



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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سومال تک چلے گا اور پھر بھی اسے
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RAWALPINDI

Bosnia, Pakistan have enduring partnership in multiple areas: Emin

Relations between Bosnia & Herzegovina and Pakistan are special alongside the enduring link of the permanent support that Pakistan gives to Bosnia & Herzegovina on its path to preserve freedom and democracy. (Details on Page 3)



Pakistan enters fourth week of nationwide X, formerly Twitter, disruption

Pakistan entered on Saturday its fourth week of nationwide disruption to social media platform X, formerly Twitter, with activists waging a court battle to get it restored. X was downed after jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party called for protests against a government official's admission of vote manipulation in last month's election.

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Pakistan Zindabad

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, shouting Nara-e-Takbeer during Field Exercise *Shamsh-e-Sehra on Saturday.



Photo: Online

Forces should always be ready against any misadventure by enemy: COAS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir visited the troops engaged in field exercise in a training area near Rahim Yar Khan, where he was also briefed about exercise 'Shamsh-e-Sehra'.

The aim of the exercise was to enhance the professional skills and battlefield procedures required to meet the future challenges in an operational environment.

According to a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations, the army chief witnessed integrated fire and battle manoeuvres of various elements, including Armour, Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, Artillery, Air Defence, and Anti-Tank Guided Missiles. The Pakistan Air Force aircraft also participated in the exercise.

The exercise also incorporated electronic warfare capabilities and information operations required to subdue the enemy's

communications capabilities and disinformation campaign during war.

The ISPR statement mentioned that the COAS spent the entire day with the troops in the exercise area. While interacting with the personnel participating in the exercise, Gen Asim Munir lauded the training standards, operational preparedness, and high morale of all ranks.

He emphasized that the armed forces should always remain prepared against any misadventure by the enemy.

"The Pakistan armed forces, with the support of the nation, are fully prepared to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our motherland against the full spectrum of threat," the COAS concluded.

Earlier, on arrival in the field area, Gen Munir was received by the Karachi corps commander and the inspector general training and evaluation.

Asif Ali Zardari elected 14th president of Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Asif Ali Zardari, the joint candidate of PPP and PML-N, has been elected as 14th president of Pakistan.

Zardari received majority votes of the Electoral College, comprising the parliament and provincial assemblies, paving way for him to assume the office of President of Pakistan, for the second time in country's parliamentary history.

The PPP co-Chairman received 411 votes while the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) backed candidate Mehmoed Khan Achakzai — the home of PTI independents — only managed to get 181 votes.

In a joint sitting of the National Assembly and Senate, the coalition government's nominee received 255 votes while SIC-backed candidate managed just 119 votes.

Asif Ali Zardari, the joint candidate of PPP and the PML-N, and Sunni Ittehad Council's candidate Mahmood Khan Achakzai contested for the office of President.

The current ruling coalition,



comprising the PML-N, the PPP, and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), has backed former president Asif Ali Zardari.

The President is elected by an electoral college comprising members of the Senate, National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies.

A joint session of the parliament was held at the parliament house in Islamabad today where

the members of National Assembly and the Senate will exercise their right to vote.

Similarly, the provincial assemblies also holding their sessions today for the election.

The Election Commission of Pakistan Saturday declared all four assemblies as a polling station for the conduct of the presidential elections.

At least 162 members of the provincial assembly in Sindh, 353

in Punjab, 65 Balochistan and 115 in KP will vote to elect the country's new president.

With majority in all assemblies and Senate, PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari is set to become President of Pakistan for second time.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai — the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) backed presidential candidate — on Friday asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to postpone the election as the Electoral College is "incomplete".

In a letter to the chief election commissioner on Friday, Achakzai said that stated that electoral college for a presidential election was "still incomplete".

"As yet no one was elected on those reserved seats and without nominations and proper election on these seats, if the presidential election is conducted as per the schedule that would be denial of their votes, which otherwise is against the fundamental rights, law and constitution," stated the letter.

"Under the above circumstances, it is submitted that the

proposed election to the office of the President of Pakistan is clearly impossible, therefore the same may kindly be postponed or delayed till completion of electoral college accordingly in the best interest of justice, fair play and equity."

Achakzai said that the the Sunni Ittehad Council has already filed a petition in the court regarding reserved seats and an injunctive order has been issued.

President Arif Alvi on Friday was given a farewell guard of honour at Aiwan-e-Sadr on the completion of his constitutional term.

The president was escorted to the salute dais who, after the national anthem, reviewed the guard of honor presented by the smartly turned out contingents of the armed forces.

Alvi was elected as the country's 13th president following the election victory of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party led by then-Prime Minister Imran Khan, and took the oath of office on Sept. 9, 2018, succeeding Mamnoon Hussain.

10 terrorists gunned down in separate IBOs: ISPR

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have gunned down 10 terrorists in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) North Waziristan district, ARY News reported on Saturday, quoting Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

According to military's media wing, the security forces conducted first intelligence-based operation (IBO) on March 8, which in four terrorists were killed. "During the follow up sanitisation operation, four more terrorists were killed by the security forces," the ISPR said in the statement.

In a separate operation, the security forces picked up movement of five terrorists, who according to the military's media wing were trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghanistan border. "After an intense fire exchange, two terrorists — identified as Hazrat Umer and Rehman Niaz were killed, while three other terrorists got injured," the ISPR said.

"Pakistan has consistently been asking interim Afghan government to ensure effective border management on their side of the border," it said, hoping that the Afghan government would fulfill its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by terrorists.

Sher Afzal Marwat levels 'serious allegations' against CM Maryam Nawaz

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat has levelled 'serious allegations' against Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz, saying that the latter has hired 'contract killers' to assassinate him.

Speaking to journalists outside Parliament House, the lawmaker claimed that Maryam Nawaz has given a 'contract' to assassinate him and a payment in this regard has also been made.

Sher Afzal Marwat claimed that the Punjab Chief Minister's name emerged after a telephone conversation was 'intercepted' — which he would share with investigation authorities.

Meanwhile, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) summoned PTI-backed lawmaker Shandana Gulzar over leveling allegation against Maryam Nawaz.

The PML-N has filed complaint in the FIA over allegations levelled by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) lawmaker over Punjab Chief Minister.

Outgoing President Alvi says was honoured to 'serve people of Pakistan'

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday said that it had been an honour for him to serve the people of Pakistan.

In his last post as 13th President of Pakistan, he said he did not doubt that a brilliant future awaited the country.

"May Allah forgive me for my shortcomings and reward me for the good deeds I may have done," wrote Arif Alvi.

List of the Presidents of Pakistan

Iskander Mirza — 1956 to 1958
Gen Ayub Khan — 1962 to 1969
Gen Yahya Khan — 1969 to 1971
Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — 1971 to 1973
Fazal Ilahi Chaudhry — 1973 to 1978
Gen Muhammad Zia-Ul-Haq — 1978 to 1988
Ghulam Ishaq Khan — 1988 to 1993
Farooq Leghari — 1993 to 1997
Muhammad Rafiq Tarar — 1998 to 2001
Gen Pervez Musharraf — 2001 to 2008
Asif Ali Zardari — 2008 to 2013
Mamnoon Hussain — 2013 to 2018
President Alvi — 2018 to 2024

FIA summons Shandana Gulzar over allegations against CM Punjab

Bureau Report



LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Lahore on Saturday summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shandana Gulzar on March 14 over accusations against Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

Gulzar, who was elected as a member of the National Assembly, had alleged that the CM Punjab was involved in the killing of PTI worker Zille Shah.

Speaker NA calls on PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, they

discussed issues related to legislation and parliamentary affairs, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister appreciated the speaker for conducting the proceedings of the National Assembly smoothly.

Iranian Envoy felicitates Zardari on his election to Office of President

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam on Saturday congratulated Asif Ali Zardari on his election to the office of the President. "I would like to express my sincere congratulations on the election of H.

E. Asif Ali Zardari, as the 14th President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the Ambassador said in a statement.

ICCI-Women's Day Event, Speakers Call for Women's Empowerment

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defense Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed has said that no country or society can progress without the full participation of women. He was speaking at a ceremony held at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on the occasion of International Women's Day. He said that Islam is the first religion to give rights of women's inheritance. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a great champion of women's rights and he got a law passed to give women a share in inheritance. He said that women played a prominent role in the Pakistan independence movement. He paid tribute to the women of Gaza and Kashmir on International Women's Day. President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the ICCI is committed to empowering women. He said that women in Pakistan are making their mark in every field. If Pakistan has to progress, we



need to educate and empower our women. We need to create more women business role models. Kenyan High Commissioner Mary Nyambuya said that she pays tribute to women around the world who are doing outstanding work on the occasion of International Women's Day. She thanked the ICCI for holding the ceremony in honor of women. She said that we need to work together to achieve the dream of progress. Secretary General United

Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that women in Pakistan have proven through their abilities that they are in no way inferior to men. He said that he owes his success to his mother. Behind every man's success there is a great role of woman and his wife has played the biggest role in his success. He said that the birth of his daughter made his business grow. After the recent elections, women have been given important positions in the federal and provin-

cial governments. We hope that these women will serve Pakistan with dedication and further prove their abilities. In her address, renowned social activist Rabeel Pirzada said that she did not give up despite her disability. She has faced many challenges with strength because of her parents. She appealed to all parents to fully support their daughters. Saira Khattak, Director Institute of Legal Studies, said that her parents had five daughters, which made people look at them with despair. She said that she has proven herself through her hard work and those who used to look at her with despair are now proud of her. The ceremony was also addressed by the wife of Azerbaijan Ambassador, Khudzar Farhadov, Syeda Zahra Batul Mazhar, Head of Department of Arts and Media Foundation University Islamabad, Adelia Liaquat Ali Khan Corporate Affairs and Management Director L'Oreal Pakistan, Dr. Anila Kamal VC Rawalpindi Women University, Dr. Azra Rafique VC Fatima Jinnah Women University.

President Asif Zardari is symbol of nation's dignity: Bazil Ali Naqvi

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Azad Kashmir Minister of Social Welfare, Development and Women Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi has congratulated the Co-Chairman of Pakistan People's Party Asif Ali Zardari on his election as the President of Pakistan. He said that President Asif Ali Zardari is a symbol of the nation's dignity. President Asif Ali Zardari nurtured the policy of reconciliation. He said that President Asif Ali Zardari strengthened democracy in the country. Asif Ali Zardari gave the revolutionary slogan of Pakistan Khape. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi said that everyone is happy that President Asif Ali Zardari has become the President of Pakistan. I congratulate President Asif Ali Zardari on behalf of every worker of Azad Kashmir. He said that People's Party has always talked about federalism and strengthened Pakistan.



Dengue is a public health threat worldwide: Alhaji Naseer Vohra

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A dengue awareness walk was conducted in Anna Dispensary in Shahbaz Town B Block Faisalabad under the management of Friends Youth Welfare Organization Registered District Faisalabad in which Divisional Director Social Welfare and Baitul Mall Faisalabad Madam Khalida Rafiq, Central President Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaji Naseer Yousuf Vohra, Entomologist Manoor Hayat Khan Baloch of Department of Health Jinnah Town, Social Welfare Officers Mian Tanveer Tariq, Taib Bhatti, General Secretary of Friends Youth Welfare Organization Muhammad Arshad Ansari, Shaikat Butt social personalities Rana Akhtar Bedi, Department of Health including Malik Asif and Rao Javed Khan. NGOs and civil society people participated in large numbers. Madam Khalida Rafiq said that although four billion people in the world are at risk of dengue, but Most people infected with the disease have no symptoms and usually recover within one to two weeks. However, a severe attack of dengue can result in low or high blood pressure, bleeding or any other physical symptoms. Symptoms like erectile dysfunction may occur. The WHO has also stated that such dangerous symptoms usually appear when the fever has subsided and the health care people and medical professionals are unaware of them.



Jehangir Tareen reviews construction work of TICER, Amna Girls College

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Jahangir Tareen reviewed the construction work of Tareen Institute of Computer Education and Resources (TICER) and Amna Girls College. Jahangir Tareen had laid the foundation stone for both positions during the election campaign. The construction of TICER Institute will cost Rs.1 billion 25 crores while the construction of Amna Girls College will cost Rs.60 crores. CEO Tareen Education Foundation Akbar Khan said in a briefing to Jahangir Tareen that both the projects will be completed within a period of one to two years. Jahangir Tareen directed to complete both the projects within the stipulated period. On this occasion, Jahangir Khan Tareen said that he will continue to serve the people of Lodhran selflessly. My main goal in life is to complete social service projects in the area. My social organizations have been actively working for the welfare of the people here for more than 20 years. He said that Allah has given me resources and Allah has special mercy on me. It was my sincere desire to build a modern Institute of Information Technology in Lodhran. The construction of Ticcer came in South Punjab and especially in Lodhran. It will prove to be an important milestone for the promotion of T education. With the establishment of Amna Girls College, the girls of Lodhran will not have to go to Bahawalpur and Multan. 2500 male and female students will be able to get modern education in IT in Tycer IT Institute.



PPP Azad Kashmir celebrates second term of Asif Ali Zardari

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir celebrated Asif Ali Zardari's second term as the country's highest presidential post with a huge majority and distributed sweets throughout Azad Kashmir on the Day of Thanksgiving and distributed sweets for the promotion of democracy, political reconciliation policies and public interests for national dignity.

On the occasion of expressing gratitude for being elected as the President of Pakistan for the second time, Shaikat Javed Mir, while addressing the party, PSF, People's Youth, Women Lawyers, Trades, Ulama Mashaikh Wings officials and workers, said that the firmament of democracy in Pakistan. The building is the result of countless sacrifices of ideological followers, including four generations of the Bhutto family, in keeping the building under the rule of law. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, in his first term as president, undermined the simple powers of the parliament, started the rights of Balochistan, and highlighted the right to self-determination of one and a half million Kashmiris around the world. Mir said that the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Nawaz Sharif, under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the federal government will succeed in coming to office from national and international challenges.

Convocation

HYDERABAD: Graduates shows their degree folders during 21st Convocation 2024 of ISRA University.



Photo: Online

Joint press conference condemns attack on general secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-N

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The joint press conference of Ulama and Mashaikh Wing and Anjuman Tajran against the firing and murderous attack on the car of Hafiz Muhammad Amjad, General Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-N Ulama and Mashaikh Wing and his son Muhammad Abdullah. Abdullah was seriously injured by bullets.

The injured was taken to the hospital in critical condition. Addressing a joint press conference of scholars and traders at Chowk Ghanta Ghar, Central President Cloth Board Etihad Group Pakistan Alhaji Naseer Yousuf Vohra has said that the attack on Sahibzada Hafiz Muhammad Amjad is an attack on the Ulama Wing of Muslim League-N. We strongly condemn the



attack and demand the immediate arrest of the accused from the district administration.

CPO Faisalabad demands immediate security for Sahibzada Hafiz Mohammad Amjad. It is the responsibility of Faisalabad administration and police to provide security to General Secretary Muslim League-N

Ulama and Mashaikh Wing Sahibzada Hafiz Muhammad Amjad and her family. Addressing a press conference at Chowk Ghanta Ghar, District President Muslim League-N Ulama and Mashaikh Wing Allama Ayub Awan said that the law enforcement agencies should immediately arrest the accused involved in this brutal act and identify

the culprits. Chairman Power Loom Association Waheed Khaliq Ramine has said in his address that the police has failed miserably in protecting the citizens.

If the murderers of Hafiz Amjad's son are not arrested within 48 hours, then we will strike in protest. Secretary of Information Mian Muhammad Ajmal, Pir Muhammad Abbas Haider Malik Shahid Rasool Hafiz Muhammad Tayyab, General Secretary of Anjuman Tajran City (SCA Group) Chowk Ghanta Ghar Muhammad Shamriz Somi and others also expressed their views and said that Hafiz Muhammad Amjad sectarianism and there are strong voices against the terrorism that has been unsuccessfully suppressed, which we strongly condemn.

WAWA held a mass enrollment campaign on education awareness, thousands of people participated

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: With the hard work of Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) in Lower South Waziristan district, Waziristan is changing now.

On Saturday, Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) arranged an educational awareness walk named "Mass Enrollment Campaign March" while taking out a historic rally.

In which DC Nasir Khan, district administration officers, students, tribal elders, political alliance, representatives

of local governments and people from different walks of life participated in large numbers.

The slogan of the rally participants was "that every boy and every girl is good at school".

On this occasion, the DC said that the main objective of this awareness walk is to enroll children deprived of education in schools, because education is the only solution to all problems.

DC said that the district administration is trying hard to functionalize the Government education institutions,

which are non-functional where the teachers will not give duty, they will be made duty bound.

DC Nasir Khan said that development and prosperity of any nation is impossible without the education of children.

He said, get the children admitted in educational institutions and make Waziristan prosperous.

Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) President Rehmat Ullah said that if the government takes steps to make functional government educational insti-



tutions, parents should consider it a duty that they will send their children to school in any case.

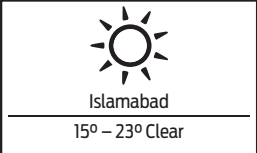
He said, this will not only change the direction of the area but it will bring

development and prosperity.

President said that Wana Welfare Association has made sure that no child of Lower South Waziristan will be deprived of education in the next

five years.

President Rahmatullah said that if the government supports us, no girl or boy will be deprived of education in Lower Waziristan.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:03 am
Zohr 12:18 pm
Asr 4:29 pm
Maghrib 6:11 pm
Isha 7:34 pm

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
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
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80

PPP congratulates Asif Ali Zardari on his election as President

Bureau Report



MUZAF-FARABAD: President Pakistan

People's Party Azad Kashmir and senior parliamentarian Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that the victory of the liberal Asif Ali Zardari in the largest house of Pakistan and his entry into the presidency is a good omen for the country and the nation. Being elected as the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is also a new history. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari has done valuable services for the democracy and the country. Under his guidance, there will be political and economic stability in Pakistan because President Asif Ali Zardari has always supported the constitution. He has played a key role in making the rule of law and parliament supreme. Today, on this historic occasion, we congratulate President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Ms. Faryal Talpur. Co-Chairman Pakistan People's Party Asif Ali Zardari while talking to journalists after he was elected as President, did he say that the free man Asif Ali Zardari endured 14 years of imprisonment but did not compromise on principles for the restoration of democracy.

Bosnia, Pakistan have enduring partnership in multiple areas: Emin

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Relations between Bosnia & Herzegovina and Pakistan are special alongside the enduring link of the permanent support that Pakistan gives to Bosnia & Herzegovina on its path to preserve freedom and democracy.

This was shared by Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina Mr Emin Cohodarevic at a reception he gave for the friends, diplomats, media persons and members of civil society.

The event was in fact a two-fold affair: screening of a movie and observing the 32nd anniversary of the Independence Day of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

It was a pleasant departure from the usual ceremonies at some hotel's big hall where one comes across formal gathering etc. Instead, the ambassador's meticulous team had chosen the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) as venue for the national day reception as well as screening of the movie "Qou vadis, Aida?" or "Where are you going, Aida?"

Dean of the African Countries and Acing Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Moroccan ambassador, Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Japan, Mr Wada Mitsuhiko, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Admiral (R) Ravindra Chandrasiri Wijegunaratne, France Deputy Head of Mission, Guillaume Dabouis, officials from the MOFA and other government departments and members of civil society were among the guests.

About Pakistan-Bosnian relations, the Bosnian envoy said our relations have an out-of-ordinary dynamic and permanently devel-



op and diversify. There is no single field, either political, defense, economic, cultural or social one, where we are not able to give positive examples and good practices.

While addressing the fellow ambassadors and diplomats, the ambassador said "I am so pleased you could join us this evening for this special screening of the film



and to mark the 32nd anniversary of Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"I am confident that the friendship between the people of the two countries and bilateral relations between the two governments will continue to flourish and achieve new heights," he said.

About the movie, it reflects the helplessness of the UN agencies and the world powers before the impending attack and atrocities against the Bosnian civilians, children, women and the elderly people.

In the ambassador's own words, the film is not only a cinematic masterpiece, but a painful reminder of the Srebrenica genocide, the worst atrocity on European soil since World War II.

Aida is a translator working for the UN peacekeeping force. Her dilemma and her emotions are the heart of the story. Towards the end of the screening, the Bosnian envoy said "How many things would have been different if we had more empathy and solidarity? Did this tragedy have to have such a terrible outcome?"

The ambassador expressed gratitude to the Pakistan National Council of the Art (PNCA), particularly its Director General Ayoub Jamali and his team for hosting the event and for making wonderful arrangements. He also thanked Mr. Danish Iqbal, Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Lahore, Mr. Asad Saleem, Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Peshawar and Mr. Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majid, Honorary Consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Karachi who so generously contributed to the success of tonight's event.

Empowered women

ISLAMABAD: Women vendors are busy in preparing burgers for customers at Lok Virsa during National Women Work Festival, in connection with International Women's Day, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Pioneers launch of Standalone Design Studio in London

PPA

LONDON: In a groundbreaking move for Pakistani and South Asian fashion, Creative Director Mohsin Naveed Ranjha and Managing Director Abubakar Naveed Ranjha, the MNR Design Studio in London, propelled by the prowess of fashion ecosystem pioneers Cresset Tech under the leadership of powerhouse Asad Malik, is set to redefine luxury and elegance. It houses a curated ensemble of Ready-to-Wear Collections, Luxury Capsule Collections



and heritage of Pakistan and South Asia.

Under the stewardship of Creative Director Mohsin Naveed Ranjha and Managing Director Abubakar Naveed Ranjha, the MNR Design Studio in London, propelled by the prowess of fashion ecosystem pioneers Cresset Tech under the leadership of powerhouse Asad Malik, is set to redefine luxury and elegance. It houses a curated ensemble of Ready-to-Wear Collections, Luxury Capsule Collections

and Bespoke Bridal services for both men and women, catering to the long-awaited aspirations of the British Asian community in the UK, as well as expanding Pakistan's fashion footprint to more diverse audiences.

Speaking passionately about Mohsin's transcendent brand expansion, Bollywood's Punjabi powerhouse actor, in attendance at the launch, Sonam Bajwa remarked, "Mohsin's journey is so much more than fashion."

Dr Ramesh Vankwani congratulates Asif Zardari for winning Presidential Election

PNP

ISLAMABAD: The throne of Islamabad is only a few hours away from Asif Ali Zardari, minority politician Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani said while talking to the media outside the Parliament House.

According to him, predictions made by the Vedic Astrology have proven true that the PPPP would emerge as the kingmaker for government formation after the national elections and nobody will be able to stop Zardari to sit on the Rajsinghasan (Throne) of Islamabad.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar, who is elected Member of National Assembly on the ticket of People's Party, termed Asif Zardari as the king of conciliatory politics, emphasizing that Mr. Zardari knows how to make the impossible possible. "Mr. Zardari has the courage to forgive and not to take personal revenge for the sake of the country and the nation," he said.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar further said that in the People's Party is the only political party for the non-Muslim minorities, which is committed to protect the rights of marginalized and vulnerable communities, including Non-Muslims.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar hoped that the election of the new president would result in bringing political stability in the country. He also congratulated Asif Zardari for winning the presidential election.

Dr. Ramesh, in his weekly columns published in December last year had predicted that election astrology is highly in favor of Zardari-led PPPP.

Maroof Hospital empowers women with physical and mental health awareness campaign



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Maroof Int'l Hospital proudly concludes its month-long Women's Physical and Mental Health Awareness Campaign, held throughout February. The initiative aimed to educate and empower women across various sectors, including marginalized communities, educational institutions, corporate offices, and industrial areas, culminating on International Women's Day, March 8, 2024.

Dr. Tahira Sadiq, Consultant Cardiologist at Maroof International Hospital, highlighted the alarming statistics of cardiovascular disease being the leading cause of death globally, with one out of three women succumbing to heart diseases.

Ms. Rubina Afzal Corporate Head MIH said on the occasion that Maroof International Hospital remains committed to promoting women's health and empowerment, advocating for holistic well-being and raising awareness on pertinent health issues affecting women globally.

Dr. Rubia Usman, Consultant Dermatologist, shed light on the concerning prevalence of whitening creams worldwide, citing statistics from various countries. She revealed that the percentage of individuals using whitening creams is alarmingly high, with statistics as follows: NIGERIA-75%, SENEGAL-60%, MALI-50%, SOUTH KOREA-40%, MALAYSIA-61%, SAUDI ARABIA-43%, JORDAN-60%. Dr. Usman cautioned against the use of whitening creams and injections due to safety concerns, potential side effects like skin damage and organ problems, and perpetuation of harmful beauty standards.

Dr. Rashid Khan, Head of the Psychiatry Department, emphasized the significance of mental health in women's overall well-being. He addressed common mental health issues faced by women, including stress, anxiety, and depression, and highlighted the importance of seeking professional help when needed.

Dr. Aliya Babar Hameed, Internal Medicine & Geriatric Specialist, emphasized the pivotal role men play in empowering women and provided insightful tips to support this cause.

Dr. Haseeb Shah, Head of the Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Department, enlightened industrial staff on office ergonomics, promoting better workplace health practices.

Nepal Embassy in Pakistan celebrates 261st Nepal Army Day with gust and zest

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Nepal in Pakistan celebrated 261st Nepal Army Day with zeal and zest in Islamabad. Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lt. General Inam Haider graced the event as the chief guest. Distinguished envoys, Defense Attaches, and representatives from various countries also joined in the celebration.

Ambassador Tapas Adhikari shared insights into the historical significance of Nepali Army Day, highlighting its establishment in 1762 AD. He emphasized the Nepali Army's enduring legacy, being one of the world's oldest and unwavering military institutions, dedicated to a rich history of bravery and service as a vital organ of Nepal's national security.

The reception encapsulated a



harmonious blend of diplomatic exchanges, cultural celebration, and acknowledgment of the Nepali Army's

remarkable journey. As the grand celebration unfolded, it reinforced the enduring bond between Nepal and

Pakistan while fostering international collaboration in the pursuit of peace and security.

Nepal and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan officially established diplomatic relations on 20 March 1960. In 2019, both countries celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Along these lines, Nepal established a residential Embassy in Islamabad in 1962 followed by an Honorary Nepali Consulate General in Karachi in 1975. The two partners enjoy cordial diplomatic relations.

The two countries collaborate in a myriad of fields which include trade, strategic and military cooperation. Both states also signed agreements to reciprocate the "Most Favored Nation" status of significance to boost trade and cooperation.

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President Elect Asif Ali Zardari as I know him... - I

President-elect Asif Ali Zardari has secured a significant mandate from both provincial and national assemblies, excluding the KP assembly, which is a comprehensible outcome. However, his forthcoming tenure may differ substantially from his previous stint, characterized by extensive executive authority, especially with his close ally, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, as Prime Minister. With Shabbaz Sharif assuming the role of Prime Minister this time, Zardari may encounter a different dynamic in the presidency, notwithstanding the lavish privileges inherent to the position.

The President House, although unassuming from its exterior, sprawls over an area equivalent to an entire sector of Islamabad. It encompasses official residences for staff, stables, military accommodations, a swimming pool, gym, car workshop, and expansive lawns. Manned by thousands of full-time and support staff, it provides logistical support to the President from all branches of the armed forces, including dedicated aircraft, helicopters and boats and a dedicated security division. The President, as the supreme commander of armed forces, enjoys extensive logistical backing and protocol assistance, with the Office divided into Public and Personal sides, each overseen by senior officials.

During my tenure in the Information Ministry, I held the position of Director Media under President Asif Ali Zardari from January 2013, and later served as Press Secretary and Media Advisor to President Alvi from May 30th, 2022. Working closely with President Zardari alongside Mr. Farhat Babar, the media

advisor at the time, provided me with firsthand insight into Zardari's political acumen. In comparison, President Alvi, unlike Zardari, demonstrated a different approach, highlighting distinct political styles between the two leaders.

Asif Ali Zardari possessed a remarkable knack for garnering loyalty through genuine connection rather than coercion. His talent lay in winning over individuals by earning their trust and respect. Zardari demonstrated a keen eye for selecting top-tier bureaucrats like Salman Farooqi, among others, who remained steadfast in their service to him. Their dedication played a pivotal role in infusing quality and depth into his decision-making process. Zardari fostered an atmosphere of open dialogue and mutual regard within his team, actively seeking their input on policy matters. He valued their expertise and provided clear direction, effectively leveraging their insights for effective policy implementation.

During Yousaf Raza Gilani's tenure as Prime Minister under President Asif Ali Zardari, the presidency wielded extensive control over the government. Nearly every decision, regardless of its magnitude, required presidential approval. Asif Ali Zardari's official routine typically commenced around 1 pm and concluded by 5 pm on regular days. During the initial working hour dedicated to official matters, Mr. Salman Farooque and the military secretary would handle official business. By 5 pm, Zardari would retreat to his residence, situat-

ed just a few yards away from his office within the President's House. There, he would often meet with workers, delegations, and party leaders. However, his engagements with close political colleagues and leaders often extended late into the night, with Zardari usually retiring to bed in the early hours of the following morning.

Despite being perceived as not entirely free from corruption, Asif Ali Zardari consistently seized every opportunity during public and official meetings at the Presidency to address the dire living conditions of the most impoverished. Whether engaging with politicians, bureaucrats, or delegations from civil society, he never missed a chance to advocate for the amelioration of the plight of the poorest of the poor.

This mindset was the primary impetus behind the establishment of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) in 2008, which has since become Pakistan's leading social safety net initiative. Designed to alleviate poverty and uplift marginalized communities, particularly focusing on empowering women, who disproportionately face economic challenges, BISP targets impoverished households. Through cash transfers, the program provides a vital lifeline to beneficiary families, enabling them to meet fundamental needs such as food, healthcare, and education expenses. Additionally, BISP offers opportunities for skills development, vocational training, and access to microfinance,

further enhancing its impact on poverty reduction and socioeconomic empowerment.

His people-oriented approach was evident in the PPP government's divergence from completing the IMF program, as it resisted implementing the IMF's stringent demands, such as subsidy cuts. Instead, it allocated Rs. 70 billion to support over 7.5 million needy families through the Benazir Income Support Program. Furthermore, the government raised government officials' wages by up to 158%, maintained utility prices at affordable levels, refrained from imposing harsh taxes on the populace, and reinstated thousands of dismissed government workers.

Additionally, the government prioritized women's empowerment through various schemes and legislation, including anti-harassment laws. Notably, Pakistani media enjoyed freedom of speech, enabling them to critique government officials and ministers, thereby amplifying the voices of the general public.

One of the notable achievements of the PPP was its commitment to empowering women and protecting their rights. The government resumed trade union activities and ensured their security. Industrial workers were incentivized with 500,000 shares to boost productivity. Additionally, the implementation of the Benazir Tractor Scheme provided affordable tractors to impoverished villagers, revitalizing Pakistan's struggling primary sector. This initiative reportedly led to a remarkable surge in the rural economy, from 50 billion rupees in 2008 to 800 billion rupees by 2013.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Collective efforts required to ensure gender parity

Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Saturday emphasized the importance of investing in women's empowerment to accelerate progress. He highlighted that addressing women's economic disempowerment is key. He underlined the importance of ensuring inclusivity by engaging women in political, economic and cultural spheres.

The ambassador warmly welcomed participants gathered to commemorate International Women's Day at a grand event held at the premises of the Embassy in Abu Dhabi, a press release said. He said "This day is a reminder for our collective efforts to achieve gender parity and equality in all spheres of life. The current statistics on gender parity highlight the need for more concrete efforts and measures to achieve our goal of women empowerment." Tirmizi said that the event's most special feature was an in-depth interactive panel discussion with inspiring Pakistani women with acclaimed successes and accomplishments in various fields of life which included Zulfia Nazir, football player/fitness Influencer, Kiran Malik actor/model/ entrepreneur, Mehr F. Husain author/journalist/publisher and Shazia Ali Khan filmmaker/professor. The panel discussion was moderated by Saba Karim Khan.

The proud Pakistani women stars shared their impactful stories and journeys of untiring struggle, dedication, self-belief and commitment to the passion of what they wanted to achieve in life. The thrilling life story of each individual to reach the zenith of success in their professional careers and endeavors was undeniably impressive. The ambassador conferred special thanks to the panelists for joining the session and making it truly meaningful. He said that it was a treat to be listening to a bunch of confident, successful and impactful Pakistani women who were role models for young women and girls to get inspiration. He also appreciated Amber, Ms. Sabah Karim Khan, Professor of Anthropology, New York University Abu Dhabi, Kiran Kazmi and Haniya Faisal for their efforts and assistance in making the event a success. A special documentary showcasing dynamic Pakistani women from diverse fields made by Pakistan's Women Parliamentary Caucus was also shown during the event. Another documentary video highlighting the role of Pakistani women in various walks of life, prepared by Haniya with the assistance of Faisal Hussain, was screened during the event.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Internet and Women in Pakistan

As a father of three brilliant daughters, I am a strong proponent of women's education and the women contributing to the national economy. In this context, I feel incredibly concerned that most of my country-women cannot make use of that formidable force that can transform women's lives—the internet.

A survey by GSMA (GSM Association) revealed that 46% of female owners of mobile phones in Pakistan report that even a simple mobile phone provides access to helpful information they would not otherwise be able to obtain. Free of spatial constraints, women can now educate themselves on any subject—from health and legal rights to academic pursuits. Online courses and educational resources have opened doors for women to enhance their skills and pursue further education, irrespective of geographical and other restrictions.

Online businesses and freelancing opportunities empower women to work from home, overcoming traditional barriers. The internet has catalysed economic independence, allowing women to harness their skills and talents to create successful ventures. This connectivity extends beyond personal relationships to professional networking, creating opportunities for mentorship and career advancement.

Online resources provide information on healthcare, reproductive rights, and mental health. Moreover, the internet amplifies voices, allowing activists to reach a broader audience, raise awareness, and advocate for change.

Digital financial services and mobile banking empower women to take control of their finances. Financial independence contributes to greater autonomy and empowerment.

Challenges

While the internet is bringing about significant positive changes for women, it's essential to acknowledge the challenges holding half the nation back. With vast numbers of women in rural, or low-income urban, areas not having equal access to online resources. And so the digital gender gap persists. According to PTA, out of 122.9 million mobile broadband subscriptions till June 2023, only 29.8 million belonged to women.

According to the GSMA Mobile Gender Gap Report 2023, Pakistan has the widest gap in mobile ownership in South Asia, where women are 35% less likely to own a mobile device.

Source: GSMA The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2023

Owning a phone is only the first challenge. The male head of the household will find every excuse in the world not to allow his sister/wife/daughter to have her mobile phone. The most common excuse is, "She will waste her time".

If she does get permission to own a phone, in all likelihood, she cannot go to a shop and have herself biometrically verified to get her own SIM. At times, she does not have a CNIC. Our housemaid could not get one from NADRA because she had no birth certificate. NADRA gives her the option of bringing her parents over to vouch for her, which they cannot afford because they live too far away. Their health does not allow them to travel. Thus, phone subscriptions of many women are in the names of their fathers/brothers/husbands.

Next comes the subscription and use of the internet itself. In developing countries, smartphones are the most used devices for internet access. But, due to their cost, the smartphone is a barrier to entry into the internet world.

Some women overcome even the affordability challenge and manage to get hold of smart-

phones with data subscriptions. Thankfully, mobile internet tariffs in Pakistan are among the lowest in the world.

For most Pakistani women, the first use of the internet is always for family connections.

It is after this that the challenge of lacking digital skills appears. In parallel, they still have to deal with online harassment, which impacts women disproportionately more than men.

Positive Efforts

Recently, GSMA reported that Pakistan is one country where the gender gap in mobile internet usage is reducing—unlike India and Bangladesh. Tremendous efforts by several organisations and NGOs are behind this.

One significant effort is PTA's "Digital Gender Inclusion Initiative", run by an all-women-empowered digital gender inclusion committee. The initiative focuses on five critical areas aligned with GSMA's policy considerations: affordability, knowledge and digital skills, safety and security, access, and relevance. Smaller initiatives within the overall scheme include improving affordability, enhancing digital literacy, ensuring online safety, promoting access, and developing locally relevant content. In collaboration with UNESCO, PTA also launched a Gender Inclusion strategy during the Mobile World Conference in Barcelona.

In its efforts, PTA has the commitment of the mobile industry players. They have committed special tariff packages for gender-specific projects, low-cost phones with built-in female-specific user-friendly apps, etc. Mobile operators also endeavour to educate women users in basic digital skills, entrepreneurship, health, content creation, and financial inclusion.

PTA could have restricted itself to the role of a typical sector regulator, but it is commendable that it chose to do more than just that. Others should follow the example.

Writer is International ICT Consultant and former CEO Universal service fund (USF) Pakistan



Analysis

Parvez Iftikhar

Embrace Election Results and Move Forward - III

Refusal to accept election results can also tarnish a nation's reputation on the global stage. In an interconnected world, perceptions of political instability and democratic regression can reverberate across diplomatic relations, foreign investment, and international collaboration.

Economic crises pose formidable challenges, capable of shaking the very foundations of nations and testing the resilience of societies. Amidst the current economic turmoil in Pakistan, the imperative of unity cannot be overstated, as collective action and solidarity are indispensable for weathering the stormy seas of the country's financial uncertainty. Economic downturns have a tendency to deepen societal divisions, pitting individuals and factions against one another in a scramble for scarce resources. However, unity offers a potent antidote to this fragmentation, rallying people together to confront shared adversities and pool resources for the common good. By nurturing a sense of solidarity and mutual assistance, unity empowers communities to withstand economic shocks and emerge strengthened on the other side.

At the heart of any economic crisis lies the human toll—job losses, financial insecurity, and social upheaval. In such turbulent times, unity is vital to ensure that the most vulnerable segments of society are not left behind. Through collaborative endeavors, communities can mobilize resources to extend aid to those in need, whether through social safety nets, philanthropic endeavors, or mutual support networks. By uniting in solidarity, societies can alleviate the human suffering wrought by

economic adversity and forge a more inclusive and compassionate future. Unity is also vital for preserving trust and confidence in the institutions that uphold economic stability. During times of crisis, citizens turn to their leaders for guidance and reassurance. When political leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders exhibit a unified sense of purpose and collaborate in the nation's interest, it inspires faith in the government's capacity to effectively address economic challenges. Conversely, discord and division among leaders can diminish public trust and exacerbate uncertainty, further destabilizing fragile economies.

Despite the formidable nature of economic crises, they also present opportunities for renewal and transformation. Unity lays the groundwork for charting a course toward recovery and constructing a more resilient and sustainable economy. By joining forces to identify common objectives, prioritize investments, and enact reforms, societies can emerge from crises stronger, more adaptable, and better prepared to confront future challenges.

The imperative now is to move beyond the electoral process and collectively address the core issues facing the country for the betterment of Pakistan and its people. Amidst the clamor of political rhetoric, the needs and interests of the state can often be overshadowed by partisan agendas and ideological clashes. However, governance fundamentally entails prioritizing the welfare and progress of the state above narrow political considerations. At its essence, governance aims to ensure the stability, security, and advancement of the state.

To be continued



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

British High Commission brings together senior businesswomen from across Pakistan on International Women's Day

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The UK has convened women in tech, business and trade to highlight their achievements and discuss shared challenges.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is: Invest in women; accelerate progress. At a trade fair in Islamabad, female entrepreneurs demonstrated the work they are doing on artificial intelligence, medical technology and smart apps.

Umama Nadir, a student from Lahore who was selected to be "Ambassador for the Day", shadowed the High Commissioner around her engagements.



British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said "The UK and Pakistan are working closely together to further gender equality. It is a priority that runs across all of our work. It is as important as ever to place the economy at the heart of progress in Pakistan, and women at the heart of the economy."

There is overwhelming evidence that investing in women and girls and breaking down the barriers they face accelerates development, especially when women are helped into the workforce. If women had the same role in labour markets as men, an estimated 26%, or \$28 trillion, could be added to global GDP.

Israel's war on Gaza: 155th day in a row, another cycle of mass destruction

News Desk

ISLAMABAD:

For the 155th day in a row, Israel continues its war of genocide against our people and enters the entire population of the Gaza Strip into a cycle of certain death around the clock, whether by continuing to bomb homes, facilities and buildings over the heads of their residents and committing more mass massacres that leave more martyrs, wounded and missing, and expands the circle of mass destruction. To the Gaza Strip, the displacement among civilians deepened, and starvation, thirst, and deprivation of medicines were perpetuated, as a result of which more children, women, the sick, and the elderly died. Gradually, the occupation forces expanded their aggression against the Rafah area, which contains more than 1.5 million Palestinians.



The Ministry confirms that the only constant truth throughout the days of the war is that Israel is continuing to annihilate our people, pushing them toward immigration, and turning the Gaza Strip into an empty area unsuitable for human life, and that the second truth is that Israel refuses to comply with all international resolutions, demands, and appeals regarding civilians, protecting them, and securing their humanitarian needs. The international community, including its allies, enters into a spiral of repeated failure and loss of credibility to the point of pity. Instead of the international community taking the necessary measures to force Israel to comply with international law, it unfortunately resorts to searching for ways out that are compatible with the law of genocide that Israel imposes on the world. It has become clear that the occupying state does not want and prevents the entry of aid to civilians and uses starvation as a weapon of war, and takes advantage of the cover provided by some countries to enable it to continue the war under the pretext of self-defense, knowing that international law requires the imposition of deterrent sanctions on the rogue occupying state that does not fulfill its obligations. Towards Palestinian civilians, and if we talk about the time factor, the international failure to protect civilians and secure their needs provides Israel with more time to complete its extermination of our people and reshape the Gaza Strip according to its strategic colonial interests, in the ugliest forms of international complicity and abhorrent double standards, despite our appreciation for the continuous efforts made by the international community in its failed attempts to persuade Israel to introduce larger amounts of aid to Palestinian civilians.

China's economic growth target feasible, uplifting



Xinhua

BEIJING: China has set its 2024 economic growth target at around 5 percent, which is well considered, achievable, and uplifting for the world.

On par with last year's, the target matches needs with possibilities given the situations and various factors at home and abroad. It demonstrates the resolve of Chinese authorities to work proactively, and shores up market confidence and social expectations.

The growth target is based on the growth potential and conditions of the Chinese economy. It takes into account the need to promote employment, raise residents' incomes, and prevent and defuse risks in key areas. The target is in keeping with the goals of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and the goal of basically realizing socialist modernization through 2035. As a developing nation, China is at the crucial stage of building a modern socialist country, which needs to keep a certain economic growth speed to tackle external challenges and solve problems through development.

The comprehensive industrial system, well-connected infrastructure networks, and tech-focused drivers underpin the resilience and vitality of Chinese economy. Its potential in urbanization, service and green sectors will be further tapped, and new quality productive forces fostered to sustain growth.

China's economic expansion target for 2024 is realistic, but the task is no easy. Fresh efforts should be exerted to deepen reform, expand high-standard opening up, and accelerate development.

The Chinese leadership has vowed to strengthen counter-cyclical and cross-cyclical adjustments of macroeconomic policies, continue to implement proactive fiscal policies and prudent monetary policies, and enhance policy innovation and coordination.

Leveraging its strengths in industry, talent and institution, China is capable of achieving the growth target through hard and united efforts, and continuing to be a major engine for global economic growth.

Welcome

The Embassy of Pakistan welcomed esteemed guests including diplomats from different countries i.e. Spain, Germany, Malaysia; Switzerland, Iraq, France; Canada, Egypt Kyrgyzstan, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Brunei, Uzbekistan, Chile, and Sri Lanka alongside distinguished dignitaries from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Union (EU), and World Bank to experience the rich cultural traditions and breathtaking landscapes of the country.



Trump isn't getting money from Elon Musk. But these billionaires will open their wallets

In a major boost to Donald Trump's presidential bid, billionaires Liz and Dick Uihlein decided to help fund the Republican's candidate campaign, the Financial Times reported on Saturday.

The couple founded the Uline shipping and packaging company from their basement in 1980 and had donated to the Republican primary campaign of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who dropped out of the race in January.

Their decision came after the former president won 14 out of 15 states in the Super Tuesday primaries and his last Republican rival, Nikki Haley, quit the race, the FT reported.

The development comes as Tech giant Elon Musk Wednesday announced on X that he would "not be donating to either candidate" for the Presidential elections of 2024.

Trump has fallen behind Biden in fundraising ahead of the Nov 5 general election.

Palestine foreign ministry strongest condemn Israeli war crimes

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the violations and crimes of the colonialist militias and their terrorist elements against Palestinian citizens, their land, property, homes and sanctities, the most recent of which was the storming of the extremists into the Bab al-Rahma cemetery and the destruction of the graves and their headstones, as well as their daily attacks on citizens in Masafer Yatta with the aim of displacing them and expelling them from their homes and lands, as well as their assaults. On the town of Qasra, south of Nablus, and the Jordan Valley, and their continued pursuit of citizens in all areas classified as (C).

The ruling Israeli right in the occupying state is exploiting the global preoccupation with the war of extermination against our people in the Gaza Strip to deepen the crimes of the gradual annexation of the occupied West Bank,



including East Jerusalem, by deepening and expanding settlement, legitimizing more random outposts, and building huge colonial roads that devour thousands of dunums of Palestinian citizens' lands, in An Israeli war is open to any opportunity to embody the Palestinian state on the ground with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to sabotage the international efforts made to stop the war on the Gaza Strip and open a political path to resolve the conflict through peaceful political means based on the principle of the two-state solution.

The Ministry believes that the Israeli right and its colonialist followers daily challenge the international will for peace and the calls that have become bolder to resolve the conflict, and they are racing against time in their attempts to change the existing historical, political and legal reality in the West Bank to put obstacles to the establishment of an independent, viable, geographically contiguous and sovereign Palestinian state, which requires translation. The international and American positions calling for the implementation of the two-state solution include practical steps and procedures that would ensure its implementation on the ground, foremost of which is the need for countries to accelerate recognition of the State of Palestine and enable it to gain full membership in the United Nations, and to exert real pressure on the occupying state to curb the colonialist militias, dismantle them, and disarm them.

In this context, the Ministry affirms that imposing deterrent international sanctions on the entire settler-colonial system plays an important role in fortifying the opportunity for a political solution to the conflict and not wasting it, and provides the required protection for the two-state solution, in a way that achieves security and stability in the region and the world.

India may make more troubles against China, other neighbours: Chinese Scholar

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: To strongly demonstrate its anti-China and anti-Pakistan stance for inciting domestic religious and nationalist sentiment and striving to win more votes, India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, may make more troubles against China and its other neighboring countries, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law said on Saturday. Modi who has now been in power for last 10 years, has announced his candidacy for a third term in the new general election in April and May this year, he said in a statement released by Asia Pacific Daily.

Prof Cheng pointed out that there are three main reasons why it is so difficult to make progress on the border issue: Firstly, India has not given up its territorial expansion ambitions. On August 5, 2019, India unilaterally amended its constitution to revoke the disputed Kashmir's autonomous status. On October 31, of that year, India officially implemented the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, announcing the establishment of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Territory and the Ladakh Union Territory. On November 2, of that year, India released a new version of its political map, which detailed the borders of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. On the map, all the disputed areas, including large areas under China's

current effective administrative jurisdiction, were directly assigned to its own territory. This is the fundamental reason for the military conflicts along the China-India border that have occurred in recent years and the difficulty for both sides to reach any solution, he added. Secondly, India is continuously strengthening its military deployment in the border areas between China and India. Before 2019, India deployed 2 corps, 8 divisions and 37 combat brigades in the China-India border areas, with a total military strength of 215,000. In recent years, in order to implement the pushing forward strategy in the western section of the border and attempt to occupy a large area of Chinese territory, the Indian army has

established a mountain strike corps in the western section. At the same time, the Indian army has deployed a large number of advanced offensive weapons such as artillery, tanks, missiles and fighter in the forefront of the border, and carried out large-scale battlefield construction with road network as the main focus. Thirdly, he said, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), came to power by promoting three ideologies: extreme religiosity, extreme nationalism and regional hegemonism. Modi has now been in power for two terms with a total of 10 years. In April and May this year, India will hold the new general election and Modi has announced his candidacy for a third term.



Prof Cheng said, on June 18, 2017, there was a standoff between China and India in the Dong Lang area. On June 15, 2020, at the Galwan Valley in the western section of the China-India border, there was a fierce physical conflict between the two sides. Since June 2020, China

and India have held 21 rounds of corps commander-level talks. The current situation along the China-India border is generally stable, and both sides are maintaining effective communication through diplomatic and military channels. China has attached great importance to the relation-

ship between the two countries and the two militaries. In order to maintain peace and tranquility in the border area, China has been making unremitting efforts for decades. Although both sides have been actively, deeply and constructively communicating to solve the on-site border issues of mutual concern, solutions that are acceptable to both sides have not yet been reached, he added. Last Friday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated during a briefing that India's move to strengthen military deployment along the border with China is counter-productive to the two countries' effort to ease the situation in border areas and is not conducive to safeguarding peace and tranquility of the border areas.

PTCL Group steps up as Gwadar battles floods, delivering clean drinking water

PPA

QUETTA: In response to the devastating floods sweeping through Gwadar, Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group joined forces with Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC) to provide essential relief and deliver up to 30,000 liters of clean drinking water every day for a month to the affected communities.

Torrential rains have plunged Gwadar into chaos, displacing families and leaving them desperately short of necessities, with clean water being the most pressing concern. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, PTCL Group and PRC have stepped up to ensure a steady supply of clean drinking water is delivered directly to those reeling from the disaster.

Commenting on the effort, Syed Atif Raza, Chief Marketing Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "Access to clean water is indeed a fundamental human right, crucial for survival. PTCL Group, in collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent, is acutely aware of this pressing need. Our joint efforts are dedicated to delivering clean drinking water to thousands of affected families in Gwadar."

Economy can't grow without exploiting women potential for economic uplift: PIAF

PPA

LAHORE: On the occasion of International Women's Day, a ceremony was organized at PIAF's main office by Chief Traffic Officer Amara Athar to pay tribute to women from industry, trade and other sectors of life. Chairman PIAF Fahimur Rehman Saigal, former Chairman PIAF Muhammad Ali Mian, Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice Chairman PIAF Nasrullah Mughal, Vice Chairman PIAF Tahir Manzoor Chaudhary, Vice President Lahore Chamber Adnan Khalid Butt and business women in large numbers participated in the event.

Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Fahimur Rehman Saigal while addressing a seminar, organized to mark International Women's Day, said that PIAF fully encourages and supports women in every sector.

Failure to reform tax system major factor behind heavy foreign borrowings: FRIA

PPA

LAHORE: The Ferozpur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has warned the high cost of doing business has been hurting the economic growth, as the inflation rate bounced back, hurting the trade and industry the most, who faced the brunt of a staggering increase in gas prices.

The FRIA senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam said that the failure to reform the tax system is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government. Shahbaz Aslam said that the most serious threat to the economy in the current fiscal year would be inflation, because it is already hitting economy due to continuous rise in oil prices and depreciation of local currency. Quoting the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, he said that the Consumer Price Index surged to 29.2 percent last month compared to a year ago. The increase was more than market expectations and has lessened the prospects for a cut in the interest rates, which stand at the country's highest ever level of 22 percent.

This reading, the first announced by the PBS after the recently concluded International Monetary Fund talks, in which the global lender also cut the inflation forecast for Pakistan to 22.8 percent, may strengthen the IMF's view of keeping the policy rate unchanged until core inflation starts easing out.

Nasir Ali Khan will fully participate in the investment conference in Jeddah

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Gilgit-Baltistan Planning Minister Nasir Ali Khan yesterday met the founder chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas and Fahad Barlas Convener Exhibition at their residence at their residence.

Briefed that Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry is organizing Pakistan Investment Conference on May 11, 2024 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In which a large

number of different business community related to tourism, pharmaceutical, minerals, medical, civil aviation industry, dairy and agriculture, construction material, private developer, capital market and stock exchange, education, information technology and other sectors will participate.. Chairman Khurshid Barlas said that there are attractive opportunities for Pakistani investors in many sectors of Saudi Arabia's economy, including tourism, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, chemical industry, real estate



and food processing.

The Pakistan Investment Conference is being organized to take advantage of and to strengthen the Pakistani economy.

He will fully cooperate and participate in the Pakistan Investment Conference in

Saudi Arabia. Planning Minister Nasir Ali Khan said that there are vast investment opportunities in the tourism sector in the region, we need institutions where people can be trained in this regard so that they can play their role in the promotion of tourism.

Preparation of Ramazan

KARACHI: A worker is busy in displaying bananas at a fruit and vegetable market as vendors prepare to sell ahead of Muslims' Holy Month of Ramazan, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

CCP to begin negotiation with Russian market regulator

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) begins negotiations with the Federal Anti-monopoly Service (FAS) of the Russian Federation for bilateral cooperation. The Federal Government has approved the commencement of negotiations.

Under the leadership of Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, the CCP has intensified its efforts to forge partnerships with key regulatory bodies worldwide. This initiative is aimed at enhancing CCP's international standing, with a particular focus on improving its current rating of three stars out of five.

The FAS is at the forefront of implementing a robust digital agenda. Russia has enacted legislation to facilitate the digitalization of the economy. Pakistan stands to gain valuable insights and expertise from the Russian experience in this regard.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Russian regulator is expected to facilitate capacity building for CCP, especially in the realm of digitalization. The collaboration will also pave

the way for joint research projects in crucial enforcement areas, which will further strengthen CCP's enforcement capabilities.

Both CCP and FAS recognize the importance of promoting fair competition, enhancing market efficiency, and safeguarding consumer welfare. The proposed MoU aims to establish a framework for bilateral relations based on principles of equality and mutual benefit.

By partnering with FAS, CCP aims to gain valuable insights into emerging challenges such as digital markets and cross-border cartelization. This collaboration will also help in eliminating entry barriers and addressing anti-competitive practices, thereby creating opportunities for Russian companies to invest in Pakistan and contribute to the development of various markets in the country.

Overall, the collaboration between CCP and FAS aligns with CCP's broader objectives of enhancing its international presence and promoting a positive perception of Pakistan on the global stage as an attractive marketplace for investors.

SECP celebrates International Women Day; reaffirms commitment to promote gender diversity

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) celebrated International Women's Day by honoring the dedication of its female employees, emphasizing the significant role women play in societal development and their contributions to the corporate sector's progress.

Ms. Roshaneh Zafar, founder & Managing Director of KASHF Foundation graced the occasion as the chief guest. In her address, she emphasized the importance of leveraging one's strengths, being courageous, kind, and building a supportive network to drive change through collective action.

Ms. Zafar, a finance enthusiast, shared her journey of empowering Pakistani women and establishing KASHF Foundation. Her talk was



followed by a Q&A session, inspiring the audience to celebrate the women workforce at SECP and beyond.

SECP Chairman Akif Saeed highlighted SECP's internal measures to promote gender mainstreaming, including introducing conducive policies and increasing female representation in general as

well as in leadership roles.

He proudly said that as a result of SECP's measures to improve gender diversity on the boards of listed companies, 92% of listed companies now have women directors on board, compared to 31% in 2017. He shared that as a result of SECP's policies to streamline gender diver-

sity, the women's percentage amongst new recruits increased to 36%; there is 25% female representation in the management cadre and 24% female representation in senior management.

Akif underscored SECP's commitment to gender parity, both within SECP and in its regulated sectors.

Dubai Islamic Bank Awarded for Gender-Inclusive Workplace by Employers Federation of Pakistan



PPA

KARACHI: Dubai Islamic Bank wins the Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Recognition Award 2024 in the category of Gender-Inclusive Workplace

organized by the Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP). This achievement reflects DIB's commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment where women feel valued and empowered to succeed.

SMAP-TDAP collaboration elevates salt exports on global e-commerce

PPA

KARACHI: The collaborative efforts of the Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP) and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) have resulted in a ground-breaking opportunity for emerging Pakistani salt exporters. The seminar, held at the FTC Building, signifies a historic moment, showcasing the strategic alliance's success in expanding the global visibility of Pakistan's salt industry.

This strategic partnership aims to empower nascent exporters by leveraging the vast reach and consumer base of leading e-commerce platforms, including Amazon and Daraz.

As Qasim Yaqoob Paracha, President of Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SMAP), affirms, "This collaboration creates unprecedented opportunities for our salt exporters to engage with a global audience, marking a transformative phase for our industry."

Esteemed members, both seasoned and new, have demonstrated a profound engagement in this seminar. Notable figures including Naem Manzoor and Adil Mukhtar from TDAP have actively participated, joined by representatives from diverse sectors who have displayed a notable enthusiasm for the event.

These globally recognized online marketplaces provide an exclusive

avenue for Pakistani salt exporters to engage with international buyers, thereby amplifying their market presence on a global scale.

The advantages for salt exporters are manifold. Integration with these e-commerce platforms offers entry to a worldwide audience, facilitating the promotion and sale of their products on an international platform. The streamlined process of online transactions and secure payment gateways ensures a seamless experience, fostering trust and credibility for both exporters and buyers.

Furthermore, the collaboration with Amazon and Daraz levels the playing field for new exporters, enabling them to compete with

established players in the global market. The platforms provide robust marketing and promotional tools, assisting exporters in showcasing the distinctive qualities of Pakistani salt, emphasizing its purity and superior quality.

In conclusion, the Seminar between SMAP and TDAP, as emphasized by Qasim Yaqoob Paracha, President of SMAP, laid the groundwork for a transformative journey for salt exporters in Pakistan. "The opportunity to showcase products on renowned e-commerce platforms is a game-changer for the industry," states Yaqoob, "and the ensuing benefits are poised to significantly contribute to the nation's economic prosperity."



Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presides over a meeting on economy on Saturday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz decides to keep his cabinet small: sources

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to keep his cabinet small, sources said on Saturday. In the past, several experts have stressed the need for having the federal cabinet's size small due to the state of the economy.

They added the federal cabinet would comprise 12 to 14 ministers in the initial phase.

Portfolios related to finance, foreign affairs, power, planning, information, privatisation, and interior would be awarded to members.

Some of the ministers would also be given additional portfolios.

It is expected that Ishaq Dar, Attaullah Tarar, Khawaja Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, and Shamsad Akhtar would be included in the cabinet.

The key post for the government is to fill the man in charge of economic matters, according to many experts as the country is expected to seek another bailout package from the International Monetary Fund.

The struggling \$350 billion economy has a narrow path to recovery and the current IMF agreement expires on April 11, with critical external financing avenues linked to securing

another extended programme. Pakistan averted default last summer thanks to a short-term International Monetary Fund bailout, but the programme expires next month and a new government will have to negotiate a long-term arrangement to keep the \$350 billion economy stable.

Ahead of the bailout, the South Asian nation had to undertake a slew of measures demanded by the IMF, including

revising its budget, a hike in its benchmark interest rate, and increases in electricity and natural gas prices.

The IMF staff continues a dialogue with authorities on needed longer-term reform efforts, a spokesperson for the fund said, adding that the fund is available, if requested, to support the post-election government through a new arrangement to address Pakistan's ongoing challenges.

Plans to get aid into Gaza by sea gain pace as airdrop mishap kills five

AFP

GAZA: An international effort is gathering pace to get desperately needed humanitarian relief into Gaza by sea in a bid to counter overland access restrictions blamed on Israel as it battles Hamas militants.

The dire conditions more than five months into the war have led some countries to airdrop food and other assistance over the besieged Gaza Strip, but a parachute malfunction turned the latest operation lethal on Friday.

Five Palestinians were killed and 10 wounded north of the coastal Al-Shati refugee camp, said Mohammed al-Sheikh, emergency room head nurse at Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital. A witness told AFP he and

his brother followed the parachuted aid in the hope of getting "a bag of flour".

"Then, all of a sudden, the parachute didn't open and fell down like a rocket," hitting a house, said Mohammed al-Ghoul.

Jordanian and US military officials denied that aircraft from either country caused the fatalities.

"We express sympathies to the families of those who were killed," the US Central Command said in a statement. "Contrary to some reports, this was not the result of U.S. airdrops."

Belgium, Egypt, France and the Netherlands were also involved in the airdrop.

In the Cypriot port of Larnaca, European Commission



chief Ursula von der Leyen expressed hope that a maritime corridor could open this Sunday, although details remained unclear.

She said a "pilot operation" was to be launched on Friday, aided by the United Arab Emirates which secured

"the first of many shipments of goods to the people of Gaza".

US President Joe Biden said in Thursday's State of the Union address that the US military would build a "temporary pier" off Gaza's coast to bring in aid.

He told reporters on Friday

that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must allow in more aid, a day after he warned Israeli leaders against using aid as "a bargaining chip".

The United Nations has repeatedly warned of looming famine in the Gaza Strip, which is under Israeli siege following the October 7 attack by Hamas that triggered the war.

UN agencies have urged increased overland access, insisting that air or sea delivery was ineffective.

Biden acknowledged that hopes for a new truce deal before Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month that could begin on Sunday depending on the lunar calendar, were "looking tough".

PTI founder's dental checkup completed

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The personal physician of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder conducted the dental checkup and will present the report of the examination to Aleema Khan.

According to the details, the personal physician of PTI founder, Samina Niazi, reached Adiala Jail today and conducted the dental examination of former PM.

The lawyers of the PTI founder, Sheeraz Ranjha and Khalid Yusuf Chaudhry, asserted that the dental examination of the PTI founder has been completed in Adiala Jail.

The lawyer stated that the overall health of the PTI founder is fine, adding that the former PM has given the authority to talk about health to his sister Aleema Khan, as the medical officer will submit the medical report to Aleema Khan.

Khalid Yusuf mentioned that Aleema Khan will play a crucial role in determining whether the founder of PTI should be moved from jail to the hospital.

The jail superintendent permitted Aleema Khan entry to the jail with the utmost respect, and official doctors were also available within the jail premises for the treatment of the PTI founder.

NDMA to launch mobile application to provide early warning of potential disasters

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is soon launching a mobile application to provide early warning of potential disasters and safety measures to the public.

In wake of the rain forecast, the NDMA has issued instructions to the concerned departments in view of possible rain and snowfall in the coming week.

Rain and snowfall is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan, Murree and Galliyat during the period.

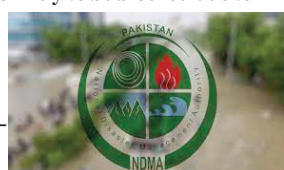
The contact roads are also likely to be blocked due to landslides and heavy snowfall. The NDMA has directed the concerned officials to take weather awareness measures to ensure the safety of tourists and travelers.

The authority has instructed all PDMA and other concerned administrative bodies to be alert to deal with any kind of emergency. The local administration should take timely measures to ensure timely availability of emergency personnel and machinery in mountainous and snowy areas.

The NDMA has also given instructions to ensure timely evacuation of people from potentially at-risk populations.

The concerned departments should continue continuous monitoring of water flow in rivers and canals. All concerned departments should strengthen the communication and support framework.

The NDMA has also directed the officials to ensure the availability of messages in local languages?? for public awareness and timely provision of emergency personnel and machinery in areas affected by landslide risk.



Shaista Ikramullah's painting unveiled at UN human rights HQ in Geneva

Spokesman Report

GENEVA: A painting of late Begum Shaista Ikramullah, a noted Pakistani human rights activist, was unveiled at Palais Wilson, headquarters of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in Geneva, to mark International Women's Day and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, and Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN offices in Geneva, Bilal Ahmad, performed the solemn ceremony before a group of UN and Pakistani officials.

Begum Ikramullah was Pakistan's first female member of Parliament. She also served as Ambassador to Morocco and several times as a delegate to the United Nations. Begum Ikramullah's painting has been contributed by Pakistan's Foreign Office to commemorate her contributions to the international human rights agenda. As Pakistan's delegate to the UDHR drafting committee, Begum Ikramullah advocated equal rights for men and women, and for women to contribute in full to the attainment of human rights for all. Commending OHCHR and the High Commissioner for the initiative to set up a dedicated display honouring the women drafters of the UDHR, Amb. Bilal said, "I am immensely proud on behalf of all Pakistanis to see Begum Shaista Ikramullah's portrait grace the halls of Palais Wilson." Begum Ikramullah, he said, embodied and continues to inspire Pakistan's abiding commitment to human rights and proactive measures to ensure equality of the genders.



PPP, PML-N throw breakfast for MPs at Parliament's lush green lawns

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PPP and PML-N threw a breakfast on the lush green lawns of the Parliament House on Saturday as they hosted MPs of the ruling coalition before a key vote for the election of the country's 14th president.

The rich breakfast was jointly hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-N. Members from other parties in the six-party ruling coalition, including PMLQ, BAP, and IPP, also attended.

PPP's Saleem Mandviwala was among the organizers and inspected the dishes before they were served.

Breakfast arrangement for Muslim League-N and allies on the presidential election.

Chefs were seen busy cooking



Halwa Puri and other dishes on the Parliament House lawn.

Pakistan's parliament has an old tradition of hosting breakfasts for MPs before key sessions and the tradition was upheld during the PTI rule, too.

The Parliament House also features a cafeteria for Senators and National Assembly members.

It has undergone renovations recently before the current National Assembly was sworn in on February 29.

Pakistani embassy in Dakar hosts reception



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A reception was hosted at the Pakistan Embassy in Dakar, Senegal on Saturday to celebrate the 84th Pakistan Day. Members of the Diplomatic Corps, officials from the government, businessmen, members of the civil society, friends of Pakistan and Pakistani Diaspora from Senegal and the Gambia attended the event.

Abdou Karim Fofana, Minister of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Small and Medium Enterprises and Spokesperson of the Government of the Republic of Senegal was the chief guest at the reception. Pakistani ambassador in Dakar hosts reception Ambassador Sayed in her remarks, talked about the potential for engagement with Pakistan especially in the areas of interest to Senegal like textiles, pharmaceuticals, sporting goods, agriculture and agriculture machinery to name a few. In view of the International Women's Day in March, Ambassador Sayed highlighted the strong and diverse role of Pakistani women breaking the glass ceiling and opening up avenues for

the younger generation of Pakistani women. An exhibit of the dynamic Pakistani women was also set up at the reception. A video was also shown highlighting various aspects of Pakistan Senegal bilateral cooperation over the years. Minister of Commerce in his speech conveyed good wishes from the President of Senegal on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day and reiterated the desire to strengthen Pakistan Senegal relations. Pakistani embassy in Dakar hosts reception Ambassador Sayed joined Minister of Commerce along with Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and other ambassadors to cut a cake. Ambassador Sayed then thanked the guests and invited them to enjoy the Pakistani delicacies prepared for them especially the jalebi being cooked live. Pakistan's Honorary Consul in The Gambia and President of the Association of the Pakistanis in the Gambia also attended the reception. The event was well attended and the guests appreciated the Women's Day exhibition of prominent Pakistani women and the hospitality of the Pakistan Embassy, Dakar.

Pakistan embassy hosts flavorful extravaganza in Brussels



Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The Pakistan embassy in Brussels played host to a delectable celebration of Pakistani culture with a Food Festival and Ramadan Bazaar on Saturday, a precursor to the upcoming National Day on March 23.

The esteemed event, symbolizing the joyous spirit of Pakistan's National Day, commenced with the inauguration by Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg, Amna Baloch.

Highlighting the significance of the festival, Ambassador Baloch expressed, "Our rich and delicious cuisine, rooted in a long historic tradition and culinary excellence, has been evolving since ancient times." The festival showcased a culinary journey through the diverse and palatable offerings of Pakistani cuisine, including signature dishes like Biryani, Chicken Karahi, Naan Kebab,

Jalebi, Samosa and much more.

The ambassador warmly welcomed the guests, emphasizing how Pakistan's geographical and cultural diversity is vividly mirrored in its cuisine. The festival served as a delightful platform for diplomatic exchanges, cultural appreciation, and culinary exploration.

The vibrant gathering witnessed a large turnout, with the Pakistani diaspora from Belgium and Luxembourg, as well as diplomats, embracing the opportunity to savor and appreciate the rich tapestry of Pakistani flavors. The event served as a harmonious blend of cultural exchange and gastronomic delight.

As Pakistan gears up for its National Day on March 23, the Food Festival in Brussels stands as a flavorful prelude, encapsulating the essence of Pakistani heritage and hospitality on the international stage.