Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Pakistan not invaded Afghanistan but acted against terrorists' hideouts: FO

Pakistan on Thursday said that the intelligence-based operation it had carried out on March 18 was not an invasion of Afghanistan but an action against the sanctuaries of terrorists hiding inside Afghanistan and posing threats to Pakistan's security. (Details on Page 8)



Ethiopian Airlines getting overwhelming response in Pakistan: envoy

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 11, Friday, March 22, 2024



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Called on ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir on Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

'COAS Asim Munir briefs PM Shehbaz Sharif on Saudi visit'

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army on Thursday called on PM Sheh- Arabia, sources said. baz Sharif, ARY News reported,

During the meeting matters Saudi Arabia visit. related to the Pakistan Army's

Munir also briefed the premier defense cooperation between the Staff(COAS) General Asim Munir about his recent visit to Saudi two brotherly countries.

faction at the outcome of COAS's Chief of Army Staff General Asim future as well, ISPR added.

COAS Gen Asim Munir and his official visit to the Kingdom. Chief also met with Saudi ership.

operational matters came under Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad discussion. COAS General Asim Bin Salman vowed to strengthen

Munir who called on him during

a desire to further strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan. Mohammad Bin Salman said Armed Forces General Favvadh According to the Pakistan Army the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will Bin Hamed Al Ruwaili, Saudi PM Sharif expressed his satis- media wing, He was talking to always stand with Pakistan in the Assistant Minister of Defense

Crown Prince Salman expressed

Defence Minister Prince Khalid Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chief of General Staff Saudi Engineer Talal Abdullah Al Otai-During the visit, the Army bi and other senior military lead-

Mubashir Hassan appointed PIO



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senior Information Officer of Grade 20 Mubashir Hassan was appointed as Executive Director General/Principal Information Officer (BS 21) of the Press Information Department (PID).

The appointment was made in accordance with sub-section 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, said a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Thurs-

Mubashir Hassan is a senior officer of Information Group who has held various important positions and also successfully completed National Security and War Course 2024 from National Defense University Islamabad recently.

Attaullah Tarar for devising mechanism to counter fake news regarding CPEC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday emphasized the need to devise a mechanism at the government-to-government and media-to-media level to counter fake news regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Attaullah Tarar said this during a meeting with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zaidong who called on the minister here.

The Chinese Ambassador congratulated Attaullah Tarar on assuming the portfolio of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The CPEC, Pakistan-China strategic relations, ongoing cooperation in the media and film sector, and China-Pakistan Information Corridor were discussed in the meeting. Discussions were held regarding the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of media and the establishment of the Pakistan-China Information Corridor to prevent fake news about

Tarar said that China had supported Pakistan at every international forum including Shanghai Cooperation Organization and United Nations. He opined that a close and



two countries in the form of CPEC was in the wider interest of the entire region. The CPEC was an important milestone in promoting the economic development of Pakistan, Tarar

remarked. In the meeting, the two countries agreed to expand cooperation in the field of film and culture. "Like China, Pakistan is an ancient civilization with a history of seven thousand years, Tarar told the Chinese envoy. He said many spiritual and cultural movements emerged from the Indus Valley of Pakistan that shaped Asian culture. The ancient Gandhara civilization of Pakistan introduced Buddhism to much of East Asia, including China, he stated.

He said Pakistan and China also jointly organized a Gandhara Buddhist exhibition at the Palace ter and the Chinese Ambassador.

sustainable partnership between the Museum last year. In the meeting, discussions were also held regarding the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda between Pakistan and China. Tarar said that Romina Khurshid Alam was in close contact with China regarding the SDGs project. The MoU between Pakistan's official news agency Associated Press of Pakistan and China Media Group (CMG) for the third Belt and Road Forum was also discussed in the meeting. The minister said that a film production agreement was also under process between the governments of the two countries. The minister said that the MoU between APP and Xinhua News Agency was in progress. Cooperation for the joint production of a travel documentary between CGTN and PTV was also discussed by the minis-

CM Murad approves Rs5.5bn to launch Smart Safe City project

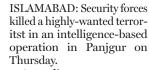
👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah approved Rs5.5 billion agreement between the Sindh Police Department and NRTC to launch the first phase of the Smart Safe City project in Karachi's red

The approval of the agreement was made in a meeting held at CM House and was attended by Home Minister Zia Lanjar, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, IG Police Riffat Mukhtar, MD NRTC Brigadier Asim Ishaque, DG Sindh Safe Cities Authority asif Aijaz Shaikh, and others. The CM was told that under the Smart Safe City project, 1300 CCTV cameras would be installed at 300 sites in Red Zone & Airport Corridor with FR and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) capability within eight hours solar back.

Forces kill highly-wanted terrorist in Panjgur

👺 City Desk



According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations, the terrorist was indentified as Chakar Liaquat.

ISPR said that the forces had identified a terrorist hideout and successfully engaged them, killing Liaquat and



killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities," ISPR said. The forces also undertook

a sanitizing operation to make sure no other terrorists remained in the area. The operation comes

days after Pakistan carried out strikes into Afghanistan injuring two other terrorists. on terrorist hideouts after Weapon and ammunition a terror attack killed seven were also recovered from the soldiers in Waziristan.

Iranian Embassy categorically condemns terrorist attack in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, categorically condemns the cowardly terrorist attack in Gwadar, leading to the martyrdom of two Pakistani security forces.

Thwarting shuch violent attacks, which are destined to prevent the Sustainable Development of the region, disturb Sustainable Development Objectives and to destroy the infrastructures, by the Pakistan Army is appre-

FM, DG IAEA discuss issues related to nuclear energy

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar Thursday met Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi, on the sidelines of the Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels. The Foreign Minister appreciated IAEA's role in enhancing peaceful uses of nuclear technology and for organizing the First ever Nuclear Energy Summit. He highlighted that as a founder member, Pakistan attached great importance to the Agen-

cy's work. The Foreign Minister also highlighted the importance of nuclear energy in combatting climate change and Pakistan's desire to enhance share of nuclear energy in the energy mix. He also underscored the importance of technical cooperation work of the Agency to which Pakistan is also making significant contribution. Foreign Minister Dar stressed that the



international financial institutions and banks should support nuclear energy projects in developing countries to enable them to meet their energy needs and achieving zero emissions goals. He urged IAEA to continue its role in sensitizing the world about the importance of nuclear energy as a clean source. The Director General IAEA appreciated Pakistan's collaboration with the agency. He added that in Asia, Pakistan is playing a key role in sharing experience and expertise with developing countries. He agreed that financing of nuclear projects was an issue and that he would soon engage with International Financial Institutions to resolve the issue.

Major reshuffle in bureaucracy after PM's approval

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: In another major reshuffling in the bureaucracy, the Establishment Division notified several secretaries after the approval of Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif.

According to the details, a 22-grade officer Aizaz Aslam has been appointed as the Secretary of Climate Change.

A Grade 21 officer Ali Tahir, who was serving as Special Secretary in the Establishment Division, has now been appointed as Additional Secretary Incharge of Science and

Technology. Secretary of Science and Technology Ali Raza Bhutta has been directed to report to

the Establishment Division Separate notifications have been issued by the Establish-

ment Division in this regard. Earlier on March 17, the federal government appointed Rashid Mahmood Langrial as

the Secretary Power Division. As per the details, Rashid Mahmood Langrial, a BS-21 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, was serving as Additional Secretary Indus-

tries and Production Division. Rashid Mahmood Langrial had served in the same post in the past as well but was transferred and appointed as Additional Secretary (Incharge)

Industries and Production Division in December 2023 by the then caretaker govern-

IHC orders arrangements for PTI founder's online meeting with lawyers the former prime minister and his that the PTI founder's lawyer had On Adiala jail's superintendent's The ban was slapped for two

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday issued the written judgment on a plea seeking meetings between PTI founder Imran Khan and his legal team.

The court in its verdict ordered the Adiala jail superintendent to arrange online meetings between

lawyers till the resolution of the security issues. IHC's Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq

Khan issued the judgment in which the court sought a report from the Adiala jail superintendent tomorrow (Friday) regarding the arrangement following court

In the judgment, the court said

said that they were restricted from meeting their client due to security issues.

The IHC ordered the jail authorities to make arrangements to facilitate Imran Khan's online meetings with his legal team. They were directed to ensure the required internet speed for smooth huddles of the former prime minister.

contention that the jail rules did not allow online meetings, the court said that the rules were drafted in 1978 and there was no such facility in that period.

The Punjab home department on March 12 banned meetings with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in Adiala Jail, citing security threats.

weeks the sources within the Punjab home department said while media coverage is also prohibited in front of Adiala Jail's The security officer stated that

media coverage is not allowed and directed that the media teams would stay away for 2km far from Adiala jail.

Board meeting

Medicine mafia making fake medicines will not be tolerated in any case: Muhammad Salimullah

Asim Tanveer

within the limits of Drug Court Multan addressed the quality control board

Under the chairmanship of Chairman Drug Court Multan Muhammad Quality Control Board of 11 districts filing and prosecution of cases. within the limits of Drug Court Multan

briefed all secretaries regarding the to submit the cases so that the shortfall cases of Drug Quality Control Boards and directed to take necessary steps for prosecution.

Muhammad Salim ullah said that the secretaries of the quality board should MULTAN: Secretaries of 11 Districts make a routine of monthly meetings so that the cases can be effectively filed in the court on time. He further said that the purpose of the meeting is to improve the efficiency of the drug inspectors as well as to remove Salimullah, a meeting of Secretaries all ambiguities associated with better

In the meeting, Law Officer Ansir Malik said that the presence of drug Chairman Drug Court Multan inspectors should be made mandatory in the cases can be removed in a time-

Chairman Drug Court Multan Chairman Drug Court Multan Muhammad Salim ullah also issued



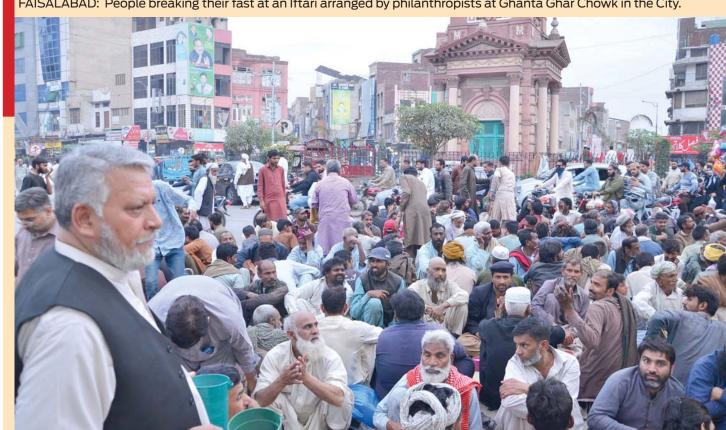
of drugs purchased through local purchase available in all government hospitals and secretaries to drug inspectors of all major teaching hospitals to conduct sampling of locally purchased drugs from attached medical stores. Instructed to do.

Chairman Drug Court Multan Muhammad Salim ullah warned that the mafia making fake medicines will not be tolerated under any circum-

In the meeting, the members of Drug Court Muhammad Javed Iqbal and Dr. Muhammad Nabil Saleem. Prosecution Officer Shafigur Rehman also

Iftar

FAISALABAD: People breaking their fast at an Iftari arranged by philanthropists at Ghanta Ghar Chowk in the City.



World Forestry Day celebrated in

跨 Atta Mohd Sanghi / **Naveed Ahmed Baloch**

Rahim Yar Khan

RAHIM YAR KHAN: On the occasion of World Forestry Day, a ceremony was organized by the Forestry Department, 10,000 saplings were planted in Abbasia Forests Tehsil Liaquatpur. Deputy Commissioner Khurram Parvaiz planted saplings along with students of public and private educational institutions. On the direction of Chief Minister young generation will have forests in the city. Presence of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Punjab government is celebrating World Forestry Day as "Plant for Pakistan".

Deputy Commissioner Khurram Pervez while addressing the event organized on the occasion of Masood Ahmed said that the importance of forests World Forestry Day said that the Punjab government and plant more trees. He forests and wildlife are the under the leadership of beauty of this earth and their Chief Minister Maryam ation is now responsible. protection is the first duty of Nawaz Sharif is working on It has to be ensured that all of us. Forests are essenthe mission of making the they will not only plant the tial for both human life and province green. He said that plants but also ensure their the survival of wildlife, for forests are very important for the protection of which our the development of cities and



to move forward. Addressing prosperity, beauty of the city the ceremony held at Abbasia Forests Tehsil Liagatpur, well-being of the inhabitantthe Deputy Commissioner said that deforestation is on a global scale.

Former MPA Chaudhry

and increase in health and sHe said that on the occasion of the World Day of Forests. it is our duty to raise awareness among the people about said that the young generprotection and cultivation-Divisional Forest Officer

Raja Javed Iqbal said that Pakistan is among the 10 countries in the world that are most affected by climate change. Lack of awareness about the utility. He said that the Forest Department this season5 lakh saplings will be planted across the district in Bihar tree planting campaign. Assistant Commissioner Liaquatpur Shakib Sarwar along with tehsil officers and students of educational institutions participated in the ceremony and planted saplings.

Naseer Vohra visited Director Public Relations Digital Studio



🗯 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Central President Cloth Board and Union Group Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra visited Divisional Information Office. Director Information Khursheed Jilani welcomed him. Naseer Yousuf Vohra visited Director Public Relations Digital Studio. Naseer Yousuf Vohra said that the importance of information office to highlight government policies through print, electronic and social media is not hidden from anyone and the establishment of digital studio in highlighting innovation. It will prove to be important. The team work of the largest virtual office of the district is exemplary. Director Information informed Naseer Yousuf Vohra about the working procedure of the department in detail.

World Forestry Day

National responsibility to plant trees to protect the better environment: Marium Khan



腾 Kiran Asim / Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: On the special instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, trees were planted in Multan Arts Council on the occasion of World Forestry Day. Accordingly, Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan planted a sapling in Multan Arts Council and while speaking, she said that it is our national responsibility to plant trees to protect the environment. We should plant trees around us so that future generations can grow up in a better environment. Every person has to plant his own share to reduce environmental pollution. Commissioner Multan further said that trees are the guardians of our breath and the guarantors of survival. In view of global environmental problems, it is our national and religious duty to adopt plantation. On this occasion, Multan Arts Council Director Dr Riaz Hamdani also planted a sapling on the occasion of World Forestry Day. Deputy Director Public Relations Iram Salimi, Assistant Directors Multan Arts Council Zahid Iqbal, Aleem Shahzad and staff were also with him.

TUF celebrates World Plantation Day



Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad University launched a plantation drive "Plant for Pakistan" on March 21 to strengthen environmental sustainability efforts and on the occasion of World Plantation Day. Students, faculty members and staff participated enthusiastically in this event. who highlighted TUF's commitment to environmental protection and community involvement.

TUF's Environmental Society also organized an awareness walk on the occasion. Later, with enthusiasm and determination, the students and staff planted different types of saplings in the campus and also prayed for the prosperity and development of the coun-

Hyderabad's cultural heritage at risk: Corruption threatens ancient landmarks

Spokesman Report

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad is the second-largest city in the Sindh province and has the honor of being the former capital of Sindh in the past. The city holds significant national and cultural heritage sites or ancient relics, such as the Pakka Qila (Solid Fort), Kacha Qila (Mud Fort), or the smaller forts, among which lies the tomb of the founder of Hyderabad city, Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro. These ancient sites. particularly in Hyderabad, are rapidly deteriorating due to negligence and corruption, leading towards rapid decay. While the major sites like Pakka Qila and Kacha Qila have been fully under control, their walls are crumbling rapidly, indicating a dire situation where in a few years, these forts' mention might



only be found in books.

The preservation section of Pakka Qila in Hyderabad, which is still under the authority of the Department of Antiquities, has been turned into garbage dumps. Both historical towers have been completely sealed off with garbage after spending billions of rupees on their renovations once, only to be washed away in a single rain. Similarly, the Sindh government and other international organizations have repeat-

edly allocated funds to preserve these historical sites, but instead of securing these sites, the funds have been repeatedly squandered

due to corruption. The part of Pakka Qila with the royal gate, the mausoleum of Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro, and a small piece with the protective wall of Pakka Qila is still left with the Department of Antiquities. However, drug addicts have occupied this protective section completely. It is not far

when this part of Pakka Qila will also be seized and demolished. The royal gate of Pakka Qila, which was heavily damaged during the renovation due to the worst negligence of the officers and contractors of the Department of Antiquities in 2021, was reconstructed four years later, but the historical inscriptions on the gate's arch were not placed deliberately. When vari-

ous organizations and the media

highlighted this issue, the work

to demolish the reconstructed gate began again, and then the historical inscriptions were placed on the gate. After that, for the third time, this royal gate is being demolished after reconstruction, and it is being said that the historical inscriptions were not placed at the correct place due to a mistake.

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN ON 12.03.2023 (BELOW)

Now the question arises, are these developmental funds received by the Department of



or ill-gotten money repeatedly wasted, even corrupted? The condition of the third small fort of Hyderabad is also the same. where the constructions made with billions of rupees were washed away in a single rain, and Pakka Qila was sealed off with to clarify its indication, which is equivalent to erasing national and cultural heritage. A few days Antiquities national treasures, ago, work was started to clarify

the fort, but it has been learned that Director Antiquities Abdul Fattah Sheikh has also stopped The office of the Director of

the indication of this tower in

the Department of Antiquities is also in Hyderabad, but some officers of the Sindh government are so affluent that they prefer to sit only in the Karachi office and do not even consider coming to the Hyderabad office. If they do not come to the Hyderabad office, how can the people of Hyderabad reach them? The political, social, and cultural organizations of Hyderabad have demanded an immethere too, the tower coming from diate and serious notice from the Sindh government regarding the garbage, and no effort was made worst corruption in the preservation of Hyderabad's cultural and historical heritage and the Department of Antiquities in





Namaz Timings Maghrib .6:20 pm ...7:44 pm

EMERGENCY

LIMILITOLIN	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police9	270601-20

Women Police

Stations		
Islamabad	9222590	
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20	

Nawatpinui 3270001 2	
ENQUIRY	
Edhi Ambulance1	15
PIA Flight Info1	14
PIA Cargo 928097	79
Railway Inquiry1	17

HOCDITALC		
C	AA	9281092
٧	VASA Rawalpindi	5555489
R	ailway Exchange	9270831-5

HU3PH	ALS
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, ..9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249

Bishop announces relief of Jardanwala victims after restoration of Bishop House



Maiid

FAISALABAD: In connection with the restoration of the Jardanwala tragedy in Bishop House Railway Road, 150 victims were given utensils, beds, and food items for their daily life needs.. The victims thanked Bishop Dr. Andreas Rahmat and Cartias Faisalabad on this occasion. Bishop Dr. Andreas Rahmat, while expressing his thoughts with prayer, said that since the first day since the tragedy, we have been trying to fulfill the needs of the people for food, drink, shelter and other needs and for their legal assistance and protection of lives. What has been arranged? On this occasion, Father Abid Tanveer (Vicar General), Father Bonny Mendes, Father Khalid Mukhtar and Father Zafar Iqbal also expressed their thoughts and sympathy.

Chairman PRCS engages in humanitarian collaboration with Belgium Ambassador

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, held a significant meeting with the Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Mr. Charles DELOGNE, at the Embassy of Belgium here on Thursday. This meeting marked a pivotal moment in the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and Belgium in humanitarian efforts.

The meeting provided a platform for both parties to deliberate on matters of mutual interest, particularly focusing on humanitarian aid and disaster management. Chairman Laghari expressed gratitude for Belgium's consistent support towards humanitarian efforts in Pakistan, highlighting the substantial partnership between the two nations in addressing humanitarian challenges.

During the discussions, Chair-

projects undertaken by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, emphasizing the organization's dedication to serving vulnerable communities nationwide. He stressed the significance of international cooperation and solidarity in effectively addressing humanitarian crises.

Chairman Laghari specifically highlighted PRCS's anticipation of support from the Government of Belgium, particularly in the recovery phase following the devastating Monsoon 2022 floods. He also expressed a strong desire to bolster cooperation, particularly with the Belgium government and the Belgium Red Cross, aiming to enhance collaboration in alleviating the suffering of vulnerable communities in Pakistan. During this event, Chairman Laghari invited Ambassador DELOGNE to visit the PRCS National Headquarters.

Ambassador DELOGNE expressed gratitude to Chairman PRCS for the man Laghari provided insights into comprehensive information and insights the current initiatives and prospective provided regarding disaster manage-



ment during the floods, noting the impressive execution. He praised the Pakistan Red Crescent Society for its relentless efforts, led by Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, in delivering assistance to those in need, especially during times of crisis. He recognized the indispensable role of humanitarian organizations like PRCS in mitigating human suffering and promoting resilience within communities.

In his remarks, Ambassador DELOGNE reaffirmed Belgium's commitment to supporting Pakistan in its humanitarian endeavors, pledging continued cooperation and collaboration between the two nations.

Concluding the meeting, Chairman Laghari gifted Ambassador Charles DELOGNE with a book detailing PRCS achievements, along with a commemorative shield and souvenir, symbolizing the strengthened partnership between Pakistan and Belgium in the humani-

Public issues

ISLAMABAD: Faizabad bus stands are deserted owing to Pakistan Day parade rehearsal, passen-



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

WAWA laid foundation stone of Sophia Noor Girls Academy Wana

跨 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: For the first time in the history of Lower South Waziristan district, the foundation stone of Sophia Noor Girls Academy Wana was laid with the support of (WAWA) Wana Welfare Association.

The foundation stone of the academy was laid by Additional Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Kashmir Khan and WAWA President Rehmatullah Wazir.

On this occasion a large number of people from different walks of life participated in the inauguration ceremony, apart from tribal elders, youths and local leaders of various political parties.

It should be noted that however, Wana is the only unfortunate area where girls' education is almost non-ex-

Local tribal elders and youth, highly appreciated the initiative of Wana Welfare Associa-



tion (WAWA) and thanked the rupees and three classes of the cabinet members.

Rehmatullah Wazir, president of Wana Welfare Association said at the foundation stone ceremony that Sophia Noor Girls Academy Wana will bring an educational revolution in the Wana area and the people of Wana will have a better educational institution

this institution will be 4 crore growth and prosperity.

at their doorstep.

school will start regularly from May this year.

He said that her other classes will also be started soon so that the girls' education is not wasted.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Lower South Waziristan Commissioner Khan said on this occasion, that WAWA's services are not only commend-He said that the total cost of able but WAWA is the name of

He said that it is the fortune of Wana that there is such an organization in the form of WAWA for the people here, which only talks about the betterment and education of the people of Lower Waziristan.

He said that there has been more awareness among the people here compared to the merged districts, because WAWA has done a lot of work on making people smarter.

AJK speaker condemns India ban on Kashmiri political parties' activities

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar strongly condemned the ban on Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, National Party and People's League in Occupied Kashmir and demanded to take notice from the United Nations and said that India is not independent from Occupied Kashmir. The legal restrictions should be removed, the oppression of the Kashmiri leadership should be stopped, Modi's visit to Kashmir was the most unsuccessful visit, the current situation demands that the government of Pakistan make Bilawal Bhutto Zardari the chairman of the Kashmir Committee so that he can effectively advocate for the Kashmiris.. Humanity is ashamed of Israeli atrocities in Palestine, Israel's military aid should be stopped. Paying homage



to the soldiers and officers of Pakistan forces who were martyred in the Mir Ali incident. Speaking at a press conference at the PID Complex on Thursday, Speaker Assembly along with Government Ministers Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Sardar Javed Ayub and former Assembly candidate and central leader of People's Party Shaukat Javed Mir said that after the incident of August 5, 2019, in Occupied Kashmir India has accelerated the series of atrocities. The Kashmiri Hurriyat leadership is

being targeted selectively, even the

funeral prayers of Hurriyat Father Syed Ali Geelani were not allowed, Ashraf Sehrai was deprived of hospital facilities, Yasin Malik is being oppressed. They demand an end to the ongoing human rights abuses in Kashmir. Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that social workers like Khurram Parvez in Occupied Kashmir are not safe from India's oppression. In response to a question, he said that the government should call an assembly meeting on the current situation in Occupied Kashmir. Political parties will also have to sit together

and agree on the situation in Occupied

Kashmir, it is their responsibility. Minister Wildlife Fisheries and Development Authority Muzaffarabad Sardar Javed Ayub said that the elections of Occupied Kashmir cannot be a substitute for the referendum, the blood of Kashmiris will not go in vain. Minister for Social Welfare and Development of Women Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi said that the only solution to the Kashmir issue is to give the right to referendum to Kashmiris so that they can freely decide their future.

Four Pashto movies to dazzle regional cinemas on Eid-ul-Fitr; revive film industry

ISLAMABAD: The screening of four Pashto movies on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr is all set to dazzle the cinemas with hopes to revive the ailing regional film industry through providing a spice of entertainment and a blend of emotions to the cinegoers.

"The much anticipated movies with quality production, dialogues, casts, locations and soulful music will mesmerize the audience, multiplying their joy of the festive occasion", renowned film Director and film Star Arbaaz Khan said.

The film directors and producers have pinned hopes on the production quality, dialogues delivery, casts, locations and strength of music of the movies.

The movies to be screened included "Yaar Dushman", which is directed by Arbaaz Khan while the film cast is comprised of Arbaaz Khan, Ajab Gull, Jahangir Jaani, Asif Khan and Jameel Babar. Talking to APP, Film Director and Actor Arbaaz Khan said that

Pashto movies had high-profit potential. He hoped that the release of new movies will help revive the film industry on this Eid-ul-Fitr. He said Pashto film producers and artists remained resilient and kept

cinema houses function even in the most difficult times and provide entertainment to people. Another movie which was ready for release on Eid-ul-Fitr was Bandiwan, directed by Shahid Usman and other cast were Arbaaz Khan.

Shahid Khan and Jahangir Jani. 'Pekhawar Zama De" is another Pashto movie directed by Shanzeb Khan, other cast comprised of Arbaaz Khan, Asghar Cheema

While the fourth Pashto Movie which was ready for release titled "Charta Khaney Charta Faqeeray" directed by Arshad Khan, other cast include Shahid Khan and Jahangir Jaani.

Muzaffarabad chief secretary discusses food items in the month of Ramadan



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting was held on Thursday under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir, Dawood Mohammad Barich, regarding the supply of food items in the month of Ramadan, cheap markets and stock review of food items. Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretary Local Government Rural Development Secretary Information, Secretary Information Technology, Secretary Agriculture and Livestock, Secretary Food, Mayor Muzaffarabad, Deputy Inspector General Police, Additional Secretary Interior, DGIT while the three Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting through video link. In the meeting, the Divisional Commissioners briefed the Chief Secretary about the 114 cheap bazaars set up to provide relief to the public during Ramadan, and the measures taken to maintain moderation in the prices of food items. The Chief Secretary directed that all resources should be used to provide relief to the common man, ensuring the supply of food items in the markets and strict checking of their quality and quantity, Magistrates should make the checking in the markets more effective on a daily basis. The Chief Secretary directed that strict implementation should be ensured by determining the proper design of daily use items while strict action should be taken against illegal profiteering.

All trade unions are valuable: Country Director ILO

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Country Director of International Labor Organization GEIR T TONSTOL said that the International Labor Organization is engaged in organizing for workers in Pakistan. The International Labor Organization will discuss issues like privatization with the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of



Defence. Various issues will be discussed by us so that the issues of workers can be resolved on priority basis. Railway is a public and national institution and all trade unions are valuable. The problems identified by all the union officials have to be worked on together.

He expressed these views during a special event. He was specially assisted by Sagheer Bukhari, Senior Program Manager. On this occasion, Central President of Railway Workers Union Junaid Awan, Central General Secretary Zafar Ijaz Malik, Deputy General Secretary Tahir Mehmood Bhatti, Central Secretary Broadcasting Mubarak Hussain, Member Executive Council Mola Bakhsh, Gul Hassan, Saeed Awan and Railway Workers Union Workshop. On behalf of the establishment, Inayat Gujjar Central Secretary Rana Masoom Chaudhry, Amir Amir Raza and Pakistan Mazdoor Mahas Central President Pakistan Mazdoor Etihad Chaudhary Shaukat Ali took special part.

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Pakistan urges justice for Palestinians

ighlighting the world's pressing challenges of conflict and war, poverty, inequality, religious intolerance, and climate change, Pakistan called for justice for Palestinians' suffering in war-ravaged Gaza. Speaking at a special ceremony held at the UN headquarters in New York to celebrate the International Day of Nowruz, Ambassador Munir Akram said Nowruz isn't just about celebration; it's a time for reflection.

"On this occasion, let's also pause to remember our brothers and sisters in Palestine, enduring ongoing tragedy and strife, as we strive for peace and justice for all, the Pakistani envoy added. The event was sponsored by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Referring to the essence of Nowruz as a symbol of nature's renewal and the resilience of the human spirit, he emphasized its importance as a moment for forgiveness, fresh beginnings, and embracing one another. Quoting the renowned Pakistani poet, Nasir Kazmi, Ambassador Akram his words captured the spirit of Nowruz, describing it as a festival of hope, joy, and blessings. He underscored the universal language of Nowruz, shared by diverse communities across Asia and Europe, uniting them through art, music, literature, and customs. In this regard, Ambassador Akram also quoted the Pakistan Prime Minister's message, extending greetings to those observing Nowruz.

The Prime Minister, in his message, highlighted Nowruz as an opportunity to promote cultural synergies, unity, and inclusivity, thanking the Nowruz observing communities for their contributions towards building a better Pakistan. Reflecting on Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, Ambassador Akram emphasized the deep-rooted connection between Nowruz and the ancient Indus Valley Civilization. He noted the significance of Nowruz, known as "Baharan" in Pakistan, particularly in regions like Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, where communities come together to celebrate.

Ambassador Akram stressed Pakistan's commitment to fostering peace, solidarity, and reconciliation through the celebration of Nowruz. By cherishing Nowruz as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Pakistan reaffirmed its dedication to promoting values that transcend differences and foster harmony within and beyond its borders. Ambassador Akram concluded with an excerpt from the poem "Nowruz" by renowned Pakistani poet, Parveen Shakir, encapsulating the anticipation and hope associated with the arrival of spring.

Donald Lu Extends US's full support to Shahbaz... - I

a subcommittee of the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Donald Lu (20th March, 2024) tacitly and implicitly endorsed the legitimacy of the current government, which assumed power amidst allegations of refusing to repatriate Shakeel Afridi, significant election rigging. Throughout his extensive testimony, he largely echoed the narratives put forth by the outgoing coalition government, interim government, and the newly sworn-in government of Shahbaz Sharif on various contentious issues. In doing so, he underscored the United States' commitment to supporting the newly installed government of Shahbaz Sharif in Pakistan, even when certain policy decisions may seem contrary to US interests.

During the hearing, Mr. Lu emphasized Pakistan's significance as an important country with abundant opportunities for US companies and multinationals to thrive. He refrained from using leverage through the IMF or trade with Pakistan to impose major policy decisions, instead suggesting that the US supported the IMF's positive review of Pakistan's program. This support has paved the way for the release of the last tranche of over one billion US dollars, expected to be disbursed to the State Bank of Pakistan soon. Furthermore, there are expectations that the US will assist Pakistan in negotiating a new agreement with the IMF once the current Stand-By Agree-

uring his testimony before ment expires next month.

Moreover, the testimony highlighted several contentious decisions made by Pakistan, notably its pursuit of completing the Iran-Pakistan pipeline, carrying out surgical strikes within Afghanistan, expelling illegal Afghan aliens, and

Bin Laden. Despite these concerns, the US remains predominantly focused on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Pakistan's deepening reliance on China. Particularly worrisome is the escalating debt associated with

CPEC projects, the mounting circular debt owed to Chinese companies for electricity, and Pakistan's steadfast commitment to proceeding with the completion of the Pakistan-Iran pipeline.

Donald Lu also implicitly expressed support for the role of the Pakistani armed forces, acknowledging their involvement in civilian matters and their participation in the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC). He commended the Pakistani armed forces for their significant contributions, highlighting their status as the sixth-largest armed forces globally and their extensive training alongside US generals over several decades. Lu underscored sion of Pakistan's role in adjudicating

in advancing US objectives, including assistance against the USSR, efforts in Afghanistan, and the eradication of global terrorist threats like Al-Qaeda, particularly in safeguarding US interests worldwide.

In his eloquent and impactful speech, who assisted the CIA in locating Osama
Lu effectively cautioned against under-

mining the Pakistani army and disregarding their concerns regarding Pakistan's Afghanistan policy, surgical strikes within Iran and Afghanistan, and the military-supported campaign to address illegal immigration within the country.

Donald Lu's testimony highlighted the US acceptance of the contentious election results in Pakistan, acknowledging the orderly conduct of the elections while expressing concern over incidents of pre- and post-election violence and disruptions to communication networks. Although allegations of widespread rigging during the vote counting process were acknowledged, the US opted not to exert pressure on the Pakistani government or state authorities to address these claims.

Furthermore, Lu's testimony echoed the narrative put forth by the PML(N) and PPP regarding the Election Commis-

the pivotal role of the Pakistan Army allegations of election rigging and ensuring justice for affected parties. However, the US refrained from endorsing specific actions to remedy these concerns, such as restoring access to blocked social media websites, including X, or ensuring freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and press freedom within Pakistan.

In response to a congressman's assertive questioning about allegations of widespread rigging and the imprisonment of PTI leadership and supporters, Donald Lu maintained a composed demeanor and emphasized the US stance of non-interference in the internal judicial processes of other countries. He reiterated that both governments would proceed according to established diplomatic protocols and practices, indicating that the US Ambassador may or not meet with the imprisoned PTI Chairman.

Regarding allegations of US involvement in regime change and the Cipher scandal. Lu denied any direct involvement and dismissed the Cipher allegations as baseless. He contradicted statements made by Pakistan's former DG-IS-PR, asserting that the Cipher was not a reality. While acknowledging the presence of service chiefs at the National Security Council meeting, he refrained from characterizing it as a conspiracy to overthrow the government, instead labeling it as blatant interference in Pakistan's internal affairs

To be continued



Significance of Pakistan Day Parade and Myths - II

urthermore, a strong miliand solidarity among citizens. Through rigorous training and discipline, the military cultivates values of leadership, teamwork, and resilience, lenges, the Army's steadfast vigilance molding individuals into accountable and readiness act as a deterrent against and contributive members of society. Additionally, the armed forces act stan's sovereignty. Through advanced as a melting pot of diversity, uniting training, cutting-edge weaponry, and individuals from various backgrounds and regions under a common commitment to national service. In times of hardship, the bonds and camaraderie differences of ethnicity, religion, and socio-economic status, uniting citizens From counterterrorism operations to in a shared resolve to

safeguard the nation's honor and integrity. On the interna-

tional stage, a robust military enhances a nation's prestige and influence, projecting strength and credibility in diplomatic negotiations and stra-

a nation's determination to protect its interests and uphold its obligations, fostering trust and cooperation among allies and partners. Furthermore, the tary-to-military exchanges and collab- national solidarity, pride, and resiloration, facilitating dialogue and confidence-building measures to mitigate initiatives, the Army actively engagtensions and promote regional stability. es with local communities, deliver-

As the vanguard of its duties, the ing vital services such as healthcare, tary fosters national unity Pakistan Army stands as the foreand cohesion, instilling a most guardian of the nation's territosense of pride, patriotism, rial integrity, ensuring the security of borders against external threats and aggression. With a history marked by regional conflicts and geopolitical chalany forces seeking to undermine Pakistrategic planning, the Army remains prepared to confront any adversities that may arise.

Moreover, the Pakistan Army plays fostered within the military transcend a pivotal role in preserving internal stability and peace within the country.

disaster relief endeavors, the Army takes the lead in combating internal threats and providing aid to those in need. Whether responding to natural calamities like earthquakes and floods or combating insurgent elements aiming to

tegic partnerships. A well-prepared destabilize the nation, the Army's swift and equipped military sends a clear and decisive actions demonstrate its message to the global community of commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of all citizens.

Beyond its core responsibilities in defense and security, the Pakistan Army is deeply embedded in the military serves as a platform for mili-societal fabric, serving as a symbol of ience. Through extensive outreach

education, and infrastructure development in remote and underserved areas. Furthermore, the Army's involvement in nation-building initiatives and social welfare programs underscores its dedication to improving the lives of ordinary Pakistanis and advancing inclusivity and equality across all sectors of society. Beyond its domestic contributions, the Pakistan Army plays a pivotal role in shaping the country's foreign policy and strategic partnerships on the global stage. With a proud history of engaging in peacekeeping missions and international collaborations, the Army has garnered widespread recognition and admiration for its professionalism, integrity, and commitment to promoting global peace and stability. As a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan actively engages in multilateral forums and initiatives aimed at addressing global challenges such as terrorism, extremism, and climate change, with the Pakistan Army playing a crucial role in supporting these endeavors.

Among the myriad events and festivities marking Pakistan Day on March 23rd each year, the Pakistan Day Parade stands out as a spectacular showcase of the nation's military strength, cultural heritage, and unity.

Held in the capital city of Islamabad, the Pakistan Day Parade is a visual extravaganza that pays homage to the resilience and sacrifices of the Pakistani people in their pursuit of independence and sovereignty. At its core, the parade features an impressive display of military prowess, with contingents

Dillydallying & Shillyshallying **Must Stop Now**

S. U. Choudhry

ruth does prevail in the end. Whatever mishmash & criminal devilry is committed does come to fore and has to end. Enough damage to the State standing of Pakistan has been caused. "Enough is Enough". Political devastation must

The US Congress Session, 20th March, in its 'grand finale verdict' about the "Cypher-Conspiracy" to oust an ex-PM, as alleged by the ECP-disqualified Party, has termed it as a complete falsehood and dismissed it as null & void. It is a slap on that Party's defunct leadership. But, worse still, it caused a big dent on Pakistan's image because of the Machiavellian role played by the premeditated 'plan' hatched by that so-called "cult-mesmerizer" and hell-bent, social-media-exploiting 'wizard'. Apart from so many criminal offences, the hapless cricketer-turned politician - with total immaturity personified - committed the topmost, heinous 'cypher' crime, wellnigh a treachery, which makes him guilty under the Law for capital punishment.

It is inconceivable how the State, Establishment & concerned Governments of the time remained apathetic to all kinds of the 'Opposition' derelictions despite rulings of Higher Court and in NAB cases. Over the past ten years particularly since IKN's constitutional overthrow in April 2022 - the State & Govt. were like sitting ducks. People simply watched in awe & horror how they proved to be impotent mostly procrasti-

nating and even often shilly shallying. The worst scenario in this respect came about after the 9th May 2023 Party-workers' iihadi-style militant rowdiness and the military establishment declaring stern action to court-martial the guilty lot. Alas, time passed with "to do or not to do" paradox and other than periodic cudgeling and some semblance of arrests & convictions, there was No serious action on convictions. And the 'youthia' at the behest of hardline deranged Party workers kept getting boosted and emboldened causing so many law & order situations and massive fake social media outbursts. Common people got disillusioned with all kinds of political antics leading to uncertainties and economic instability, especially since the 8th March General Elections in which the disbanded symbol-less Party created yet another stunt of unlawful inclusion of their 'Independents' in a non-registered, religious entity.

Suggested here that she may reconsider introducing Chinese convertible electro-pedal green bicycles, free of fossil fuel, and control of carbon-emission, and costing much less, for children, youth & seniors, in cycling outdoors to keep happy & healthy. Expectedly, as desired by the people & workers, Nawaz Sharif will soon become the Life-long Chairman of the Party and get fully involved in politics, development sector and major projects & novel programs.

All said, now is the time – especially after the US Congress' 'truth' submission - to ban PTI and disqualify & jail that mindless & unpatriotic IKN for good who deceitfully caused so much of damage to the country and so much of shame to its people.

Dillydallying or shilly-shallying on this action will no more be acceptable to the Nation.

As PM Mian Shehbaz Sharif moves speedily, the Parliament may have to act now to pass a resolution about the fate

Further, frugality being PM's priority, stringent 'Austerity Measures' as adopted for strict compliance, will need to be supported and adapted by all & sundry also. And, surely, the policy decision for a new Five-year Economic Plan, already announced, will take the country out of morass of extravagance into an expected era of progress & prosperity.

Here, it is suggested that - for the creation of a 'State bank/capital of Inflation Subsidies' to help the middle class and the lower middle class - a well-conceived 'Public Endowment Fund' be established with injection of maximal monetary contributions by business tycoons, rich landlords & philanthropists, and the heavy weights in the Corporate Sector, with the President & PM taking the lead, that would include attractive tax-remission packages. In conclusion, let's say, it is time dillydallying & shillyshallying mindset be wrapped up.

And, let's shun polarization to unite and let's shed despise to move forward. Let's be friendly, let's bear no malice like our Chinese comrades profess and as Mian Shehbaz Sharif propounds - to hope not despair and bring about prosperity, peace & harmony in our belov-

-The author is a former UN Peace-keeping Officer, Founding CPCD Chairman, and a Peace, Climate-Change & Human Rights

Strengthening cooperation

Ethiopian Airlines getting overwhelming response in Pakistan: envoy

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia played by Ethiopia in "Look Africa in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on Thursday visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and had a detailed discussion the two countries.

ambassador was accorded warm the Ambassador noted. welcome by the Islamabad Chamber's President H. E. Ahsan Zafar boost people-to-people and busiof the chamber.

Both sides discussed matters of

ful initiatives for fostering business ness delegation to Ethiopia and faciland trade connections between the two countries

On the occasion, the Ambassador highlighted the critical role being and Engage Africa" policy by starting the Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi.

"The Ethiopian Airlines in Pakiwith its leadership on strengthening stan is getting an overwhelming year in May. cooperation between trade bodies of response and now we are working towards expansion of its operations Upon his arrival at the ICCI, the to Islamabad and Lahore as well,"

He said steps were being taken to Bakhtawari and other office bearers ness-to-business relation between

mutual interest including the need- have taken over 75-member busi-

itated arrival of 50-member trade delegation from Ethiopia in Pakistan," he said, adding the mainstay of the Ethiopian Embassy's endeavours was economic diplomacy that would ultimately connect the people of two countries at grassroots level.

He also announced to take another trade delegation to Ethiopia this

Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari lauded the Ambassador's role in bringing the people of two nations close and called for the joint efforts to further strengthen the trade ties between the two countries.

He assured the Ambassador of all-out support in mobilizing anoth-"In the last one and half years, we er trade delegation to Ethiopia this



Pak-U. S. Relations

ISSI hosts roundtable discussion with **Ambassador Donald Blome**

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a Round Table discussion with H. E. Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, on "Pakistan-U. S. Relations in the Context of Regional and Global Developments. Other participants included former Ambassadors and diplomats, heads of think tanks, academics, practitioners, and area

In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood recalled the past patterns of the relationship and dilated on its current dynamics. He noted that the Pakistan-U. S. relationship has been largely influenced by external circumstances, encompassing regional and global developments. The thrust of bilateral cooperation has now shifted from security to a wider range of areas, reflecting changing priori-



includes trade, investment, energy, IT, environment, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Ambassador Blome in his remarks highlighted the importance of establishing robust ties to strengthen the relationship even further. He emphaties. While counter-terrorism remains sized that economic development is important, the greater focus now the cornerstone of Pakistan-U.S. rela-

tions with a renewed focus on groundwork to bolster ties and collaborate ty in South Asia; conflict in Europe effectively towards fostering enhanced peace, prosperity, and regional stabil-

Following the talk, participants engaged in an interactive discussion that focused on a range of subjects including the situation in Afghanistan; followed by a group photo.

peace, security and strategic stabiliand the Middle East; developments in Asia-Pacific; and maritime security.

In the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of the Board of Governors, ISSI presented the Institute's memento to the Keynote Speaker

Foreign Minister meets his Turkish counterpart on the sidelines of Nuclear **Energy Summit 2024**

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: On the Margins of Nuclear Energy Summit, the Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar met his Turkish counterpart Foreign Minister Fidan Hakan.

Turkish Foreign Minister conveyed felicitations on behalf of the President of Türkiye to the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on successful elec-

The two Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the upwards trajectory of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkiye. They expressed their resolve to increase the bilateral trade to US \$ 5 billion mark as per vision of the leadership of two countries. They also agreed to further enhance defence and strategic cooperation as well as cooperation in civil aviation to further increase flight connections.



Foreign Minister Dar reiterated Pakistan's readiness to share experi-

ence and expertise in nuclear energy and applications.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar appreciated Turkish Foreign Minister for Turkiye's principled stance on Jammu and Kashmir and its unflinching support for the oppressed people of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The two Ministers also discussed humanitarian crisis in Gaza and reaffirmed unflinching support to the people of Palestine.

The Turkish Foreign Minister highlighted that the two countries have immense potential given their strategic and geographic locations and underlined the importance of synchronising their actions and policies for cooperation at global and regional level.

Foreign Minister Dar extended invitation to visit Pakistan to his Turkish counterpart which he gladly accepted.

CareTech Foundation UK launches Pakistan Special Education Initiative

ISLAMABAD: A UK-based organization has launched the Pakistan Special Education Initiative (PSEI) to support children with disabilities in accessing quality mainstream education and achieving important life milestones.

PSEI, native to the UK's Education, Health, and Care Plan, aims to develop a screening system, provide resources for teachers to support students with special needs better, establish quality standards and training for school staff, and design a tailored Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) curricu-

Founded and funded by the Care-Tech Foundation, PSEI addresses the significant challenge in Pakistan, where an estimated 1 in 4 people face mental health or disability-re-



35, there's a growing need for With 60% of Pakistanis under mental health and SEND support

Currently, many schools lack the expertise to properly support students with disabilities appropriately, leading to limited admissions and insufficient support. Partnering with CareTech Holdings Ltd., a leading social care provider in the UK and Middle East, PSEI has initially engaged five Pakistani schools to collaborate with five UK schools, facilitating knowledge exchange and access to specialist training

CEO Jonathan Freeman, MBE, emphasizes the Initiative's transformative potential and calls for local support to ensure its success. With an initial focus on five schools, PSEI plans to scale its efforts annually, involving specialist partners and engaging the Federal Government of Pakistan to adopt its educational framework.

$An\,Interactive\,Ambassador$ Diplomacy between Iran and Pakistan

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: IR. Pakistan Ambassador to Iran, H. E. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu writes on X "I joined the festive celebrations of Nowruz by visiting the imposing Azadi Square in Tehran. The spirit of the Irani people was full of hope and joy marking this iconic occasion at the Square. The beautiful spring with shining sunlight made the experience worth remembering.

IR. Iran ambassador to Pakistan, H. E. Reza Amiri Moghadam, writes in response:

very blessed and joyous spring in Tehran.

That's great to see my dear brother H. E. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu attired In the gorgeous national Pakistani garment On the occasion of Nowruz At the Azadi Square In Tehran. Wishing you and your colleagues at the embassy of I. R Pakistan a

World Oral Health Day awareness Seminar, Walk held in DH2 Hospital



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Hospital Administration in celebration of World Oral Health Day, an awareness seminar and walk were organized at the District Headquarters Hospital in Wana, South Waziristan.

The event aimed to educate participants about the significance of oral health care and promote awareness regarding the spread of infections during dental procedures.

The event commenced with Assistant Commissioner Wana, Faisal Ismail, serving as the chief guest, emphasizing the importance of World Oral Health Day in his address. He highlighted the critical role of oral health in overall well-being and encouraged participants to prioritize dental hygiene practices

Dr. Asif Kamal, a dental surgeon, delivered a comprehensive presentation on oral health care, shedding light on preventive measures and proper dental hygiene techniques. Additionally, Dr. Inayat Ullah, the Infection Control Officer, briefed the audience on the spread of infections during dental procedures, emphasizing the importance of stringent infection control protocols

Dr. Hammad Mahmood, the Medical Superintendent and Health Manager of DHQ Hospital Wana, presented the annual performance report of 2023, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement in healthcare services.

Rahmat Ullah, President of Wana Welfare Association, also addressed the seminar, emphasizing the role of community involvement in promoting oral health awareness and encouraging proactive healthcare practices.

RCCI Massive tree plantation at Potohar Triangle: Vision Green Punjab Initiative 2024-27

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has launched a largescale plantation and clean-up campaign to build a green belt around Potohar Triangle, Soan Bridge



and along the banks of Nallah Lai. The title of the drive is Plant for

RCCI President and Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Amir Khattak, Director AIC, Brigadier Ejaz Qamar Kiani, and Chief Conservator Forests Department Sh. Saqib Mahmood, Vice President Faisal Shahzad and EC Members launched the drive by planting trees at the green belt and banks of Nallah Lai.

Earlier, President and Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq visited Missa Keswal near Gujarkhan and participated in the plantation drive. Deputy Commissioner Gujarkhan, Mian Murad Hussain, representatives from the Forest Department, Forest officer Muhammad Waqas Butt, Education Department and notables were also present on the occasion.

Under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, Green Punjab Initiative 2024-27, RCCI in collaboration with the Forest Department, and Schools has started a large-scale plantation campaign in Rawalpindi. The plantation and cleanliness drive aimed to build green belt around this area to increase the scenery of the city. President Chamber and Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq, giving details, said that the project will not only beautify the city but will add to the environment

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
65,417.40	65,731.79	
Day's High	Day's Low	
66,196.23	65,326.01	
Index Value	Change	
8,366,225,193	-314.39	
Percentage	Time	
-0.48%	21 Mar, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
7,882.55	+145.17	
Percentage	Time	
+1.88%	21 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,848.59	+336.46	
Percentage	Time	
+0.85%	21 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	
	1	

Percentage	Tim	e
+2.03%	21 Mar, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Duving	Colling

+812.06

40,815.66

Open Market	i olex i	Nates
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.7	184.5
Bahrain Dinar	740.92	748.92
Canadian Dollar	204	206.2
China Yuan	38.74	39.14
Danish Krone	40.58	40.98
Euro	301.45	304.45
Hong Kong Dollar	35.63	35.98
Indian Rupee	3.36	3.47
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.92	915.92
Malaysian Ringgit	59.25	59.85
NewZealand \$	168.56	170.56
Norwegians Krone	26.19	26.49
Omani Riyal	724.36	732.36
Qatari Riyal	76.57	77.27
Saudi Riyal	73.8	74.5
Singapore Dollar	206	208
Swedish Korona	26.89	27.19
Swiss Franc	313.78	316.28
Thai Bhat	7.76	7.91
U.A.E Dirham	75.55	76.3
UK Pound Sterling	353.5	357
US Dollar	278.3	281.05

SECP holds industry meeting-cumwebinar on Risk Based Capital Regime for Insurance Sector

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a session for the insurance industry participants to provide an overview of the Risk Based Capital (RBC) Regime and walk-through of the recently disseminated RBC templates.

The meeting was attended by the CEOs, finance and risk professionals of insurance industry. The webinar was attended online by actuarial representatives and accounting experts from the Pakistan Society of Actuaries and the Institute of Chartered Account-

Mr. Aamir Khan - Commissioner Insurance, apprised the participants of the importance of alignment of currently applicable solvency regime with the international standards. He informed that with the adoption of a more risk-based approach to capital and solvency requirement in the region and internationally, Pakistan is now being seen as an outlier by global insurance industry. As part of the strategic plan, he expressed his intent in leveraging the alignment of valuation of insurance liabilities. the financial reporting under IFRS 17 and the RBC regime, which are the key priority areas of five-year strategic plan.

Mr. Falak S. H. Soomro, Advisor Insurance at SECP, provided an overview of the RBC implementation journey, including the development of the concept paper in December 2022 and the RBC template shared with the industry for data analysis. Falak informed participants that the RBC template is to assist the companies in evaluating their risk exposures, conduct risk-based capital requirements analysis (commonly referred to as Quantitative Impact Study), and complete model-validation process. The session was characterized by questions and observations of the industry where Mr. Soomro, alongside professionals and participants deliberated on the RBC regime, the templates and the way forward. Mr. Aamir Khan requested the participants to play a collaborative role in the successful implementation of RBC regime in Pakistan and asked participants to share questions related to RBC template for onward circulation of FAQs as mutual efforts.

President of Belarus will soon visit Pakistan: Andrei METELITSA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan, Andrei METELITSA has said that the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko will soon visit Pakistan during which both the countries will ink several trade and economic agreements to strengthen the existing partnership.

He said that the existing bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Belarus is \$60 million, while the actual potential is much more than that.

The Ambassador said this while talking at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) at the invitation of President ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawri.

He said that Belarus is exporting heavy machinery along with Fertilizers, Agriculture equipment, Synthetic Filament Tow, Chemicals, malt extract etc. to Pakistan whereas importing textiles, rice, Citrus, leather apparel, leather footwear and medical instru-

The envoy went on to say that he be ready to cooperate with Islamabad



role in promotion of ties among the countries and that his Embassy will

is well aware of the fact that Cham- Chamber of Commerce and Industry abad Chamber of Commerce and ber Houses always play an important in identifying Belarusian and Pakistani businessmen with a coinciding interest and connectivity.

On this occasion, President Islam- Pakistan's Free Trade Agreement is present in the meeting.

Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Belarus is an important country of Eastern Europe with which

inevitable and that exchange of business delegations is needed to explore the untapped potential of both the countries.

He said that in this regard, he will take the initiative to lead a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to Belarus.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of United Business Group, Zafar Bakhtawari and Chairman Founder Group, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Khalid Iqbal Malik, while discussing the nature and strength of economic relations between Pakistan and Belarus, said that private sectors of both the countries will have to come forward to strengthen trade ties.

ICCI executive and representative of Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jurabek Kirgizbekov also shared his experiences for the needy.

Chairman ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik and Executive members Sheikh Mohammad Ejaz, Ch. Maqsood Tabish, Akhtar Hussain were also

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb was called on by Mr. Young Ye, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday.



Zong 4G empowers users with all-new **Notify-Me Service**

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading mobile network operator, is revolutionizing communication with the launch of its innovative Notify-Me service. This user-friendly service eliminates the frustration of unanswered calls due to an unavailable recipient.

With the Notify-Me service, Zong 4G subscribers (callers) can finally know when the person they're trying to reach (callee) is back on the network. Whether the callee was Struggling with a weak signal or roaming outside Zong 4G's coverage area. Notify-Me Service will alert the caller when the callee returns to an active network zone.

A NEW DREAM

With your unanswered calls because the callee's phone was powered off, Notify-Me Service will send a notification to the caller as soon as the callee's phone is powered on, ensuring you can reconnect seamlessly.

"Zong 4G is committed to providing innovative solutions that enhance the communication experience for our valued customers," said a Zong 4G Representative, "Notify-Me empowers users to stay connected and eliminates the worries of unanswered calls due to an unavailable recipient."

RENOvator's Gala: OPPO Unveils Reno11 Series in Pakistan

PAKISTAN: OPPO, the global leader in smart devices, proudly launches its highend series the OPPO Reno11 Series 5G with pre-orders for the OPPO Reno11 F 5G starting March 20th, 2024. The Reno 11 Series Grand Launch Event, held in Lahore, showcased the culmination of innovation with the participation of OPPO Pakistan's esteemed brand ambassador, Fawad Khan, alongside key technology influencers, media representatives, and OPPO executives, marking the highly anticipated arrival of the Reno11 Series 5G.

The event was a captivating showcase of innovation under the theme "RENOvator is Back," as Fawad Khan unveiled the durability booth, where attendees witnessed



latest addition to the OPPO family. Guests were treated to an immersive experience, exploring the device's stunning features and witnessing firsthand its exceptional

One of the standout attractions was the

the device's robustness under real-world conditions. In this booth, a device was subjected to a continuous shower of water, showcasing the Reno11 Series' impressive IP65 splash resistance. This demonstration underscored OPPO's commitment to delivering devices that can withstand the rigors of daily use, ensuring durability and

reliability for users in any environment. Priced at an introductory rate of PKR 79,999 for Reno11 F 5G & PKR 129,999 for Reno11 5G, the Reno series sets a new benchmark for smartphone excellence in the Pakistani market. Its sleek design, complemented by advanced technology, positions it as the premier choice for consumers seeking a premium mobile experience.

Pakistan Engineering Council and Institution of Engineers Pakistan WRDC, highlighted the

ISLAMABAD: UN Water organizes the "World Water Day" every year on 22 March under a specific theme. This year's theme is "Water for Peace," focusing significance of water towards stability and prosperity of the mankind. In this regard, PEC observed the World Water Day wherein IEP also joined the discussion focusing water for peace to realize the significance of water challenges and promote awareness in Pakistan towards sustainable and equitable sharing of water and conservation among the communities within and transborder peace and harmony. PEC Think Tank on Water deliberated for enhancing climate-resilient water & food security and resolution of provincial and transboundary water governance related issues. Engr. Dr. Syed Raghib

policy level contribution of PEC in developing and sharing technical reports, policy recommendations for the government on groundwater and flood management, water conservation strategies, rainwater harvesting code for resilient future against the climate change addressing the rural and urban flood disasters to minimize climate change impacts. While observing this important UN theme, the Convener WRDC highly appreciated the PEC leadership Engr. Muhammad Najeeb Haroon, Chairman PEC, Engr. Syed Abdull Qadir Shah, Convener PEC Think Tank, Engr. Abdur Rab, Chairman IEP (Islamabad Centre), members WRDC, and Engr. Dr. Nasir M. Khan, Secretary/ Registrar PEC for their vibrant and active role to accomplish the entire work done by the Abbas Shah, Convener Council.

easypaisa and Unilever's **Knorr Join Hands** to Transform Digital **Payments Landscape**

№ PPA

LAHORE: In a landmark collaboration, easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform, and Knorr, Unilever's biggest food brand, have joined forces to revolutionize the digital payments landscape.

This strategic partnership represents a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to modernize and streamline the value chain for sampling initiatives, marking a significant step forward in leveraging create a digital ecosystem that benetechnology to enhance convenience, accessibility, and affordability in digital payments.

By combining the strengths of easypaisa's robust digital payment platform with Knorr's renowned brand presence, both organizations are poised to deliver unparalleled value to customers across Pakistan. The initiative is currently being executed in 20 marketplaces across 14 cities, including Karachi, Lahore, and Data, Unilever Pakistan.

Islamabad, and Faisalabad.

We are excited to partner with Knorr (Unilever) in this pioneering initiative," said Hani Haider, Head of Growth and Analytics at easypaisa & TMB. "This collaboration underscores our shared commitment to harnessing the power of collaboration and technology to drive innovation and create exceptional customer experiences. By combining our expertise, we are confident in our ability to set new industry benchmarks and fits all Pakistanis.

"We are equally excited to partner with easypaisa, this is the future fit partnership for our brand Knorr. easypaisa will help us unlock the masses across the key Knorr towns and also help us build long-term relationships with our consumers. Knorr & easypaisa have set the new benchmark for the industry," commented, Javed Jafri, Head of Media, Digital,

CCP Greenlights Merger between TPL Life Insurance and Dar Es Salam Textile Mills

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the merger of M/s TPL Life Insurance Limited with M/s Dar Es Salam Textile Mills Limited. The approval comes following the parties' agreement into a Scheme of Arrangement under the Companies Act, 2017.

This cross-sectoral merger is a positive development for the Pakistani insurance industry, showcas ing growth and consolidation. TPL Life Insurance Limited offers a range of services in life insurance, reinsurance, counter-reinsurance, and various guarantee and indemnity businesses. They offer products which include insurance related to endowment, pension funds, and transit, among others.

Dar Es Salam Textile Mills Limited, incorporated as a public unlisted company in 1989, initially focused on manufacturing and selling yarn. However, the company ceased its textile operations in 2014 and has since been engaged in general trading activ-

CCP's thorough analysis determined that the proposed merger would not lead to dominance in the relevant market, as defined under the Competition Act, 2010, post-transaction. As a result, the merger earned swift approval from the Commission.

This approval reflects CCP's commitment to ensuring healthy competition in the market while facilitating business growth and innovation.

Step taken to curb the menace of spurious drugs from the market ous/falsified drugs by direct-

ISLAMABAD: The Policy Board of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan held its 51st meeting in Islamabad, chaired by the Federal Secretary of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination. The meeting was attended by expert members of the Board, Chief Executive Officer of DRAP and Directors of various Divisions of DRAP.

The Policy Board has taken a decisive step towards the provision of quality medicines and eradication of spuri-

ing all the pharmaceutical companies to print barcodes on the packaging of all local and imported pharmaceutical and biological drugs for human use within one month from today.

The Board also directed DRAP to closely monitor the compliance and take all the measures including legal actions to ensure the compliance. This initiative aligns with global practices and standards, emphasizing the importance of robust supply chain management in the pharmaceutical industry.

Women cricketer Javeria Khan announces retirement from international cricket: PCB

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Javeria Khan has announced her retirement from international cricket 15 years after making her ODI debut in Kurunegala, Sri Lanka in a Women's Asia Cup fixture against Sri Lanka on 6 May 2008. The right-handed batter made her T20I debut against Ireland in Dublin in 2009.

Javeria went on to represent Pakistan women's team in 228 international matches and scored 4,903 runs, which included two centuries and 25 half-centuries. She also bagged 28 international wickets.

Javeria is currently listed as the second leading run scorer in ODIs and T20Is for the Pakistan women's team and is the only women's cricketer from Pakistan to have scored over 2,000 runs

and 2022) and in all eight T20 World Cups (2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2023) held since its inception.

Javeria was also part of the Pakistan women's team squad that won Gold medal in the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games held in China and South Korea. respectively.

Javeria also captained Pakistan women's team in 17 ODIs and 16 T20Is. Among the 16 T20Is, she captained the side in two editions (2018 and 2020) of ICC Women's T20 World Cups.

The 35-year-old Karachi born player also participated in the PCB Level 2 Cricket Coach course held in August last vear in Lahore.

Javeria Khan said: I want to call it a day and announce my retirement, however, I will be available for league in each format besides Bismah Maroof. cricket. I am grateful to the unwavering She represented Pakistan in four support I received throughout my career. 50-over World Cups (2009, 2013, 2017 I want to thank my family, teammates,



the Pakistan Cricket Board, my depart-

ment ZTBL for their support and guidance at each step, and my fans whose appreciation was instrumental in bringing out the best in me.

I have been blessed to hold Pakistan's flag globally.

Head of Women's Cricket, Tania Mallick said: "On behalf of the PCB and all cricket fans, I extend heartfelt gratitude to Javeria Khan for her invaluable contributions to women's cricket in

Her glittering records with the bat speak for themselves and I am confident that her illustrious career will inspire many girls in the country to not just take up this sport but also excel at it across many years.

As Javeria announces her retirement, we reflect on her remarkable career and services she has rendered for Pakistan cricket. We thank her for her untiring commitment and wish her all the success

Japan earn scrappy win over North Korea in World Cup Qualifier

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ao Tanaka's goal after two minutes gave Japan a nervy 1-0 win over a spirited North Korea in a FIFA World Cup Qualifier in Tokyo on Thursday.

Unmarked in the centre of the box, Tanaka beat exposed goalkeeper Kang Ju Hyok and put Japan a step closer to the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Japan have three wins from three in their group and are firmly on course to reach the next stage of the FIFA World Cup Qualifier.

Japan and North Korea are scheduled to meet again on Tuesday in Pyongyang.

Japanese news agency Kyodo reported however that North Korea may not host the qualifier after all over fears of bacterial infections in Japan.

Thursday's victory was an unconvincing but welcome return to winning ways for Japan after a disappointing Asian Cup, where they went out 2-1 in the quarter-finals to Iran.



"It was a difficult match and I kind of feel we made it difficult for ourselves. But winning is what matters the most in the end," Tanaka said.

Soon after taking the lead Daizen Maeda shot wide as Japan threatened to run riot. Hidemasa Morita and Ritsu faces painted. Doan also had chances for the hosts.

North Korea were much livelier in the second half.

They were cheered on by a contingent of supporters from Japan's 300,000-strong ethnic Korean to their fans. community, waving flags and with their

Han Kwang Song's left-footed shot hit the post before Jong Il Gwan slot-ted the ricochet into the net, but he was ruled offside.

The visitors also had chances through Ri Il Song's header and soon afterwards a long-distance shot by

Japan had late opportunities through Ayase Ueda, Tanaka and others to put the game to bed.

Coach Hajime Moriyasu defended Japan's patchy performance, saying the players showed "persistence till the very

end despite difficult circumstances". "We were able to win today because our players did their best to live up to the expectations of supporters here and behind the TV screen," Moriyasu said.

North Korean coach Sin Yong Nam, whose side has three points from three matches in the second round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifier, apologised

"We wanted to bring good results for our compatriots but we couldn't, Follow us on our Official WhatsApp and for that, we're very sorry," he said.

Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan unpicked at The Hundred draft

A Sports

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Babar Azam and wicketkeeper batter Mohammad Rizwan failed to attract any team during The Hundred draft for the 2024 season on Wednesday.

Azam and Rizwan were among the late additions to The Hundred draft along with Pakistan's T20I captain Shaheen Afridi, however, only Afridi managed to secure a deal during the event.

Eight teams competing completed their squads for the upcoming fourth edition of The Hundred - England's first-ofits-sort league - after a breathless day of drafting.

registered themselves for The



Pace sensation Naseem Shah of £125,000.

Earlier this month, more Hundred 2024 Draft, however, was roped in by Birmingham than 65 Pakistan players only three players were picked. Phoenix for the highest price

WhatsApp channel

Afridi for £100,000, who also played for the team in the previous edition of The Hundred.

Imad Wasim, the star all-rounder who played a key role in Islamabad United's victory in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9, was once again picked by Trent Rockets for £100,000.

Leg-spinner Usama Mir was retained by Manchester Originals while Welsh Fire retained right-arm speedster Haris

Shadab Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Hasan Ali and Mohammad Amir also remained unsold as no franchise showed interest in them.

The eight-team tournament will kick off at The Oval on July 23 with the high-octane clash between Oval Invincibles and Welsh Fire selected Shaheen Birmingham Pheonix.

Pakistan humbled by Jordan in FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan men's football team on Thursday, succumbed to a 3-0 defeat against Jordan in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers here at the Jinnah

Jordan's star player Musa Al-Taamari struck twice while Ali Olwan chipped in with a goal during the important match against Pakistan.

The Asian Cup finalists had a flying start to the game as their key player Al-Taamari scored a brace within the first 10 minutes.

It appeared that Jordan would keep on piling the goals against the hosts but Pakistan's defence displayed character and remained steady to avoid a thrash-

Notably, it was the straight third defeat of Pakistan in the ongoing second round of the Asian qualifiers.



Pakistan, who are yet to taste a at the bottom in the Group G of the Asian

triumph in the second round, remained Qualifiers while Jordan are in third place

with four points. Pakistan will now travel to Jordan for

the away fixture on March 26 this month. It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan now need to win all their remaining three games, which includes two matches against Saudi Arabia and one against Tajikistan, in order to remain in the hunt for the FIFA World Cup.

Pakistan squad for FIFA World Cup

Goalkeepers: Yousuf Butt, Saqib

Hanif, Abdul Basit and Hassan Ali. Defenders: Easah Suliman, Abdullah Iqbal, Mamoon Musa, Haseeb Khan, Mohammad Saddam, Mohammad Sohail, Omer Rao, Mohammad Fazal and Mohammad Adeel.

Midfielders: Rahis Nabi, Harun Hamid, Alamgir Ghazi, Rajab Ali, Ali zair, Shayek Dost and Abdul Samad. Forwards: FareedUllah, Waleed Khan,

Imran Kayani and Adeel Younis.

Election of Shehla Raza as President Hockey Federation

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Tayyab Chatha, President Pakistan Peoples Party Sports Wing Punjab has welcomed the election of Ms Shehla Raza as President Pakistan Hockey Federation. In a statement Mr. Tayvab Chatha hailed this development as good omen for Pakistani hockey that is declining rapidly in world ranking. He said that Hockey has been pride of Pakistan in which the country won many world level titles in the past but in last few years this national game has been neglected by the authorities. That is why the players lost their hearts and new talent could not emerge. Tayyab Chatha expressed hope that Ms Shehla Raza will work day and night for restoration of hockey in Pakistan.

Nasira Kafeel elected president of Punjab Targetball Association

The office-bearers of Punjab Targetball Association (PTA) were elected unopposed for the next four-year period at a meeting held in the provincial capital Lahore on Thursday.

Nasira Kafeel was elected as president, Mian Atiqur Rahman as chairman, M Akram as general secretary, Hira Javed as treasurer and Arslan Ali Tariq as senior vice-president were elected.

Qamar Hafeez (Ahmedpur Sharqia), Asghar Ali (Faisalabad), Naeem Shaukat (Okara) and Raja Zeeshan (Lahore) were elected vice-presidents while Abdullah Mughal, M Nawaz Urmi (Gujranwala) and M Qaiser were elected Associate Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Information Secretary respectively.

The members of the selection committee include Hamza Malik, Faisal Khan (Bahawalpur), M Usman, Rana Kefiatullah, Jamshed Fareed Tipu and Moeen Ahmed. The ladies members include Nazia (Bahawalnagar), Anam Pervez (Lahore), Kainat Akbar, Abida Changez, Samina, Maleeha and Muneeba.

Jordan outplayed Pakistan in World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match by 3-0



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jordan outplayed Pakistan by 3-0 in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers match here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Thursday. Jordan's ace player Mousa Al Tamari scored two goals while his country mate Ali Olwan posted a goal in the game.

At the start of the first half, Tamari hit an early goal in the 2nd minute of the game. Tamari, on a pass from Al-Mardi, shot high into the air, leaving no chance of defense, thus opening the account for Jordan. It was just seven minutes passed when Jordan won a penalty and Ali Olwan hit it high into the air to extend the lead by 2-0 in the 9th minute of the first half. Jordan was up against Pakistan with 2-0 at the end of the first half As time passed by into the second half Pakistani players tried with all their might to score goals but unfortunately went unlucky and it was once again Tamari who received a pass from Al Naimat and hit the ball high into the net for Jordan's third goal in the 86th minute. Pakistan team goalkeeper Yousaf Ijaz Butt performed top notch during the match and saved many 'sure goals' including a penalty. Jordan's Musa Al-Altmari was declared player of the match. Jordan were in third place with four points in Group G of the Asian qualifiers while Pakistan was at the bottom after losing all their three games. Pakistan would now travel to Jordan for the away fixture on March 26. The Shaheens need to win their remaining three games, which includes matches against Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan, in order to remain in the hunt for the World Cup. It may be mentioned that Jordan football team visited Pakistan after a gap of 18 years as they last toured in 2006.

The second match between Pakistan and Jordan will be played in Jordan on March 26

SLC denies exploiting loopholes to save Hasaranga for T20 World Cup

A Sports



LAHORE: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has denied exploiting technical loopholes to save star all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga from missing ICC T20 World Cup 2024 matches later this

Hasaranga on Tuesday, came out of Test retirement after the third ODI against Bangladesh and was subsequently named in the Sri Lanka squad for the Test series against the same

However, he was slapped by the International Cricket Council (ICC) with a two-match ban for breaching ICC's Code of Conduct during the third ODI, ruling him out of the Test series, scheduled to commence on March 22.

He received a 50 per cent fine and accumulated three demerit points for his offence, which brought his total demerit points to eight in 24 months.

The all-rounder was already on five demerit points after receiving three demerit points in the third T20I against Afghanistan in Dambulla last month.

Now, with the addition of the latest demerit points, he has breached the threshold of eight demerit points, which, according to article 7.6 of the Code, have been converted into four suspension points.

The four suspension points equate to a ban from two Tests or four ODIs or T20Is, whatever comes first.

Hasaranga was named in Sri Lanka's Test squad after coming out of retirement. As a result, he was banned from two Test matches but would have otherwise missed four T20Is in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024.

This raised eyebrows among the cricket circles about Hasaranga taking his retirement back to avoid missing games in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024.

SLC clarified that the all-rounder had expressed his desire to return to Test cricket before the third ODI against Bangladesh through an email on 16 March, owing to his improved fitness.

The Spokesman

Apex Committee meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs special session of the Apex Committee of Special Invest-



Special Apex Committee briefed about SIFC

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: The Special Apex Committee was Thursday briefed about the Special Facilitation Investment Council (SIFC) initiative and major contributions made by privatization and overall micro-economic stabilisation of the country.

Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) convened the Special Apex Committee Meeting here.

er Prime Minister Anwaar Ul Haq Kakar, Chief of the Army Staff, members of outgoing and incoming Federal Cabinet and Provincial Chief Ministers besides, high level government officials. The meeting was conducted with a singular focus of briefing the Cabinet in the presence of the Caretaker Cabinet, marking a also vowed to ensure continuahistoric moment of seamless

It was chaired by Prime the leadership of Prime Minis- correct economic priorities.

Minister Shehbaz Sharif and ter Shehbaz Sharif for envi- The former Caretaker Prime attended by former Caretak-sioning and launching the SIFC in June 2023, which has now moved from its formative phase and evolved progressively under the Caretaker Government. The committee underscored the need of continuing a consensual approach under SIFC to navigate the myriad of challenges being faced by the Country. The Committee tion of policies and take tough decisions in the larger inter-The Committee admired est of the country by setting ensured the provision of safe,

Minister congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Cabinet and Chief Ministers on assuming their responsibilities and wished good luck for dealing with economic challenges and transforming Pakistan as one of the top econo-

mies of the world. The Chief of Army Staff reassured the fullest support of Pakistan Armed Forces to backstop the economic initiatives of the Government and

ment to nurture country's true economic potential.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that SIFC is the way forward under the challenging times and an iron resolve is needed to serve the country like never before. He urged the Federal Cabinet to join hands, keep political differences aside, and work as a cohesive team to keep the momentum of economic stability. He also thanked the caretaker government for continuation of larger national economic agenda in a

Pakistan not invaded Afghanistan but acted against terrorists' hideouts: FO

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Foreign Office spokesperson Pakistani territory. Thursday said that the intelligence-based operation it had carried out on March 18 was not an invasion of Afghanistan but an action against the sanctuaries of terrorists hiding inside Afghanistan and posing threats to Pakistan's security. "Pakistan has not invaded Afghanistan. We have no designs against Afghanistan... The operation was not against the people, institutions, or military of Afghanistan. The target was the terrorists belonging to Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group, which along with Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, is

CM appeals to the citizens to

become part of

the Plantation

👺 Bureau Report

campaign "Plant for Pakistan"

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab

Maryam Nawaz on the eve of the Inter-

national Day of Forests has appealed

campaign "Plant for Pakistan". CM in

her special message on the occasion

of the International Day of Forests

emphasized that the earth is like a

mother which provides us life, food

and livelihood adding that plant a

tree and look after it as well. CM stat-

ed, "Plant a tree so that humans can

breathe freely, the environment can

be purged from the toxic air and the

land of Punjab should be further beau-

and do away with the hazards of smog.

tified and become green. Plant a tree

Allah Almighty will also be pleased

and life will smile and rejoice as well."

being distributed during the planta-

Maryam Nawaz said, "Free saplings are

tion campaign and the students should

lead "Plant for Pakistan" campaign. For

the first time the plantation record and

numbers will be identified through the

technology. We will oversee and ensure

latest QR code and the usage of GIS

that trees should be seen planted on

plantation campaign.

the earth and not in papers during the

to the people to become part of the

ist attacks inside Pakistan." Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in

her weekly press briefing. the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and wanted friendly relations with the neighboring country. Both countries should work towards removing the issues hurdling the strengthening of the bilateral ties, she remarked. She told the media that Pakistan serious concerns to the Interim Afghan Government over istan which have consistently evidence with Afghan side

PM, Interior

Minister discuss

matters related

responsible for multiple terror- used Afghan territory to on the presence of terror- its relations with the US

She said the Afghan side was repeatedly urged to take She said Pakistan respected concrete action to ensure that the Afghan soil was not used as a staging ground for terrorism against Pakistan. She said following the March 16 terrorist attack in North Waziristan, Pakistan had communicated with the Afghan side and also issued a demarche, conveying serious concerns about the had repeatedly conveyed its involvement of Gul Bahadur Group in the attack.

The spokesperson informed the presence of terror outfits the media that Pakistan had including TTP inside Afghan- shared concrete pieces of

launch terror attacks inside ist hideouts which was also and believed in constructive confirmed by international observers as well as the United Nations. Besides, Pakistan also conveyed the involvement of India in sponsoring and funding terrorist groups in Afghanistan to carry out terrorism in Pakistan, she added.

Responding to the media queries regarding the statement of US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu at the US Congressional hearing, the spokesperson said it was an internal matter of the US where the Congressmen and the Administration were

involved. She said Pakistan valued project for Pakistan.

engagement and expressed the hope that the US Congress would also continue playing a role in strengthening the ties. She observed that some statements made at the hearing regarding Pakistan showed a misunderstanding of the issues. Coming to the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, Spokesperson Baloch said Pakistan was starting work on the project within its territory, considering its significance for meeting its energy needs. She said Pakistan was also engaged with the US on the matter and had conveyed the cruciality of the

Minister Dr. Al-Maliki: FIA busts gang Palestine's resolutions involved in are unanimously

to security, PCB

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday held meeting with Federal Minister for Interior, Anti-Narcotics and Chairperson Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to ministries of Interior, Anti-Narcotics, national security and Pakistan Cricket Board.

The minister informed the prime minister about the task given to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for stopping theft of electricity in the country. He also briefed the prime minister about the proposed reforms and restructuring plan of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and

National Counter Terrorism Authority. The PM said strict action should be taken against the power thieves and

no leniency should be shown to them. They also discussed the overall political situation in the country.

approved by UNESCO

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki approved by the Executive Council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), at its 219th session held today in Paris, two resolutions related to the State of Palestine, unanimously: occupied Palestine, and cultural and educational institutions. He pointed out that the adoption of these resolutions is important to preserve the rights of the Palestinian people.

Minister Malki stressed the importance of preserving schools, educational facilities, historical and religious monuments, and preserving Palestinian sanctities. And to continue working to strengthen educational and cultural institutions, by providing services and developing skills and competencies in education and in the technical and vocational field. And work to enhance the safety of journalists in the Gaza Strip, and in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in addition to rejecting excavations, works and projects in the occupied city of Jerusalem, especially in and around the Old City. And the process of constructing roads for the colonists. And the destruction of schools, including Abu Nuwar School and Tana School, and its plans to destroy Khan Al-Ahmar School.

visa scam

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Thursday busted a gang involved in defrauding people in the name of foreign jobs.

A spokesperson for the FIA said that the Anti Human Trafficking Circle conducted the raid in F-7 sector of Islamabad and arrested four including a woman gang member, who had deprived citizens of billions in a visa scam.

The suspects also included Malik Bilal, Umair Kazmi, and Saddam Hussain along with the woman gang member.

The suspects, who had scammed people out of billions, had been nominated in multiple first information reports across The gang was facing charg-

es in the FIA, centre and all of the four provinces of Pakistan in cases registered in the last two The FIA spokesperson said

that the suspects have also received money from the citizens via bank channels.

The group used to trap people on social media by promising to get them a visa and secure foreign employment and had established an illicit agency to receive money from the citizens.

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China strongly condemns terrorist attack at GPA complex



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Thursday strongly condemned the terrorist attack targeting the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Complex and reiterated the Chinese government's terrorists were shot to death.

fight terrorism and defend national security and stability. We strongly condemn the terrorist attack and mourn for the Pakistani personnel killed in the attack, Lin Jian said during his regular briefing held

He said China is against all forms of terrorism and firmly supports national developments and social stability in Pakistan.

"We firmly support Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism and defend national security and stability", he added. As per media reports, a terrorist group attacked the complex of Gwadar Port Authority Complex and the activity ended after all the

Swat's Hadiqa Bashir wins Global Citizen award for women's rights work

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A young woman from Swat has made brought a major to honour to Pakistan by winning the Global Citizen Youth Leader award.

Saidu Sharif's Hadiqa Bashir, who is only 22 years old, is the first Pakistani to win the award.

Bashir is an activist working for the education and rights of women in the Swat region and has founded the 'Girls United for Human Rights'. She has also focused on fighting the practice of underaged marriages

of girls in the area. Hadiqa champions gender equality in tribal regions, emphasising education's transformative power

for young girls," Global Citizen said. "Through a dynamic blend of leadership and advocacy, she continues to make significant contributions to social justice and sustainable development in Pakistan, embodying the spirit of positive change," it added in its profile of



The activist has already received the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award, Asian Girls Ambassador Award and has also been a finalist for the Commonwealth Award.

Bashir hails from the same area as Malala Yousafzai, who became a Nobel laureate and global celebrity for her work for women's education.

This year, Global Citizen is honouring 32 young innovators and advocates working to address the issues perpetuating extreme poverty from across the Asia-Pacific region.

The winners of the award will be given funding to solve social issues in their community and to expand

Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar met Azerbaijan's FM Bayramov Jeyhun

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: The two Ministers committed to further deepen Pakistan-Azerbaijan cooperation in all fields including in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear technology especially in agriculture and human health.

They reaffirmed commitment to combat climate change through use of nuclear energy. Pakistan & Azerbaijan have been successfully collaborating in nuclear applications including in Agriculture.



FM Dar conveyed Pakistan's readiness to share experience and expertise in peaceful uses of Nuclear Technology with Azerbaijan.

Shia Ismaili Muslims Celebrate Nowruz Festival across Sindh

跨 Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

THATTA: Shia Ismaili Muslims across Sindh are celebrating the al fervor today. Different events were scheduled to be held in Thatta, Sujawal, Hyderabad and Badin after Iftar to mark the centuries old festival. The historic festival traces

its roots some 3000 year back that marks first day of Persian new year and celebrated as the national festival of Persia. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif extended felicitations and

best wishes on the eve of Iranian new year.

Noted historian Dr Muhammad Ali Manjhi while talking to this correspondent shared historical significance of Nowruz in Sindh. He said that Persian language as well as culture left it's impact on Sindhi language and culture during the 17th and 18th century and during that period Nowruz was also celebrated in some areas of Sindh. "Some historians believe that Nowruz had also been celebrated during the regime of Alexander the great in Persia"; he noted adding that Nowruz had been unity, progress and change.

celebrated in Karachi, Fateh Shah a locality near Thatta and Ameer Peer during the 18th and 19th century. He further mentioned that their is festival of Nowruz with tradition- a strong evidence in the history that during the Sommro and Turkhan rule the festival attained especial status in Sindh. An Iranian King Jalaluddin Malikshah started Celebrating this festival on 21st March



since then it has been celebrated on this date. This festival is celebrated in different parts of the world mainly Central Asian countries. The forte of Nowruz is that it is celebrated in a traditional fervor in different parts of the world that doubles the importance of this festival.

Like other countries of the world, the festival is celebrated in Pakistan as well particularly in the northern part of the country. Jashn_E_ Nowruz is celebrated every year across Gilgit Baltistan. The ancient festival gives the message of peace,