

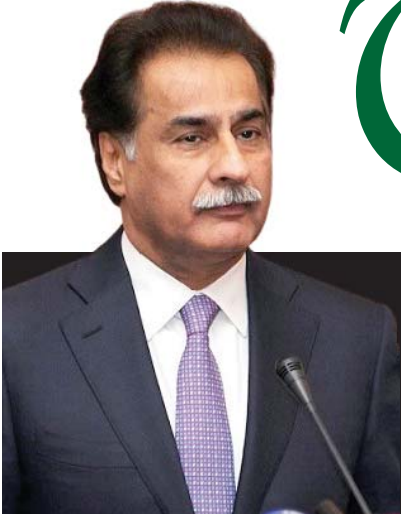
# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے محمد بن یونس نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے  
عاصم بن محمد نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے اپنے والد  
سے سنا، انہوں نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ بن عمر  
رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی  
اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: امر غلات اس وقت  
تک قریش میں رہے گا جب تک ان میں دو  
شخص بھی باقی رہیں گے۔  
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## 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

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. (Details on Page 7)

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## Meeting

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



Photo: Online

# PM directs swift action against tax defaulters, evaders

### Spokesman Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed initiation 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 days. 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 tasked to submit future proposals over enforcement of automatic tax system in factories and industries. The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahmad 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 inactive? He observe that this system should have been made functional in tobacco, sugar, cement and fertilizer industries in the last

two years, adding that the system should be placed in other important sectors of the economy. He said that all the legal impediments in the enforcement of track and trace system should be removed. The prime minister directed 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-

nues, the said system could also be utilized for counterfeit and substandard products. The prime minister asked for end to fake and unregistered cigarettes 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 trace system. 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

sectors. The meeting was told that in 14 tobacco factories, the system was fully functional whereas 12 others had been sealed for non-compliance. 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.

# 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 bilateral ties. While reiterating the importance of bilateral relations, the foreign minister said that Pakistan and the UK have "long-standing, 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 UK. 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

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International 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 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 the board reviews the outlook.

## 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 matter.

# UN Security Council demands immediate ceasefire in Gaza

### Reuters

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 members voted for the resolution, which was proposed by the 10 elected members of the body. Washington had been averse to the word ceasefire earlier in the nearly six-month-old war in the Gaza Strip and had used its veto power to shield U.S. ally Israel as it retaliated against Hamas for an Oct. 7 attack 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 Security Council to demand an immediate



ceasefire for the month of Muslim 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 humanitarian assistance to and reinforce the

protection of civilians in the entire Gaza Strip and reiterates its demand for the lifting of all barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance at scale." Israeli army radio reported shortly 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.

## 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 and politics altogether.

# No need of Shahid Afridi's criticism after clarification, says PTI's Ali Muhammad

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan has refrained from criticising former cricketer Shahid Afridi after the latter clarified his 'fake' social media post. "When Shahid Afridi clarified

that he has not given any such statement related to May 9 that has been attributed to him and clarified that it was fake news, then it was not appropriate to have a criticism of him," he said in an interview with Shaukat Piracha on his show Rubaroo aired on

Aaj News on Monday. "Because we have no competition with him [Afridi]. He is an apolitical person and we have a big political party," Ali said, "Shahid Afridi himself considers Imran Khan his brother." He was responding to a query related to the criticism of PTI

leaders by the party's social media handlers after a post by Afridi that was linked to the political party. According to Ali, the party was facing bigger challenges and inflation and Imran Khan's release was among their priorities. It merits here to mention that Ali and another

party leader Sher Afzal Marwat had not praised the party's social media pages after the former cricketer's post. But in the interview, the party's MNA praised the social media team for engaging the party when many leaders were behind bars following the May 9 incidents.

# Murad Saeed, Azam Swati allowed to contest Senate elections

### 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 the 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 sides. 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.

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

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 felicitation

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 also for Azad Kashmir and the Kashmir issue through its pen. President Muslim Conference in his congratulatory 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 Balti, Ahmed Mansoor, Naveed Ahmed Sheikh, Rizwan Abbasi, Muhammad Asim Jilani, Nawabzada Khurshid,

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 Balti, Ahmed Mansoor, Naveed Ahmed Sheikh, Rizwan Abbasi, Muhammad Asim Jilani, Nawabzada Khurshid,



Tanveer Shahzad, Mashkoo 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 her full role.

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

Ch Nabeel Shakir

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.

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Even though PML-N is in power, its workers are leaving PML-N and joining Tehreek-e-Insaf because they know that the real candidate of Tehreek-e-Insaf 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-Insaf 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 Khuram 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 centers. Later, Deputy Commissioner Khuram 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 Naem 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 Khuram 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 Naem Sarwar, Farzand Ali, GA Gagan, Chairman Professional Photographers Association registered in this condolence reference. Faisalabad Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed, Haji Muhammad Ibrahim, Muhammad Asrees Chaghtai, Senior Vice President Muhammad Asif, Vice President Israr Khan, Finance Secretary Khuram 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.



## 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.



Photo: PID

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



Bureau Report

PLANDRI: The government of Pakistan and Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for the victims due to heavy rains and snowfall across Azad Kashmir during the month of February also raised the financial assistance checks to the victims of Sudhanoti district.

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner Sudhanoti and Chairman District

Disaster Management Authority Raja Siddiqat Khan distributed checks to the victims in his office. Given. While the heirs of the deceased during the rains were paid checks worth Rs 2 lakh per person. Superintendent of Police Sadhnoti Sajid Imran, District Officer Information Nasir Latif, President Press Club Sadhnoti Sardar Mazhar Zarif were also present on the occasion. Government from Pakistan

After receiving the relief 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 the government have openly helped the Kashmiris and removed it with difficulty.

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 snowfall.

The people have received a great relief. He said that the district administration is trying to ease the problems of the people.

## Police has accelerated crackdown against violators of kite flying.



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, Chinot 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 violators.

Furthermore, RPO Faisalabad Dr Muhammad Abid Khan has directed CPO Faisalabad, DPOs Jhang, Chinot 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.

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

Abdul 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. Khuram Tariq during a visit to Faisalabad Museum.

He emphasized the importance of historical evolution for the development of regional society and civilization and said that nations that forget their history do not develop, so we should never ignore our history.

He appreciated the excellent arrangements of this museum in highlighting the history of Faisalabad and said that it needs to be made interesting for the students of history



as well as the public and Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has the duty of leading the way in this regard. Head is always ready to perform.

He said that efforts will be made to get more historical artefacts for the museum. Dr. Khuram Tariq said that he will bring the business community of Faisalabad so that they can not

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

He appreciated the abilities of Director Khurshid 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.



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## ‘Will Israel Comply with the UNSC’s Ceasefire Resolution for Gaza?’

In a remarkable turn of events, Israel found itself facing unexpected 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.

regardless of age, including children and the elderly, are entitled to special care 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.

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 individuals affected by armed conflict. Civilians,

who in his tweet said quote, “The Security Council just approved a long-awaited resolution on Gaza, demanding an immediate 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 restore order.

Additionally, the non-compliant country may face further isolation on 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 struggle.

Writer is Press Secretary to the President(Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

### Vicious attempt to win votes

The 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.

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

Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali

Martyrdom 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 Maqsood 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-diary report.

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.

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

Moreover, sports serve as a unique platform for character development and the 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 diligence as they strive to refine their abilities and attain their objectives. Furthermore, sports instill the capacity to handle triumphs and setbacks with grace, resilience, and sportsmanship, traits transferable to various facets of 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 mitigation. 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

competitions nurture a sense of belonging and solidarity, fostering a robust community spirit. 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 who excel in their respective disciplines inspire others to pursue excellence, set ambitious goals, and surpass limitations. These role models epitomize qualities such as commitment, perseverance, 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 integration. 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.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

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

# 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 the times.

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.

Stressing that treating others as 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

members of the international community.

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 cooperation.

China is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Nauru in multilateral fields such as the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum, jointly advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world

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

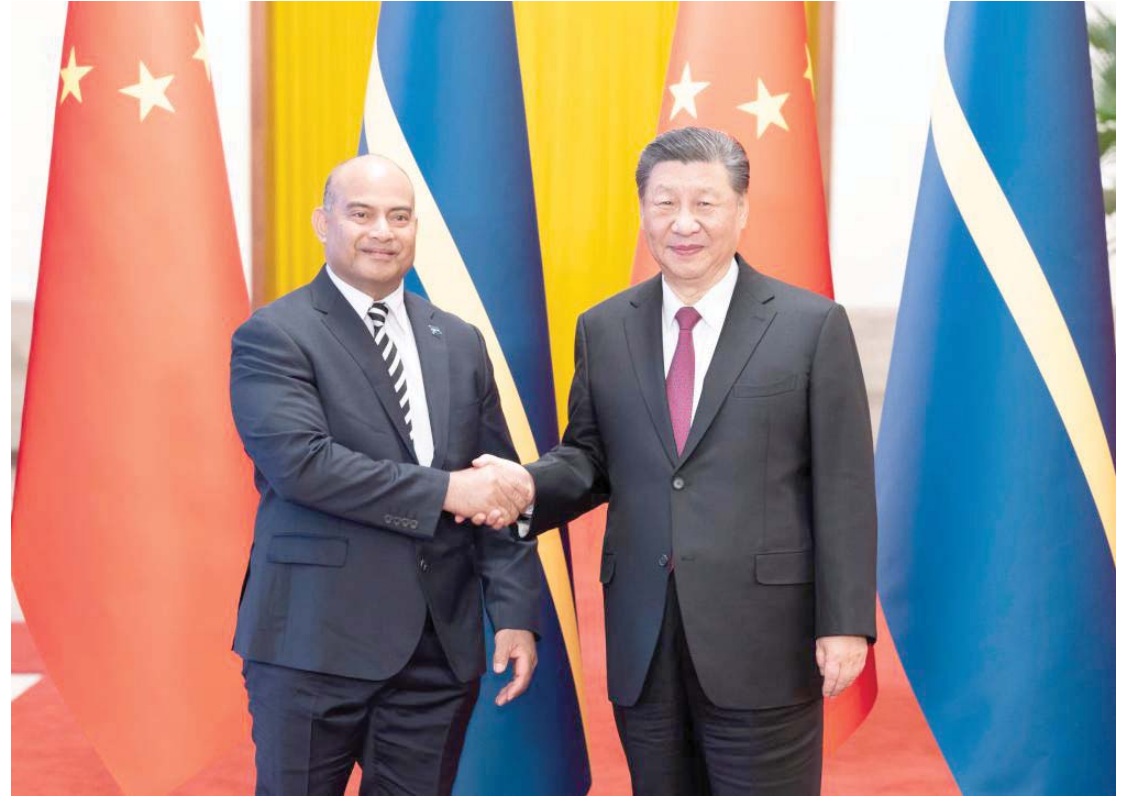
Adeang said it is a great honor to be invited for a state visit to China and experience China's long history, splendid culture and vibrant development.

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 deepen 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 partnership.

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



Adeang said, noting that the series of 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

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

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

## 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.



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

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 from 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 Iftar-cum-dinner reception was hosted at the Chancery to mark Pakistan National Day today.

A large number of Pakistani community and Japanese 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 heritage to the audience.

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.

## 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 strategic necessity to protect the two-state solution and achieve peace

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates views positively the sanctions, decisions and restrictions that a number of countries have begun to take on Israel, whether related to the export of weapons or imposing more sanctions on extremist colonialists who commit attacks

against Palestinian citizens, or sanctions on companies that deal with Israeli military industries, and considers them to be inappropriate. It is unprecedented and hopes that it will develop towards real and practical measures and be translated into official government decisions in this regard, including imposing deterrent sanctions on the racist colonial occupation system. It must also pave the way for radical international positions that support the accountability and trial

of Israeli war criminals and support the efforts made to activate the path of international justice and victory for human rights. Our fair and legitimate plea.

In a related context, the Ministry welcomes the internal movement in a number of European countries regarding their recognition of the State of Palestine and considers it a step in the right direction towards taking an immediate decision on this recognition in a way that fortifies and protects the two-state solution,

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 people.

## 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 peoples, he said.

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 strengthen the sharing of experience on governance, he added.

China welcomes the Dominican side to board the "express train" of Chinese modernization to expand bilateral cooperation in fields such as trade and the economy, infrastructure construction, agriculture and health care, Xi said, noting that China will continue to provide assistance within its capacity for Dominica's economic and social development.

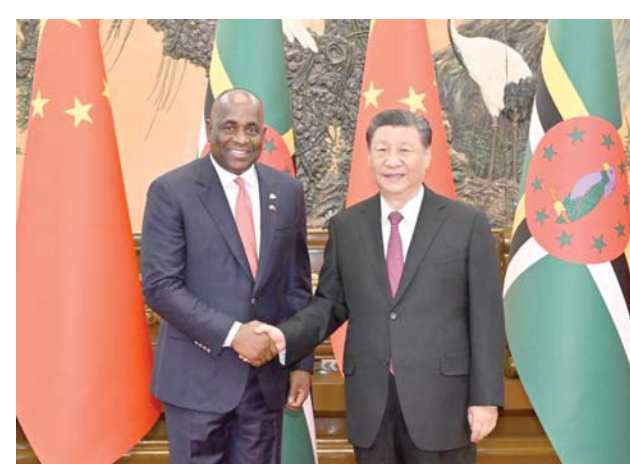
China is willing to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges with the Dominican side, welcomes more Dominican students to study in China, and will continue to provide scholarships and training programs, Xi said.

He noted that the two sides should work together to develop the Confucius Classroom at the Dominica State College, and explore more cooperation on vocational and technical training in Dominica.

China advocates an equal, 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 for humanity.

China attaches great impor-



tance to its relations with Caribbean countries, Xi noted, saying that China appreciates Dominica's important role in promoting China-Caribbean cooperation during the latter's rotating chairmanship of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and that China will continue to support countries in the Caribbean to improve their prosperity, development and people's well-being.

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-



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

Sports Desk

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

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.

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



Sports Desk

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 Ejaz (sl) 3/31.

Happy Palace Green 134 all out in 29.1 overs. Muhammad Dilawar Malik 32, Umer Ejaz 23. Murvia Mustafa 2/18, Haidh Sohal 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. Dawood Rizwan 2/16.

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 former 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 Tauseef 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 Pakistani 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.

## 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 Khan.

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 also underscored the remarkable progress 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 success.

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.

## Men's Sabre World Cup

Mitchell Saron (L) of the United States and Park Sangwon of South Korea compete during the team final at the Men's Sabre World Cup in Budapest, Hungary.



Photo by Attila Volgyi/Xinhua

## Pakistan T20 Cricket players to undergo fitness camp in Kakul Abbottabad from 25th

Asim 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.

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

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

The women's national selection committee led by Saleem 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 3:30pm, while the T20Is (26, 28, 30 April, 2 and 3 May) will begin at 7:30pm.

Ayesha Zafar (29 ODIs, 20 T20Is), Gul Feroza (2 ODIs), Rameen Shamim (3 ODIs, 4 T20Is), Sidra Nawaz (67 ODIs, 56 T20Is) and Tuba Hassan (1 ODI, 21 T20Is) are the players making a comeback. Omaidina Sohal 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, Najjaha Alvi (w/k), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Nida Dar, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz

(w/k), Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Player support personnel: Saira Iftikhar (manager), Mautashim 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 inter-

national 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 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 seven-day 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 squad will assemble again in Karachi on 13 April.

Series schedule:

14 Apr - West Indies women's team arrival in Karachi

18 Apr - First ODI at National Bank Stadium (NBS), Karachi (3:30pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

21 Apr - Second ODI at NBS (3:30pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

23 Apr - Third ODI at NBS (3:30pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

26 Apr - First T20I at NBS (7:30pm local time)

28 Apr - Second T20I at NBS (7:30pm local time)

30 Apr - Third T20I at NBS (7:30pm local time)

2 May - Fourth T20I at NBS (7:30pm local time)

## 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.



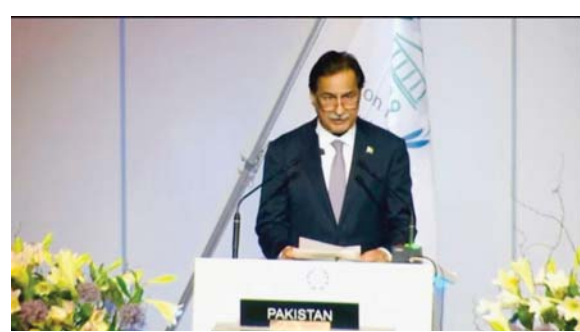
Photo: Online

# 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 added, "Pakistan is a peaceful 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 of world would strengthen parliament to parliament contacts. He expressed these views during his address to 148th IPU Assembly in Geneva on the theme "Parliamentary 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 destruction in Gaza at an unimaginable scale as over 30,000 civilians have been killed, most of whom are women and children. He expressed his resolve that Pakistan would continue to raise grave concerns at the situation in Gaza where heart-rending images of death and destruction from Gaza are emerging. He also said that Israel's actions violated all international humanitarian and human



rights law deliberately attacking civilian targets and as such constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

During his speech, he also reiterated strong and unequivocal condemnation of the indiscriminate use of force by Israel and call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. He also reiterated, "We have always and shall continue to stand by our Palestinian brothers and sisters for the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination for a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of

the pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital."

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 political future."

# 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 sea, 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 extinguishing the fire.

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



to deal with all sorts of situations at sea.

Under the banner of humanitarianism, the Pakistan Navy's rescue operation reaffirms its commitment to 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 registered at St Kitts & Nevis was disabled 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 Debhool at Maharashtra on February 1 and was heading to Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Upon reaching the distressed Tug, PMSS KASHMIR 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.

# Ahsan Iqbal inaugurates work on development schemes at Narowal University

## 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) Wajih 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 Azhar-ul-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 Iqbal said that laying the foundation



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?" he asked.

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



## Spokesman Report

BELJING: 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 on this illegally occupied territory. "We

have issued strong statements against their actions and stressed their action is ineffective in 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 borders 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 observe international law and the basic norms in international relations."

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



## 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 asked the ambassador-designate to explore opportunities for advancing trade and economic relations with

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 as Pakistan's Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire and wished him a successful tenure.

# Aitchison College principal resigns over 'political interference'

## 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 affairs.

He said he had no option but to resign.



He also told the staff that 'destructive' 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 college.

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.

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