وہ توپوری کرو۔ پوچھا گیالاز می کتنی ہے؟ فرمایا

(مصحح بخاری: حدیث نبر 6476) **Barkat Rice Mills**

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31-gun salute in the federal capital and 21-gun salute in

Special prayers were offered in mosques after Fajr prayers

for the prosperity and solidar-

ity of the country. The national flag is hoisted on major

The main feature of the day

is the grand military parade

in Islamabad where contin-

gents of three armed forces and other security forces

conducted march past while

fighter planes presented aero-

Prince Khalid bin Salman Al

Saud is the guest of honour in

today's event while the contin-

gents of China and Azerbaijan will also feature in the parade.

will be held at Aiwan-e-Sa-

dar in the afternoon where President Asif Ali Zardari will

confer awards and medals

to personalities for their outstanding contribution in

An investiture ceremony

Saudi Defence Minister

batic maneuvers.

government buildings.

provincial capitals.

President Putin declared March 24 a day of national

President Putin declared March 24 a day of national mourning. Following the terrorist attack at the Crocus City Hall, President Putin declared March 24 a day of national mourning. The Russian Embassy will open a virtual condolence book on March 24-26.



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to work together, further enhance bilateral cooperation

Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have reiterated their l Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, who called on him at Aiwan-i-Sadr on Saturday.(Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Pakistan Day being celebrated with

traditional zeal

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 13, Sunday, March 24, 2024



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🔰 @daily spokesman



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Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The nation

on Saturday is celebrating

Pakistan Day with a renewed pledge to work hard for the

progress and stability of Paki-

commemorate the Lahore

Resolution passed on 23 March 1940 and the adop-

tion of the first Constitution

of Pakistan on 23 March 1956

making Pakistan the world's

first Islamic Republic. Paki-

stan Resolution was passed/

adopted by the then Indian

Muslim League, led by Quaid-

i-Azam M. A. Jinnah, at the

Minar-e-Pakistan Lahore on

23 March 1940, that called

for establishing an independent federation, to be named

Pakistan, comprising prov-

inces with a Muslim major-

ity located in north-western and north-eastern regions of

British-controlled territories

The day dawned with a different fields.

Gunmen kill more

than 80 in concert

attack near Moscow

This day is celebrated to

Revitalization

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Pakistan Day Parade ceremony, at Shakarparian Parade Ground on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan not to compromise its sovereignty, tolerate any destabilizing efforts: President

B Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday said that Pakistan was a peace-loving and responsible nuclear state but it would neither make any compromise on its sovereignty nor would tolerate any efforts of all times. "Today's parade is a terrorists or any group aimed at destabilising it. "Pakistan wants" and pride," said the president who relations with all our neighbors. earlier reviewed the parade after We are a peace-loving country arriving at the venue escorted in Illegally and a responsible nuclear state. However, let me make it clear that guards mounted on horses. Pakiwe will not compromise on our sovereignty... We will not toler- eignty, tolerate any destabilizing resolution of the issue as per their ate any efforts by terrorists or any group to destabilize our country," the president said addressing the Pakistan Day Parade ceremony

Minister Prince Khalid bin leadership of Quaid-e-Azam

Salman Al Saud, who previously served as an F-15 pilot in Royal Saudi Air Force, was the guest of honour of the ceremony. In his address, President Zardari said that the Pakistani nation and armed forces were always ready to respond to any aggression at reminder of our unity, strength, his chariot by the presidential stan not to compromise its sovercongratulated the nation on the Day which commemorated the historic struggle of the Muslims of the subcontinent to achieve

Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He also paid tribute to the martyrs and Ghazis with a resolve to make all-out efforts to protect national security and sovereignty. The president's address encompassed domestic subjects like recent elections, efforts against terrorism, economic challenges, and the establishment of SIFC, and the regional situation including the

The pro ed Pakistan's continued support for the Palestinian people till the efforts: President The president aspirations. Recounting the country's journey marked with many ups and downs, he said despite numerous challenges, the Pakistani nation achieved distinctions President Saudi Defence a separate homeland under the in the fields of defense, agriculture and technology, besides its inter-

nationally recognised contribution to fighting against terrorism. Highlighting the current social, political and economic challenges facing the country, he said following the successful holding of elections and the formation of a democratic government, it was the responsibility of all to seek solutions to all the issues.

President Zardari told the cerehuman rights abuses in Indian mony that the Special Investment Pakistan Navy. The contingents Facilitation Council had been of the three armed forces and formed to attract investment in agriculture, livestock, mining, Information Technology and energy sectors. He also requested all the political parties to set aside their political interests and work unitedly to bring in country's prosperity. The president also thanked the friendly countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and the UAE for support-

ing Pakistan in the difficult times. The parade commenced with the national anthem, the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, after a special salute was paid to the national flag. President Asif Zardari reviewed the parade led by Parade Commander Brigadier Shahzad Ali Arshad which followed the fly-past formation of the Pakistan Air Force and the other security forces conducted a march while fighter planes presented aerobatic maneuvers. After the PAF fighters' mesmerising show, Pakistan Army, PAF and Navy paratroopers demonstrated their skills with free-falls. Meanwhile, the PAF's aerobatics display team enthralled spectators with their unmatched aerial



Congratulations

Ambassador

UAE



ISLAMABAD: On this special occasion of Pakistan's Resolution Day, I extend my warmest congratulations to you and the friendly people of Paki-

May this day be filled with joy, pride, and a renewed sense of unity among the nation.

As friends and partners, the UAE stands with Pakistan in celebrating its rich history, culture, and achievements. Happy Pakistan Day! UAE-Pakistan Zindabad

PM, Saudi Defence Minister discuss security, regional issues

ISLAMABAD: Prince Khalid Bin Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here at the Prime Minister House on Saturday and discussed in detail bilateral matters, regional peace, security and situation in the region. Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir also exchanged views on increasing cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the areas of defence and security.

The Prime Minister congratulated the Defence Minister on receiving Pakistan's highest civil award Nishan-e-Pakistan. He thanked the Saudi Defence Minister for attending the Pakistan Day parade as a special guest. PM Shehbaz expressed best wishes for Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin invitation and said Pakistan was important and fruitful to further



Talking to the Saudi Defence Minister, the Prime Minister said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had close brotherly ties based on commonalities of religion, history and culture, which were further strengthening with the passage of time. Pakistan greatly valued its relations with Saudi Arabia, he said adding Saudi Arabia fully supported Pakistan on every front.

Prince and Prime Minister Prince His Royal Highness Crown Prince two countries.

also attended the meeting. They Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud. Mohammed Bin Salman. The Saudi Defence Minister felicitated the Prime Minister on assuming his office and expressed best wishes for him. He thanked Pakistan for inviting him as a special guest for Pakistan Day parade and said he had the opportunity to witness the best capabilities of armed forces of Pakistan during the parade. He said the recent visit of Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim The PM reiterated his earlier Munir to Saudi Arabia was very Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Saudi Crown waiting to welcome the visit of promote defence relations of the

President *Xi sends* condolences to Russian president over terror attack



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a message of condolence to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday over the serious terrorist attack on a Moscow concert hall. In his message, Xi said he was shocked to learn of the serious terrorist attack, which caused heavy casualties. He expressed deep condolences for the deceased on behalf of the Chinese government and people, and offered sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured.

China opposes all forms of terrorism, strongly

MOSCOW: Camouflage-clad gunmen opened fire at concertgoers with automatic of blood. weapons on Friday, killing at least 82 people and injuring behind us - shots. A burst of 145 more in an attack claimed by IS In the deadliest attack in Russia since the 2004 Beslan Reuters. "A stampede began. Everyschool siege, gunmen sprayed civilians with bullets just before Soviet-era rock group "Picnic" was to perform to a

of Moscow. Verified video showed people taking their seats in the hall, then rushing for the exits as repeated gunfire cal condition.

full house at the 6,200-seat

the Crocus City Hall just west

video showed men shooting at groups of people. Some victims lay motionless in pools "Suddenly there were bangs

echoed above screams. Other

firing - I do not know what," one witness, who asked not to be identified by name, told

one ran to the escalator," the witness said. "Everyone was screaming; everyone was Russian investigators said

the death toll was more than 60. Health officials said about 145 people were wounded, of which about 60 were in criti-

UN slams deadly terrorist attacks in **Moscow**

👺 City Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned in the "strongest possible terms" Friday's deadly terrorist attack at a concert hall outside Moscow. Gunmen stormed the Crocus City Hall in Krasnogorsk, killing over 60 people and injuring another 145 others as a group of armed men, wearing combat fatigues, opened fire at location on Friday night, BBC and Reuters reported, citing Russia's FSB Federal Security Service.

According to Russian news reports, the terrorists threw explosives, triggering a massive fire at the Hall, located on the western edge of Moscow. Videos on social

of black smoke rising over the building, Reuters reported. "The Secretary-General conveys his deep condolences to the bereaved families and the people and the Government of the Russian Federation," said his Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq. "He wishes those injured a speedy recovery." The Security Council also condemned "the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" in a press statement released on Friday evening. "This reprehensible act of terrorism resulted in the grievous loss of dozens of lives," Council members said, expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Russian people.

media showed huge plumes

Overseas Pakistanis celebrates Pakistan Day with great enthusiasm

News Desk

is living abroad demonstrate their enduring bond despite being geographically apart. According to the private

news channel they declare that the name of their cher-ISLAMABAD: On Pakistan ished nation, Pakistan, reso-Day this Saturday, Pakistan-nates with their souls. Since Pakistan is their

their abiding affection for ultimate source of pride and their country and highlight respect, they swear undying commitment and unyielding pride for it, regardless of where they are in the world.

PTI Founding Chairman congratulates nation on Pakistan Day Imran Khan said that March 23

ISLAMABAD: As the nation celebrates Pakistan Day, Pakistan Chairman Imran Khan congratulates the entire nation and vows that his party is committed to carry forward the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah for a just society and to make Pakistan a truly

sovereign Islamic welfare state as the nation would not accept slavery.

In a special message on the occasion of Pakistan Day, PTI Founding Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founding Chairman, who was unjustly incarcerated in Adiala Jail, "Today we commemorate the Resolution for the founding of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent-our beloved homeland Paki-

was a day of pledge to achieve and establish an Islamic welfare state.

PTI Chairman-for-life stated that on this auspicious day, the Muslims of the slave India, taking light from Allama Iqbal's philosophy of Khudi and independence, pledged to achieve an independent state under the visionary leadership of Quaid-i-Azam.

Muzaffarabad celebrates Pakistan Resolution Day with great enthusiasm

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Like the rest of the country, Pakistan Resolution Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir. In this regard, a solemn flag-hoisting ceremony was organized at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Muzaffarabad, while the police squad of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police also saluted the national flag. Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad Nadeem Ahmad Janjua, Director Information Muhammad Bashir Mirza, Additional Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad Hafiz Muhammad Ali, senior Hurri-



with district police officers, civil society and every class were present in the ceremony. A large number of people from hi life participated. Speaking at the event, Minister of Social Welfare and Women's Development Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi said that today's day is of special importance in connection with the Pakistan Movement. Today on March 23, 1940, the Muslims of the subcontinent passed the Pakistan Resolution in a historic gathering in Lahore. Later, in the light of this unanimously passed resolution, Pakistan was achieved under the enthusiastic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. God salutes those who sacrificed for the cause of Pakistan and of Pakistan.

yat leader Mushtaqul Islam along the idea of two nations. History pays homage to leaders of Pakistan. Pakistan forces are making great sacrifices for the defense of the motherland. The exemplary sacrifices of Pakistan forces will always be remembered within the LOC and Pakistan. We have to work in unison for economic development, prosperity of every individual, only then the fruits of freedom can be achieved in real sense. Speaking at the event, Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad Nadeem Ahmed Janjua said that Pakistan Day has special importance. On that day, the Muslims of the subcontinent demanded a separate homeland and later after a great struggle, they were able to achieve a determined state

Shield

TMO Jehangira Shahana Sikandar receiving shield from District Youth Officer Nowshera in 23rd March Ceremony



Punjab Colleges will provide all support to make the plantation campaign: Osama Bashir

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Afforestation is inevitable to combat climate change: Director Punjab Colleges Osama Basheer said that Punjab Colleges will provide all support to make the plantation campaign successful: DGPHA Asif Rauf Khan said that Pakistan Inauguration of plantation drive in Punjab Colleges Multan, students and teachersThe determination of a large number of people to make Multan green, under the supervision of teachers, the target of planting



2000 saplings has been set tively participate in this tree planting week will be campaign will be launched. this year as well, all citizens campaign on the campus celebrated in all private should actively participate of colleges and prove to be a and public colleges in a Asif Rauf appreciated the in this campaign. Director useful citizen. Ahmed Rauf grand manner and with the commitment of the students Colleges Multan District further said that according cooperation of students and and teachers and praised Multan said on this occa- to Punjab Government's faculty, trees will be plant- the passion and dedication sion that all PunjabAc- Vision 2024, this year the ed throughout the city. A of the college management.

AJK Cabinet announces new education policy for next school year

Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The first education policy in the history of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was released, in the light of the decision of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet, a notification was issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Thus, Azad Jammu and Kashmir is the first administration to have its own education policy in the provinces and administrative units of Pakistan. The region became. According to the details, the Azad government of the state of Jammu and Kashmir began the process of formulating its education policy in consultation with education experts. The education experts prepared a comprehensive policy document in consultation with all stakeholders. In this way, instead of aimless education, adherence to religious and social values on one hand and modern trends like science, technology, entrepreneurship and citizenship on the other hand have been made part of the

Divisional and District Administration Multan celebrates 23rd March Pakistan Resolution Day

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: On the occasion of Pakistan Day organized by the district administration, the central flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Deputy Commissioner's office. In the ceremony, Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan and Deputy Commissioner Captain retired Rizwan Qadir hoisted the flag at exactly 9 am. Sirens were sounded on this occasion. And a minute's silence was also observed. Earlier Police, Rescue and Civil Defense also gave a full salute. Films of martyrs, representatives of civil society and national heroes also participated in the ceremony. Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan while addressing the ceremony said We are



grateful to God that we are free From national unity. Deputy Commission- remember the sacrifices of the elders. development of our beloved country-

Hindo, s. March 23 pledge for the er Captain Retired Rizwan Qadeer It is the day of pledge. Maryam Khan of the pledge to work with good faith Later in the ceremony, the participants said that the solution to the prob- and honesty. Freedom is great. It is a chanted slogans and hoisted nationlems faced by the motherland lies in blessing, the young generation should al flags.

Rizwan Qadir said that AzadNations said that Pakistan Day reminds us keep their culture and ideology alive.

Pakistan Day was celebrated with great fervor in Azad Kashmir: 'Long Live Kashmir'

MUZAFFARABAD: Like the four provinces of the country, the $84\mathrm{th}$ Pakistan Day was celebrated with great devotion and respect, ideological enthusiasm and a renewed pledge that till the occupied Jammu and Kashmir gains independence from Indian rule, it will not be a part of Pakistan. Our peaceful, democratic, history-making struggle will continue. Pakistan Day will begin with Quran reading and prayer events in mosques and homes after the Fajr prayer. Tributes were paid in words. Meetings, processions and rallies were held all over Azad Kashmir to show respect for Pakistan. Long live the atmosphere of Kashmir. The slogans of Azadi, Pakistan Zinbad, India, Israel Zinbad, Pakistan Army Zinbad echoed. A large rally was organized from Garhi Pin Alamdar Chowk to the Press Club organized by the well-known NGO Pahla Kadam in the capital Muzaffarabad. The leadership was led by Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Central Deputy Secretary Information nominated candidate for Assembly Constituency Seven Shaukat Javed Mir, General Secretary Qazi Tanveer and other officials. The participants were holding banners and placards, flags of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. I gathered. Addressing the gathering of the rally on this occasion, Chief Guest Shaukat Javed said that on the basis of the two-nation theory, the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, did a great favor to the nation by getting a separate state. On 23 March 1940, In continuation of the resolution, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan came into being on August 14, 1947.

District administration celebrates Pakistan's Resolution Day in grand style

Maria Mohd Sanghi/ Naveed Ahmed Baloch

RAHIM YAR KHAN: The main event of Pakistan's Resolution Day organized by the district administration was celebrated in grand style, Deputy Commissioner Khuram Parvez along with district officers, civil society, peace committee members and others unfurled the flag at the municipal committee town hall. Police, rescue 1122 teams saluted the green crescent flag Presented

Deputy Commissioner Khurram Pervaiz while addressing the ceremony said that on March 23, 1940, the Muslims of India passed the Pakistan Resolution in Lahore and sealed the dream of Allama Iqbal and the ambitious leadership of Quaid-e-Azam



Muhammad Ali Jinnah ensured the achievement of Pakistan. He said that today we have a message to our young generationIt has to be said that Pakistan came into existence as a result of the long and hard struggle and sacrifices of our ancestors. We have to celebrate this day as a renewal of our pledge that we will use all our abilities for the country's development, economic stability and peace. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Shahid Malik, MS Sheikh Zayed will be present at the event. Hospital Dr. Imran Bashir, President District Press Club Qaiser Ghafoor Chaudhry, Noor Muhammad Soomro, Chief Officer District Council Chaudhry Muhammad Shafiq, DSP City Asif Rasheed, DMS Sheikh Zayed Hospital Dr. Ilyas Ahmed and others were present. At the end of the ceremony. Member District Peace Committee Riaz Ahmad Noori, national stability, peace and security and the country and the nationCollective prayer for the safety of Pakistan and Pakistani People.

Women University celebrates Pakistan Resolution Day with national zeal

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Women University Multan celebrated Pakistan Resolution Day with national zeal and patriotic Spirit. The day is celebrated to commemorate the



Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940. The celebrations started with the recitation of Holy Quran and Naat Rasool Pak (SAW). The event was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha, Registrar Prof Dr Mamoona Khan, Director Students Affairs Dr Adeela Saeed and chairpersons. VC Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha said; this day holds a significant place in the history of Pakistan. The day is an occasion to promote patriotism and national unity. Dr. Adeela Saeed shed light on different historical aspects of Pakistan Day, encouraged University students to follow the footsteps of our great ancestors and do their utmost for the growth and well-being of the society. Other speakers highlighted the significance of Pakistan Day, the long struggle of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for Muslims of the subcontinent & great sacrifices for making a separate homeland. Later, special prayers were offered for the stability, prosperity and integrity of the motherland and unity of the Muslim Ummah.

APHC says Kashmir will be part of Pakistan one day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter on Pakistan Day, today, said that joining Pakistan is a long-held dream of the Kashmiris which will surely come true, one day. APHC-AJK Convener, Mahmood Ahmed Saghar and other leaders in a joint statement in Islamabad congratulated the people and Government of Pakistan on their national day.

The APHC-AJK leaders said that March 23 is of special importance in history because a resolution was passed in Lahore on that day in 1940 paving the way for a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent. They said the ongoing struggle in occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a continuation of the Pakistan Movement and Pakistan is incomplete without Jammu and Kashmir.

The APHC-AJK leaders including Mahmood Ahmed Saghar, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Imtiaz Wani, Nisar Mirza, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Syed Yousuf Naseem, Shameem Shawl, Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, Mir Tahir Masood, Advocate Parvez Ahmed, Hassanul Bana, Raja Khadim Hussain, Muhammad Shafi Dar, Sheikh Muhammad Yaqoob, Syed Eajaz Rehmani, Sanaullah Dar, Altaf Ahmed Butt, Javed Iqbal Butt, Dawood Yousafzai, Sheikh Abdul Majid, Gulshan Ahmed, Manzoor Ahmed Dar, Zahid Safi, Mushtaq Ahmad Butt, Zahid Ashraf, Adeel Mushtaq Wani, Abdul Majeed Lone, Syed Mushtaq, Manzoor Ahmed Dar, Nazir Ahmed Karnai, Muhammad Ashraf Dar, Raeis Ahmed Mir and others issued the joint statement.

Meanwhile, the APHC-AJK also paid tributes to Muhammad Yusuf Baig, father of senior Hurriyat leader Farida Beheji on his 32nd martyrdom anniversary. Baig was martyred by the Indian troops in custody in Srinagar on this day in 1992.

The Spokesman 3

Nowruz is rooted in love, peace and blessing: says Iranian envoy

Iran Embassy in Islamabad hosts Iftar Dinner to mark International Day of Nowruz

Naveed Ahamd Khan

he Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted an Iftar Dinner in commemoration of the International Day of Nowruz with the contribution of the Embassy of Tajikistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Saved, Chairman of the Senate Defence Committee was the guest of honor. Ambassadors, politicians, journalists and renowned businessmen attend-

H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan said "I would like to extend my appreciation for your worthy presence at this event, particularly distinguished generals, dignitaries from the government and the ministry of foreign affairs, ambassadors, university professors and media members". He addressed the guests

He said that "I am very pleased that on this beautiful night of the holy month of Ramadan, the month of mercy and grace of Allah, we are hosting this event to commemorate the International Day of Nowruz, in our brotherly and friendly country of Pakistan, and in the company of your honorable guests".

The Ambassador said Nowruz is the ancient ritual of friendship, compassion and peaceful coexistence. A ritual celebrated by our ancestors in a wider area from beyond the borders of China to the Mediterranean Sea and even beyond. It is a ritual that is so old, but has not become out-dated, but it is even honored more brilliantly and beautifully every year than before. This ancient ritual does not belong only to the countries that are called the Nowruz area, the representatives of which we are hosting tonight, but it belongs to all the people of the planet.

Dr. Reza Amiri said After the advent of Islam, the holy of this natural development to God as the creator. He informed that in 2010, the UN General Assembly designated March 21st as the International Day of Nowruz due to the peace-seeking and love-yearning nature of Nowruz. Nowruz was also registered as the intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNES-CO in 2016. One of the symbols of Nowruz is "Haft Seen Table". This table is decorated with the objects that symbolize purity, light, livelihood and blessin this hall tonight, as well as



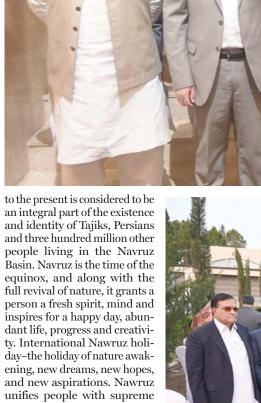




a table beautifully decorated by our friendly and brotherly country of Tajikistan. I appreciate Tajikistan for participating Prophet of Islam stood up in this event. We declare readiagainst many popular igno- ness to hold this event next year material and spiritual life. We rant traditions and removed with more glory and with the pray that the inhumane crimes them but we are proud that participation of more countries. Islam gave approval to Nowruz in the Nowruz civilization area. as a Parsi tradition. The prayer Ambassdor said Nowruz and that I read at the beginning of Ramadan call humanity to peace my speech shows the relevance and friendship. Modern ignorance, by the deceptive narration of human rights, denies peace and friendship in an all-round way, and it has committed genocide and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip, as a result of which, more than one hundred thousand innocent children, women and men have been martyred or injured, and ruined the buildings and infrastructures. Finally, he congratulated the government and nation of Pakistan on March 23rd on Pakistan Day. At the end of a ing. You can see a sample of it day of fasting, we pray and ask the Almighty Allah to save the

oppressed people of Palestine from this deep suffering and the devil with the blessings of the holy months of Ramadan and Nowruz, both of which renew in this unjustly-occupied land and everywhere on this earth be stopped and humanity be blessed with a time full of peace, hope, love and peaceful coexistence. Amen.

The Ambassador of Tajikistan wished everyone a happy holiday on the occasion of this beautiful spring holiday-International Navruz. This ancient holiday has been celebrated as the International Navruz Holiday based on the UN General Assembly Resolution since 2010, when it was inscribed to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. He said Navruz is one of the ancient public holidays with a history spanning more than six thousand years. The celebration of Navruz from the earliest times



ness and love. Senator Mushahid said to congratulate the people of Iran and Central Asia on the occasion of international Nowruz day. He said thousands of years ago. It's the moment winter wraps up and spring arrives. Celebrated by more than 300 million people in more than a dozen countries, it's the first day of the Iranian

humane ideology like friend-

ship and cooperation, creative-

ness and well-being promotion,

human love and charity, as well

as thankfulness to nature's beau-

ty and richness. On this matter

Poet Maulono Jaloluddini Rumi

or Balkhi very wisely and beau-

tifully says, In this earth, In this

earth, in this pure farmLet's sow

nothing but the seeds of kind-

calendar. He said In 2009, it was added to UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and, in 2010, it was proclaimed as a UN calendar day. Sayed said marking the renewal of nature, it has always been a moment for reconciliation, reunion and family gathering. He said that, while the pandemic has made it difficult for us to hold celebrations and visit our friends and relatives.





we use this platform to send ans and all those who hold this Nowruz! our congratulations to all Irani- ancestral celebration. Happy

Nowruz, a millennia-old tradition

Spokesman Report

owruz, which marks the beginning of the Persian New Year and the arrival of the spring, has been celebrated for thousands of years.

It heralds the beginning of the spring and is celebrated across the Persian-speaking countries and communities in Iran, Republic of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and parts of Turkey, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and India.

Iranians prepare for Nowruz for weeks ahead of the event by spring cleaning and buying new clothes, especially for children, and items they need for the New Year.

They celebrate the last Wednesday of the year, known as Charshanbe Suri, with fireworks and bonfires.

On the eve of the New Year, Iranian families get together and eat Sabzi Polo Mahi, or herbed rice with fried

Iranians usually start the New Year the holy Qur'an as well as divination by the poems of Hafez.

They set the symbolic Haft Seen table, which includes seven items that start with the sound "s" in Farsi.

Iranians say there is a history behind each element. Serkeh, or vinegar, symbolizes patience and immortality, sumac brings love and compas-

with prayers and reciting verses from sion, Seeb, or apple represents health and fertility, Senjed, silverberry, simulates love and affection, Sabzeh, green sprouts, symbolizes rebirth, Seer, or garlic, is a symbol of protection in the face of affliction, and Samanu, a sweet

paste made from germinated wheat and wheat flour, represents affluence.

During the 13-day holidays, Iranians usually journey across the coun-

try or prefer to stay at home and visit their families and relatives nearby.

The holidays culminate in Sizdah Bedar, which is literally translated from Persian to "the 13 day out" which has its roots in triskaidekaphobia, fear of the number 13 as bad luck.

People go outdoors in Sizdah Bedar, or Day of Nature, and camp out to chase away the bad luck and bring in

good vibes instead

About 300 million people worldwide celebrate Nowruz, with traditions and rituals that slightly vary in each country.

At the initiative of several countries that share the event, including Iran, Afghanistan, India and Turkey, the UN in 2009 listed Nowruz as an international event.





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Measures urged to recharge depleting water table

ore than 70% of domestic water needs are met from groundwater resources in Pakistan but this rich natural source of freshwater is often poorly mapped and managed which is being depleted at

If this water resource was not properly managed, this might led the country to the most water-stressed situation in the region in the coming two decades or so. The water scarcity is caused due to multiple factors including climate change, population explosion, mismanagement, primitive irrigation practices, obsolete water transmission infrastructure and lack of reservoirs.

Hence, water demand and supply relationship is expected to be greatly influenced by the population growth. The shortage of water resources to meet industrial and domestic demands of a rapidly growing population is likely to impact irrigation water supply which would affect the sustainability of agriculture.

The groundwater management is a complex phenomenon which requires multidimensional actions, policies and management strategies. It should be well-integrated with mainstream water management projects and policies.

Assistant Professor Dr Muhammad Arif Watto, University of Agriculture Faisalabad said that the recent climate change trends and soaring population compounded with rising food demands and improved living standards had substantially increased pressure on water resources.

Although groundwater resources have played a key role in agricultural production, unimpeded pumping of groundwater aquifers, however, it has led to the rapid depletion of water table which had many negative environmental and economic

Talking about ways to conserve groundwater, Muhammad Arif Watto said that groundwater must be monitored in quantity and quality over time to learn about the behavior and condition of aquifers and identify potential negative changes such as over-abstraction, reduced recharge, and pollution.

Early detection of problems can be extremely cost-effective, allowing mitigation measures to be implemented before serious deterioration of the resource occurs. Moreover, the data collection should be made accessible to everyone to raise awareness among the general public regarding its conservation and sustainable use.

The resilient groundwater monitoring model will help determine sustainable groundwater potential, prepare groundwater budgets for sub-basins, canal commands and assess the saline groundwater interface's lateral and vertical movement.

Watto said that Pakistan requires management systems and effective policies which execute groundwater conservation and monitoring. The groundwater policy should be based on legal status and ownership (public or private), as well as factors such as water users, interrelated surface water features, and land uses in aquifer recharge areas.

The Assistant Professor said that implementation of groundwater management tools depends on the legal establishment and institutional structures that confer authority for their use and enforcement. He, however, said that all management is not carried out by the government.

Communities or groundwater consumers may independently opt to maintain well sitting and groundwater abstractions.

Privatization: A Path to Success or another False Start? - I

government has displayed a archy. crucial optimism towards the prosperity and growth of the nation, characterized by an unparalleled determination labeled as "Iron determination" (Fouladi Azm) by the Prime Minister. Backed by the strength and support of the establishment, the unelected finance team is poised to make fundamentally critical and highly challenging decisions. These decisions, which even former dictators refrained from due to political ramifications, demonstrate a readiness to tackle obstacles that could deter progress.

The consistent backing from the establishment, which sustained the former coalition government led by Shahbaz Sharif and the interim government led by Anwar Kakar, has primed public sentiment to an extent where the time is now ripe to confront challenges head-on and progress without hesitation. These imminent decisions, projected to yield savings of PKR 6,828 billion per year, are poised to significantly benefit the nation.

The digitalization of FBR is projected to generate over Rs. 3000 billion annually by curbing pilferage and halting the distribution of illicit gains among tax officials. Currently, a predetermined portion of tax evasion, with 50% going to the taxpayer and their lawyer, while the remaining 50% is distributed from the lowest-ranking peon to the regional commissioner. This same ratio is observed within the sales tax and customs departments, from the of 88 commercially operated and 45

ince its inception, the new bottom to the top echelons of the hier- non-commercial entities. Remarkably, the ments

The privatization of PIA, even if it doesn't generate a single penny, could result in savings of over Rs. 800 billion in terms of debt and an annual subsidy of Rs. 294.5 billion allocated to sustain the inefficient, unprofessional, and sluggish airline. Likewise, privatization or outsourcing airports could save the national treasury approximately Rs. 21.4 billion annually.

The privatization of state-owned enterprises, despite potentially yielding no revenue from their sale, would result in significant savings for the state. With accumulated losses exceeding 500 billion, divesting these entities would save over Rs. 500 billion annually in subsidies and transfer the entities' Rs.

1100 billion debt burden to the purchaser. Similarly, privatizing the Distribution Companies (DISCOs) nationwide, even if they generate minimal proceeds from their sale, would yield substantial annual savings for the public. This includes Rs. 500 billion annually in electricity theft prevention and Rs. 639 billion in reduced line losses.

According to the Federal Footprint Consolidated SOE report for the fiscal vears 2020-2022, published in December 2023, there are a total of 133 State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), consisting

commercial SOEs are making substantial contributions to the national economy through corporate taxes, dividend payments, and employment generation.

In the financial sector, which includes banks, insurance companies, Non-Banking Financing Companies (NBFCs), and Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), there has been significant growth and transformation since FY2022.

> The sector's assets have surged to an impressive Rs. 8.9 trillion, indicating consistent growth over the past four fiscal vears. Revenues have also seen a remarkable increase, reaching Rs. 614.648 billion, marking a 31% rise from the previous fiscal year.

Additionally, net profits have soared to Rs. 72.569 billion, demonstrating a remarkable 46.5% year-on-year increase.

In the commercial sector, Infrastructure, Transport, and Communication (ITC) emerge as significant players, boasting an asset base of Rs. 7.983 trillion. Led by entities like the National Highway Authority and PIA, this sector experienced a notable 38% revenue growth. However, despite these gains, challenges persist, with PIA grappling with a substantial net loss of Rs. 294.500 billion. Nonetheless, subsectors such as Ports & Shipping and Communication show promise for sectoral recovery and efficiency improve-

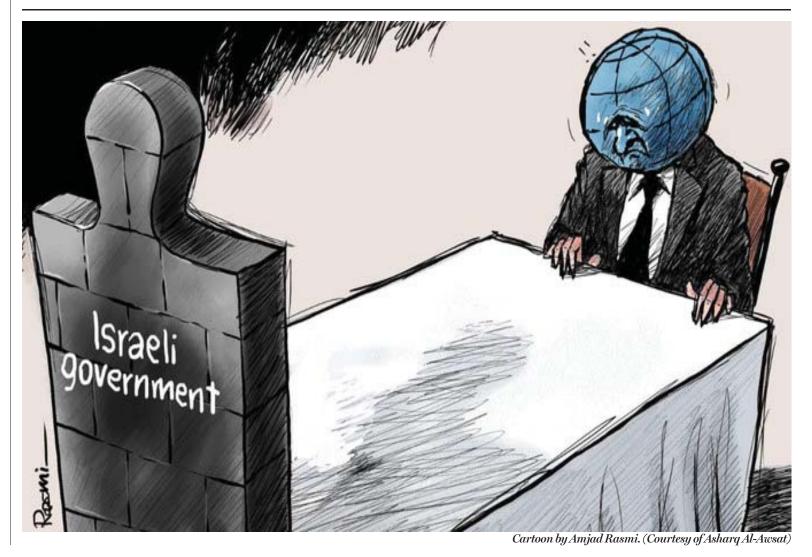
The Manufacturing, Mining, & Engineering sector showcased robust growth, with assets soaring by 49% to Rs. 904.515

billion. Notably resilient, this sector posted a significant net profit of Rs. 12.267 billion. Subsectors like Metals & Mining and Printing played pivotal roles in this transformation, contributing substantial profits and demonstrating operational stability. Such progress underscores the sector's potential for sustained growth and profitability.

In the Oil and Gas sector, boasting assets worth Rs. 5.620 trillion, remarkable revenue expansion of 82% was witnessed, fueled by increased energy pric $es\,post\text{-}COVID.\,Despite\,challenges, SOEs$ in this sector exhibited operational excellence, exemplified by PARCO's outstanding achievement of a 725% increase in net profit. However, the sector faces ongoing struggles in balancing revenue growth with operational efficiency, particularly in the Marketing & Distribution segment, which remains susceptible to market risks due to high leverage and narrow profit margins.

Even in the Power sector, substantial growth has been observed, with assets climbing to Rs. 6.480 trillion and revenue reaching Rs. 3,000 billion in FY2022. However, operational margins remain a concern, particularly for Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs). Strategies must be devised to enhance revenue collection and mitigate operational inefficiencies to address losses effectively.

To be continued



Significance of Pakistan Day Parade and Myths - IV

Parade is merely a spectacle for the international community. While it indeed holds diplomatic significance. its primary essence lies in domestic celebration, commemorating Pakistan's history, culture, and identity. It serves as a moment for Pakistanis to unite and contemplate their shared heritage and aspirations. While projecting strength and unity to the world, its core purpose is to strengthen bonds of solidarity among Pakistanis and reaffirm their dedication to their nation's

Military parades on national occasions serve as poignant demonstrations of a country's vigor, unity, and pride. These displays, steeped in symbolism and tradition, offer insight into a nation's past, culture, and aspi-

The Victory Day Parade in Russia, for instance, commemorates the Soviet Union's triumph

over Nazi Germany in World War II. Held annually in Moscow's Red Square, this parade showcases an impressive array of military hardware, including tanks, missile systems, and aircraft. It also pays homage to war veterans, with soldiers marching while carrying portraits of fallen comrades, honoring their sacrifice and valor. The parade concludes with a procession of the armed forces and a display of military aircraft flying overhead, demonstrating Russia's military capabilities and dedication to safeguarding its territorial integrity.

Bastille Day commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison during the French Revolution, a significant event in France's history. The Bastille Day Parade, held on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, is among Europe's oldest and largest military parades. It features a vibrant procession

ome argue that the Pakistan Day of French military units, including the renowned French Foreign Legion and Republican Guard. The parade also includes a flypast by the French Air Force and a presentation of military vehicles, underscoring France's global military influence and commitment to liberty. China's National Day Parade celebrates the

establishment of the People's Republic of China on October 1st, 1949. Held in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, this parade highlights the country's military prowess and technological advancement. It showcases an extensive array of military equipment, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, fighter jets, and naval

vessels. The parade also incorporates cultural performances and synchronized marching displays, demonstrating China's unity and determination to safeguard its territorial sovereignty. The United States marks its

Independence Day on July 4th with nationwide parades, fire-**Abdul Basit Alvi** works, and festivities. The largest military parade in the U.S. is held in Washington, D. C., featuring military units from all

branches of the armed forces.

The Pakistan Army stands as a formidable institution, celebrated for its steadfast commitment to protecting the nation's sovereignty, advancing its interests, and fostering peace and stability in the region. With a storied history defined by sacrifice, courage, and professionalism, the Pakistani Army has emerged as an emblem of resilience, strength, and national pride.

Since its inception in 1947, the Pakistan Army has played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's trajectory, navigating through numerous challenges and conflicts with unwavering determination and resolve. From conflicts with India to counterterrorism operations within its borders, the Army has consistently showcased its readi-

ness to address any threat to Pakistan's security and unity. A key asset of the Pakistani Army lies in its comprehensive and modernized military capabilities, spanning land, air, and sea forces equipped with cutting-edge weaponry and technology. Backed by well-trained and disciplined personnel, the Army possesses a formidable arsenal serving as a deterrent against aggression and ensuring the nation's defense readiness.

Moreover, the Pakistani Army is deeply ingrained in society, fulfilling a multifaceted role extending beyond conventional military duties. Through extensive outreach initiatives, the Army delivers essential services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development in remote and underserved regions, enriching the lives of millions and fostering trust and goodwill among civilians. The Army's dedication to upholding democratic principles and the rule of law is evident in its role as a guarantor of national security and stability. Despite facing various challenges, including political unrest and external pressures, the Army remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the democratic institutions and values enshrined in the constitution, ensuring the people's will prevails.

Furthermore, the Pakistani Army has earned global recognition and respect for its contributions to regional and global peacekeeping endeavors. With a proud history of serving under the United Nations banner, Pakistani peacekeepers have played a vital role in conflict zones worldwide, offering humanitarian aid, facilitating reconciliation, and promoting stability in strife-torn areas.

Readers, on Pakistan Day, observed on March 23rd, we are reminded of the significance of our independent nation and its defenders. The day calls for unity and collective efforts towards the betterment of the country, urging us to stand in full moral support of the Pakistan Army, which tirelessly ensures the peace and security of our

Living beyond moral, ethical values

Muhammad Aftab Zahoor

tanding along a busy road and pondering on messy traffic sparks an immediate reaction to any sensible Pakistani's mind that are we a responsible nation? With rare manifestations of respect for other's rights, we are most often in a senseless hurry or looking for a short cut creating an imagination not of a sensible nation but a crowed running towards an unknown destination. Teachings of our noble religion, philosophy of Quaid-i-Azam for emerging as a responsible nation and respecting the laws of our land, all seem missing from our lives. Except for a few, especially the elderly people who grew up in a peculiar environment of respecting elders and honoring laws, the rest take pride in trampling down ethical values. Different laws, rules, and regulations formulated for a peaceful and respectful co-existence fell like the most ridiculed entity as seen at roads, banks, hospitals, government offices, and other walks of life, even the Parliament, But still, we are surviving as a resilient nation though plagued by menaces like terrorism, enmities, intolerance, nepotism, lies, short measuring, adulteration, and much more evils.

Analyzing ourselves personally as well as in view of international ranking of globally recognized organizations, we continue to suffer deterioration on indexes of nobility, purity, honesty, fairness, truthfulness, righteousness and so on. "In our daily life and dealing with one another, it seems like that we have stopped hating social evils and opted most them as our life style," remarked Allama Abdul Hafeez. "We are gradually detracting from our religious teachings. Instead of making our Holy Prophet a symbol of life for ourselves, we have indulged in variety of sins." "I remember my childhood when our fathers used to have complete control on family affairs and mothers commonly used to help them in maintaining discipline,"

he stated. "But, the situation changed over the time due to obliviousness of our male and female folk to their rights and duties to themselves, their kids and the society." Allama Hafeez, however was confident that still our religion is a panacea to all these evils. "Even today our religious teachings are not a bygone dogma for creating a noble society. But, for this we need good parents, good teachers and good preachers." Seldom sense of responsibility and respect for other's rights, impatience, intolerance, conspiracies, back biting, character assassination and many other social evils permeated to our lives leave the responsible citizens with nothing but a deep regret. "Our professionals have become machines running from pillar to post to earn more and more money and this race leaves them with lesser time for their kids," stated social worker Chaudhry Muhammad Saleem. "When we would compromise discipline for love for our kids, how can we raise responsible nation. Therefore, whether it our own negligence or the influence of exotic cultures, our social fabric is shattering," he added. Saleem said our mothers keep busy on social media and Tik Tok when they had to be with their children and fathers forced to work in shifts or double jobs to earn living. "This non-availability of time for children is a serious issue. But, people cannot help it because they had to spend extra time on money making to fight unbearable price hike," he stated. "This situation also calls upon our rulers and policymakers to devise strategies for addressing these challenges." We are also too free as a nation to indulge in others affairs, taking revenge and hatching conspiracies against our relatives, colleagues, and friends. Work shirking and shying away from responsibilities are other menaces plaguing our society. Therefore, it is our collective responsibility to protect our dying noble norms and political leaders, religious scholars, teachers, and above all parents will have to revisit their social conduct and responsibilities to the

nation to save it from complete disaster.

Putin calls Moscow terrorist attack bloody, barbaric, vows retribution

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday called a terrorist attack here bloody and barbaric, vowing retribution for the perpetrators, organizers and financiers.

Putin made the remarks during a televised address to the nation after a deadly shooting Friday evening at the Crocus City Hall in northwest Moscow claimed the lives of at least 133 people.

Putin said all four perpetrators of the terrorist attack were arrested, adding that all perpetrators, organizers and financiers of this crime would be punished.

them. I repeat, we will identify and punish everyone who stands behind the terrorists, who prepared this atrocity. This is a strike against Russia, against our people," Putin said.

The Russian president added the cross the border. terrorist attack was "carefully, cyni-

President Asif Ali Zardari condemns terrorist attack in Moscow

President Asif Ali Zardari has condemned the terrorist attack in Moscow and extended his heartfelt condolences to the Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the bereaved families and the people of

He said that Pakistan fully shared the grief of the families who lost their dear ones in the heinous attack.

"Whoever they are, whoever guides murder of civilians."

He also said that the perpetrators tried to hide and moved towards Ukraine, and according to preliminary information, a "window" was prepared for them from the Ukrainian side to

Earlier, advisor to the head of the cally planned," and "a prepared mass Ukrainian Presidential Office Mikhail



Podolyak and the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry both rejected the notion of Ukraine's involvement in the attack.

Putin added that the main thing now is to prevent those who were behind the terrorist attack from committing

He noted that the Federal Security Service and other law enforcement agencies are working to identify the entire "terrorist support base."

Putin also declared March 24 a day of national mourning in Russia for those killed in the terrorist attack.

Russia arrests

concert toll soars

The Kremlin said Saturday that it

has arrested 11 people — includ-

ing four suspected gunmen — in connection with a shooting rampage

that killed at least 143 people in a concert hall near Moscow.

 $Reuters\ reported\ that\ militant$

group Daesh claimed responsibili-

ty for Friday's attack, the deadliest in Russia for 20 years. But there were

indications that Russia was pursuing

a Ukrainian link, despite a statement

from Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak that Kyiv had

A statement issued by Krem-

lin, on Saturday, stated that Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin was apprised

by FSB security service chief Alex-

ander Bortnikov that the suspects,

nothing to do with it.

suspected

to 143

gunmen as

Pakistan Day ceremony held in Pakistan Consulate Jeddah

腾 Noorulhassan Gujjar

JEDDAH: To mark the Pakistan Day event, national flag was raised at the Consulate General premises as the national anthem played in the background and a large number of community members in attendance. Furthermore, special messages from the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan were read to commemorate this significant day.

Mr. Khalid Majid, Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah, while speaking at the occasion highlighted the significance of this day and spoke about the strong bonds between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, describing it as a brotherly relationship that is deeply rooted in history. Emphasizing on the importance of this day Majid said "this day is a reminder of the sacrifices made by the founding fathers of Pakistan to secure a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent. It is a day to reflect on the ideals of unity, faith, and discipline that were espoused by Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The Consul General also and their contribution towards promoting the economic development of Kingdom Saudi Arabia and brotherly relation between the two countries.

A cross section of Pakistani diaspo- in India were a separate nation and





a historic occasion in the history of way for creation of Pakistan in 1947. Pakistan as it was on this day that the This resolution declared that Muslims

expressed his deep admiration for the ra and representatives of ethnic media demanded a separate homeland for Pakistani community living in Jeddah attended the event. 23rd March marks themselves. This resolution paved the

> The event concluded with a collective Lahore Resolution was passed in 1940. prayer and supplications for the peace, the Muslim Ummah.

welfare and prosperity of Pakistan and

among the detained, included "four terrorists" It further mentioned that the service was working to identify their

Russia's Investigative Committee said the death toll had leapt to 115 from the attack on Crocus City Hall, located in the outskirts of the Russian capital, in which camouflage-clad gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons at concertgoers near the capital on Friday.

Russian lawmaker Alexander Khinshtein said the attackers had fled in a Renault vehicle that was spotted by police in Bryansk region, about 340 km (210 miles) southwest of Moscow on Friday night and disobeved instructions to stop.

He said two were arrested after a car chase and two others fled into a forest. From the Kremlin account, it appeared they too were later

Khinshtein said a pistol, a magazine for an assault rifle, and passports from Tajikistan were found in the car. Tajikistan is a mainly Muslim Central Asian state that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

Daesh has claimed responsibility for the attack, the deadliest in Russia since the Beslan school siege in 2004.

The shooting took place on Friday evening at Crocus City Hall, a concert venue just west of Moscow where a Soviet-era rock band was due to perform.

Israeli occupation seeks to destroy Shifa Medical Complex for sixth day in a row



ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemns in the strongest terms the continuing heinous massacre committed by the occupation forces in Al-Shifa Medical Complex and the surrounding areas for the sixth day in a row, and is trying to exploit it under false pretexts and pretexts to destroy the entire Al-Shifa Medical Complex, kill hundreds of Palestinian civilians, arrest them, and burn and destroy hundreds of homes in the region, as part of their bloody targeting. All medical facilities in the Strip and putting them out of service as a decisive manifestation of the genocide of civilians and the creation of inhumane climates to displace them, by transforming the entire Gaza Strip and its north in particular into an area unfit for human life, and committing heinous crimes that go beyond being war crimes and crimes against humanity, in light of The continued Israeli arrogance to prevent the entry of aid into the Gaza Strip, which leads daily to an increase in deaths due to famine, thirst, and lack of medicine, especially among children, infants, women, the sick, and the elderly.

The Ministry expresses its deep anger and astonishment at the international community's transformation into a cold forum that produces statements, positions, demands and bets on the occupying state regarding the story of civilians and securing their basic humanitarian needs without being able to translate those positions into binding practical measures worthy of the status of the human being. The international community and states continue to deepen the humanitarian vacuum. Through fruitless discussions and dialogues with the Israeli side, which does not show any response to the call for humanity, and at its best says something that is often misleading and at the same time practure $\frac{1}{2}$ tices the exact opposite and continues to deepen its extermination of Palestinian civilians, and threatens to expand the war of extermination to include more than 1.5 million Palestinians residing in Rafah and its area. It seems that the victory that Netanyahu is yearning for is the destruction of the entire Gaza Strip and emptying it of its residents, either through mass murder or displacement.

Israel, despite U.S. pledges, still massacres in Gaza Strip



ISLAMABAD: Since Israel signed a written pledge not to use Amer-

In killing Palestinian civilians and increasing humanitarian aid to them, it continues to escalate the mass massacres it commits against civilians in the Gaza Strip, which left hundreds of martyrs, injured and missing, including women and children, as is constantly happening at the Kuwait Square in the hunger and flour massacres, and as is currently happening in murder crimes. The executions of nurses, doctors, the displaced, the besieged, and the civilians inside and around Al-Shifa Hospital, in addition to the mass massacres resulting from the bombing of homes over the heads of their residents after Israel's pledge throughout the Gaza Strip, including all areas of Rafah, are the ugliest forms of mockery and farce of Israeli deception, which we do not expect to be deceived. American administration. Here, the ministry wonders: What is the American administration's position on this pledge in light of Israel's continued massacres against Palestinian civilians, killing them either by brutal bombing or by starvation, thirst, and deprivation of medicines?

The Ministry calls on the international community and all countries to stop all forms of coexistence with the annihilation and forceful displacement of our people, no matter how much they try to cover it with high-level humanitarian positions in form, but they are impractical and do not translate into actions if they are not complicity with the occupation in the fundamental sense. Our people, who have been exposed to the worst forms of genocide for 169 days, are tired of the weak international reactions, and are awaiting a binding UN resolution that forces Israel, by the force of international law, to stop the war of genocide, protect civilians, and secure their basic humanitarian needs.

Flag hoisting ceremony on Pakistan Day

Spokesman Report

DHAKA: A flag hoisting ceremony was held at High Commission for Pakistan, Dhaka this morning to mark the National Day of Pakistan.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Syed Ahmed Maroof hoisted the national flag at the Chancery to the tune of the national anthem. The occasion held great

significance as it marked the historic day in 1940 Ali Jinnah passed a resoluthe dynamic leadership of Muslims of South Asia. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad



when the icons of Paki- tion in Lahore, calling for a stan Movement under separate homeland for the ter Muhammad Shehbaz

The messages from Pres-

ident of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minis-Sharif and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar were

read out to the audience. The High Commissioner

while felicitating the Pakistanis across the world especially Pakistani diaspora residing in Bangladesh and Bhutan paid rich tribute to the historic struggle for the creation of Pakistan and said that 23rd March is a day of introspection and renewal of our resolve to serve Pakistan and making it a country as dreamt by our found-

The ceremony was attended by the Pakistani community residing in Bangladesh, local media representatives and staff of the High Commission.

CBD Punjab celebrates Pakistan Resolution Day with patriotic fervor

LAHORE: The Punjab (PCBDDA), also known as Punjab (CBD Punjab), proudly commemorated with unwavering dedication to the nation's progress. headquarters, the ceremony was attended by COO CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, directorate heads, senior officials, staff members, and ancillary staff, all united in the spirit of patriotism and national pride.

The event began with the historic Pakistan Reso-Central Business District a flag hoisting ceremony, Development Authority symbolizing the steadfast commitment to uphold the Central Business District principles of unity, faith, and discipline, and to strive for the betterment of the Pakistan Resolution Day country while keeping the national flag flying high. The national flag soaring Held at the CBD Punjab high served as a powerful symbol of prosperity and sovereignty.

Addressing the gathering, COO CBD Punjab, Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, emphasized the importance of commemorating the historic Pakistan Resolution. He stated, "Today, as we honor

lution, we renew our pledge to uphold the principles of unity, faith, and discipline. It is our responsibility to honor the vision of our forefathers by tirelessly working for the progress and prosperity of our beloved nation." The celebration of Paki-

stan Resolution Day at CBD Punjab exemplifies the enduring spirit of patriotism and commitment to national development. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our forefathers and inspires us to continue working towards a brighter future for Pakistan.

23 March function held at GHS Wana, AC Office Wana

跨 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

WANNA: In Lower South Waziristan too, a grand function was organized at Government High School, Wana to mark March 23 as a renewal of pledge.

In which Government High School Wana Principal Ghulam Hussain Wazir, people from civil society, school students and local journalists participated.

On the other hand, the district administration organized a function at Wana AC office and also organized a walk under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan

Ghulam Hussain Wazir, Principal of Government High School Wana, while addressing the ceremony held on March 23 said that living



nations never forget the sacrifices of their forefathers.

He said that our forefathers have made an unparalleled history of sacrifices for the achievement of

Pakistan, which will always be written and remembered in the pages of history with golden letters

The participants said that thanks to the sacrifices made by our forefa-

thers, today we are breathing in the free atmosphere of the independent country of Pakistan. March 23 reminds us of the sacrifices of our national heroes. By whose sacrifices the independ-

ent country of Pakistan came into existence.

The participants say that on the occasion of renewing the pledge on March 23, we paid tribute to our ancestors for their sacrifices and expressed this determination that all of us will not hesitate to make any kind of sacrifice for the survival, development and prosperity of Pakistan and the nation will be united and the evil intentions of anti-national elements will be crushed.

At the end of the ceremony AC Wana Office echoed with slogans of Pakistan Zindabad.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index	Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
65,151.82	65,417.40		
Day's High	Day's Low		
65,534.02	65,056.65		
Index Value	Change		
4,141,076,140	-265.58		
Percentage	Time		
-0.41%	22 Mar, 2024 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
7,930.92	+48.37		
Percentage	Time		
+0.61%	22 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
39,600.80	-180.57		
Percentage	Time		
-0.45%	22 Mar, 1:08 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Asia i acilic. Nikk			
Index Value	Change		
	Change +72.77		

Open Market	Forex F	Rates

Percentage

+0.18%

Time

22 Mar, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Орен магкес		
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	278.2	280.95

Pakistan Day Celebration at Civil Defense Office Rawalpindi



№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Day ceremony was held at the Civil Defense Office Rawalpindi, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saqib Rafiq was the chief guest on the occasion. Additional Chief Warden Civil Defense Raja Amer Iqbal, Civil Defense Officer Talib Hussain, Deputy Chief Warden M. Zahid, Vice President Faisal Shehzad along with Other Civil Defense members and volunteers were also present on the

President RCCI Saqib Rafiq hoisted the flag along with Additional Chief Warden Civil Defense Raja Amir Iqbal.

During his visit to the Civil Defense Office Rawalpindi, President Chamber Saqib Rafiq was given a detailed briefing at the control room where he was briefed on Civil Defense response, firefighting equipment, and bomb disposal to deal with emergency situations.

Earlier, President Saqib Rafiq was presented a guard of honor on his arrival at the Civil Defense Office.

Later, wreaths were also placed on the memorial of police martyrs at the police headquarters.

Attitude of friendly nations is cold; larger tax base is needed: Mian Zahid Hussain

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Saturday that taking a new long-term loan from the IMF is very important for the country's survival.

At the same time, economic reforms are significant so that the country can become self-reliant, and he said there is no need for further borrowing.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that borrowing should be stopped as soon as possible; otherwise, the entire debt servicing burden will continue to be shifted to industry and the

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the IMF is the only option to save the country from default.

He added that due to our continuous breach of promises, the attitude of the IMF has become inflexible, while the attitude of the friendly countries has also become cold.

The IMF not only wants the continuation of strict policies but also wants to see further increases in electricity and gas prices and prolong interest rates in double digits, he said.

The IMF wants to increase the tax base, sell failed enterprises, and bring non-tax-paying sectors into the tax net. However, in Pakistan, governments generally cannot do anything other than increase taxes on certain items, resulting in inflation.

Increasing the burden on the powerful and influential classes has always been avoided, he said, adding that at present, the IMF is somewhat satisfied, due to which other creditors are also ready to trust Pakistan, but getting billions of dollars every year to repay old debts and interest is not sustainable.



At the moment, both the government and reduction in inflation. Still, when electricity and gas become more expensive, the cost of statements.

production will also increase, which will not reduce inflation.

There is a clear possibility of a decrease in Pakistan's exports, and the rich will be hardly affected by the austerity policy of the interna-

tional organization. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has indicated that the burden of reforms will now be shifted to the elite instead of people with low incomes, which is welcome. IMF and the people's misery are linked because the economy does not flourish under its conditions; it shrinks.

Therefore, we need to stand on our feet through structural reforms as soon as possible so that we do not need loans and some relief can be given to the people.

He said that an increase in exports and the IMF are giving the good news of a slight import substitution is needed, and concrete steps should be taken instead of relying on

Price hike

ISLAMABAD: An elder vendor displays fruits attraction for customers on his loading van alongside a road, in the Federal Capital



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Pakistan: Two new World Bank projects to support the digital economy and increase resilience to floods

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved \$149.7 million in financing for Pakistan on Friday, to support two projects. The Digital Economy Enhancement Project (\$78 million) will support the expansion of digitally enabled public services delivery for citizens and firms, while the second Additional Financing for the Sindh Barrages Improvement Project (\$71.7 million) will support better resilience to floods and improvements in the reliability, safety, and management of the three Sindh barrages*.

"The catastrophic floods that hit Pakistan in 2022 were a tragic reminder of the importance to build resilience to such disasters, including by strengthening barrages and their management," said Najy

Benhassine, World Bank Country Director credit through a smartphone application. It for Pakistan. "Also, supporting the growing digital economy in Pakistan is key for economic and social development, broadening connectivity and access to government and financial services for citizens and

entrepreneurs, particularly women." The Digital Economy Enhancement Project (DEEP) will develop digital authentication and data-sharing platforms to enable Pakistan to respond more effectively and efficiently to shocks, deliver better e-government services to citizens and firms, and support regulatory reforms in the sector, including to enable greater private participation, and strengthening personal data protection and online safety. The project will also promote financial inclusion by enabling women in particular, to open bank accounts or apply remotely for

will also contribute to addressing barriers such as limited mobility and digital literacy.

The second additional financing for the Sindh Barrages Improvement Project (SBIP) will support the full completion and commissioning of the Guddu and Sukkur barrages rehabilitation works and improve the management of three barrages in Sindh including Guddu, Sukkur and Kotri. Having safe and effective barrages to convey flood waters downstream is a crucial part of building climate resilience in Sindh. The additional financing will also contribute to strengthening the provincial Barrage Management Unit's technical capacities, promoting women's participation in emergency preparedness, and implementing extensive citizen engagement and stakeholder participation.

Fiscal discipline of country to be driven under IMF direction now: FRIA

LAHORE: The Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam has said that the economic and fiscal discipline of the country will be driven under the direction of IMF now, leaving little room for the government to make its way, which has not come up with any plan to fix the economy and provide relief to the trade and industry.

Higher inflation, rising utility tariffs, growing unemployment and, above all, the malaise and despondency among the masses are likely to continue unattended.

Economic vulnerability now looms with political uncertainty at its core. The Moody's Investors Service has recently given a 'credit negative' signal to Pakistan in the face of prolonged political ambiguity and for a new program, weaken nation.

external economy and make liquidity management more challenging.

Shahbaz Aslam said that the privatization commission of Pakistan is struggling since months to effectively put in place the privatization of loss-making public sector enterprises; notably, the Pakistan Steel Mills and Pakistan International Airlines despite the urgency and concern expressed, time and again, by the IMF.

The election held on Feb 8th in Pakistan threw up a number of surprises with a significant shift in the country's political landscape.

The decision-making processes and any constitutional amendment are likely to be driven and influenced more by conflicting self-interests of the coalition partners, watering down the key objectives. This is not what the country needs in social tensions over election these unprecedented times results, which will make it of political and economic tough to approach the IMF challenges confronting the

GDP growth rate below potential due to poor efforts to boost growth: APBF



ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has said that country's GDP growth rate has always remained below its potential despite efforts to boost economic growth, as the development of important sectors and investment prospects was hampered by inadequate revenue collec-

tion, structural problems,

The APBF President Syed

Maaz Mahmood asked the government to give priority to the economic recovery, emphasizing the necessity of ioint efforts to tackle Pakistan's economic difficulties.

Since it has been causing serious governance and economic issues for years, the cost of goods, food, petrol, and other necessities has increased, and inflation has almost reached 45 percent. which is not bearable for the

On the other hand, there has been an increase in dissatisfaction among the public that no state institution is performing well and to save them from the haughtiness and bad administration pervasive in the system.

Kate Somvongsiri spotlights U. S.-Pakistan Partnership, climate resilience in Sindh

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Mission Director for Pakistan, Kate Somvongsiri, engaged with provincial leadership, government counterparts, and development partners to advance USAID's longstanding commitment to improving lives and achieving shared development goals in Sindh during her visit to the city.

Under the U. S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, USAID continues to collaborate with Pakistan to address climate, environmental, and economic challenges, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. according to a communiqué on Saturday.

Along with Consul General Conrad Tribble, Mission Director Somvongsiri met with Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah to reaffirm USAID's partnership and support for development initiatives in Sindh. Discussions with Sindh Minister of Health and Population Welfare, Dr Azra Pechuho, centered on ongoing collaborations in health as well as successful interventions



during crises such as COVID-19 and the 2022 floods.

USAID's decades-long partnership with the Sindh government spans various sectors, including education, water and sanitation, health and nutrition, clean energy, food security, economic advancement, and climate resilience.

During their visit to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC), established

with U.S. assistance in collaboration with Indiana University in the 1950s, CG Tribble and the Mission Director observed the impact of USAID-supported initiatives on maternal and newborn care.

The Mission Director also met with several accomplished female graduates who were recipients of USAID scholarships at the U. S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water, a collaborative initiative established at Mehran University in partnership with the University of Utah. Additionally, she engaged with a firm dedicated to leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance agricultural practices, thereby empowering farmers across all stages of the crop cycle—from

seed to harvest. Underscoring USAID's commitment to fostering partnerships with local organizations, she spoke with representatives from civil society and NGOs to understand their perspectives on crucial issues such as human rights, access to justice, and information, focusing on the empowerment of women, minorities, and marginalized communities.

FPCCI appoints Shahida Parveen as Convener KPK **Regional Committee** (minimum nine members)

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has appointed Mrs Shahida Parveen as Convener FPCCI's Women Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Regional Standing Committee on Women Empowerment & Development for the year 2024-2025.

The committee would represent Women Chamber Of Commerce & Industry, Peshawar Division, according to press statement received

Shahida Parveen, the Proprietor Blossom's Beauty Saloon has been authorized to select and appoint professional and experienced members throughout the KPK Region

in here Committee from the relevant fields and sector. She has been asked to

convene meeting of the Committee within 30 days of this nomination and has been advised to hold at least one meeting of her respective committee quarterly and furnish details of actions taken by the committee to the FPCCI Secretariat.

The performance and contribution of the Committee will also be highlighted and published in FPCCI performance report.

The activities of the Committee will be reviewed on quarterly basis, the statement said adding if the Committee remained non-functional, the Convenership may be withdrawn.

Chairman PCB Naqvi calls for merit in national selection

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi met National Men's Chief Selector Wahab Riaz at the headquarters of Pakistan Cricket at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, to discuss matters related to national selection and preparation for the home T20I series against New Zealand.

The meeting was also attended by the PCB COO Salman Naseer and Director International Usman Wahla.

The core agenda of the high-profile meeting was to strictly follow the merit in the selection process for the national men's team.

Another agenda of the meeting also involved the selection of players for a fitness and conditioning camp in Kakul, Abbottabad, set to commence later next

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi instructed to assemble a pool of players based on



merit and performance.

Chief Selector Wahab Riaz also the performances of various players in

the recently concluded HBL PSL 9. Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi: "A pool presented a detailed report regarding of players selected purely on merit and

perform well at the highest level. The high performers of HBL PSL 9 should also be kept in mind and rewarded for their performances."

Earlier this week, Chief Selector Wahab Riaz and COO Salman Naseer visited Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium to analyze the situation and facilities at the venue.

According to the details, the delegation made a visit to the Iqbal Stadium as per the instruction of the newly-appointed PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

The delegation was instructed by the PCB head to analyze the condition of the stadium and the facilities there which may pave the way for its upgradation.

For the unversed, Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium has not hosted a single international, domestic or franchise league match since the return of international cricket to Pakistan.

The Stadium last hosted an internaperformances will possess the ability to tional match in 2008.

Argentina down El Salvador 3-0 in friendly without Messi

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The absence of captain Lionel Messi didn't slow Argentina on Friday as the world champions warmed up for their Copa America title defence with a 3-0 friendly victory over El Salvador in Philadelphia.

Defender Cristian Romero opened the scoring in the 16th minute with Enzo Fernández in the 42nd and Giovani Lo Celso in the 52nd completing the victory at Lincoln Financial Field, home of the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

Lionel Messi, the eighttime Ballon d'Or winner now starring for Major League Soccer's Inter Miami, was ruled out of Friday's match and Argentina's friendly against Costa Rica in Los Angeles next week after tweaking a hamstring in Miami's 3-1 victory over Nashville in the CONCA-CAF Champions Cup this

On a chilly night in Phil- Angel Di Maria. delphia, Argentina didn't



slotted home from in front

their first friendly of the year on the right flank and set against a team that has now gone 21 matches without a

Romero was the first to break through against the team coached by Spain's David Doniga, rising to head home a corner kick taken by

Minutes before

up Rodrigo de Paul, whose back pass was headed by Lo Celso to Fernandez who

of the goal.

need him to comfortably win Di Maria received the ball left-footed shot.

The match saw Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni take the opportunity to give minutes to youngsters Alejandro Garnacho and Valentin Barco — the 19-year-old left-back signed Celso's turn as he finished by Brighton in January who off another brilliant connec-stood out for the U-23 team

After the break, it was Lo Lautaro Martinez with a Olympic

tion between Di Maria and in qualifying for the Paris

Former PCB Chairman Shaharyar Khan passes away

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The former chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Shaharyar Khan, 89, passed away earlier this morning, in Lahore.

According to his family, the deceased was suffering from prolonged illness and on Saturday morning, his condition worsened, leading to his saddened demise.

The body of the deceased will be transported to Kararesidence in Karachi on Sunday.

He served as the Chair-August 2014 to August 2017. bered for his vital role in



Shaharyar Khan also bringing international crickworked as team manager of et to Pakistan. chi via air ambulance. His the Pakistan National Men's funeral will be held at his team during the 1999 tour Board, through its chairman, of India and the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003.

The PCB offered condoman of PCB for two different lence on the passing of its terms, from December 2003 former chairman and stat- chairman PCB Shaharyar to October 2006 and from ed that Khan will be remem-

"The Pakistan Cricket the Board of Governors and employees, expresses deep sadness and sorrow over the passing away of former Khan earlier this morning, in Lahore. He was 89," stated

PCB in a press release.

"The PCB pays heartfelt condolences to Shaharyar Khan's family on his sad demise and wishes to always remember him as one of the vital characters in bringing cricket back to Pakistan during the last decade," the statement added.

The newly-appointed PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi expressed his sorrow on the demise of Shaharyar Khan and acknowledged the late's effort in the development of the game in the country.

"On behalf of the PCB, I express my deep condolences and grief over the passing of former Chairman Shaharyar Khan. He was a fine administrator and served Pakistan Cricket with utmost dedi-

Bowlers' day in Sylhet as Sri Lanka inch ahead of Bangladesh



SYLHET: 12 wickets fell during the enthralling day as Sri Lanka raced to a dominating 211-run lead against hosts Bangladesh in the ongoing first Test here at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on

Bangladesh resumed their first innings at an overnight score of 32/3 and could add 156 runs to their total despite Tajiul Islam's fighting knock.

The hosts had a dismal start to the day as they lost two more wickets — Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Shahadat Hossain — in quick succession and had consequently slipped to 83/5.

Following the slump, Islam partnered strongly with wicketkeeper batter Litton Das and pulled the home side out of dange

The pair added 61 runs for the sixth wicket before Lahiru Kumara cleaned up Das to open the floodgates.

The right-handed batter remained a notable contributor for Bangladesh, scor-

Islam followed in his footsteps around five overs later, falling agonizingly short of his well-deserved half-century.

He remained the top-scorer for Bangladesh with an anchoring 47-run knock, which featured six boundaries.

The disciplined Sri Lanka bowling attack then had to put in hard yards to sweep off Bangladesh's tail as Shoriful Islam (15) and Khaled Ahmed (22) offered resistance with an adamant 40-run stand for the ninth wicket before both fell victim to Vishwa Fernando.

Sri Lanka, despite having a 92-run advantage, had a shaky start to their second innings as they lost Nishan Madushanka (10) and Kusal Mendis (3) with just 32 runs on the board.

Veteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews partnered with Dinesh Chandimal to anchor the innings briefly before both perished in quick succession, bringing the equation down to 64/4.

Sri Lanka's batting mainstay Dimuth Karunaratne was then joined by his skipper de Silva in the middle and the duo took Sri Lanka past the 100-run mark before the former perished briefly after amassing his

Imad Wasim takes back retirement from T20Is



№ A Sports

LAHORE: Star Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim on Saturday, came out of international retirement and declared his availability for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, scheduled to run from June 2 in the USA and the West Indies.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Imad shared that he reconsidered his retirement after meeting PCB officials and will now be available to serve Pakistan in the T20I format.

"I am happy to announce that pursuant to meeting PCB officials, I have reconsidered my retirement and am delighted to declare my availability for Pakistan cricket in T20i format leading up to ICC T20i World Cup 2024," stated Imad.

"I would like to thank the PCB for reposing trust in me and I would give my very best to bring laurels to my country. Paki-

Imad Wasim, who announced his retirement in November 2023, was pushed by cricket pundits and fans to reconsider the decision, citing his remarkable form in the recently-concluded Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9.

The all-rounder played a pivotal role in leading Islamabad United to their third PSL title, emerging as their standout player in the knockout matches.

He played a match-winning cameo against Multan Sultans in Islamabad United's last group-stage fixture, propelling the two-time champions into the PSL 9 Playoffs.

Imad then bamboozled Quetta Gladiators in the Eliminator with magnificent bowling figures of 3/12 before playing a match-winning 59-run knock in the second Eliminator against

Imad Wasim then etched his name into the PSL history books when he became the first bowler to claim a five-wicket haul in the tournament's final.

He followed up his five-fer with an unbeaten 19 off 17 deliveries. For the unversed, Imad Wasim represented Pakistan in 66 T20Is and scored 486 runs. He also has 65 wickets to his name in the shortest format.

Russia cancels Paraguay friendly following Moscow shooting attack



tional against Paraguay in Moscow following Friday's shooting rampage near the capital city, the Russian Football Union (RFU) said on Saturday.

At least 115 people were killed after gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons in a concert hall near Moscow, with Islamic State militant group claiming responsibility.

Russia, banned from FIFA and UEFA competitions in February 2022 following the country's invasion of Ukraine, can only play friendly games and defeated Serbia 4-0 on Thursday at Moscow's VTB Arena, and were due to play Paraguay at the same venue on Monday.

"In connection with the terrorist attack that occurred in Krasnogorsk, the Russian Football Union and the Paraguayan Football Association decided to cancel a friendly match between the national teams of Russia and Paraguay," the RFU said in

FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers: Pakistan face 3-0 defeat against Jordan

Pakistan's 3-0 defeat against Jordan dimmed Shaheens' chances of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup 2026, as the former lost three games in a row during the second round of the Asian

Pakistan are on the brink of elimination from the FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers after losing to Jordan at the Jinnah Stadium in Islamabad on Thursday.

Jordan's star player Musa Al-Taamari scored a brace while Ali Olwan notched up a goal as well during the match against

Japan's Sakamoto wins third straight figure skating women's world title

₿ Sports Desk

MONTREAL: Kaori Sakamoto delivered a bravura free skate on Friday to become the first woman in more than 50 years to win three straight titles at the Figure Skating World Championships, vaulting from fourth after the short programme.

The 23-year-old from Kobe is the first woman since American Peggy Flemming in 1966, 1967 and 1968 to win three straight Centre Bell capping an unbeaten 2023, told the crowd. 2023-24 campaign.

Two 17-year-olds complet-Isabeau Levito taking silver and South Korean Kim Chae-yeon grabbing bronze. Sakamoto's charismatic routine packed with feet in Montreal.

He earned 149.67 points who was sixth after the short off the podium. for the free skate for a total of 222.96. That put her more than 10 points clear of Levito, who was second after the short programme and second in the free skate to finish with 212.16

"I was fourth in the short program, so I was a little anxious about that, but today I was in a really good place emotionally," Sakamoto, who earned bronze at the 2022 Olympics before world golds, her triumph at the winning world gold in 2022 and

She said the key to her victory was maintaining her composure ed the podium, with American ont only after catching an edge early in her programme but also as fans began to respond to her

bold performance. "I made sure I didn't get quality jumps had fans on their carried away and skated with and a bronze at the last two, was

programme, took bronze with a total of 200.25 points as short programme leader Loena Hendrickx settled for fourth. Levito said she was "in a state

of shock" after completing her free skate. "I had two goals coming into this world championship, getting on the podium and securing the third spot for the American women next year,"

"I did both. It was extremely satisfying," added Levito, whose result combined with teammate Amber Glenn's 10th-place finish ensure the US will have three skaters at next year's worlds in

Belgium's European champion Hendrickx, bidding to land gold after finishing with a sliver composure," she said. Kim, eighth in the free skate to finish

Earlier, Madison Chock and Evan Bates of the United States launched their ice dance title defense by topping the standings in the rhythm dance.

Chock and Bates, trying to complete their first undefeated campaign, received a season-best 90.08 points from judges.

The ice dance and men's deciding free skates will be contested on Saturday.

Two-time reigning European champions Charlene Guignard and Marco Fabbro of Italy, second at last year's worlds, were second in the rhythm dance with 87.52 points.

Canada's Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier, third in last year's worlds and winners in last month's Four Continents Championships at Shanghai, were third on 86.51



The British two-time European runner-up duo of Lilah Fear became a partnership in 2011 and Lewis Gibson was fourth on and are engaged to be married.

This year, they have won fifth US crown.

Chock, 31, and Bates, 35, Grand Prix events on home ice and in Finland, taken the Grand Prix Final and also captured their

The Spokesman

Called on Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud calls on Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir on Sat-

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to work together, further enhance bilateral cooperation

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have reiterated their resolve to work together and further enhance bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries. This was discussed at a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Defence Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, who called on him at Aiwan-i-Sadr on Saturday

al Minister for Defence and of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, and the Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan, were also present during the Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, meeting.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the Prime Minister, Muham- award of Nishan-i-Pakistan on the Minister for Defence mad Shehbaz Sharif, Feder- of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), His Royal Highness Prince Khalid hin Δhdul Δziz Δl Defence Production, Khawa- tion of his services towards strengthening Pak-KSA highlighted that Pakistan His Royal Highness Prince ja Muhammad Asif, Chief bilateral cooperation during a special investiture ceremony on Saturday.

said that Pakistan accorded utmost importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia as both countries enjoyed a fraternal bond, marked by shared faith and historical relations. He underscored the need for further increasing bilateral cooperation in various fields. The President deeply thanked KSA for the Special Investiture Ceremosupport provided to Pakistan during challenging times. He lauded the leadership of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and the vision of the Crown Prince His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud that strengthening bilateral coopwould propel Saudi Arabia eration and his contribution towards remarkable progress. towards peace in the region. The Saudi Defence Minister and Saudi Arabia enjoyed Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul strong historical, strategic Aziz Al Saud on the conferand defence cooperation. He ment of the award and While welcoming the visit- further stated that both coun- thanked him for his role in ing dignitary, the President tries should work together and promoting defence ties.

support each other to further deepen bilateral relations. He highlighted that his country believed in regional prosperity and had succeeded in increasing economic integration.

Earlier, the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, conferred the Nishan-i-Pakistan award, during a ny, on His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Minister for Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in recognition of his meritorious services towards further The President congratulated

In meeting with COAS Munir, Saudi defence minister calls for boosting ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud has called for boosting bilateral ties in a meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, the military's media wing said on Saturday.

"Saudi Arabia-Pakistan have historical and strong brotherly relations. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have always been well-wishers of each other," he was quoted as saying in a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations.

The Saudi defence minister, who previously served as an F-15 pilot in the Royal Saudi Air Force, was the guest of honour of the Pakistan Day

He attended the ceremony with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari, and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

Pakistan Day commemorates the passing of the Lahore Resolution on March 23, 1940, when the All-India Muslim League demanded a separate nation for the Muslims of the British Indian Empire.

The army chief and the defence minister had received Prince Khalid countries.

upon his arrival at the Nur Khan airbase to attend the ceremony. The visiting dignitary later called on COAS Munir and discussed matters of mutual interest, promoting ties between the two countries, and boosting ties in different sectors including defence.

COAS Munir thanked Prince Khalid for visiting Pakistan. The Saudi defence minister also thanked the army chief for inviting him as the guest of honour at the Pakistan Day

The visiting dignitary left for Saudi Arabia after the visit. The army chief saw off the Saudi defence minister at Nur Khan Airbase as his visit to the country came to an end.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir sees off Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud at Nur Khan airbase on March 23, 2024. Photo via ISPR

Pakistan, KSA reiterate resolve to work together

Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have reiterated their resolve to work together and further enhance bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly

Pakistan Day marked at the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo

👺 Hinza Asif

TOKYO: A simple and graceful flag hoisting ceremony was held today at the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo with traditional fervor.

The ceremony commenced with recitation of the Holy Quran followed by the National Anthem of Pakistan. Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar hoisted the national flag while the National Anthem was played.

The Ambassador read out the Pakistan Day Messages of the President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister, Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar. He also paid tribute to the Pakistani community in Japan for its achievements and contributions.

Special Supplements published in two leading English newspapers of Japan. National Day of Pakistan related gatherings were also arranged in different parts of Japan by community groups



PTI celebrates Pakistan Day with renewed pledge to further accelerate efforts for Haqeeqi Azadi

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) celebrated Pakistan Day with the renewed spirit that they would leave no stone unturned to make Pakistan a truly independent Islamic welfare state, where there would be supremacy of constitution and rule of

Speaking at a function organized to celebrate Pakistan Day, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan said that March 23 was the day of renewal of the pledge that the muslims of subcontinent rendered matchless sacrificed so as to get an independent state where they could live their lives freely, where there would be supremacy of the constitution and rule the Chairman of his party.



Barrister Gohar said that like Quaid-e-Azam, Imran Khan also believed in true democracy, which could be judged from his decision that he awarded tickets to the party's loyalists and made him harmony in the country.

Speaking on the occasion, PTI senior leader and MNA Asad Qaiser said that Allama Igbal was a source of inspiration for them who awaked the nation, adding that PTI was a beautiful bouquet of unity and

He said that situation at former Gilgit-Baltistan chief

side, demanding to immediately activate diplomatic channels so as to normalize the ties with neighboring countries.

On the occasion, PTI senator Walid Iqbal said that he joined PTI because of Imran Khan was an incorruptible and unconpromisable leader.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam was a great advocate of women political participation and Imran Khan accomplished his dream, which showed there practical participation in the February 8, 2024 general elections.

During his speech, PTI leader shed light on the struggle and vision of Quaid-e-Azam. Addressing the event,

borders were very concern- minister Khalid Khurshid said ing especially on Afghanistan that it was a great day for him because he could see happiness on the faces of PTI people who were subjected to worst brutalities and barbarism during the past two years.

> Speaking on the occasion, Ali Muhammad Khan said that the resolution of Pakistan meant "freedom", but he raised question that whether they deserved to celebrate Pakistan Day as their leaders and women were languishing in jails.

> He said that PTI Founding Chairman said absolutely not to the US while the same thing was told by Quaid-e-Azam to the British Viceroy, adding that it was beyond comprehension as to why Imran Khan was in

Pak Embassy organizes Flag Hoisting Ceremony to mark Pakistan Day

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: On the occasion of Pakistan Day, a Flag Hoisting Ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan on Saturday, 23 March, 2024.

The celebrations started with the recitation of Holy Quran, followed by Flag Hoisting in synchronisation with the National Anthem.

The Messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan were read out by Ambassador Amna Baloch, Mr. Omar Hameed, Minister Economic ative to World Customs Organization of nations. (WCO), Sved Asad Rizvi.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Amna Baloch recalled the sacri-Muslims, who aspired to create a large numbers.



separate homeland. She underlined the need to reaffirm the commitment to work towards making Pakiand Pakistan's Permanent Represent- stan a model country in the comity

Members of the Pakistani community in Belgium and Luxembourg and officials of the Embassy attended the fices and the determination of the solemn Flag Hoisting Ceremony in

Embassy in Paris celebrates Pakistan Day

Spokesman Report

PARIS: A flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Embassy of Pakistan Paris on Saturday to commemorate the Pakistan Day. The event was attended by a large number of Pakistani diaspora, members of diplomatic corps, media representatives and officials of the Embassy. Messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were read

The Ambassador of Pakistan Asim Iftikhar Ahmad welcomed the guests and thanked them for a great demonstration of vision being part of the ceremony. In by the Muslims of the sub-conhis remarks, the Ambassador tinent as this resolution brought said that on this day in 1940, them together with extraordinary

demand for a "separate state", a separate homeland where they could live their lives in accordance with their aspirations. Elaborating further he said that 23 March was a landmark day in the history of Pakistan movement. It is the day of honoring the valiant struggle of our forefathers for a separate homeland – a struggle that was provided with a direction and momentum that began with the historic Lahore Resolution of 1940, later named as the Pakistan Resolution. It was

the Muslims put forward their courage and zeal to strive for a separate homeland and freedom that was archived in a short span of seven years. While addressing the guests the Ambassador said that it was the under the visionary leadership of the Father of The Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and sacrifices made by his companions that multiple odds were overcome to make Pakistan possible and the dream of Allama Dr. Muhammad Igbal became a reality. The Ambassador added that while we celebrate Pakistan Day, we should not forget that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) are enduring the worst form of repression and Nations Security Council Reso-



state-sponsored terrorism at the hands of Indian occupation forces, aggravated by the Hindutva agenda and the unilateral actions of August 2019. The key to durable peace in South Asia is the resolution of the dispute in accordance with the United

lutions (UNSC). Pakistan, on its part, stands committed to extending all possible support until the realization of right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. The Ambassador also expressed strong support for Palestinian people who are facing injustice, oppression and illegal occupation

based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. The Ambassador highlighted the importance of Pakistan-France friendship and said that both countries share the objective development, peace and security. He added that relations between France and Pakistan have a positive momentum and the two sides have been political consultations but also

the Israeli Defense Forces. Paki-

stan remains steadfast in its prin-

cipled support for the establish-

ment of an independent, viable,

for seven decades at the hands of A great deal of focus has been placed to enhance cooperation in energy, IT, agriculture and livestock, tourism, and other sectors. He appreciated the Pakistani and contiguous state of Palestine, community living in France for their achievements and contributions towards strengthening Pak-France ties particularly people to people relationships. He lauded the compatriots as Ambassador of Pakistan and an invaluable asset, committed to the ideals of the founding fathers to attain glory for Pakistan by embracing the values of hard work, integrity, and compassion. getting closer not only through Later, the guests enjoyed poetry and tableau performance by through economic activities. Pakistani children at the occasion.

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