundation.org on 10 May 2023.

(PPF) is concerned about the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority's (PTA) decision to block

Imran Khan on May 9. Citizens in Pakistan faced the closure of mobile broadband services and access to various social media websites following the arrest. This move during protests and political uncertainty is not only an infringement on citizens' right to access infor-Pakistan authorities urged to mation and free expression but also counterproductive in terms of public safety.

> When citizens are particularly in need of staying updated or

contacting others, shutting off access to mobile data services and social media platforms is likely to Pakistan Press Foundation create challenges in terms of public safety, spreading fear and panic. The authorities must ensure that access to information is not restrictmobile internet services following ed. PPF urges the PTA to reverse By cutting off access to these plat-

the ban on mobile internet services. As per press reports, a spokesperson for the telecommunication authority confirmed that after the former premier's arrest, videos of protests were circulated on social media, after which the mobile internet services were blocked. The report added that the PTA spokesperson did not confirm reports of social media platforms being blocked.

However, social media users experienced difficulties in accessing various websites, including Twitter and YouTube. Such closures act as a hindrance to the flow of information. Social media platforms are a vital source of news dissemination and information gathering.

the arrest of former prime minister its decision and immediately lift forms, the public is left in the dark about key developments, particularly when political sentiments are running high, and protests are taking place.

On May 10, the PTA said that internet services across Pakistan would remain suspended for an "indefinite period," Geo reported. Such actions are a danger to public safety and a blatant attack on the public's right to free expression and access to information. It is

necessary for the telecommunication authority to not only unblock services but also provide clarity on the nature of the block and why it was put in place. PPF urges the PTA to reverse and ensure complete access to social media websites and broadband mobile services.



Editorial/Opinion

Saturday, May 13, 2023

4 The Spokes

Aailn

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Press freedom: NA passes resolution

he National Assembly Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution on "World Press Freedom Day" and resolved that the fundamental right of freedom of speech enshrined in the Constitution under Article 19 which is the foundation of freedom of the press would be upheld.

The resolution moved by MNA Mehreen Razzaq Bhutto was unanimously passed by the House.

The House also reiterated that it is a fundamental human right protected by International Law, essential to democratic societies, and critical to the protection of human dignity.

The House recommended in the resolution that the government should protect the freedom of the press from censorship and violence and should promote its full realisation in accordance with its international human rights obligations; essential for the functioning of democratic societies, and vital for the protection of other human rights.

While recognising the critical role of journalists and media professionals in providing accurate, timely and impartial information to the public the resolution also highlighted the need to protect them from violence, intimidation, and harassment.

The resolution also affirmed the obligation of the government to safeguard and uphold press freedom against any form of censorship, undue interference, or retribution.

Further, it was also resolved that effective measures will be ensured for the safety, security and independence of journalists, to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the protection of press freedom, and to promote a pluralistic, diverse, and vibrant media environment in Pakistan, in compliance with its international human rights obligations and commitments.

Meanwhile: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said that the improvement of Pakistan in global media freedom index was a manifestation of the fact that Pakistan's direction was correct and the government had intentions to improve it further. Expressing her gratitude over Pakistan's improvement of 7 ranks in the world ranking of press freedom, she said in a statement that the era of media-bashing, kidnapping, shooting, rib-breaking, accusing media persons of selling loyalties and dirty character assassination campaigns was slowly ending, which was also being acknowledged globally.

"Efforts are being made to remove the stigma of 'media predator' on Pakistan's forehead", she said while referring to Imran's era. The minister said that that four-year mess of 'Imran Media Predator' was gradually being cleared with the grace of Allah Almighty.

She congratulated the Pakistani nation and the media that akistan was improving in the media index at global level. "It is gratifying to see progress in media in one year under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif', she maintained. She thanked to Allah for bringing positive improvement in media freedom index after getting out of FATF's gray list. Marriyum Aurangzeb saluted the journalists and media organizations who struggled for the freedom of expression and journalism, faced hardships and oppression. She vowed that this journey of improvement would continue in their cooperation.

Islamabad ka 'Tablighi Ijtema'

Javed Ullah Raja

ablighi Ijtema of Rawalpindi Islamabad is starting Insah Allah from Fridav after Asar on May 12, 2023. And on Sunday morning, May 14, 2023, Duwa will be offered after Fajr prayer. This time Islamabad Tablighi Ijtema will be held, beside the Islambad Lahore Motorway "Masjid Abu Al Qasim" Tablighi Markaz which is located at a short distance from Islamabad Airport. Tablighi Markaz of Rawalpindi Islamabad which was inaugurated on Thursday, September 23, 2021. The total area of Rawalpindi Islamabad Markaz, which is equipped with modern facilities, consists of 2200 kanals, in which the area of the mosque is about 350,000 square feet and the mosque has the capacity to offer prayers for about 400,000 worshipers. It is a great masterpiece of the big mosques of the world. The mosque is decorated with a big dome and four high minarets. More than 15000 worshipers can pray at a time in the big hall of the mosque. Tablighi Markaz of Rawalpindi Islamabad is one of the largest Tablighi Centers in the world. In addition to arranging parking for thousands of vehicles, there are large green lawns in this spacious center.

The objectives of the Tablighi Jamaat of the religion of Islam are to promote Islamic principles, develop ethics, achieve collective justice and achieve social reforms. In the light of Islamic teachings, the preaching of collective Muslims creates an understanding of the growing need for responsibility and psychological stability. By which they should protect the values, justice and human rights found in them. Apart from imparting the basic teachings of Islam in the gatherings, it sheds light on all aspects of life. Through Tablighi gatherings, the

of people can be increased and they get important information for the solution of political and social issues and the best solutions on moral and religious issues, which can lead the society to the path of peace and social development. Therefore, the importance of preaching gatherings of the religion of Islam is also very high, It is that through them oppression and ignorance are replaced by not only justice and

knowledge but also love, patience, moderation, cooperation and social improvement. Our honorable elders,

who have invested their whole lives in the religion of Allah, the work of the Prophets and the work of the Imam of the Prophets, Muhammad, Allah,

the Exalted, has opened the entire religion for them. The influential statements of the elders leave a deep impression on the listeners. Allah, the Most High, has given them such skills that no listener can remain without being influenced. The statements of the honorable elders are not for a particular time or occasion but rather they guide people at all times and in all situations. The words that come out of their tongues are resounding. In the gatherings, great scholars, honorable elders come from the country and from parts of India. In their statements, they highlight the importance of building faith and belief and conveying religion to the people of the whole world in the light of the Holy Qur'an and Hadith. In these statements, it is repeated time and کہ اللّد سے ہو تاہے، اللّٰہ کی مرضی اور ارادے کے بغیر کچھ نہیں ہو تا" again ". Maulana Abdul Wahab (ra), the former Ameer of the Jamaat, often said that these words are too few to say, but this is what

کہ اللہ سے ہوتا ہے، اللہ کی مرضی اور ارادے کے بغیر تجھ نہیں". society is improved. Can go, awareness they are.

-"تربر". Tablighi Jamaat wishes that all the from the fire of eternal hell and will go to du'a and it is not accepted, You ask a queseternal paradise. May Allah give us all the ability to listen to the statements of these our elders and follow them. Amen

The movement of the path of the religion of Islam is very pleasing to Allah and His Prophet . The savings of Allah in the Holy Quran and the words from the bless-

ed tongue of the Holy Prophet are sufficient for the guidance and guidance of humans. It has been said many times in the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Ahadith about Sheikh "امر بالمعر وف اور نہی عن المنکر" Hadith Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Zakaria noorullah markada said that I have seen about sixty verses in the Holy Qur'an in which Allah is repeatedly

mentioned. Allah has reiterated this with different titles in Holy Qur'an. In Para 24 Rakuh 19 of the Qur'an Quran, Allah says:

ترجمہ: ادراس سے بہتر کس کی بات ہو سکتی ہے جواللہ کی طرف بلائے ادر نیگ

عمل کرے،اور کہے کہ میں فرمال بر داروں میں سے ہوں۔ In Para 4 Rakuh 2 of the Qur'an Quran, Allah says:

ترجمه: اورتم مي ب ايك جماعت الي موناضر ورى ب كه خير كى طرف بلات اور نیک کاموں کے کرنے کو کہا کرے اور برے کاموں سے رو کا کرے اور ایسےلوگ یورےکامیاب، و کنگے۔

Hazrat Aisha Siddiqa (RA) says that the Prophet (PBUH) once visited Daulat Kada, and I saw a special effect on his face and felt that something important had happened. Prophet and did not talk to anyone and went to the mosque after performing ablution. I stood against the wall to listen to what he was saying. The Prophet Age on the member and after praising Allah said:

Peoples! ! Allah Ta'ala says: "Keep on people of the world will always be saved doing "امر بالمعروف اور نبي عن المتكر" lest you ask for tion and the question is not answered. You seek help from me against your enemies and I do not help you.

(Ibn Majah Ibn Hibban)

Inone place a hadith it is said:

The Prophet 新歌 said that when my ummah begins to consider the world as a great thing, then the awe and value of Islam will leave their hearts, And when they will fall "امريالمعر وف اور نهى عن المنكر " they will fall from the eyes of Allah (Tirmidhi).

In connection with the religion of Islam, Tablighi Ijtemas are held all over the world. So at the end of the Ijtema, the requirements of the Jumaats are kept for worldwide by the elders. Millions of peoples come out to invest their lives, wealth and time in the path of Allah. Inshallah, millions of people will come out from the annual Tablighi Ijtema of Islamabad Rawalpindi.

This year, the Tablighi Ijtema which is helding in new "Masjid Abu Al Qasim" Markaz, which is on the Islambad Lahore Motorway. Islambad Rawalpindi Ijtema is like the previous gatherings, a large number of peoples from all over the country and from the Arab and other countries are participating. Our elders says that Islamabad, the Capital is an important place to spread the religion of Islam. The word reaches the whole world with ease. It is required that one person from each and every house should come out to work in the way of Allah. And these words should be on the tongue of every child, old and young saying that" Islamabad ka Ijtema hay". Street, Street and village, village should be loud,that" Islamabad ka Ijtema hahu ra hay". let it be on the tongue of children that" Islamabad ka Ijtema hu raha hay".



Strengthening Bonds through CPEC

Syed Jamat Ali Shah

Pakistan between and China have been strong for decades and continue to grow with each passing year. The two nations have always stood by each other, and the bond between them has been cemented by shared interests and a deep sense of mutual respect. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a prime example of this strong partnership and has brought a plethora of benefits to both nations. Pakistan and China have a long history of friendly relations, which have been based on common goals and mutual respect.

The two countries have been close allies for over six decades, and their relationship is built on a foundation of shared interests and cultural affinities. The two nations have supported each other through thick and thin, and their partnership has only grown stronger with time. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multi-billion-dollar project that has been instrumental in deepening the friendship between Pakistan and China. The project aims to connect China's western region with Pakistan's Gwadar port, thereby creating a trade route that will provide China with easier access to the Arabian Sea and the Middle East. The CPEC will also help Pakistan to develop its infrastructure and will create numerous job opportunities for its citizens.

One of the most significant benefits of the CPEC is that it will boost the economies of both Pakistan and China. The project has already creat-

he friendly relations and it is expected to create millions stan and China have been deepening they have established a close workmore in the coming years.

The project will help to create a more stable and secure environment in the region by promoting economic development and cooperation between Pakistan and China. The CPEC will also help to create a more conducive environment for regional integration, which will help to reduce tensions and promote peace and stability. The CPEC is also a prime example of how China and Pakistan are working together to promote sustainable development. The project is being implemented with a focus on sustainable development, and it aims to create

a more sustainable and environmentally friendly environment. The CPEC will VSIS help to promote clean energy and nal will reduce Pakistan's dependence on fossil fuels. This, in turn,

will help to reduce

carbon emissions

and mitigate the impact of climate change. The CPEC has also been instrumental in promoting people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and China. The project has created numerous opportunities for cultural exchange and has helped to deepen the friendship between the two nations. The CPEC has also facilitated educational exchanges, which have helped to promote a greater understanding of each other's cultures and values. In conclusion, stand the importance of addressed thousands of jobs in Pakistan, the friendly relations between Paki-

over the years, and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a testament to this strong partnership.

The project has brought numerous benefits to both nations, including boosting their economies, enhancing their strategic significance, promoting regional stability and security, promoting sustainable development, and promoting people-to-people exchanges. The CPEC is a prime example of how two nations can work together to achieve mutual goals and build a brighter future for their citizens

Similarly China and Pakistan, two great nations of the world, have joined hands to tackle the menace of terror-

ism and narcotics. The efforts of these two countries in eradicating these threats are highly commendable and deserve appreciation. Terrorism and narcotics are two of the most significant chal-

lenges facing the world today. Both have devastating effects on society, and their eradication requires a coordinated and sustained effort. China and Pakistan have shown tremendous dedication to this cause and have made significant strides towards achieving their goals. China and Pakistan have a shared interest in combating terrorism and narcotics. Both countries have suffered greatly from these issues and undering them. To tackle these problems,

ing relationship and have collaborated on a range of initiatives.

China and Pakistan have also strengthened their military ties to counter terrorism. The two countries have conducted joint military exercises and have exchanged intelligence to improve their capabilities in fighting terrorism. The cooperation between the two countries has resulted in the successful elimination of several terrorist groups operating in the region. The efforts of China and Pakistan in eradicating narcotics have also been noteworthy. Both countries have taken steps to curb the production and trafficking of narcotics. China has cracked down on synthetic drug production and has implemented strict regulations to control the flow of precursor chemicals. Pakistan has also made significant efforts to disrupt the drug trade by strengthening law enforcement agencies and increasing border controls. In conclusion, the efforts of China and Pakistan in eradicating terrorism and narcotics are a testament to their commitment to regional and global peace. The joint initiatives taken by these two countries have had a significant impact, and their successes should serve as a model for other nations facing similar challenges. It is essential that countries work together to address these issues, and the cooperation between China and Pakistan is a shining example of what can be achieved when nations come together to tackle common problems.

The writer is a defense analyst, social worker and the President of All Pakistan Sadat Association

PPF express alarm over continuing acts of violence against media professionals-I

PPF research

akistan Press Foundation (PPF) expressed alarm over the continued acts of violence against media around the country by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party (PTI) following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan. Violence against the media at the hands of both parts of the country, making clear the risk that journalists on the ground face.

The media is required to cover such developments but are instead being made the target of the anger of protestors. PPF strongly condemns acts of violence against media professionals and repeats calls for the political party leadership to ensure that party workers do not make the media the subject of their attacks. It is incumbent upon party leadership to ensure that media covering protests are able to do so safely.

It is also necessary for police and other responsible authorities to allow journalists to do their work without intimidation and violence. The police must exercise restraint and protect the safety of the media rather than bring it under attack.

In an alert issued on May 11, PPF documented multiple instances where media professionals came under attack during protests in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's capital Peshawar. In the provincial capital, DSNG vans for multiple channels had come under attack, Dawn News TV correofficials had arrested Mashal Radio correspondent Azmat Khan in a misunderstanding. On May 10, the building of the state-owned Radio Pakistan in Peshawar was attacked.

Similar violence against the media have also been documented in other parts of the country.

In Quetta in the Balochistan province, journalists - GNN News reporter Faizan Ali and cameraperson Shehbaz Ali, AFP reporter, and Quetta Press Club General Secretary Banaras professionals as protests were held Khan, GTV News reporter Fateh Bugti and daily Intekhab cameraperson Alexander Kalwi - were manhandled by police covering the PTI protests on May 9.

Speaking to PPF, Faizan Ali said they were protesters and police has been documented in covering the protests on Airport Road Quetta when police stopped the camera persons from making footage of the clashes between police and protestors.

"When we (the reporters) went to see what was happening, the police charged us with batons. We all sustained minor injuries", Ali shared.

GTV News cameraperson Shehbaz Ali added that police officials were stopping him from making footage of the clashes and beat him when the journalists resisted the move. He sustained minor injuries.

Quetta Press Club General Secretary Banaras Khan told PPF that, along with his colleagues, he was covering a protest when the police intervened and started physically assaulting the camerapersons to stop them from filming.

"In the same situation, the police also charged at me and the other reporters with batons. I sustained a severe beating on my back, and I am still experiencing pain", Khan lamented.

He added that he had all the security equipment provided by his organization, AFP. Still, spondent Arif Hayat was hurt, and the police other journalists covering the protests who were not wearing protection glasses faced irritation and redness in their eyes.

To be Continued

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International

Saturday, May 13, 2023

The Spokesman 5

President of Uzbekistan notes the importance of further enhancing practical cooperation with Tajikistan

跨 Spokesman Report

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN : Pres- are growing. The number of successident of the Republic of Uzbekistan ful cooperation projects is increasing. Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan established. Active cultural-humani-Kohir Rasulzoda, who is in Uzbekistan tarian exchanges are carried out. to attend the regular meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission. to adopting effective measures to

neighborliness, strategic partnership, and alliance between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were considered, and prospects for enhancing functional interaction were discussed.

Prime Minister Kohir Rasulzoda company. conveyed to the President of Uzbekistan the sincere greetings and best wishes of the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon.

At the meeting, the dynamic develagreements at the highest level was in Tashkent was emphasized.

noted with satisfaction. The trade turnover and cargo transportation Close interregional contacts have been

The primary attention was paid Issues of further strengthening good increase trade turnover and promote promising projects in energy, engineering, agriculture, transport, mining, textile, and other industries with the involvement of financing of Uzbekistan - Tajikistan investment

In this context, the importance of practical implementation of the decisions of the meeting of the joint Intergovernmental Commission held on 12 May under the chairmanship of the opment of bilateral cooperation by the Prime Ministers of the two countries



Alikhan Smailov outlines engineering development priorities of Kazakhstan

😂 Spokesman Report

The key challenges facing the mechanical engineering industry and measures for its further comprehensive development were discussed at the XI Forum of Machine-Builders of Kazakhstan with the participation of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Alikhan Smailov, primeminister.

The plenary session of the Forum was also attended by heads of the Presidential Administration, central state authorities and regional akimats, deputies of the Majilis and the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, representatives of foreign states, businessmen and industry experts. At the beginning of his speech, Alikhan Smailov read out a welcome address from the Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

already become traditional, proved its effectiveness in the search for new machine-building sector and strengthapproaches to the development of the en its competitiveness, a relevant industry. In order to build a diversified Comprehensive Plan was developed



economy, we need to achieve accelerated growth of the processing industry based on innovations and advanced technologies. One of the key roles in solving this strategic task is assigned to the machine building industry. Last year, thanks to the hard work of our teams, a well-balanced governmental policy and strong support, the output of the industry exceeded three trillion tenge, and the range and volume of exports increased.

Thousands of jobs were creat-This dialogue platform, which has ed. In order to further increase the investment attractiveness of the

on my instructions. I am convinced he added that the market demand for that its successful implementation will engineering products of Kazakhstan give a powerful impetus to the development of the industry and will make an important contribution to our country's sustainable industrial growth. The main task is to develop domestic value, increase the production of goods of higher redistribution and step-bystep access to export markets. I am convinced that you will be able to do it," the President said in his welcoming address. In turn, the Prime Minister stressed that today Kazakhstan continues the policy of industrialization of the country, diversification of the economy and reduction of dependence on imports. Domestic machine-building, being

the locomotive of the manufacturing industry, has been and remains the focus of attention of the Government. Last year the growth of production in the machine building industry amounted to 9.4% and by the results of 4 months of this year it made 36%," Alikhan Smailov said. At the same time

is estimated at \$23 bln, of which only \$3.1 bln is provided by the domestic production. In this connection there is a considerable potential for growth of the industry at the expense of import substitution.

We are facing the task of improving the competitiveness of machine building enterprises by creating affordable financial instruments, introducing new technologies, increasing local content and promoting exports," the Head of Government said. During the event, participants discussed a wide range of industry development issues, including technological re-equipment of domestic production, strengthening of cooperative ties, implementation of innovative solutions, ensuring access to finance, support for small and medium-sized businesses, training of highly qualified personnel and a number of others. This information may not be reproduced without reference to Kazakhstan Today.

Palestinians injured as Israeli forces violently quell Kafr Qaddoum weekly demonstration

🐞 News Desk

QALQILIA: At least three Palestinians were shot and injured and dozens of others suffocated as Israeli forces attacked the weekly anti-settlement rally in the village of Kafr Qaddoum to the east of Qalqilia, according to local activist, Murad Ishtawi.

He said Israeli army attacked the march with live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets, and tear gas canisters, shooting and injuring a 21-year-old youth in the foot with live fire which necessitated his transfer to hospital for treatment. Two more people were struck with rubber-coated metal bullets. Dozens of others, including children and women, suffocated due to tear gas inhalation. The village residents also took to the streets to condemn the Israeli occupation's crimes against the Palestinian people and its aggression on Gaza.

Kufr Qaddoum has been actively organizing peaceful organized opposition against Israeli occupation policies, as residents have organized protests every Friday, and have often been met with tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets and stun grenades fired by Israeli troops.

Chairperson of the Senate meets with the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan



Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar and State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Misganu Arega, inaugurated Embassy of Ethiopia in Islamabad.



黔 **News Desk**

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN : Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis Tanzila Narbayeva received acting UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan Consuelo Vidal Bruce.

During the conversation, the current state and prospects for cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UN and its specialized agencies were discussed. In particular, attention was paid to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring gender equality, as well as environmental issues, including mitigation of the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy.

It was noted that the efforts of Uzbekistan to address topical issues of regional and global importance, the initiatives put forward by the President of the country on topical issues on the international agenda, are supported by the UN. This, in turn, means that relationships with this authoritative structure are characterized by consistency.

The Chairperson of the Senate emphasized that constructive cooperation is developing with the UN and its specialized agencies and institutions operating in our country. The political dialogue has been especially intensified. This is evident from the participation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the general discussions held within the framework of the 72nd, 75th and 76th sessions of the UN General Assembly over the past five years. In this regard, based on the experience of the UN, the importance of enhancing the role of civil society institutions, strengthening the activity of women, as well as strengthening joint efforts to support youth was emphasized.

India cannot suppress the sentiments of Aazadi in Kashmir

😂 🛛 Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

epeat a lie often enough and people will believe it." Joseph Goebbels. The fallacious statement made by the most celebrated Indian diplomat, Dr. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs during SCO meeting in Goa on May 5, 2023, that "Jammu-Kashmir Was, Is And Will Always Be India's Integral Part," deserves some clarification. It also needs to be supplemented by some observations from the Kashmiri perspective.

First, the assertion makes a mockery of the United Nations Charter and Interwell that his erroneous outburst regarding Kashmir violates the United Nations Security Council resolutions which were Indian official position was articulated by Sir Goplaswamy Ayyangar, Indian delegate to the United Nations at the Securi-

ty Council on January 15, 1948 that "the question of the future status of Kashmir, whether she should withdraw from her accession to India, and either accede to Pakistan or remain independent, with a right to claim admission as a Member of the United Nations - all this we have recognized to be a matter for unfettered decision by the people of Kashmir, after normal life is restored to them."

Second, it is a historical fact that when the Kashmir dispute erupted in 1947-1948, the United States, Great Britain and France took the stand that the future status of Kashmir must be ascertained in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of the territory. The national Law, Dr. Jaishankar knows it U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution # 47, on April 21, 1948, which was based on that unchallenged principle. So, the idea that 'Kashmir is an inteagreed upon by both India and Pakistan. gral part of India' is in contravention to India's international obligations. Any such suggestion is an insult to the intelligence of the people of Kashmir.

Third, Kashmir is not and cannot be regarded as an integral part of India because under all international agreements, which were agreed by both India and Pakistan, negotiated by the United Nations, endorsed by the Security Council and accepted by the international community, Kashmir does not belong to any member state of the United Nations. If that is true, then the claim that Kashmir is an integral part of India does not stand.

Fourth, If Indian contention was correct then why Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights said on July 8, 2019, that both India and Pakistan should give the people of Kashmir right to self-determination. She added that the people of Kashmir should be included in all talks between India and Pakistan.

Fifth, does the Dr. Jaishankar remember that Ms. Helen Clark, the Prime Minister of New Zealand told the Parliament on October 15, 12004 that, "It is that Kashmir is a flashpoint for tensions between the two countries. Most countries do not regard it as simply an internal affair."

Sixth, it may be helpful to narrate a story here of a distinguished diplomat of India, Barrister Minoo Masani, former Indian Ambassador to Brazil. The story was published in Dalit Voice, Bangalore, India on August 1, 1990. Ambassador Masani wrote, 'A lady asked me other day, 'why Gorbachev would not agree to the Lithuanian demand for independence from the Soviet Union.' I countered with the question: 'Do you believe that Kashmir belongs to India?' 'Yes, of course' she said. 'That is why?' I said, 'There are too many Russians who wrongly believe that Lithuania belongs to the Soviet Union, just as you believe that Kashmir belongs to India.

Seventh, even one of India's wellknown authors, Ms. Arundhati Roy confirmed it by saying 'It's (Kashmir) not

perfectly obvious to the whole world ever been really a part of India, which is ter, Krishna Menon, was questioned as why it's ridiculous for the Indian government to keep saying it's an integral part of India.

> Eighth, my viewpoint was confirmed by a survey conduct by Robert Bradnockan associate fellow at the London-based think-tank-Chatham House on May 26, 2010, that 74 % to 95 % of the people of the 'Valley of Kashmir' want Aazadi.

> Ninth, Dr. Jaishankar should look back and refresh his own memory when he told Mike Pompeo, American Secretary of State in Bangkok on August 2, 2029, that, any discussion on Kashmir will only be with Pakistan and only bilaterally. (The Times of India, August 3,2019).

So, it is fair to say that India will get nowhere by explaining away Kashmir as an integral part of India. India is promoting this narrative because she trembles at any attempt to resolve the Kashmir crisis because she is frightened by its outcome. When a former Defense Minis-

to why India would never hold a free self-determination election in Kashmir. he confessed that all of India's political leaders knew it would lose. And would 900,000 soldiers be needed in Kashmir if the main opponents to India's occupation were but a handful of militants"? The question answers itself.

Lastly, it is a simple task for heavily armed military troops to maim and cripple the civilian population and muzzle the voice of political leaders, like, Shabir Shah, Yasin Malik, Masarat Aalam, Aasia Andrabi, etc., journalists, like Asif Sultan, Irfan Mehraj, Fahad Shah, Gowhar Geelani, and human rights defenders, like Khurram Parvez. What is difficult, however, and what is necessary, is to harness the strong feelings of the Kashmiri people for peace, justice and Aazadi (freedom)!

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The Spokesman

Economy/Commerce

Saturday, May 13, 2023

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,487.58	41,325.63	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,649.15	41,299.39	
Index Value	Change	
3,038,245,859	+161.95	
Percentage	Time	
+0.39%	12 May, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,754.62	+24.04	
Percentage	Time	
+0.31%	12 May, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,226.49	-83.02	
Percentage	Time	
-0.25%	12 May, 12:06 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
29,388.30	+261.58	
Percentage	Time	
+0.90%	12 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		

Currency Buying Selling Australian Dollar 192.5 194.5 Bahrain Dinar 769.97 777.97 Canadian Dollar 214 216.2 China Yuan 41.76 42.16 42.63 43.03 Danish Krone 318 321 Euro Hong Kong Dollar 36.97 37.37 Indian Rupee 3.53 3.88 2.25 2.2 Japanese Yen 944.81 953.81 Kuwaiti Dinar 64.94 65.54 Malaysian Ringgit NewZealand \$ 183.93 185.93 Norwegians Krone 27.55 27.85 Omani Riyal 752.33 760.33 Qatari Riyal 79.54 80.24 Saudi Riyal 78 78.8 215 217 Singapore Dollar Swedish Korona 28.29 28.59 Swiss Franc 324.91 327.41 Thai Bhat 8.6 8.75 U.A.E Dirham 80.9 80 UK Pound Sterling 364 367

Naveed Qamar assures cooperation for Industrial Zone and Expo Centre

腾 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce said that the role of the business community is very important in steering the economy out of current crisis and said that the government would take all possible measures for ease of doing business to facilitate them in business development. He lauded the efforts of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) for the establishment of a new Industrial Zone and construction of an Expo Centre in the Capital and assured that he would cooperate for the materialization of these projects as they are very important to boost industrialization and improve trade & exports of the country. He said this while talking to the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He also inaugurated a new Syed Naveed Qamar Hall in ICCI premises.

Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the Federal



of a new industrial zone in the region as the the government should cooperate with ICCI in Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar current industrial estates in the Capital have identifying and acquisition of land to complete reached the point of saturation and the poten- this vital project as soon as possible. He said tial investors are facing problems in setting up that a great boost in exports is the best option Minister for Commerce about the importance new industries in the region. He stressed that to bring the country out of the current econom-

ic crisis and said that CDA has agreed to cooperate with ICCI for the construction of a stateof-the-art Expo Centre in the Capital on the pattern of Expo Centers in Lahore and Karachi to introduce exportable products of Pakistan.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that many investors are shifting to other areas due to lack of space for new industrial units in Islamabad and said that the government's support for a new industrial zone would attract more investment to this region.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the Ministry of Commerce should finalize trade and exports policies in consultation with chambers of commerce of the country to make them more effective and result-oriented.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari former President & Secretary General UBG, Zubair Ahmed Malik & Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former Presidents ICCI and others also discussed many issues of the business community with the Federal Minister of Commerce and sought his cooperation to address them.

USF with GSMA organized a Diversity4tech Event to Promote Inclusivity in The Tech Sector

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The education and training of a woman is the education and training of a generation and if the same woman's role in the society is increased and she is given a balanced share in practical life, not only development but also the process of constructive manner can be accelerated. Empowerment of women can ease many issues and speed up the process of development. These views were expressed by the speakers while addressing the event organized under the theme of Diversity4Tech here at USF office. The event was organized in collaboration with the Universal Service Fund (USF) and Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA).

The event was attended by Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Additional Secretary for Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication of Public Policy, Asia-Pacific (APAC) and encourage diversity within the nology ecosystem.



technology sector, promoting equal opportunities for all.

While congratulating the teams of USF and GSMA, Ms. Aisha Humera, said, "I am delighted to be a part of this community that recognizes the transformative power of diversity in the technology sector and welcome the talents of individuals from diverse (MOITT), Ms. Jeanette Whyte, Head backgrounds." Furthermore, she expressed her unwavering commit-GSMA, and many other officials ment to actively drive the initiatives from the public and private sector. and foster collective efforts required to The event aimed to foster inclusivity establish a diverse and inclusive tech-

While expressing his enthusiasm, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the USF. Mr. Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary said, "As directed by Syed Amin Ul Haque, Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, USF will continue to take lead in initiatives where women are highlighted. The Diversity4Tech event is a reflection of our commitment to fostering an environment where women's perspectives and talents are valued. A

Ms. Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy, GSMA Asia-Pacific (APAC),

4Tech community, highlighting the initiatives and efforts being undertaken to promote diversity and inclusion in the Asia-Pacific region. Further, she shed light on the global significance of creating a diverse and inclusive technology ecosystem and said, "GSMA is dedicated to supporting initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion in the technology industry.

According to the details, the GSMA launched the Diversity4Tech community in Pakistan, extending a warm invitation to accomplished women presented insights on the Diversity- in the tech field to join the initiative. at the grassroots level of the economy.

Recognizing the significance of this momentous occasion, they declared this just as the beginning of an exciting journey that would redefine the landscape of diversity and empower women in the realm of technology. Diversity4Tech brought together women who were thought leaders, industry experts, policymakers, representatives from academia, civil society organizations, mobile operators and technology-focused startups from across Pakistan to share their insights and experiences in shaping the future of the technology industry. Senior female officials from USF, GSMA, PTA, Jazz, Code for Pakistan and other companies also attended the event.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Ms. Saira Faisal, Country Lead Pakistan, GSMA that set an inspiring tone, emphasizing the crucial role of diversity and inclusion in driving technological innovation and growth. The aim was to establish a supportive community where women can uplift and empower each other, utilizing their collective networks to create a significant impact

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ABHI becomes MENAP's first Fintech to issue Islamic bonds (Sukuk)

🐞 News Desk

KARACHI: ABHI, a growing embedded finance platform in the MENAP region, announces it has made history by issuing Islamic bonds worth PKR 2 billion (US\$7.1 million).

The bond issue is a significant milestone for both ABHI, and the region, as no other Fintech in the region has successfully achieved this before.

In 2022, ABHI was assigned a longterm instrument rating of 'AA' and a shortterm rating of 'A1+' by PACRA-a first for a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in Pakistan. These ratings enabled ABHI to issue the Islamic bonds.

Demand for the Sukuk exceeded expectations, with subscriptions reaching twice the anticipated amount due to ABHI's strong credit ratings, creditworthiness and profitability. Sukuk, or Islamic bond, is a financial instrument complying with Islamic law. They are structured in a way ensuring Shariah compliance-meaning they are based on Islamic principles. This makes them attractive to investors who want to support businesses align with their Islamic values.

ABHI's successful issuance of Sukuk is a significant achievement for the company, and the broader financial industry in Pakistan. It represents a new era of financial innovation in the country and is expected to have a positive impact on the economy.

The bond issuance immediately follows ABHI's qualification for the international selection panel (ISP) by Endeavor, and its selection by Hub71 to boost expansion into the Middle East, where it is partnering with companies to financially empower them and their employees.

Omair Ansari, CEO and co-founder of ABHI, said: "We are honored to have the support of PACRA and all the investors to launch this first-of-a-kind Sukuk. This is a testament to our team's hard work and dedication, and our commitment to supporting businesses and their employees in Pakistan. With this new funding, we can help ease the financial burden on struggling companies and provide much-needed relief through working capital financing during these challenging times."

ACCA and COLABS collaborate to foster financial acumen amongst businesses

🐞 News Desk

LAHORE :ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and COLABS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation between the two organisations. The MoU focuses on capacity building, knowledge sharing, and awareness on key themes such as financial capabilities, business planning, business valuation, financial modeling, business ethics, governance structures, and investment management.

The MoU was signed in Lahore by Founder & CEO of COLABS, Omar Shah, and ACCA's Head of Pakistan, Assad Hameed Khan, in the presence of senior management from both organisations.

'The MoU with ACCA provides the guiding principles for various activities to enhance cooperation between ACCA and COLABS in building the financial capacity of COLAB's partner organisations. This includes the organisation of capacity building workshops and webinars to disseminate information about both organisations' mandate and scope of activities.

The MoU also includes awareness



sessions for COLABS partner organisations on different programmes, such as the ACCA Approved employer programme and ACCA learning certificates,' said Omar Shah.

Assad Hameed Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan, highlighted: 'This partnership provides an outreach and opportunities platform for COLAB's partner organisa-

tions, not only to upskill but also to understand their professional role in contributing to the economy of Pakistan.

The MoU signed between COLABS and ACCA lays the groundwork for greater cooperation between the two organisations to develop a calendar and organise joint or independent events and activities for respective stakeholders.

SIBL applies to SECP for conversion into a Shariah **Compliant Entity**

😂 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, MAY 12: After the announcement of the Federal Shariat Court at the PSX, and applied to Judgement last year, the the SECP for a certificate as Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued comprehensive Guidelines for Offering Islamic Financial Services, 2023, paving way for transformation of a regulated person/entity into full-fledged Islamic institution. Subsequent to issuance of these guidelines, Security Investment Bank Limited (SIBL) has applied for conversion into a Shariah-compliant investment bank.

SIBL is a public limited company listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange and licensed to carry out investment finance services

as a non-banking finance company (NBFC) under the Companies Act, 2017. SIBL has made a public disclosure a Shariah-compliant company under Section 451 of the Companies Act, 2017, read with the Shariah Governance Regulations, 2018. This conversion will be a multistage process, and SECP will ensure a smooth transition with minimal disruption to the customers of SIBL.

In view of the growing demand for Shariah compliant financial services, and in light of constitutional requirement to eliminate the Riba from the economy, SECP is geared towards facilitating its regulated entities desirous of converting to Shariah compliant status.

PIAF condemns caretaker minister's involvement in trade politics

Industries Minister running campaign for FPCCI polls

set-up from performing such acts.

as assist the ECP. He said that the elections.

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industri- Punjab Caretaker Minister for Indusal and Traders Associations Front tries, Commerce, Investment and (PIAF) on Friday expressed its seri- Skill Development S.M Tanveer, ous concern over the involvement who has also the dual nationality of Punjab Caretaker Minister in and cannot become a minister, has trade politics, who has been driv- started the election drive in favour of ing campaign for a particular group, the United Business Group (UBG) in violating the election code of conduct, various official functions and meetas the Election Commission of Paki- ings. He condemned such act of the stan (ECP) rules bar a caretaker Punjab Caretaker Minister, as he is visiting different chambers along In a statement issued here, the with the office-bearers of the UBG spokesperson of the PIAF observed to persuade the members of his rival that the Election Act 2017 unequiv- group of the Businessmen Panel ocally restricts a caretaker set-up (BMP) for voting in favour his group, to only run everyday affairs of the which has been the loser for the last incumbent government as well three consecutive years in FPCCI

The spokesperson of PIAF said that instead of paying attention to the problems of the business community, the Provincial Minister is running the election campaign of his trade group, and is insisting the trade organizations representatives to join his defeated group. In the same way, by going to various chambers and associations of Punjab, he is violating his oath. The PIAF spokesperson said that KSM Tanveer is not legally eligible to become a minister, as he has committed a serious crime by concealing his dual citizenship.

The spokesperson of the PIAF demanded the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab to remove him from that

position immediately due to dual citizenship, poor performance and promoting personal agenda.

If the caretaker Minister of Industries is not dismissed, the businessmen have the right to protests against this unlawful action of him across Punjab, besides approaching the court in this regard.

He appealed the caretaker government to work only for ensuring the provision of all possible facilities to the investors instead of indulging its ministries in political affairs of the business community.

He said that Article 230 C of the Election Act 2017 stats that a caretaker government would restrict desired targets.

itself to activities that were of routine, non-controversial and urgent, in the public interest and reversible by the future government elected after the elections.

He said that serious economic challenges, which the country was going through at the moment, were having a direct impact on the business activities and the business situation in the country had become very bad. In order to overcome these economic problems, we have to pay immediate attention towards the promotion of import substitution and at the same time we have to take steps to increase the exports to the

Sports Saturday, May 13, 2023



Haseebullah's century gives Shaheens 298-run lead

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Haseebullah's unbeaten century and half-centuries from Hussain Talat, Mohammad Huraira and Omair Bin Yousuf put Pakistan Shaheens in a commanding position at the close of the second day's play of the second four-day match at Mutare Sports Club in Mutare.

At stumps, Pakistan Shaheens were 461 for eight in 112 overs as the tourists were leading by 298 runs, according to information shared by Pakistan Cricket Board.

Earlier, resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 115 for one in 24 overs, in reply to Zimbabwe A's first innings score of 163 all out, Mohammad Huraira (60 not out) and Omair Bin Yousuf (19 not out) could add only 12 runs to the partnership before Huraira (64, 86b, 9x4s, 1×6) became the first batter to return back to the pavilion.

Right-handed Kamran Ghulam (2, 7b), playing his 46th first-class match, soon followed Huraira as Shaheens were 133 for three in 28.3 overs.

Omair was joined by vice-captain Hussain Talat and the pair knitted 84 runs for the fourth wicket. Over the course of the partnership, Omair brought up his half-century but was bowled by Roy Kaia for a 96-ball 65, smashing six fours and one six.

Qasim Akram playing his first match on the tour, joined Hussain and the pair stitched a 66-run partnership for the fifth wicket, before Hussain (74, 100b, 8x4s,



1×6) and Qasim (36, 55b, 4x4s) returned the total. back to the hut in the space of 14 balls as both batters fell to right-arm fast bowler Victor Nyauchi.

At 293 for six and a lead of just 130 runs, wicketkeeper-batter Haseebullah and all-rounder Aamir Jamal got together and the pair added crucial 83 runs for the seventh wicket. After the dismissal of Aamir (35, 47b, 4x4s) with the scorecard reading Shaheens 376 for seven in 82.4 overs, Mehran Mumtaz joined Haseebullah and another 36 runs was added to

After the departure of Mehran (12, 22b, 1×4), Mohammad Ali and Haseebullah recorded an unbroken 49-run partnership for the ninth wicket. During the partnership, the 20-year-old left-handed Haseebullah brought up his second first-class century in his 11th firstclass match. He returned undefeated on 111 off 197 deliveries, hitting 14 fours and one six. Ali scored an unbeaten eight off 37 balls, which included one four.

For Zimbabwe A, Tanaka Chivanga

and Victor Nyauchi picked three wickets each.

Scores in brief:

Zimbabwe A 163 all out, 56.4 overs (Tadiwanashe Marumani 66, Dion Myers 50; Mohammad Ali 4-36, Mehran Mumtaz 3-36, Aamir Jamal 3-51)

Pakistan Shaheens 461-8, 112 overs (Haseebullah 111 not out, Hussain Talat 74, Omair Bin Yousuf 65, Mohammad Huraira 64, Qasim Akram 36, Aamir Jamal 35, Imran Butt 27; Tanaka Chivanga 3-83, Victor Nyauchi 3-113)

Man City fully focused on Everton, says Guardiola

😂 A Sports

LONDON: Pep Guardiola said all thoughts about Manchester City's Champions League semi-final against Real Madrid have been banished ahead of Sunday's Premier League trip to Everton.

Treble-chasing City hope to claim a place in the final of Europe's elite club competition when they host Real on Wednesday after drawing 1-1 in the first leg of their last-four tie this week.

City have never won the Champions League, while Guardiola's wait to get his hands on the trophy has now reached 12 years since he lifted it for the second time as Barcelona boss.

Despite the significance of the Real tie, the Premier League leaders cannot relegation-threatened Everton in a clash



afford to take it easy when they travel to that is crucial at both ends of the table. open the door again to second-placed Any slip-up at Goodison Park would Arsenal, who are just one point behind

City, although they have played a game extra.

"My thought is just Everton – no more than that," Guardiola said on Friday.

"It's 11 months working for the Premier League. We don't have much time to Madrid because we play Sunday — thank you so much — but it's a real, real priority, Goodison Park.'

Real have an extra day's rest before the second leg as they are in La Liga action on Saturday.

Guardiola, whose team are targeting a fifth Premier League title in six years, would have preferred to play on Saturday too but says he is beyond complaining about the schedule.

"I can't understand it but I'm not going to fight it anymore," said the City boss. "I don't understand it but we have to adapt. The schedule, it is what it is."

KP contingents leave for 34th National Games 😂 Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: The 91-members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa contingents on Friday left for 34th National Games via buses to be held in Quetta

They were seen off by the office-bearers of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Olympic Association here at Sports Complex.

Chef de Mission Ilyas Afridi along with Deputy Chef de Mission, Sumayyah are going with male and female teams.

General Secretary KP Olympic Association Zulfigar Ali Butt, Director Operation Aziz Ullah Khan, Muhammad Amjad Khan, Khalid Waqar, Nasir Mohmand and other officials were also present.

The games including Kabaddi (13 players), Volleyball 27 (male and female players), Badminton 12 (male female players), Rugby 27 male and female players are going to Quetta while 8 members male and female players left for Lahore with three members of the committee, totally 91-members.

The cycling event is scheduled to be held in Lahore at the velodrome instead of Quetta.

The opening ceremony will be held in the second phase on May 22.

The 34th National Games competitions will also be held in Lahore and Islamabad.

Keemo Paul returns as West Indies name World Cup Qualifier squad



😂 A Sports

West Indies have recalled bowling all-rounder Keemo Paul as the side announced their 15-member squad on Friday for the ICC ODI World Cup Qualifier, scheduled from June 18 to July 9 in Zimbabwe.

Paul, who last played an ODI level back in July last year, was named in the squad along with left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie, who performed well in Zimbabwe during the West Indies Test tour earlier in the year.

"Paul is a three-dimensional player, who can bowl the new ball effectively, he's dynamic in the outfield and he can also make vital runs." said lead West Indies selector Desmond Haynes

"We see him as a potential match-winner for us."

Finishing ninth on the Cricket World Cup League standings, West Indies were compelled to play the Qualifier to earn a spot in the main event, scheduled later this year in India,

South Africa, bagged the automatic place to the ODI World Cup this week after the first ODI between Bangladesh and Ireland was abandoned due to rain.

The West Indies also went through the Qualifier in 2018 to secure a spot in 2019 Cricket World Cup in England and finished top of the Super Six group to confirm their place.

As part of their preparation for the World Cup Qualifier, West Indies will play a three-match ODI series in Sharjah against hosts and tournament competitors UAE next month. Shai Hope will captain the side in both assignments. Brandon King will be his deputy for the UAE series, while T20I captain Rovman Powell, who is currently busy playing IPL, will serve as vice-captain for the World Cup Qualifier. Squad for World Cup Qualifier: Shai Hope (capt), Rovman Powell (vice-capt), Shamarh Brooks, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Nicholas Pooran, Romario Shepherd Squad for UAE series: Shai Hope (capt), Brandon King (vicecapt), Alick Athanaze, Shamarh Brooks, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Dominic Drakes, Kavem Hodge, Akeem Jordan, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Raymon Reifer, Odean Smith, Devon Thomas

Women's football

The Saudi women's national football team drew 1-1 with Palestine on Thursday night in a match that took place as part of a training camp in Jeddah.



Cycling training camp from May 15

😂 Sports Desk



ISLAMABAD: The national training camp in preparation for the Asian Road Cycling

Championship would kick off from May 15 to June 8, in Karachi.

According to President Pakistan Cycling Federation Syed Azhar Ali Shah all preparations have been completed for the training camp to be held in support with Pakistan Sports Board in Karachi.

The selection of players was made on performance basis from the National Road Championship. A total of 15 cyclists have been selected for the camp.

He said that International Cycling Federation (UCI) qualified coaches would train the cyclists who would represent the Pakistan team in the Asian Road Cycling Championship scheduled to be held in Thailand in June.

'If India do not play in Pakistan, we won't play in India either', Sethi

🐞 A Sports

Chairman of Pakistan Cricknot allow their team to travel on Thursday. to Pakistan for the 2023 Asia Cup.

between the two cricket boards and proposed another hybrid over the hosting of the 2023 model for the tournament since Asia Cup in Pakistan, Sethi the earlier model was rejected stated that PCB had presented a hybrid model keeping in mind India's reservation over travelling to Pakistan.

model would also be applied to the World Cup 2023 and India will come to Pakistan.

Champions Trophy 2025.

"Our government will not allow us to play World Cup in et Board's (PCB) Management India because their govern-Committee Najam Sethi has ment stopped BCCI to send confirmed that Pakistan will their team to Pakistan for Asia not play their 2023 World Cup Cup," he said in an interview matches in India if BCCI does with an Indian sports channel

Sethi revealed that he recently held a few meetings with an Amid the ongoing tussle ACC representative in Dubai by India.

"Hybrid model is a compromise but we are ready for it. We have offered to hold Asia However, he said, the same Cup in two phases. In the first stage, four teams other than



"Also, Champions Trophy

model. It will make things

simple for everyone. Mean-

while, if at any stage India agree

After that, we all will go to a World Cup in Bangladesh or neutral venue to play the rest somewhere else."

of the matches including the final," he explained. "If the hybrid model is accepted for Asia Cup, then this

will apply to World Cup too. We will play our matches during to come to Pakistan, then we

will also go to play World Cup there," added the PCB head.

Moreover, he also hit out at Sri Lanka and Bangladesh boards for changing their stance on the hybrid model, warning Pakistan will back out of the Asia Cup if the tournament is completely shifted from Pakistan.

"BCCI secretary Jay Shah had asked in ACC meeting in Bahrain whether someone has a problem with touring Pakistan and no one said anything," Sethi revealed.

"I think Sri Lankan Crick-2025 will adopt the same et Board want their country to be a neutral venue and we are ready to discuss it only if they accept the hybrid model" he added.

David Miller opts for Babar's cover drive over Kohli's



A Sports B

South Africa batter David Miller has picked his favourite cover drive as he prefers Babar Azam over Indian star Virat Kohli, playing the shot.

The two cricket superstars of the contemporary era, Babar and Kohli, enjoy a healthy rivalry not just in terms of batting records and performances, but also in the sophistication of their strokes.

They have led to intense debate among fans and experts, as to who is the better batter and more aesthetically pleasing while playing his shots.

A similar kind of question was posed to South African veteran Miller, who is playing for Gujrat Titans in the ongoing Indian Premier League, and he replied very confidently.

In an interview with ESPNCricinfo, he was asked to choose between Babar and Kohli's cover drive. "Probably, I would go with Babar," he answered.

Earlier, former England captain Nasser Hussain had also made a similar claim and rated Babar's cover drive ahead of Virat's.

"I'm going to be biased. Sorry Indian fans but I'm gonna go with Babar Azam. I nearly went Kohli because I think Kohli is slightly different. Kohli has a bit more of a flick of the wrist of it. Babar Azam has just a lovely little [touch]," he had said.

"If I was teaching any young girl to watch, I'd ask her to watch Meg Lanning. I'm teaching any young boy to watch a cover drive. I would say watch Babar." he added.

Pakistan all-format skipper Babar has taken the world cricket and claimed several records across formats since his debut in 2015.

Recently, the 28-year-old scripted history during the fourth ODI between Pakistan and New Zealand in Karachi, becoming the fastest batter to complete 5,000 runs in One-Day cricket.