**Barkat Rice Mills** 

Fostering parliamentary diplomacy: Essential for world peace and sustainable development: NA Speaker

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that upholding values of democracy, peace, and the rule of law are essential for global growth and development. He added, "Pakistan is a peaceful country that believes in dialogue for cooperation and understanding." (Details on Page 8)

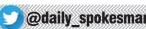


Naila Kiani received the highest civilian award, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, for her achievements in mountaineering

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 15, Tuesday, March 26, 2024







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# Meeting ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding implementation of Trace and Trace System on

## PM directs swift action against tax defaulters, evaders

**Spokesman Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis- als over enforcement of auto- tant sectors of the economy. ter Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif matic tax system in factories and on Monday directed initiation industries. of action against tax defaulters and evaders on emergency basis.

The prime minister directed for constitution of a committee to identify the hurdles and responsibilities in the track and trace system. The committee would identify the hurdles and people involved in tax theft within seven

The prime minister chaired a meeting regarding implementation of Track and Trace System in Islamabad, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The committee would be two years, adding that the system nues, the said system could also sectors.

by federal ministers including Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzaib Khan, Chairman FBR Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana and other senior officials

The prime minister questioned as to why the system was still inac-

He observe that this system should have been made functional in tobacco, sugar, cement and fertilizer industries in the last

tasked to submit future propos- should be placed in other impor- be utilized for counterfeit and He said that all the legal imped-

The meeting was attended track and trace system should be The prime minister direct-

ed that the system should be enforced at all the production lines of cement factories, besides he summoned a comprehensive plan over digital strategy and automated track and trace system.

He further directed that all those factories that resisted the implementation of track and trace system should be immediately sealed.

He opined that besides reve-

iments in the enforcement of end to take and unregistered ciga-

substandard products.

rettes and their destruction. The country was facing economic issues and mafia with their connivance had been inflicting damages to the national kitty, he added.

The prime minister also asked for seeking help of the international institutions in the track and

The meeting was apprised in detail about the hurdles in the automated enactment of the track and trace system in the cement, sugar, fertilizer and tobacco

The meeting was told that in 14 tobacco factories, the system was The prime minister asked for fully functional whereas 12 others had been sealed for non-compli-

Photo: Online

The system was fully functional in fertilizer industry while it was facing problems in sugar and cement factories due to some technical issues which were being addressed.

The meeting was further apprised that raids were being conducted on godowns throughout the country to control the smuggling.

The prime minister directed that the law enforcement agencies should assist FBR.

#### Shireen Mazari gets bail in May 9 cases

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad granted bail to former federal minister Shireen Mizari in different cases of vandalism and attacks on government buildings related to May 9.

ATC Judge Malik Ijaz heard the bail plea of the former minister on Monday and granted bail against Shireen Mizari's personal surety bonds.

It may be mentioned that Shireen Mizari was implicated in fourteen different cases related to the May 9 vandalism.

Soon after the May 9 riots, last year, the former federal minister announced to quit PTI

## Dar calls for early resumption of PIA flights to UK in phone call with British counterpart

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has called for early resumption of Pakistan International Airlines flights to the United Kingdom in a phone call with British counterpart David Cameron on Monday, Radio Pakistan reported.

Dar also emphasised the early conclusion of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership agreement with the UK to further strengthen the bilat-

While reiterating the importance of bilateral relations, the foreign minister said that Pakistan and the UK have "longstanding, historic relations with multifaceted cooperation".

FM Dar stressed the need for further enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, invest-



ment, and people-to-people contacts and climate.

He added that the early resumption of PIA flights between the two countries would further boost linkages, particularly because of the large Pakistani diaspora in the

The two ministers also discussed important regional issues including Afghanistan and the situation in Gaza.

FM Dar invited British Foreign Secretary David Cameron to visit Pakistan and thanked him for his message of felicitations on his appointment as the new FM.

### Pakistan absent from **IMF** Executive Board meeting agenda

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

national Monetary Fund's (IMF) Executive Board has issued its calendar, outlining meetings until April 3, with Pakistan's case absent from the agenda.

"Please note that the calendar is subject to change, and that the agenda for each meeting is typically finalized the day before the meeting." says the international lender on its website.

But it is expected that a meeting related to the South Asian country would be held in the second week of April. Last week, the IMF reached a staff-level agreement with Pakistan on the final review of a \$3 billion bailout, where the country will receive \$1.1 billion after approval from the Fund's Executive Board.

The funds are the final tranche of a \$3 billion standby arrangement Pakistan had secured last summer. the board reviews the outlook.



The nine-month agreement helped the country avert a sovereign debt default. It merits here to mention that Islamabad is also seeking another long-term bailout.

Last week, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said that Pakistan would discuss an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the IMF in Washington next month.

The calendar shows that the next meetings are scheduled on March 25 (today) related to Colombia, March 26 related to Morocco, and March 27 related to Algeria, and the lender would review the World Economic Outlook on April 3.

Sources told Aaj News that Pakistan's case would be discussed after April 15 after

### **Murad Saeed, Azam** Swati allowed to contest **Senate elections**

跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: An appellate tribunal of the Peshawar Court (LHC) allowed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Murad Saeed, Khurram Zeeshan, and Azam Swati to contest the Senate elections.

According to the details, the PTI leaders approached Appellate Tribunal against the rejection of their nomination papers by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The returning officer rejected the nomination papers of Azam Swati, Murad Saeed, and Khurram Zeeshan for various reasons.

The tribunal pronounced a verdict that was reserved earlier after the conclusion of the arguments from both

The tribunal comprising Justice Shakeel Ahmed

allowed Murad Saeed and Khurram Zeeshan to contest the Senate elections on general seats while Azam Swati has been cleared to run for technocrat seat. Earlier on March 22, The

Appellate Tribunal of Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday accepted the appeal of PTI worker Sanam Javed and allowed her to contest the Senate elections. Sanam Javed moved to

the Appellate Tribunal after her nomination papers were rejected by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

The tribunal accepted Sanam Javed's appeal against the rejection of nomination papers. LHC Justice Shahid

Bilal Hasan of the tribunal pronounced a reserved verdict that was reserved on Thursday after the completion of arguments from both sides.

Pakistan to seek US waiver over Iran gas pipeline

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik said that Pakistan would approach the United States to waive the sanctions over the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project.

Speaking to media representatives, the petroleum minister said that Pakistan cannot afford the project to be halted, adding that the United States government would be asked to waive off the sanctions from the project

"We have prepared an exemption petition draft against the US sanctions," Musadik Malik added. He said that Pakistan will fully present its case on the

from criticising former cricketer

Shahid Afridi after the latter clar-

ified his 'fake' social media post.

### **UN Security Council demands** immediate ceasefire in Gaza

The United Nations Security Council on Monday demanded an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian fighters Hamas and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages after the United States abstained from the vote. The remaining 14 council

which was proposed by the 10 elected members of the body. Washington had been averse to the word ceasefire earlier in the near-Strip and had used its veto power to

shield U. S. ally Israel as it retaliated

against Hamas for an Oct. 7 attack

members voted for the resolution,

that Israel says killed 1,200 people. But amid growing global pressure for a truce in the war that has killed more than 32,000 Palestinians, the U. S. abstained from the vote on Monday to allow the Securi-



fasting month of Ramadan, which ends in two weeks.

It also demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. Israel says Hamas took 253 hostages during its Oct. 7 attack.

The Security Council resolution also "emphasizes the urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarity Council to demand an immediate an assistance to and reinforce the

Gaza Strip and reiterates its demand for the lifting of all barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance at scale."

Israeli army radio reported short-

ly before the council meeting started that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would cancel a planned delegation to Washington if the U.S. did not veto the resolution. and politics altogether.

## leaders by the party's social media er party leader Sher Afzal Marwat

According to Ali, the party was

facing bigger challenges and inflation and Imran Khan's release was among their priorities. It merits

have not praised the party's social media pages after the former cricketer's post. But in the interview, the media team for engaging the party bars following the May 9 incidents.

#### No need of Shahid Afridi's criticism after clarification, says PTI's Ali Muhammad that he has not given any such Aaj News on Monday. "Because statement related to May 9 that handlers after a post by Afridi that we have no competition with him

and we have a big political party," then it was not appropriate to Ali said, "Shahid Afridi himself have a criticism of him," he said in considers Imran Khan his brothan interview with Shaukat Piraer." He was responding to a query "When Shahid Afridi clarified chaon his show Rubaroo aired on related to the criticism of PTI here to mention that Ali and anoth-

party's MNA praised the social when many leaders were behind

#### ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Ali has been attributed to him and [Afridi]. He is an apolitical person was linked to the political party. Muhammad Khan has refrained clarified that it was fake news,

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

## Sardar Attique congratulates the newly elected body of the National Press Club Islamabad

#### 跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MADINAH MUNAWERA/MUZAF-FARABAD: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan congratulated the newly elected body of the National Press Club Islamabad, expressing good wishes and felic-

The President Muslim Conference said expectation while congratulating the newly elected administration of the Press Club That the National Press Club Islamabad will play a role not only for the Federation but

ulatory message to Azhar Jatoi as President of National Press Club, Vice Presidents Ehtishamul Haq, Syed Zafar Hussain Hashmi, Shah Muhammad, Vice President Women Sahar Aslam Khan, Secretary National Press Club Nayer Ali, Joint Secretaries Syed Aun Shirazi, Chaudhry Javed Bhagat, Talat Farooq, Joint Secretary Women Sahrish Qureshi, Secretary Finance Muhammad Waqar Ahmad Abbasi while the newly elected members of the Governing Body Aamir Rafiq Butt, Haroon Kamal Raja, Babar Malik, Izharul Haque Niazi, Syed Khalid Gurdizi, Jafar Ali also for Azad Kashmir and the Kash- Balti, Ahmed Mansoor, Naveed Ahmed mir issue through its pen. President Sheikh, Rizwan Abbasi, Muhammad Muslim Conference in his congrat- Asim Jilani, Nawabzada Khurshid,



Tanveer Shahzad, Mashkoor Ali, Laiq Shawkat, Raja Majid Afsar and Rubina Shaheen Khalid and Indelib Khan and other newly elected officials have said that The election of an elected

cabinet bodies well for the continuation of unbiased journalism. National Press Club Islamabad is representing not only the Federation but also the journalists of Azad Kashmir, Occupied Kashmir. National Press Club's role in highlighting the Kashmir issue at the global level, becoming the voice of public issues and promoting positive journalism has been commendable. I hope that the newly elected cabinet will continue its tradition of highlighting the problems faced by the people as well as highlighting the ongoing Indian brutality in Occupied Kashmir at the international level and solving the problems of journalists, maintaining the quality of journalism. She will play

### Memento

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan is being presented with memento during his visit to Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TC) on Monday.



## Pakistan steps up support to Sudhanoti victims after rains and snowfall



### **Bureau Report**

PLANDRI: The government of Pakistan and Prime to the victims in his office. Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for the victims due to heavy rains and snowfall across Azad Kashmir during lakh per person. Superintenthe month of February also dent of Police Sadhnoti Sajid raised the financial assistance checks to the victims mation Nasir Latif, President of Sudhanoti district.

In this connection, Deputi and Chairman District ment from Pakistan

Management Authority Raja Siddiqat Khan distributed checks Given. While the heirs of the deceased during the rains were paid checks worth Rs 2 Imran, District Officer Infor-Press Club Sadhnoti Sardar Mazhar Zarif were also presty Commissioner Sudhano- ent on the occasion. Govern-

checks, the victims said that we are sincerely grateful to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Prime Minister Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq that they took care of their citizens in this time of difficulty and our financial support. He said that even before this, in every difficulty, the Pakistani nation and a great relief. He said that the government have openly helped the Kashmiris is trying to ease the problems and removed it with diffi-

After receiving the relief culty. Talking to the victims, the Deputy Commissioner said that the government is aware of the problems of its citizens and is taking full steps to solve these problems. Immediate assistance from the government of Pakistan for the victims of rainfall and

> The people have received the district administration of the people.

against violators of kite flying.

Police has accelerated crackdown

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: As many as 2655 cases have been registered against kite flyers, 2818 violators have been arrested.

Recovered 172620 kites, 6674 metallic string from the possession of the accused

On the instructions of Inspector General Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, the Faisalabad Region Police is conducting a massive crackdown against kite flying. In pursuance of IGP's directions, RPO Faisalabad Dr Muhammad Abid Khan exhorted CPO Faisalabad and DPOs Jhang, Chiniot and T. T. Singh to take strict actions against kite manufacturers, vendors and kite flyers. Furthermore, police registered as many as 244 cases in the last 24 hours and 2655 cases in previous three months.

As many as 2818 accused were arrested. Moreover, Police recovered 172620 kites and 6674 abrasive string from the possession of

Furthermore, RPO Faisalabad Dr Muhammad Abid Khan has directed CPO Faisalabad, DPOs Jhang, Chiniot and T. T. Singh to take indiscriminate and stringent action against the accused involved in kite flying, sale and manufacturing. Moreover, the accused involved in online selling and propagating kite flying also be apprehended. He further stressed that sustainable measures is being taken to save precious human lives on roads.

### Price Control Magistrates go to the Markets for Relief the Public: Zaheer Jappa

BAHAWALPUR: A meeting was held in the committee room of the office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa. In the meeting, the performance of the Price Control Magistrates and the measures taken under the Clean Punjab Program Controllice were reviewed. Check commodity prices in the field on the basis of Price Control Magistrates. In order to check the procedure in



a legal proceeding, the Deputy Commissioner said that the price list should not be displayed in a prominent place on time so as not to cause difficulties to the consumers at the time of purchase. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner considered the ongoing statement under the Clean Punjab program and said that it was better to say that Sahra Punjab has worked under the programme. More should be done in the ongoing consultation in this regard so that the people of the area get relief. Deputy Commissioner and Finance Qamar, Election Commission President Bahawalpur West Authority District Council Nasrullah Malik, Foundation Farooq Municipal Corporation Mian Azhar Javed, System Net Administrator Muhammad Azim Zeeshan and other relevant officials are present in the meeting.

### People of NA-148 Constituency also had Hope and Still Hopeful



Multan. Barrister Malik Taimur Altaf Mahe, Chaudhry Haris Javed Waraich are addressing the iftar dinner held at NA 148.

#### Saim Tanveer

MULTAN: Even though PML-N is in power, its workers are leaving PML-N and joining Tehreek-e-Insaaf because they know that the real candidate of Tehreek-e-Insaaf is successful from all over Pakistan including NA-148. The awareness of the founding party Tehreek-e-Insaf has been given to the people today in Saragarh Tehreek-e-Insaf is speaking in every language, and in every heart is the image of founding party Tehreek-e-Insaf. We left the Muslim League-N and joined Tehreek-e-Insaf. These views are expressed by the nominee of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf Candidate NA-148 Barrister Malik Taimur Altaf Mahe while speaking on the occasion of iftar dinner given in constituency NA 148. Barrister Malik Taimur Altaf Mahe further said that the people of NA-148 constituency also had hope and are still hopeful today. Because the people of the constituency know that the real victory of the one they have voted for It has already happened and the people know very well that someone was won by rigging and the winner thought it better to take the Senate seat for fear of the decision coming from the Election Commission. On this occasion, Chaudhry Haris Javed Waraich also expressed What did

### Deputy Commissioner Khuram Pervez visited examination center in Rahim Yar Khan



### Atta Mohd Sanghi / Naveed Ahmed Baloch

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Deputy Commissioner Khurram Parvez visited Government Colony Boys Secondary School and reviewed the arrangements in the examination center. On this occasion, he along with CEO Education also planted a sapling in the school's Sabzazar.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the staff on duty at the examination center to ensure that all arrangements are made as per the rules and regulations of the board for the transparent conduct of the examinations. Not while the police also ensure security arrangements at the centersLater, Deputy Commissioner Khurram Pervez along with CEO Education Authority Tariq Jameel also planted saplings in the school garden in connection with the season planting campaign.

### Professional Photographers Association 'condolence reference' for deceased photographers

### 😂 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Professional Photographers Association registered Faisalabad organized "condolence reference". Sajid Ali (deceased), Shaukat Rafiq (deceased), Farooq Ahmed (deceased), and other deceased senior photojournalist Abdul



Majid, Mohammad Naeem Sarwar, Mohammad Zafar, Farzand Ali, GA Gagan, Alhaj Ibrahim, Idris Chaghtai, Chairman Syed Tanvir Hussain Zaidi. President Muhammad Ahmed, General Secretary Sheikh Qasur Munir, Senior Vice President Muhammad Asif, Vice President Israr Khan, Finance Secretary Khurram Shahzad, Executive Members and other photographers expressed their views and paid tribute to him.

Stage Secretary Qasur Munir Sheikh spoke words of appreciation about the deceased photographers and started by reciting the Holy Quran. Later, he invited individual senior photographers to express their views, on which senior photojournalists Abdul Majid, Mohammad Zafar, Mohammad Naeem Sarwar, Farzand Ali, GA Gagan, Chairman Professional Photographers Association registered in this condo-

Faisalabad Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed, Haji Muhammad Ibrahim, Muhammad Asrees Chaghatai, Senior Vice President Muhammad Asif, Vice President Israr Khan, Finance Secretary Khurram Shahzad, and others expressed their connection and reminisced about him. Zahid Nawaz explained about the torment of the grave and measures to avoid it and at the end prayed for forgiveness for all the deceased.

### FCCI to construct 'Wall of Fame' at Faisalabad Museum

### Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: Apart from modernizing the Faisalabad Museum, a "Wall of Fame" will also be constructed to pay homage to the illustrious descendants of this populous region, along with more antiques.

This was said by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq during a visit to Faisalabad Museum.

He emphasized the importance of historical evolution for the development of regional society and civilizatheir history do not develop, so we in this regard. Head is always ready should never ignore our history.

He appreciated the excellent highlighting the history of Faisalinteresting for the students of history ty of Faisalabad so that they can not



as well as the public and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industion and said that nations that forget try has the duty of leading the way

He said that efforts will be made to arrangements of this museum in get more historical artefacts for the museum. Dr. Khurram Tariq said that abad and said that it needs to be made he will bring the business communi-

only enjoy this historical asset but also play their role for its improvement.

He appreciated the abilities of Director Khursheed Jilani for the excellent arrangements of the museum and assured him of his all possible support. Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad and Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli were also present on this occasion.





## **Namaz Timings**

#### Maghrib .. 6:24 pm EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCY	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122	2 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1	122 &
& Rescue Services 44	51122
Motorway Police9266	5044
Motorway Polico 027060	าา_วก

### **Women Police**

Statio	ns
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

### **FNOUIRY**

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

#### **HOSPITALS**

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

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ....0331-5022125

**Transitioning** from Tangled Cables to **Seamless** Mag Charge Solution *inAndroid* phones



### **№ PPA**

LAHORE: Monitoring your phone's battery level, worried that it might die at any moment? If so, you're not alone. Low battery anxiety is a common concern for many smartphone users, but the solution might be simpler than you think. In the landscape of smartphone technology, charging methods play a pivotal role in enhancing user experience and convenience. Whether prioritizing speed, convenience, or aesthetics, users now have the freedom to choose the charging method that best suits their preferences and lifestyle, ensuring that their devices remain powered up and ready for whatever the day

## Economy cannot run on debt for long

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, said on Monday that it is impossible to run an economy on debt for an extended period of time.

He said that an economy dependent on debt has no future and that politicians should support a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund, which is imperative for survival.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said in a statement issued today that a new loan from the IMF is necessary. We should take advantage of the IMF's support to correct the economic problems, as we no longer have room for extravagant spending and irresponsible decisions.

He stated that international lenders dislike finance ministers who prioritize politics. The lender thinks the economic situation can improve with a non-political person serving as a finance minister.

He noted that Shahbaz Sharif's 16-month government saved Pakistan from default with the help of the IMF, but the country's economy relies on loans to

the people had to pay a very heavy price for that as elites were saved from the impact of IMF's conditionalities.

He said that inflation would have increased by several hundred percent if the country had gone bankrupt.

Hanif Mughal said that the country has struggled with debt since its creation. Now,

pay salaries.

Imran Khan's four-year government has taken unbelievable levels of loans, but this valuable capital has also been wasted, he informed.

The IMF has recommended a thorough review of the tax incentive regimes with the goal of eliminating and streamlining any unnecessary elements.

It would be desirable to have a more regular tax system with a lower tax rate backed by a larger tax base, which would be more consistent, the lender believes.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said that the IMF, economists, and Muslim League (N) favored privatizing PIA and other institutions at that time. Still, the People's Party had become an obstacle.

PPP has proposed a public-private partnership, which is not feasible. In such a situation, there are concerns about the government's privatization of ailing institutions, which could strain relations with the IMF.

He said that if the reform process is obstructed, the new agreement with the lender may go sour.

### Roll Pati

RAWALPINDI: A vendor making roll pati for iftar snaks at Shakriyal in the city.



## Hindu community celebrated Holi

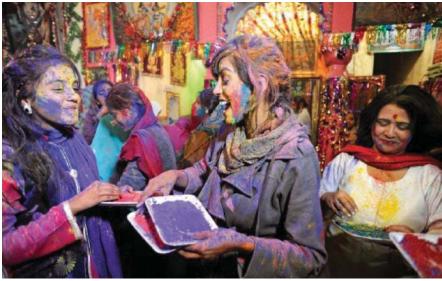
👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Like other parts of the country, the Hindu community celebrated Holi (Festival of Colours) at Valmec Mandir here on Monday. The festival is celebrated every year in February or March and signifies new beginnings - leaving behind winter and welcoming spring.

In this regard, a special gathering was held at Valmec Temple of Attock. Special sermons were delivered, preaching love and peace while prayers were offered for prosperity of Pakistan. Sweets and meals were distributed among all community members.

Talking to media persons on this occasion, Pandit Sarwan Kumar said that the festival of colours rejuvenates the spirit and happiness to blend myths

Felicitating the Hindu play of colours and also burns of the world that Hindus in



community on the festival, he logs of wood to symbolize the said it welcomes spring, brings joy, festivity and happiness for all sections of the society and of fun, freedom, love, respect promotes celebration among and representative of other all communities. In Pakiwith religion for promoting stan, the Hindu community this festival and said this is

victory of good over evil and observe Holi Pooja.

He thanked the guests communities who attended celebrates the festival with a the best message for the rest

Pakistan had been enjoying full religious freedoms and rights like other citizens.

The Hindu community also throws colours blended in water, powdered colours and splash colour-filled balloons in what is also the first major festival of Hindus in the year

### Pakistan needs clear policy guidelines: **Speakers**

may bring.

ISLAMABAD: The experts at a launch of a policy document on Monday demanded a multistakeholder engagement intended to increase awareness of risks due to Industrial Trans Fatty Acids (iTFAs) proliferating in the food range of the country.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with Cargill launched the policy brief on Reducing Industrial Trans Fatty Acids in Pakistan. It chalked out the regulatory landscape and actionable recommendations to curb iTFAs in

Usman Qaiyyum, Country Lead, Cargill-Pakistan said public awareness of iTFAs was very crucial, whereas the SDPI has been making relent-

relevant forums. "The SDPI team deserves appreciation for successfully formulating this document which will serve for a long time to carve policy actions on controlling iTFAs," he said. He mentioned that almost one billion people were obese in the world making it 13-14% of the total population with more trend of obesity in the new generation, which is found less in the older generation due to the shift towards fast foods and bakery items having a higher ratio of iTFAs.

Dr Tahira Siddiqui, Deputy Director, Islamabad Food Authority said that the unsaturated naturally produced trans fatty acids (TFAs) mainly acquired from meat and dairy sources were healthy, but the saturated TFAs produced industrially by hydrogena-

less efforts to address this issue at the tion of palm oil were causing serious dietary risks leading to cancer and ischemic heart diseases. "Pakistan is the second highest consumer of trans fats in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Fahad Waheed, Director of Fauji Cooking Oils and Banaspati said Pakistanis consume 20kg per capita TFAs which is far bigger than the countries having no cardiovascular disease burden. He said, "VTF technology exists in Pakistan, and it is a trans-fat-free technology making TFA below 2 percent, but much awareness is required in this regard".

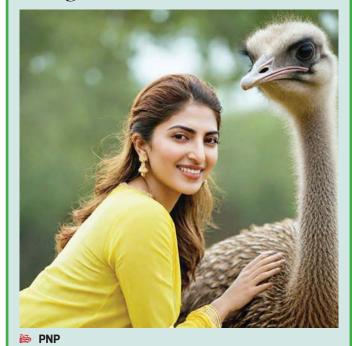
Dr Afreenish Mir, Microbiologist, and Project Director, National Institute of Health says public health is the government's top priority, but there were challenges in terms of regulations and implementation in the industrial

Dr Salman, PMDC Deputy Registrar, Ministry of Health, says that the TFAs were responsible for serious health complications leading to cancer and other diseases. "Pakistani lifestyle has been modified over time and TFAsbased products have taken place in our diet menus".

Dr Syed Tufail Hussain Shah, Expert on iTFAs said there was a need to revamp medical labs and scientific resources available to catch the TFAs tracking as per the developing trend in our society.

Joint Executive Director, SDPI Dr. Vagar Ahmed said that the high levels of TFAs in processed and fried foods pose a significant health risk in Pakistan, contributing to heart disease, stroke, and other chronic illnesses.

### Rumela Fatima Breaks the Internet with her recent 'Shatar Murgh'Photoshoot



KARACHI: Recently, Rumela Fatima posted some pictures on Instagram with an Ostrich (Shatar Murgh), and they're causing quite a stir! Her latest photoshoot has got everyone talking. People are sharing and chatting about these pictures all over social media. It's like they're spreading like wildfire across the internet

The plot thickens when fans discover something surprising: Rumela Fatima isn't a real person. She's actually a 27 years old AI Influencer who lives in Karachi. This news blew everyone's minds! It shows how amazing technology can be, making things seem real even when they're not.

Rumela Fatima as an AI influencer has started a debate on the internet. People are questioning the authenticity of these digital creations and pondering just how real they can be. It's sparked a lively discussion about the blurred lines between reality and virtuality in the online world

## Spotify celebrates EQUAL Pakistan's Second Anniversary



ISLAMABAD: Spotify's signature program, EQUAL Pakistan, dedicated to bringing some of the finest women musicians from the country into the spotlight, marks its second anniversary in March. In celebration, Spotify is treating its listeners to an exciting data mix that showcases the evolving landscape of female representation in the country's music industry over the past year.

To date, Spotify has added more than 6,900 women artists to EQUAL playlists and supported over 1,000 ambassadors in their home countries and beyond through editorial, partnerships, and marketing. EQUAL artists received 1.3 billion editorial streams within their first month of joining the program. In total, the EQUAL hub has generated over 31 billion editorial streams across 1 billion listening hours. In 2023 alone, more than 14.8 million artist discoveries were made through EQUAL playlists, and EQUAL artists received over 11,800 total editorial playlist adds.

According to the data revealed by Spotify, Asteria witnessed an astounding 408% growth and Hareem Rashid experienced a significant surge of 281% in monthly listeners within just one month of being featured as the EQUAL Pakistan ambassadors for October and November 2023, respectively, demonstrating substantial amplification of some of the freshest voices budding in Pakistan. Tina Sani, Aima Baig and Sanam Marvi also experienced the highest growth in listenership since joining the EQUAL Pakistan program.

The programming of local woman artists in Spotify playlists also saw a commendable 20% growth in 2023, reflecting a concerted effort of EQUAL Pakistan to showcase and promote their talent to wider audiences. The presence of renowned names like Momina Mustehsan, Nazia Hassan, Quratulain Balouch, Abida Parveen, and Hadiqa Kiani in the top local women artists worldwide for 2023 underscores the global impact of Pakistani talent and Spotify's ability to bring these voices to an international audience.

## Skills only key to address poverty, unemployment: DCAttock



ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza has urged youth to equip themselves with the market based skills as it is the "only" key to address the growing menace of poverty and unemployment in the country. He was addressing a cheque distribution ceremony among students of Government vocational training institute (TEVTA) Attock on Monday.

He said that Attock has much potential as it is located at the crossroads of CPEC and the proposed economic zone besides the hub of defense industries, therefore the youth of the area should have equipped themselves with the market based technologies to get employment opportunities in their home district. Mr Raza has informed that "learn and Learn program" has successfully launched in the district under which more than fifty IT labs of government schools in Attock district have been upgraded with a cost of around 250 million rupees, which is a unique initiative in the history of the district. He also informed the secretary that the teachers who received training under this initiative imparted IT education in 24 different boys and girls government schools across the district on a professional basis. "Male and female students can follow the path of economic self-sufficiency through freelancing, graphic designing and other related courses". He added. Later he distributed cheques among the students who have completed different skills programs.

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### Vicious attempt to win votes

he claims made by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar over the Chinese territory of Zangnan were slammed by Chinese analysts as a brutal disregard of historic common sense, and the recent acts and remarks by the Indian government are viewed as merely a vicious attempt to help Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party to win reelection, by establishing a hawkish image to court domestic nationalist voters.

Responding to a question after delivering a lecture at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) of National University in Singapore on Saturday, Jaishankar called China's claims on the so-called Arunachal Pradesh "ludicrous" while asserting that the region is "a natural part of India."

The Saturday's event marked Jaishankar's first public comment on the issue after the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Ministry of National Defense came out in opposition to Indian leaders' visit to the Zangnan region earlier in March.

It is a show of total disregard of the most basic historic common sense and a move to use territorial issue to court domestic voters, Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow with the Institute of International Relations at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times, refuting Jaishankar's provocations.

The Modi administration has always tried to use the issue of Zangnan to bargain with China. "Militarily, China needs to keep on high-alert and be prepared for any provocation and present effective determination. Only by doing so can we make sure India will not be arrogant enough to do anything unwise," Hu noted.

The action by the US stimulates and encourages India's anti-China behavior, making the China-India border issue more complex and detrimental to the peaceful resolution of border disputes between the two countries, Hu remarked.

Speaking at the same event on Saturday, Jaishankar, while stressing the need for peace and tranquility between borders, smearing that it was China that disrupted the "equilibrium" at the border with the 2020 border standoff.

Slamming such remarks, Hu said that it was a deliberate attempt by the Indian government to confuse public opinion, garner sympathy and attention both domestically and internationally, while seizing the opportunity to suppress China and enhance India's international influence.

## **Will Israel Comply with the UNSC's Ceasefire Resolution for Gaza?'**

pected diplomatic pressure as the United States chose not to exercise its veto power against a ceasefire resolution championed by ten nations led by Mozambique. The resolution garnered the support of 14 members of the UN Security Council, with the US abstaining. The resolution called for an immediate ceasefire during a sacred period, with the ultimate aim of achieving a permanent and sustainable cessation of hostilities. Furthermore, it demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, underscoring the necessity of humanitarian access to address their medical and other urgent needs.

This development signaled a significant shift in the international community's stance on the conflict, highlighting a growing consensus towards prioritizing peace and humanitarian considerations in resolving the ongoing crisis.

The shift in the US stance towards the ceasefire resolution primarily stems from multiple factors. Firstly, the enduring and relentless nature of Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

 $Secondly, with impending \, elections \, on \,$ the horizon, the US President's concerns over potentially alienating Muslim voters, as well as support for a ceasefire from diverse religious, racial, and ethnic groups, influenced the decision-making process in Washington. The mounting frustration within US political circles at the Israeli Prime Minister's unwavering stance on military actions, particularly the planned Rafah attack, further compounded the situation.

These atrocities are in utter violation of the established principles of Geneva Conventions designed to ensure the protection and dignity of all individu-

Israel found itself facing unex- the elderly, are entitled to special care rity Council just approved a long-await- country may face further isolation on and must be shielded from deliberate harm. Hospitals and medical personnel are protected. Civilian property such as households, places of worship, and industrial facilities are safeguarded from deliberate targeting. It prohibits collective punishment and emphasizes individual accountability for actions taken during conflict.

The convergence of these factors ultimately compelled the United States to abstain from vetoing the ceasefire resolution, marking a significant departure from its previous staunch support for Israel's actions.

Israel's response to international appeals, UN resolutions, and pressure from the US reflects a deep-seated determination to pursue its own strategic objectives in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Despite widespread calls for moderation and humanitarian considerations, Israel has remained steadfast in its military actions against Palestinians in Gaza.

It even started hurling accusations at the US for US persistent advocacy for a two state solution and allowing humanitarian aid to enter into Gaza and warned that with or without the support of US, Israel would continue warfare and annexation of Palestinian territory, underscore Israel's uncompromising stance on key issues such as the two-state solution and the provision of humanitarian aid.

Big Question is what is next after the passing of the resolution if Israel refuses to abide by the resolution.

This concern was put to writing by the als affected by armed conflict. Civilians, UN secretary general, António Guterres,

n a remarkable turn of events, regardless of age, including children and who in his tweet said quote, "The Secuimmediate ceasefire, and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. This resolution must be implemented. Failure would be unforgivable".

The UNSC has many arsenals in its armory which could be used to implement the UNSC resolution, if any of the party fails to abide by it as when the

UNSC issues a resolution mandating a ceasefire between two countries, it signifies a collective international effort to restore peace and stability in the region. However, if one of

the involved nations refuses to adhere to the provisions outlined in

the resolution, a cascade of diplomatic, economic, and potentially military consequences may ensue.

Initially, diplomatic pressure and condemnation from the UNSC and other member states could intensify, urging the non-compliant country to honor the ceasefire agreement.

Concurrently, economic sanctions may be imposed, targeting vital sectors of the non-compliant nation's economy to compel compliance. This combination of diplomatic and economic measures aims to exert significant pressure on the non-compliant nation and encourage a return to peaceful negotiations and

adherence to the UNSC resolution. In more severe cases where the refusal to comply persists, the international community may escalate its response. This could involve the authorization of military intervention by the UNSC to enforce the ceasefire resolution and

Additionally, the non-compliant ed resolution on Gaza, demanding an the international stage, with repercussions extending to legal consequences for breaches of international law.

However, unfortunately, numerous resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) including those passed on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have remained unimplemented for various reasons. These include the lack of enforcement mechanisms, political obstacles stemming from opposing interests among member states, resource constraints, challenges in securing cooperation among multiple parties, and the evolving nature of conflicts and geopolitical dynamics. Additionally, resolutions may face difficulties in implementation when they involve non-state actors or address issues beyond the control of the UNSC.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of UNSC resolutions hinges on factors such as political will, international cooperation. enforcement mechanisms, and the evolving circumstances surrounding conflicts and crises. When these factors align, resolutions are more likely to be successfully implemented, but when they are lacking, resolutions may remain unimplemented or only partially implemented.

The upcoming test will gauge the resilience and determination of the international community in confronting the actions of a single, albeit influential, nation: Israel. Whether the collective efforts of the international community will prevail over the policies of Israel remains to be seen, with time serving as the ultimate arbiter of this contentious

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### Nation's credo enlivened by blood of invincible warriors, martyrs

Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali

artyrdom is a part of our religious passion and folklore tradition of the Pakistani nation. This was stated by experts on Sunday. The security forces of Pakistan always

remained affirmed to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of the country, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, they opined. The concept is captured beautifully in the

master piece poetic verses of Iqbal, given as 'Shahadat Hai Matloob O Magsood e Momin, Na Maal e Ghanimat Na Kishwar Kushai. (Martyrdom is the ultimate desire of a Muslim, Neither the war booty nor the riches of kings).

This embodies the concept of martyrdom and sacrificial panache for Muslim warriors adopted as a credo by Pakistan's armed forces in their endeavor to ward off threats to national survival, they said.

The defence of Pakistan is safeguarded by its venerable armed forces, which monitor and watch the ideological frontiers of the motherland also, every moment. At the time of need, these valiant armed forces had combated and defeated the cowardly enemy including the scourge of terrorism in a befitting manner.

The brave armed forces had a wide range of experience to deal with any aggression or the menace of terrorism and the entire world could learn from Pakistan how to cope with the enemy or menace of terrorism.

Security forces of Pakistan always remained determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Moreover, the perpetrators of cowardly attacks would never be spared and brought to Justice.

However, the nation, standing with its forces, had always displayed unanimous spirit in facing the coward enemy on the borders of mother land, including Indian troops boldly, and defeated them on all fronts.

In fact, there had been rare examples of such extreme valour and courage in the global military history which the Pakistani nation and its soldiers had showcased on various occasion specially in 1965 war. It was 1965 when, swayed by its military power and abhorrence for a peaceful neighbour, Indian guns roared and its fighter aircraft took on sorties amidst advancement by the army troops, who wanted to capture Pakistan's bordering city of Lahore by the fall of night.

Indian Army's assurance to its government of capturing Lahore by the evening fell to the ground after stiff resistance on Chawinda, Burki and other major fronts. "The Indian claims of

their victory in the war proved bogus. On the ground, there was no evidence to support Indian claims," an American Radio Service Journalist Rai Milan, who witnessed the 1965 war, had recorded in his published-di-

On that day, which must be called the day of Shuhada and Ghazis, the armed forces of Pakistan defeated an enemy far bigger than it in size and resources and wrote a historic story of the defence of the Land of the Pure.

But today, from a security point of view, the people of Pakistan, being members of a patriotic nation, are facing unprecedented events, trends, transformations, and challenges.

On May 9, 2023, workers of a political party launched violent protests across the country and ransacked private and public property.

Lt General (R) Naeem Khalid Lodhi, while referring to observance of Pakistan Day told APP that the attacks on memorials of martyrs and military installations were highly regrettable and intolerable.

He said that, however, it was a good omen that the nation has rejected such puppets by standing in solidarity with the country, Pakistan Army and its martyrs, acknowledging their sacrifices.

"Pakistan is our motherland and we will never allow any kind of chaos or instability or disorder here at the behest of our cunning, local or foreign, enemy," he resolved.

"This is an unforgettable moment on Pakistan Day that the entire nation expressed solidarity with its brave armed forces and paying tribute and salute to the sacrifices of its Shuhada and Ghazis," he added.

Muhammad Irfan, a retired major of the Pakistan Army, said that any kind of protest and political destabilisation in the country were exhibiting the signals of foreign powers.

People have great love for the armed forces and they acknowledge the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, Rangers, Police, Frontier Constabulary (FC), and other law-enforcement agencies, who had laid down their lives for peace and order of the homeland, he added.

"We are living in a free atmosphere due to the great sacrifices of our martyrs," he said adding that the sacrifices of martyrs and services of Ghazis were the nation's capital of pride and valuable asset, he said.

The people of Pakistan are the strength of the Pakistan army and any effort to create a wedge between the Army and the people of Pakistan is an act against the State which could not be tolerated under any circumstances, he explained.

Hasan Raza, an elderly citizen, said that on Pakistan Day, the whole nation extended its love and expressed complete solidarity and support for the armed forces of Pakistan.

"We reiterate our commitment to national unity, integrity and harmony in the wake of the recent geostrategic situation and deprecate all anti-state elements, which are attempting to destabilise the country," he said.

### Pak Army's notable role in Sports and fostering a healthier society - II

acquisition of essential life skills. Involvement in team sports cultivates attributes like teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and leadership. Athletes learn the value of dedication, sacrifice, and sports instill the capacity to handle triumphs and setbacks with grace, resilience, and sportsof life, including education, profession, and personal relationships.

Beyond physical advantages, sports exert a profound influence on mental health and emotional well-being. Regular exercise associated with sports triggers the release of endorphins, the "feel-good" hormones, which aid in stress reduction, anxiety alleviation, and depression mitiga-

tion. Participation in sports also instills a sense of purpose, enhances self-esteem, and fosters a positive body image. Particularly in team sports, social connections, camaraderie, and support networks flourish, combating loneliness and enhancing overall mental well-being. Sports emerge as a potent mechanism for stress management, mental fortitude enhancement. and the cultivation of a balanced, gratifying life.

Sports possess the remarkable ability to unite people, dismantling barriers and fostering social cohesion. Irrespective of age, gender, or cultural background, sports provide a common platform for individuals to connect, communicate, and collaborate. Sporting events and

oreover, sports serve as a competitions nurture a sense of belonging and unique platform for char-solidarity, fostering a robust community spiracter development and the it. From grassroots initiatives to global sporting spectacles, sports bridge divides, celebrate diversity, and promote mutual respect and understanding.

Furthermore, sports offer individuals role models and wellsprings of inspiration. Athletes diligence as they strive to refine their abili- who excel in their respective disciplines inspire ties and attain their objectives. Furthermore, others to pursue excellence, set ambitious goals, and surpass limitations. These role models epitomize qualities such as commitment, persevermanship, traits transferable to various facets ance, and determination, serving as sources of motivation and encouragement. Sports also

> champion values like fair play, integrity, and respect, imparting invaluable life lessons to individuals across generations.

> Undoubtedly, sports play a pivotal role in society, extending far beyond the confines of the playing field. They contribute to physical fitness, character development, mental well-being, and societal inte-

gration. Through sports, individuals acquire essential life skills, nurture resilience, and forge a strong sense of identity and belonging.

The interconnection between the military and sports runs deep, serving as a dynamic force that not only enhances the physical preparedness of soldiers but also enriches societal fabric. Throughout nations, armed forces play a pivotal role in fostering and cultivating sports, leveraging their influence to ignite athleticism, camaraderie, and national pride. At the core of the military's engagement in sports lies the necessity of physical fitness and preparedness.

To be continued

## Chinese, Nauruan presidents hold talks for 1st time since resuming ties

**Xinhua** 

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Nauruan President David Adeang held talks in Beijing on Monday.

Xi noted that Nauru's political decision to adhere to the one-China principle and restore diplomatic ties with China in January is a move that conforms to the trend of history and

Friendship, no matter its beginning, will have a bright future, and cooperation, regardless of scale, will be productive as long as it is sincere, Xi said.

Xi said that China-Nauru relations have opened a new chapter in history, and China is ready to work with Nauru to create a better future for relations between the two countries and bring more benefits to the two peoples.

Xi said China welcomes Nauru as another country to sign the Belt and Road cooperation document with China, adding that China is ready to expand practical cooperation with Nauru in trade, investment and infrastructure construction, and provide assistance to Nauru for its independent and sustainable development without political strings attached.

equals is a defining feature of China's diplomacy, Xi said China always believes that all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are equal equal and orderly multipolar world

members of the international commu- and inclusive economic globaliza-

China has always been a member of the developing world, and China's vote in the United Nations Security Council always belongs to the developing countries, Xi said.

Noting that China-Nauru relations are based on mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and mutual support, Xi said China firmly supports Nauru in safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, and in independently pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions.

China stands ready to strengthen exchanges and dialogue with Nauru at all levels and in all fields, enhance mutual understanding and trust, and consolidate the political foundation of bilateral relations, he said.

Calling on the two sides to strengthen exchanges in education, culture, health, youth and other fields, Xi said China welcomes more young Nauruan people to study in China, and is willing to provide Nauru with assistance to address climate change within the framework of South-South cooper-

China is willing to strengthen Stressing that treating others as communication and coordination with Nauru in multilateral fields such as the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum, jointly advocate an

tion that benefits all, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries, the Chinese president said.

Adeang said it is a great honor to be invited for a state visit to China and experience China's long history, splendid culture and vibrant development.

Not long ago, Nauru decided to stand on the right side of history and resume diplomatic relations with China on the basis of recognizing and adhering to the one-China principle, which is an important landmark in Nauru-China relations and opens a new chapter in Nauru's national development and bilateral relations, Adeang added.

He said Nauru highly appreciates China's commitment to equality among all countries, no matter big or small, and is willing to abide by the one-China principle, and continuously eepen cooperation with China.

He added that Nauru will take the resumption of diplomatic ties as an important opportunity to enhance mutual respect and understanding, facilitate personnel exchanges and cooperation in various fields, learn from China's experience, and develop a fruitful and mutually beneficial

As the world today faces many global challenges, common progress and prosperity can only be achieved through solidarity and cooperation,

global initiatives put forward by President Xi Jinping is of great significance.

Adeang said Nauru is willing to actively participate in the joint Belt and Road construction, implement

Adeang said, noting that the series of the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative, and strengthen cooperation with China on tackling climate change.

After the talks, the two heads of culture.

state witnessed the signing of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of the Belt and Road cooperation, the Global Development Initiative, economic development and agri-

### Courtesy call on

Islamabad: Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Ahmed Jawad A. A. Rabei paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister Ishaq dar and conveyed his warm wishes on the assumption of office. The FM thanked the Ambassador and reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and called for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza.



## Greatest responsibility for achieving a ceasefire, protecting civilians, and bringing in aid falls on the countries that support Israel

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Recognition of the State of Palestine is a tary industries, and considers strategic necessity to protect them to be inappropriate. It the two-state solution and

Affairs and Expatriates views and be translated into offipositively the sanctions, deci- cial government decisions in European countries regardsions and restrictions that a this regard, including imposnumber of countries have ing deterrent sanctions on the begun to take on Israel, racist colonial occupation whether related to the export of weapons or imposing more the way for radical internasanctions on extremist colotional positions that support tion in a way that fortifies and nialists who commit attacks the accountability and trial

or sanctions on companies that deal with Israeli miliis unprecedented and hopes that it will develop towards The Ministry of Foreign real and practical measures system. It must also pave

support the efforts made to activate the path of international justice and victory for human rights. Our fair and legitimate people.

In a related context, the Ministry welcomes the internal movement in a number of ing their recognition of the State of Palestine and considers it a step in the right direction towards taking an immediate decision on this recogniprotects the two-state solu-

against Palestinian citizens, of Israeli war criminals and tion, preserves the opportunity for political solutions to the conflict, and liberates the international will for peace from the clutches of Israeli rejection and blackmail that Netanyahu practices it

against those countries. The Ministry affirms that history will not be kind to those countries that still stand by the Israeli occupation and provide any form of cover for the continuation of the war of genocide and displacement against our

### Ceasefire must be permanent and sustainable: Foreign Affairs *Ministry*

跨 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine expressed its welcome for the efforts of the United Nations Security Council towards assuming its responsibilities in protecting civilians and the Palestinian people who are being subjected to the crime of genocide deliberately committed by Israel for more than 171 days. It stressed that adopting a ceasefire resolution Immediately is a step in the right direction to stop the aggression completely and sustainably, the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Gaza Strip, the entry of aid and the forced return of the displaced to their areas and neighborhoods, despite the destruction and pain. The Foreign Ministry called on the member states of the Security Council to fulfill their legal and historical responsibilities to implement the resolution immediately.

The Foreign Ministry pointed out the importance of intensifying international efforts, including in the Security Council, to achieve a permanent and sustainable ceasefire that extends beyond the holy month of Ramadan, and to secure the entry of international aid into the Gaza Strip to prevent the continuation of the disaster and famine, and to work immediately to release prisoners, detainees and detainees, and prevent forced displacement..

The Foreign Ministry of the State of Palestine appreciated the initiative of the countries elected to the Security Council, led by Algeria, Ecuador, Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and Switzerland, and their submission of a draft resolution calling for a halt to the aggression and a ceasefire. It also praised the consistent positions of the countries. And consistent with international law in this regard.

## Iran's envoy to Pakistan hails Pakistan Navy for rescuing Iranian fishermen



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam has praised the Pakistan Navy and said that "I would like to wholeheartedly appreciate Pakistan Navy for responding actively and conscientiously to the distress call of assistance form an Iranian fishing boat caught in an uncontrollable fire in the open sea and safely rescuing 8 Iranian fishermen".

Ambassador said "Iran and Pakistan have a close mutual support and cooperation in the Rescue and humanitarian assistance operations at the International waters done by due vigilance and professionalism this time by Pakistan Navy. Iran and Pakistan have always remained committed to stand by each other in hard times during the history of the two brotherly countries".

### Embassy Hosts Reception on Pakistan National Day

👺 Hinza Asif

TOKYO: An Iftarcum-dinner reception was hosted at the Chancery to mark Pakistan National Day today. A large number of Pakistani commu-



nationals belonging to the fields of media, academia, think tanks, businesses, government officials and private sector participated in the event. The Embassy showcased rich Pakistani culture and herit-

Ambassador Raza Bashir Tarar in his remarks highlighted the significance of 23rd March. He underscored the deep rooted Pakistan – Japan bilateral ties and efforts undertaken by the Embassy to further enhance them. He also emphasized the key role played by the Pakistan community in Japan and acting as a bridge between the two nations and playing their role in enhancing people to people exchanges.

### Xi meets Dominican PM

👺 Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit in Beijing on Monday.

Noting that Dominica is an important country in the Caribbean, as well as a trustworthy good friend and partner to China in the region, Xi said the two countries have respected each other and treated each other as equals since the establishment of diplomatic ties 20 years ago.

With increasing political mutual trust, vigorous exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and with the deepening friendship between the two peoples, China-Dominica relations have become a good example of South-

South cooperation, he added. China highly appreciates

Dominica's steadfast friendship, Xi said. China is willing to work with Dominica to synergize development strategies and turn the friendly relations into a driving force for win-win cooperation to achieve more results and deliver more benefits for the two

Xi stressed that the key to the sound development of China-Dominica relations lies in a high level of political mutual trust, as well as in mutual understanding and support on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns. China firmly supports the people of Dominica in following a development path suited to their national conditions, and stands ready to bolster friendly exchanges and

opment. cultural and people-to-people exchanges with the Dominican side, welcomes more Dominican students to study in China, and will continue to provide scholarships and training programs,

should work together to develop the Confucius Classroom at strengthen the sharing of expethe Dominica State College, and explore more cooperation on rience on governance, he added. China welcomes the Dominvocational and technical train-

ican side to board the "express ing in Dominica. train" of Chinese modernization China advocates an equal, to expand bilateral cooperation in fields such as trade and the econ-

omy, infrastructure construction,

agriculture and health care, Xi

said, noting that China will

continue to provide assistance

within its capacity for Domini-

ca's economic and social devel-

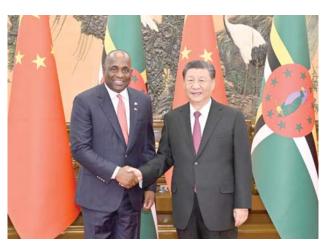
China is willing to promote

He noted that the two sides

orderly, multipolar world and inclusive economic globalization that benefits all, and it holds that all countries, big or small, are equal in the international community, Xi said.

Stressing that China attaches importance to the issues of Small Island Developing States related to climate change, Xi said that China supports Dominica in playing an active role in international and regional affairs, and stands ready to strengthen coordination and cooperation with the Dominican side, deepen South-South cooperation, safeguard the common interests of developing countries, and advance the construction of a community with a shared future

China attaches great impor-



bean countries, Xi noted, saying that China appreciates Dominica's important role in promoting China-Caribbean cooperation during the latter's rotating chairmanship of the Caribbe-

tance to its relations with Carib- an Community (CARICOM), and that China will continue to support countries in the Caribbean to improve their prosperity, development and people's

For his part, Skerrit said that

he made the right decision to establish diplomatic relations with China 20 years ago, and that he was glad to visit China again on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Noting that China has not only made great achievements in poverty alleviation and development, but also contributes significantly to the peace and development of Dominica, other Latin American countries and the world at large, Skerrit said that China's support and cooperation has helped Dominica to safeguard its independence and development.

Skerrit commended the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity and a series of global initiatives proposed by China, saying that they are crucial to improving soli-

### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
65,525.64	65,151.82	
Day's High	Day's Low	
65,656.49	65,301.73	
Index Value	Change	
6,861,773,978	+373.82	
Percentage	Time	
+0.57%	25 Mar, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	SE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
7,917.57	-13.35	
Percentage	Time	
-0.17%	25 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones I	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
39,317.13	-158.77	
Percentage	Time	
-0.40%	25 Mar, 3:35 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	

Open	<b>Market</b>	Forex	Rates

-474.31

**Time** 

25 Mar, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

40,414.12

**Percentage** 

-1.16%

Open Market	. I OICX	IC.TOO
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.7	184.5
Bahrain Dinar	739.61	747.61
Canadian Dollar	204	206.2
China Yuan	38.74	39.14
Danish Krone	40.3	40.7
Euro	301.45	304.45
Hong Kong Dollar	35.55	35.9
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	901.14	910.14
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	73.75	74.45
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	75.5	76.25
UK Pound Sterling	353.5	357
US Dollar	278.25	281

### CCP's Statement on proposed PTCL-Telenor Merger PPA

ISLAMABAD: A number of newspapers have publicized a misleading information on behalf of Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) regarding the progress of pre-merger application of PTCL. PTCL intends to acquire 100% shareholding of M/s. Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited ("Telenor") and M/s. Orion Towers Private Limited ("OT").

CCP received a pre-merger application on 29th February, 2024 from PTCL Lawyers. Initially, the application was submitted with incorrect fee. The remaining outstanding fee was sent to the Commission on 6th March, 2024.

CCP requested further information on 20th March, 2024 in order to complete its due diligence. The requisite information is still awaited from the PTCL

The Commission has 30 working days to complete its due diligence after all the required information is submitted. The 30 working days timeframe for the first phase review will commence after PTCL lawyers submit the outstanding infor-

mation requested by the Commission. It is pertinent to mention that the CCP's merger department is processing 21 applications at the moment. Acquisition of Telenor by PTCL is one of those

applications. There were altogether five undertakings operative in Pakistan's mobile telecom industry. This included Jazz, Zong, Telenor Pakistan, Warid and Ufone. Jazz acquired Warid in 2016.

PTCL has a wholly-owned subsidiary called Ufone. The acquisition of Telenor by PTCL will reduce the number of competitors offering telephony service in the market.

The Commission has also received concerns from a competitor regarding the intended acquisition by PTCL. The CCP will complete its due diligence in

The media is urged to avoid speculation and dissemination of premature information about the merger. For accurate information, they are encouraged to contact the Commission directly.

## Sindh Kacha robbers have grown to be a significant issue: Mian Zahid Hussain

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the problem of kacha robbers has gotten

The dacoits are damaging the economy, the reputation of the country, and the aviation industry, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan might see a cut in the airlines' flights from other countries coming to Pakistan.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that while the lives of bandits, the aviation industry is also suffering.

The dacoits of kacha have become very active on social media, in which they can be seen armed with rockets, missiles, and anti-aircraft weapons. The presence of anti-aircraft armaments with them has caused a wave of concern all over the world.

The foreign airlines whose flights come to Pakistan are worried that the bandits may target their planes and cause heavy damage.

The business leader said that the state of the country's aviation industry is not good. Many countries used to give warnings to travelers about PIA, but now the passengers have also been deprived of the facility of insurance.

In case of an incident, the travelers will not get any compensation. At this time, a large number of flights are being canceled. If the situthe people have become tormented due to the ation remains the same, the number of foreign airlines flying to Pakistan may decrease.



ways are not safe due to the bandits, which are demanded.

very harmful to the people and trade.

He said that strict action should also be taken against the politicians and landed aristocracy who are supporting the outlaws.

He said that due to the GSP plus status, dutyfree entry into the European market is allowed for most Pakistani products. Still, despite this, Pakistan's exports to European countries have started to decrease.

Pakistan's exports to European countries decreased by 6.89% in the first eight months of this financial year, which was 5.812 billion dollars in the same period last year.

The exports have decreased from 5.812 billion dollars to 5.411 billion dollars. The fall in exports is due to the decrease in demand for Pakistani goods in Western, Southern, and Northern Europe, which should be noted, he

### Travail

RAWALPINDI: A street vendor selling different kinds of household items on his pushcart on Murree road in the city.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

### Private sector plays pivotal role in progress of any country: Farukh Amil

ISLAMABAD: Chairman IPO-Pakistan Faruk Amil has said that Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are of paramount importance for the promotion of genuine trade and businesses. He emphasized the need for the creation of awareness among manufacturers, traders, people, industrialists, students and other stakeholders for

genuine business development. Chairman, IPO-Pakistan expressed these views during an interactive session at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday. Earlier on his arrival he was accorded a warm welcome by SVP Faad Waheed and other office bearers.

Underlining the need for a proactive role of technical education institutes and universities of Pakistan to prepare students as per industries' demands and exploring markets overseas, Farukh Amil said that IPRs was a very important subject being practiced the world over and suggested its inclusion in the national curriculum for education of youngsters. Highlighting the importance of private sector, he said that private sector is the real driver of the economy which always play pivotal role in putting the country on road to progress.

On his part Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed said that awareness Sessions fostering innovation, supporting start-ups, and ensuring national economic stability



for traders Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights are need

He said that ICCI is determined to cooperate with IPO-Pakistan in arranging informative sessions for the benefits of the traders/business community and other stakeholders.

On this occasion, it was also decided that IPO-Pakistan and ICCI will jointly celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day falling on April 26 and in this connection a mega event will be organized with the participation of diplomats, Businessmen

Industrialists, lawyers, teachers, university students etc. to impart awareness among all the stakeholders to achieve the objective.

The meeting was also attended by Nasir Mahmood Ch, former executive member, Naseer Ahmad, member, Ch. Mhammad Ali, former executive member, Aizaz Mohammad, member, Ch. Waseem, member, Mian Waqas executive member, M. Ismail member, M. Haris, member, Ch. Maqsood Tabish, executive member, Rizwan Chheena, executive member, Mohammad Usman, member and Aamir Hussain, member.

## **SECP issues Circular** regarding intimation of share transfer

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 25: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a circular clarifying provisions of section 465(4) read with 510 of the Companies Act 2017 regarding filing of return with the registrar for change in shareholding of the companies.

Under the provisions of section 465 of the Companies Act, 2017, it is mandatory for a company, other than a listed company, to report any change of more than 25% in its shareholding or membership or voting rights on Form-3.

The Circular No. 9/2024 issued to clarify that a company other than listed company, may also file Form-3 with the registrar about any change of twenty five percent or less in its website

shareholding or membership or voting rights. The above circular has been issued to address practical difficulties being faced in reporting transfer of shareholding and in order to keep the record of shareholding of companies updated.

The above clarification would encourage companies to report any change of 25% or less in shareholding, membership or voting rights to the Registrar. Additionally, since, the company's information/returns maintained by the Registrar are public documents which may be inspected and certified copies may be obtained by any person, hence, updated shareholding information will be available to the stakeholders and the interested

Copy of the circular is accessible at the SECP's

## No gas price increase before July, assures OGRA chairman

ISLAMABAD: While the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority deliberates whether to increase gas prices, the Authority's Chairman Masoor Khan has announced that no facing massive revenue price increase will be implemented before July 1.

whether to increase billion while SSGC has gas prices for Northern Gas Pipeline's

**SNGPL** has asked for gas prices to be raised Rs4,489/ MMBTU.

consumers

If OGRA approves the demand, the price hike will lead to a average of 15% increase in the price of bills.

Prices of gas have already been raised 600% inside a single year.

However, Masroor told

reporters that the price increase will not necessarily be as high as reported.

He added that the price hikes are a necessity as Pakistan's reserves are rapidly depleting.

Both gas companies are shortfalls if revenues are not icreased. SNGPL has OGRA will decide projected losses of Rs189



projected losses of Rs46 billion.

The prices of gas have already been increased twice in the current fiscal year. Prices were increased by nearly 200 percent in November and another 67 percent in February.

### PM's decision to put burden of tough decisions on elite praised

**№** PPA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that the PM's choice to place the burden of difficult decisions on and with neighboring countries and the elite instead of the poor masses is admirable.

He said that the state of the economy and the general populace would that running the country is imposhave been different if a decision of sible without painful reforms and this nature had been made several decades earlier.

ment issued here that Prime Minis- while increasing the tax base. He

importance of the National Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) which is poised to promote investment in the country.

The PM also understands the importance of cordial relations between the center and provinces he is aware of the impact of inflation and people's worries.

PM Shahbaz Sharif also knows improving infrastructure.

Shahid Rashid Butt said in a state- bring investment into the country the FBR is automated. ter Shahbaz Sharif understands the thinks raising the revenue collec-system will be, the more transparent taining macroeconomic stabili-



tion target which is at Rs9 trillion He is making serious efforts to can be increased to Rs14 trillion if

The more automated the FBR

it will be, reducing public complaints ty, supporting sustainable growth, and increasing government revenue. Shahid Rashid Butt said that, as

usual, even at this time, billions of rupees in revenue and claim cases are pending in the courts. If such cases are decided soon, the government can get more than 100 billion rupees, which will solve many prob-

Because the PM can only give a little time to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) due to his busy schedule, he has handed over this committee to the finance minis-

ter, which is a very laudable move. In addition to focusing on mainlowering income inequality, and tackling structural economic difficulties, the finance minister should prioritize fixing the tax system.

The problems that Pakistan is experiencing are a direct result of its undocumented economy, which is roughly identical to the one documented. This is why the overall tax-to-GDP ratio in the country struggles at 10-11 percent, despite

the population being 250 million. ECC is the most important committee, and it usually includes the Ministers of Finance, Economic Affairs, Commerce, Power, Petrole-

## CM Punjab increases amount of Sports Endowment Fund from Rs 2 to 4 billion

LAHORE: Making a big announcement, Punjab Minister for Sports Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has increased the amount of Sports Endowment Fund from Rs 2 to 4 billion for the welfare of players of the province. "Online Sports Complaint Cell is also being established where sports circles can raise different kind of sports issues including lack of sports facilities," he expressed these views while addressing a press conference at National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, DG Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the press conference, Punjab Minister for Sports said that Punjab Youth Affairs and Sports Department will establish Punjab's first ever Maintenance and Repair Department for looking after valuable sports infrastructure. He said constructing a top



class sports facility is not a big issue. "The actual task is to maintain and look after state-of-the-art sports facilities in a proper and professional manner but unfortunately this important factor was totally ignored in the past. However, our Maintenance and Repair Department will look after the valuable sports facilities fully," he added.

Faisal Khokhar said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has zero tolerance on corruption and competency. "She picked up competent and right persons in every department to run the affairs

transparently and in smooth manner. We will spend Rs 5 billion on the maintenance of sports facilities.

He said that past government badly neglected hundreds of sports facilities, complexes and sports infrastructure which was built by former Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and now these sports complexes are presenting a pathetic look. "Literally, I was in shock after seeing 113 valuable sports facilities and infrastructure, including stadium, grounds and sports complexes in dilapidated condition during my visits to different tehsils

and districts of the province," he added. He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has special focus on sports and youth affairs. "She has directed to construct multipurpose sports facilities and complexes in all provincial constituencies to promote healthy sports activities among youth of the province".

Khokhar informed that a Sports Advisory Council is also being established in which male and female students from 10 universities will be included. "We will organize Punjab League for the first time in the Punjab province in which the competitions of various games will be held at the union council level. Besides this, we will also bring international coaches for world level training of our players".

Khokhar said that former PM Imran Khan was a sportsman but he did nothing for the betterment of players' community and sports. "Punjab Sports Department is committed to promote sports culture across the province as per vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz," he added.

### DG Sports Board Punjab convenes special meeting with delegation representing baseball and cycling

**Tahir Amin Malik** 

LAHORE: The Director General of the Sports Board Punjab, Mr. Pervaiz Iqbal, hosted a significant meeting at his office in Lahore, bringing together a delegation representing baseball and cycling to discuss the development and promotion of these sports within the province.

The special meeting saw the presence of key figures including Moazzam Khan Klair, Chairman of the Punjab Cycling Association; Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, General Secretary of the Baseball Federation; Shahzada Butt, Secretary of the Punjab Cycling Association; Hafiz Shahid; and Coordinator Amjad Nawaz

The primary agenda of the meeting was to deliberate on the provision of baseball grounds in Punjab and to strategize for upcoming tournaments. The discussions o underscored the remarkable prog

Men's Sabre World Cup

the team final at the Men's Sabre World Cup in Budapest, Hungary.



of baseball as an Olympic sport in Paki- stan, highlighting the potential it holds for aspiring athletes across the nation.

Mr. Pervaiz Iqbal, the Director General of Sports, reiterated his commitment to promoting diverse sports across Punjab and emphasized the importance of collaboration with sports associations to provide robust platforms for players at both national and international levels.

In response, Moazzam Khan Klair, Chairman of the Punjab Cycling Association, and Syed Fakhar Ali Shah, General Secretary of the Pakistan Baseball Federation, extended their heartfelt gratitude to DG Sports Punjab. They expressed optimism that, under his patronage, not only cycling and baseball but all sports, especially the future prospects of players, would witness significant growth and

The meeting concluded on a positive note with a renewed commitment to furthering the development of baseball and cycling in Punjab, paving the way for a brighter future for sports enthusiasts across the region.

### Pakistan T20 Cricket players to undergo Mitchell Saron (L) of the United States and Park Sangwon of South Korea compete during fitness camp in Kakul Abbottabad from 25th

Saim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announces that 29 players will undergo a fitness camp in Kakul, Abbottabad. The camp, organised in collaboration with the Pakistan Army, is strategically designed to prepare the players for the upcoming series and tournaments, including the home T20I series against New Zealand, the away T20I series against Ireland and England, and the forthcoming ICC T20 World Cup in USA

and West Indies. The camp is scheduled to commence from March 26 and will conclude on April 8. The players will report in the camp later today.

The camp will focus on team building and aims to enhance the physical and mental strength of the players, ensuring they are in the best condition to face the challenges ahead. Under the guidance of experienced trainers and coaches, the players will undergo a comprehensive training regime tailored to elevate their fitness levels, agility, leadership and strategic thinking and overall performance on the field.

### Beacon House System and Govt National Čollege win in Inter College Ramadan *T-20 Cup*



KARACHI: Two more matches decided in the Inter College Ramadan T-20 CUP night matches at various cricket grounds. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the Collaboration of Pakistan Cricket Board. Scores in Brief:

Beacon House System defeated Happy Palace Green by 10 runs at Eid Gah Ground Nazimabad. Beacon House System 144/7 in allotted 20 overs. Yafai Ali Khan 56 4x4 2x6 not out, Azmat Shah 30. Umer Eijaz (sla) 3/31.

Happy Palace Green 134 all out in 29.1 overs. Muhammad Dilawar Malik 32, Umer Eijaz 23. Murvia Mustafa 2/18, Haidh Sohail 2/23, Asjad ullah 2/28. Yafai Ali Khan of Beacon House System given Rs.5000/= as Man of the Match Award.

In the another match Government National College beat Government College Asifabad by 10 runs at IBA Karachi University Ground. Government National College 155/7 in allotted 20 overs. Abdul Rafay 57 9x4 1x6, Daniyal Junaid 49 1x4 3x6.

Government College Asifabad 145/9 in 20 overs. Ishaq 69 7x4 2x6, Kashan Farhad 27. Abdul Rafay 2/18, Daniyal Junaid 2/21. After the end of the Match fomer Test Cricketer Tauseef Ahmed given Rs.5000/= to the Man of Match Award to Abdul Rafay of Government National College.

Photo Caption:

Karachi: The Chief Guest Former Test Cricketer Touseef Ahmed given Rs.5000/= as Man of Match Award to Rafay Ali Khan of Government Beacon House System. Coordinator Rahat Ali Shah, Arif Waheed, Afzal Qureshi and Dr. Arif Hafeez also present on the occasion.

### Naila Kiani received the highest civilian award, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, for her achievements in mountaineering

Sports Desk



LAHORE: Naila Kiani, the courageous and renowned mountaineer. continues to shine in the spotlight with her remarkable achievements. Recently, she added another feather to her cap by receiving the highest civilian medal, Sitara-e-Imtiaz, from the President of Pakistan on March 22nd at Aiwan-e-Sadar.

Naila Kiani stands as a trailblazer in the field of mountaineering, having achieved numerous milestones that set her apart. Notably, she holds the distinction of being the first Paki-

stani woman climber to conquer 10 peaks above 8,000 meters. Furthermore, she stands alone as the only Pakistani female to ascend seven of these towering peaks within an incredible six-month timeframe.

Among her conquests are the majestic peaks of Mount Everest (8,848 meters) in 2023, K2 (8,611 meters) in 2022, Lhotse (8,516 meters) in 2023, Nanga Parbat (8,126 meters) in 2023, Manaslu (8,163 meters) in 2023, Annapurna (8,091 meters) in 2023, Broad Peak (8,051 meters) in 2023, Gasherbrum II (8,035 meters) in 2021, Gasherbrum I (8,080 meters) in 2022, and Cho Oyu (8,188 meters) in 2023.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award. Such kind of recognition gives hope and confidence not only to me but to all aspiring female mountaineers. This recognition fuels my passion for mountaineering even more, and I am inspired to continue pushing boundaries and striving for excellence in my future endeavors."-Naila Kiani

Having transitioned from a former aerospace engineer, banker, and boxer to a high achieving mountaineer, this dedicated mother of two epitomizes the spirit of pursuing the extraordinary. Her courageous decision to tackle the world's highest mountains stands as a powerful testament to the notion that with courage and hard work, every challenge is surmountable.

Abdul Razak Dawood, the President of the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation, says, "We are immensely proud to have been part of Naila Kiani's outstanding journey, and we wholeheartedly congratulate our BARD fellow on this well-deserved recognition. Her achievement in receiving the Sitara-e-Imtiaz reflects her dedication and perseverance in mountaineering. Kiani's determination and passion continue to inspire us all, and we eagerly anticipate more individuals stepping forward to make their mark and illuminate the path ahead. Together, let us celebrate this big achievement and strive to create more opportunities for greatness in the world of sports."

Undeterred by past triumphs, Kiani has set her sights even higher, articulating her ambition to scale all 14 peaks above 8,000 meters within the next two years. Her determination and relentless commitment to her passion serve as inspiration to aspiring mountaineers worldwide.

### PCB announces 20 Women's Cricketers for West **Indies Women Cricket Series**

Photo by Attila Volgyi/Xinhua

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Ayesha Zafar, Gul Feroza, Rameen Shamim, Sidra Nawaz and Tuba Hassan return to the 20-member probables

The probables players to undergo training camp in Karachi from 2 April

Jaffar has named 20 probables for the forthcoming white-ball series against West Indies women scheduled to take place at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi from 18 April to 3 May. The series includes three ODIs – part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 and five T20Is.

The first ball in the ODIs (18, 21 and 23 April) will be bowled at 330pm, while the T20Is (26, 28, 30 April, 2 and 3 May) will begin at 730pm.

Ayesha Zafar (29 ODIs, 20 T20Is), Gul Feroza (2 ODIs), Rameen Shamim (3 ODIs, 4T20Is), Sidra Nawaz (67 ODIs, The women's national selec- 56 T20Is) and Tuba Hassan (1 tion committee led by Saleem ODI, 21 T20Is) are the players making a comeback. Omaima Sohail and Shawaal Zulfiqar (recovering from shoulder injury), who were part of the 17-member squad that was named for the last bilateral series against New Zealand women's team, have been omitted from the camp probables.

The selection committee in consultation with the captain and interim head-coach will announce the 15-member squad for the ODI series during the camp in Karachi. The remaining five players of the probables camp will be released to take part in the domestic Women's One-Day Tournament (to be announced in due course).

**Probables** Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Zafar, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Gul Feroza, Muneeba Ali, Najiha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Nida Dar, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk), Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Player support personnel: Saira Iftikhar (manager), Mauhtashim Rashid (interim head coach), Saleem Jaffar (bowling coach), Taufeeq Umar (batting coach), Hanif Malik (fielding coach), Muhammad Javed (strength and conditioning coach), Syed Nazir Ahmed (media manager), Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist), Zubair Ahmed (analyst) and Nadia Arif (masseuse)

Chief Selector Saleem Jaffar: The selection committee has chosen 20 probable players based on their performances in both domestic and international circuits. Ayesha Zafar, Gul Feroza, Rameen Shamim, Sidra Nawaz, and Tuba Hassan have been added to the probables camp following their performances in the last domestic event, as we aim to broaden our pool of players.

The upcoming series against West Indies, which includes ICC Women's Championship matches, is of utmost importance as we strive to earn maximum points to strengthen our claim for direct Series schedule: qualification in the ICC Women's 50-over World Cup."

The 20-member squad will assemble in Karachi on Monday, 1 April and will undergo a sevenday camp in Karachi from 2 April



at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre. The squad members and the team management will return to their hometown on 9 April for Eid and the NBS (330pm local time) (ICC squad will assemble again in Karachi on 13 April.

14 Apr - West Indies women's

team arrival in Karachi 18 Apr - First ODI at National Bank Stadium (NBS), Karachi (330pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

NBS (330pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship) 23 Apr - Third ODI at

Women's Championship) 26 Apr - First T20I at NBS

(730pm local time) 28 Apr - Second T20I at NBS (730pm local time) 30 Apr - Third T20I at NBS

(730pm local time) 2 May - Fourth T20I at NBS (730pm local time)

## The Spokesman

### **Appreciations**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari distributing commendation shields among military and civil officers who successfully organized Pakistan Day Parade, in a shield distribution ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



## Fostering parliamentary diplomacy: Essential for world peace and sustainable development: NA Speaker

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that upholding values of democracy, peace, and the rule of law are essential for global growth and development. He destruction in Gaza at an added, "Pakistan is a peace- unimaginable scale as over ful country that believes in dialogue for cooperation and understanding." He also said that fostering bilateral and joint partnerships through the Parliamentary Friendship Groups among parliaments the situation in Gaza where of world would strengthen heart-rending images of parliament to parliament views during his address to saidbthat Israel's actions of the indiscriminate use of for a viable, secure, contig-148th IPU Assembly in violated all international force by Israel and call for uous and sovereign State

mentary diplomacy: building bridges for peace and understanding" today.

While appreciating the IPU's efforts for peace and understanding across the globe, he has said the world is witnessing death and 30,000 civilians have been killed, most of whom are women and children. He expressed his resolve that rights law deliberately attackto raise grave concerns at death and destruction from Geneva on the theme "Parlia- humanitarian and human an immediate and uncon- of Palestine on the basis of



Pakistan would continue ing civilian targets and as such constitute war crimes

and crimes against humanity. also reiterated strong and

ditional ceasefire in Gaza. He also reiterated,"We have always and shall continue to stand by our Palestinian During his speech, he brothers and sisters for the exercise of their inalienable contacts. He expressed these Gaza are emerging. He also unequivocal condemnation right to self-determination

the pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its

While mentioning the grim situation of violations of humans rights in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he said that Kashmiris have been suffering the indignity and oppression over seven decades. He also stressed on the need for ensuring right of self-determination in Kashmir as per UNO Security Council Resolution. He also added, "The problem of Jammu and Kashmir is not just about the territory, peace, and security; it is, first and foremost, about the people and their unmet aspirations to determine their

## Pakistan Navy rescues eight Iranian fishermen after 'distinctive' fire

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy on Monday responded swiftly to a distress call from a burning ship in the open se successfully rescuing eight Iranian fishermen, the military said in a statement.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), PNS Yarmook promptly responded to the distress call and executed the rescue operation with extreme agility, showcasing humanitarian values.

It said that the vessel not only successfully rescued all fishermen but also played a commendable role in extin-reaffirms its commitment to tered at St Kitts & Nevis was guishing the fire.

The timely and successful rescue operation exemplifies the Pakistan Navy's capability

Ahsan Iqbal

inaugurates work on



to deal with all sorts of situa-

Under the banner of humanitarianism, the Pakistan Navy's rescue operation ensuring maritime safety and preserving human life at sea, the statement concluded.

In February, the Pakistan

Navy in coordination with the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) saved the lives of nine Indian seamen at sea.

An Ocean Tug SAS-5 regisdisabled for last few days near the Indian coast at a position 167 NM southeast of Karachi. The tug suffered a failure of

its electric generators and had no electrical supply, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

In the early morning of February 4, Pakistan Navy Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Centre (JMICC) received a distress signal from the Ocean.

The Tug began its voyage

from Indian port of Debhol at Maharashtra on February 1 and was heading to Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Upon reaching istressed Tug. PMSS k MIR secured the Tug alongside and after three hours of strenuous repair efforts the defect was rectified. Besides technical assistance, medical facilities, fresh water and cooked meals were also provided to the fatigued crew of the Tug. Upon completion of SAR operation, the tug successfully resumed its voyage towards next port of call at Sharjah.

The professional and timely response by PN and PMSA assets was highly acknowledged and lauded by the salvaged crew of the Tug.

## Zangnan always part of China before illegally occupied by India: Lin Jian



👺 Bureau Report

NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal attended the foundation stone-laying ceremony of various schemes including roads, sewerage and water supply at the University of Narowal.

Member National Assembly (MNA) Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, Member National Assembly (MNA) Wajiha Akram Chaudhry, Provincial Minister for Religious and Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Rana Manan and former Chairman Municipal Committee Narowal Syed Azharul-Hassan Jilani also attended it.

Ahsan Iqbal was warmly welcomed by the university administration on his arrival. The technical team of University of Narowal gave a detailed briefing to the minister about the schemes. The minister formally inaugurated work by driving a road roller and handed over four buses bought for transport of the university to the administration and also planted a sapling in the

admin block. Addressing the ceremony, Ahsan



stone of the projects was a matter of great honour for him. "Projects which were approved during our tenure were unnecessarily delayed during the previous government. Work on all projects attributed to me had been stopped without reason. The previous Punjab government withheld money for the purchase of land for the centre of excellence and the local leadership of party showed its anti-education mindset and vindictiveness by blocking the completion of the project," he added.

He said that the cost of projects of the university, which had been postponed for four years without any reason, increased several times. "Who will compensate for this loss?" Iqbal said that laying the foundation he asked.

## **Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday that Zangnan region also known as Arunachal Pradesh is always part of China before it has been illegally occupied India. "The border between India and China has never been settled. There are four different sections and Zangnan region is always part of China before it has been illegally occupied by India," Lin Jian said during his regular briefing in response to a statement of Indian External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar.

Responding to a question after delivering a lecture at a university in Singapore on Saturday, Jaishankar called China's claim on the so-called Arunachal Pradesh "ludicrous" while asserting that the region is a natural part of India. Lin Jian remarked that China has all along had an effective administration over the region and added, "It is indisputable fact."

He said that in 1987, the Indian side established so called Arunachal Pradesh observe international law and the basic on this illegally occupied territory. "We norms in international relations." Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

their actions and stressed their action is ineffective an this position of China has not been changed," he added. It may be mentioned here that on March 13, while commenting on a statement by Indian External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar regarding China-India border dispute, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin hoped that India would work with the China and follow the common understanding reached between the leaders of two countries and the spirit of the agreements and maintain communication to find a solution to the border issue at an early date. The China-India disputed border covers nearly 3,500 kilometers (2,175 miles) of frontier that the two countries call the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and that stretches from Ladakh in the north to the Indian state of Sikkim in the northeast. The two countries have been trying to settle their border dispute since the early 1990s without success. Since then, soldiers from the two sides have frequently faced off along the contested frontier. Meanwhile, in response to another question regarding involvement of an Indian official in the case of attempt on a US (Sikh) national and questions by some reporters as to why the suspect carried out operation without the government authorization, he said, "We hope the relevant country will earnestly

have issued strong statements against

Reiterating the importance of Pakistan-UK relationship, the Foreign Minister said that Pakistan and the UK had longstanding,

## President emphasises increasing economic, cultural ties with Cote d'Ivoire



**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday said that Pakistan enjoyed cordial relations with Cote d'Ivoire and underscored the need to enhance economic and cultural ties with the West African nation for the mutual benefit of the two countries. The president said this while talking to the Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Cote d'Ivoire Mahmood Akhtar Mahmood who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

During the meeting, the president explore opportunities for advancing trade and economic relations with ful tenure.

Cote d'Ivoire. He said that there was great potential to increase the exports of Pakistani rice, medical and surgical equipment, pharmaceutical products and sports goods to Cote d'Ivoire. President Zardari also called for exploring possibilities to promote cultural relations and people-to-people contacts to strengthen the friendship between the two nations. He urged the envoy-designate to make efforts to further improve bilateral cooperation. The president also congratulated Mahmood Akhtar Mahmood on his appointment asked the ambassador-designate to as Pakistan's Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire and wished him a success-

## **Aitchison College** principal resigns over 'political interference'

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Aitchison College Principal Michael A Thomas resigned on Monday, citing interference and nepotism as examples of bad governance at the institution.

Shortly after Thomas announced his resignation, Syed Babar Ali, a member of the college's management committee also tendered his resignation.

The resignations come weeks after Indian media claimed Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was asked to cancel a visit to Aitchison College. However, sources said Thomas's decision was linked to a tiff between him and the Punjab governor.

Thomas has almost confirmed that his thorny relationship with the governor was behind his resignation.

In a letter to the college's staff, Thomas said that nepotism and politics have no place in the institution's

He said he had no option but to



tive' policies have been brought to the college on the whims of a few influential people.

He specifically named the governor's house's partisan attitude as the cause of the governance issues in the

According to sources, the conflict between the college and the governor began over waiving fines handed to the sons of Federal Minister Ahad Cheema.

'A new principal was to take over next month'

Meanwhile, sources in the Punjab Governor House have claimed that the government was going to appoint a new principal next month anyway.

### Foreign Minister receives telephone call from British **Foreign Secretary**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a telephone call from Lord David Cameron, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom, today.

The Foreign Minister thanked the British Foreign Secretary for his message of felicitations on his appointment as the Foreign Minister and said that he looked forward to working closely with the UK leadership to further strengthen bilateral relations.

historic relations with multifaceted

cooperation. The Foreign Minister emphasized the early conclusion of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership (ESP) agreement to take relations to the next level.

The Foreign Minister stressed on the need to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, people to people contacts and climate. The Foreign Minister stressed on the need for early resumption of PIA flights between Pakistan and the UK which would further bolster linkages, particularly in view of the large Pakistani diaspora in the UK.

The two Ministers also discussed important regional issues including Afghanistan and the situation in Gaza.

The Foreign Minister invited Lord Cameron to visit Pakistan on mutually convenient dates.