



PM Shehbaz Sharif to leave for Saudi Arabia today: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has confirmed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will leave for Saudi Arabia on Saturday (today). The minister, in a statement issued on Friday, said this would be the first foreign visit of the prime minister since his election to the PM's office on March 4.



Mushaal blasts Modi for sinister plot to change demography of IIOJK

Former Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussain Mullick blasted the notorious fascist Hindutva regime for its sinister plot to change the demography of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) under its nefarious scheme to settle outsiders in the occupied valley. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting on security issues

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding security situation in the country on Friday.



Photo: PID

Foreign Minister, Secretary Blinken discuss bilateral ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, received a telephone call from the United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken here on Friday and discussed bilateral ties. Both sides reiterated their dedication to strengthening bilateral cooperation across all spheres of mutual interest. A wide range of bilateral issues including enhancing trade and investment relations, climate change, agriculture and security came under discussion. Various matters of regional importance such as situation in



Gaza, the Red Sea and developments in Afghanistan were also discussed. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the current positive momentum in bilateral relations.

On Quds Day, PM reiterates Pakistan's support to Palestinians; calls for prayers

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reiterated that Pakistan would continue its moral and diplomatic support to the people of Palestine until their liberation from the Zionist occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestine state as per pre-1967 borders. The prime minister, in his message on Quds Day, annually observed on the last Friday of Holy Ramadan (Jumatu-ul-Wida), said the entire Pakistani nation condemned the Zionist oppression and expressed solidarity with the suffering Palestinian people. He said for the past seven decades, Israel had illegally occupied Palestine and Jerusalem and continuously violated international laws and human rights to maintain its occupa-

tion, while the international community acted as a silent spectator. The prime minister said that the Israeli occupation and atrocities spanned over the last seven decades but its intensity increased manifold since October last year. "So far, 32,000 Palestinians, including 17,000 children, have been killed and 70,000 injured in Gaza. Hospitals, refugee camps and schools have been deliberately targeted. Despite the UN Security Council's resolution for ceasefire, the unprovoked bombing of innocent civilians by Israel continues in Gaza," the prime minister commented. He reiterated Pakistan's demand for the international community to play its role to pressure Israel to stop oppression against the Palestinian people.

PM directs for fool-proof security of Chinese nationals

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed all the security agencies to ensure fool-proof security arrangements for the Chinese nationals working on various projects in Pakistan. Chairing a meeting regarding security situation in the country, the prime minister said he had decided to personally review the meetings with respect to the overall security of the country especially the security of the Chinese citizens. He said war against the menace of terrorism will continue till its eradication from the country. He directed the interior ministry to increase collaboration with the provinces to further improve the provincial anti-terrorism departments. The prime minister also instructed to chalk out a comprehensive strategy for the regular audit of the security SOPs. The interior ministry briefed the prime minister in detail about the overall law and order situation of the country and the performance of the ministry. The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Naqvi, top brass of the security agencies and the concerned high officials.

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Law minister emphasizes on role of committees to assist needy litigants

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday emphasized on active role of legal aid committees to provide legal assistance to deserving litigants. The law minister said that legal aid committees at the district level could play a role to support the poor and needy people for their access to justice. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar held a meeting with a delegation of Punjab Bar Council. Chairman Reforms Committee Rana Tufail Ahmed Noon and Chairman Executive Punjab Bar Council were also part of the delegation.

Practical steps to be taken for media houses, workers' welfare: Tarar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar reiterated the government's resolve to address all the issues being faced by journalists, media workers and media houses on priority. He expressed the resolve during his separate meetings with the office bearers of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors and Pakistan Broadcasters Association. On the occasion, he vowed to take practical steps for ensuring well-being of the media workers and houses. The minister, during the meetings, had a detailed discussion on the problems faced by media workers, journalists and newspaper industry. Tarar said he was fully aware of the problems of media workers and



journalists and would take practical measures to protect their rights. Besides, all-out efforts would be made to provide required facilities to them, he added. The minister assured the office bearers of his full cooperation in getting the pending dues of media houses cleared at the earliest possible time. In this regard, concerted efforts were underway in line with the directives of PM Shehbaz Sharif, he added. He said the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) had approved supplementary grant for payment of media houses' arrears and dues. The minister highlighted the role being played by the Ministry of Information between the government, journalists and media houses. Earlier, Principal Information Officer Mubashir Hassan gave a detailed briefing in the meeting.

PML-N's Sanaullah gives conditional support to Imran Khan's release



Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah has given conditional support to incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan's release from Adiala Jail, citing Pakistan cannot afford more instability. "Khan Sb has been the reason for chaos and difficulties in the country for the past 10 years. Pakistan endured a lot because of Khan Sb. If this continues, Pakistan will endure more. If Pakistan has to come out of this, then there should be a solution," he said in an interview with Shaukat Piracha on Aaj News show Rubaroo aired on Friday. Sanaullah was responding to a query related to supporting the release of a rival party's founder, contrary to what he said in the past. Khan is serving his sentence in Adiala Jail. Earlier this week, the Islamabad High Court suspended the 14-year sentences handed out to him and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana reference.

Five more Supreme Court judges receive 'suspicious letters'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Five more Supreme Court judges received "suspicious letters" on Friday, sources told Aaj News, joining the list of jurists in the apex and high courts having received such written messages. They added the SC staff handed over the letters to the Counter Terrorism Department. It was not yet clear whether the letters contained any toxic material like the Islamabad High Court judges received earlier this week. This comes a day after letters allegedly laced with a toxic substance were sent to Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, and Justice Aminuddin. The letters were received at the Receipt and Issue Branch of the apex court from where they were forwarded to the staff of the judges. The letters sent by an unknown group threatened the judges of the SC for 'rescuing evil'. Earlier in the day, Lahore High Court's Justice Ali Baqar Najafi received a "suspicious" letter. He became the sixth high court judge to receive it after LHC Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan, senior puisne judge Justice Shujaat Ali Khan, Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, Justice Aalia Neelum, and Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh received it. The recent trend started with the threatening letters laced with a "white powder" sent to the Islamabad High Court on Tuesday. The first information report was registered at the capital's Counter Terrorism Department police station under Section 507 (criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication) of the Pakistan Penal Code and Section 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism) of the Anti-Terrorism Act. The letters while giving reference to Tehreek-i-Namoos Pakistan criticised the justice system, it said, adding that a particular photo and English word "Bacillus Anthracis" were included in the letters for the threat.

Police investigation reveals nature of powder in letters sent to judges

City Desk

The investigation has revealed that the powder inside the envelopes contained a small amount of arsenic. The amount of arsenic could be up to 10%. Arsenic is a naturally occurring compound that can be lethal to humans in larger proportions. Exposure to arsenic, particularly through inhalation can lead to inflammation in the lungs, irritation in the nose or even bleeding. Police used mass spectrometry and gas chromatography to identify the powder. Earlier this week, multiple judges of the Lahore High Court had been sent suspicious letters containing threats and a suspicious powder. The letters had come soon after similar letters were sent to judges of the Islamabad High Court and Supreme Court. It had been speculated that the powder might be arsenic, which has now been proven false.

ECP notifies victory of 37 Senators

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has officially issued notifications of success for 37 candidates who were elected to the Senate in the April 2 elections. According to a notification, among them are Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Ishaq Dar from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), both representing the federal capital. The notified senators from Punjab include Ahad Cheema (PML-N), Pervaiz Rasheed (PML-N), Hamid Khan (SIC), Raja Nasir Abbas (MWMP), Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi (Independent), Muhammad Talal Badar Chaudhry (PML-N), Nasir Mehmood (PML-N), Muhammad Aurangzeb (PML-N), Musadik Masood Malik (PML-N), Anusha Rehman Ahmad Khan (PML-N), Bushra Anjum Butt (PML-N), and Khalil Tahir (PML-N). The notification includes Syed Masroor Ahsan, Dost Ali Jeesar, Ashraf Ali Jatoti, (Continued on Page 8)



# Kashmir dispute not land dispute, it is about right of millions of people: Sardar Attique

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has said that the problem of Palestine and Kashmir is not a land dispute, but the right of millions of people to self-determination, freedom and independence. He said From October 7, 2023 until now, in the last 6 months, more than 30,000 Palestinian citizens have been killed. Among them children, elderly, sick and women have been martyred, among whom the number of children is the highest.

The international community should play its role to stop the ongoing atrocities in Kashmir and Palestine. He addressing the iftar dinner hosted by the members of the Majlis-e-Amala, Sheikh Khurshid Anwar and Hasnat

Khurshid. On this occasion the Secretary General of the Muslim Conference Ms. Mehrul-Nisaa and the central leader Sardar Abid Razzaq were also present. Sardar Attique said that India was not in Occupied Kashmir.

He is inflicting mountains of cruelty on the innocent people, she cannot suppress the voice of Kashmiris through force, the UN resolutions are very clear that Kashmiris will be blessed the right to self-determination through a free and transparent plebiscite to decide their future. He said that India is inflicting atrocities on innocent people in Occupied Kashmir, if India thinks that it can suppress the voice of Kashmiris through force, then it is impossible. We will continue its political, moral and diplomatic support for Genocide, extrajudicial killings, custodial torture, use of chemical weapons, violence against children and women,



enforced disappearances, pellet guns, mass punishment, black laws in India's failed attempt to suppress the freedom movement of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India using illegal, inhumane and immoral tactics like false flag operations. India has illegally planted Hindus in Indian occupied

Jammu and Kashmir to change the geo-demographic landscape and turn the Muslim majority into a minority in the region.

He expressed concern over Modi's move to establish settlements. He said that after the Indian illegal measures of August 5, 2019, there has been a significant increase in the issue of Kashmiri domicile by India to non-Kashmiris. He further said that the global reach of the terrorist network of RSS is a threat to world peace.

Peace will not be established in this region until the Kashmir issue is resolved according to the aspirations of the Kashmiris and the resolutions of the United Nations. He further said that the Muslim Conference has been associated with this freedom movement since day one and the day is not far when Kashmiri people will see the sun of freedom added.

## Jumma tul Wida

ISLAMABAD: People leaving Faisal Mosque after offering their last Friday noon prayers (Jumma Tul Wida) during the Islamic holy fasting month of Ramazan, in the federal capital.

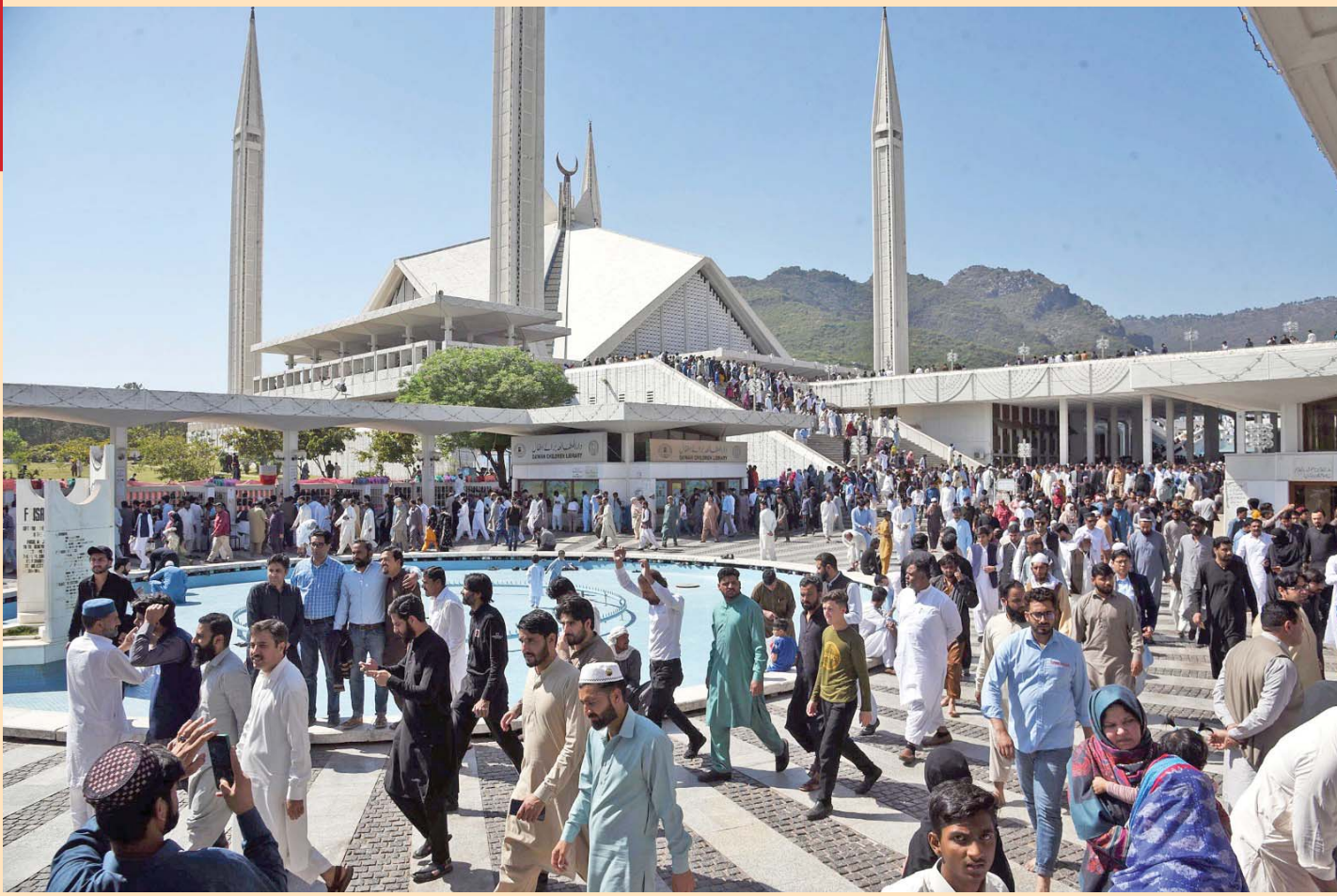


Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Former Governor Punjab Makhdoom Sajjad Hussain Qureshi's 27th death anniversary observed

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi's father and former governor of Punjab Makhdoom Sajjad Hussain Qureshi's 27th anniversary and Khatam Sharif ceremony was held, thousands of people participated, Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi prayed

The 27th anniversary of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, father of former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Court of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria, Hazrat Shah Ruknuddin Alam and Hazrat Bibi Pak Daman, and former Governor of Punjab Makhdoom Muhammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi (deceased). Khatam Sharif ceremony was held under the cover of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria. In which thousands of people from all over the coun-

try participated. The anniversary gathering was a historic gathering in which leaders of all schools of thought, priests of various monasteries and dignitaries of the city participated. Prominent personalities include Makhdoom Javed Hashmi, Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi, former federal minister Allama Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi, Darbar Hazrat Musa. Makhdoom Wilayat Mustafa Geelani, the Sajjada Nashen of Pakistan. Darbar Hazrat ShahMakhdoom Syed Roshan Ali Gardizi, Makhdoom of Yusuf Gardiz, Makhdoom Ali Mahdi Shamsi, Makhdoom of Hazrat Shah Shams' Darbar, Makhdoom Zohaib Gilani, Makhdoom of Sakhi Nawab, Makhdoom Faiz Mustafa Gilani, Nasir Mian Khan, Makhdoom of Hazrat Hamdia's Darbar, Sharqpur Sharif. Alhaji Mian Jameel Ahmed, Makhdoom Zahid Bahar Hashmi,

Yazdani, Spokesperson Geelani, Ibrahim Khan, Pir Zahoor Qureshi, Moin Riaz Qureshi, Nadeem Qureshi, Dr. Asif Qureshi, Brigadier (Rtd) Maqsood Qureshi, Rai Arif Mansab, Malik Zahoor Bhatta, Malik Akhtar Hussain Bhatta, Barrister Taimur Altaf Mahe, Mian Farooq, Qazi Naem. Rana Sajjad Hameed, Abbas Ali Ansari, Dalir Khan Mahar, Masri Khan Mahar, Syed Zahid Hussain Gardizi, Syed Aoun. Chairman of NA 150 and NA 151 including Abbas Gardizi, Syed Mazhar Abbas Gardizi, Malik Adnan Dogar, Pir Kazim Ali Shah, Abdul Qayyum Shaheen, Sajjad Sial, Khalid Javed Waraich, Allama Farooq Khan Syedi, Pir Ramzan Shah Faizi, Syed Hussain Jahanian Gardizi. And Vice Chairman included. Secretary General of Pakistan Zakaria Academy Dr. Siddiq Khan Qadri performed the duties of the stage

secretary. Qari Ghulam Rasool recited the entire Quran.

Later, on this occasion, Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi thanked the participants of the event on behalf of herself and her family. On this occasion, he said in his short speech. I am grateful to the thousands of participants who put aside their busy schedules during the month of Ramadan to attend the 27th Annual Khatam Pak event.

This is the first time in 27 years that Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, the Sajjada Nashin of Darbar Hazrat Zakaria, is not participating in this gathering. Their lack is felt acutely. God willing, soon they will be among us. He offered special prayers for the release of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, national security, development and stability of Pakistan.

## Quick and timely redressal of customers complaints is our first priority: Asghar Ghailu

**Syed Nadeem Kazmi**

MULTAN: Addressing a special meeting, Chief Strategic Planner MEPCO Mohammad Asghar Ghailu has said that all XENs and SDOs line losses and recovery targets should be worked hard and Ensure achievement of the targets set by the authority make In the ongoing operation against electricity thieves, cases should be registered and arrests should be made. He expressed these views while talking to the officers on the occasion of the visit to Mepco Rahim Yar Khan Circle. He said that quick and timely redressal of customer complaints is our first priority and any omission in this is intolerable. It is the responsibility of all personnel to treat customers courteously and resolve complaints. Departmental action will be taken against the officials who behave unethically towards the customers. The Chief Strategic Planner said that meters have been provided for the installation of damaged and burning connections and the replacement and installation of the meters should be sent to the headquarters. All meters should be sent to M&T laboratory to get data of faulty meters and units should be debited/credited to consumers as per SOPs. Regional Manager M&T II Multan Syed Mubashar Rizvi said that instructions have been issued to the M&T laboratory staff to collect the data of the meters received from the sub-divisions and send reports every week. Superintending Engineer MEPCO Rahim Yar Khan Circle Shahzad Habib Gill gave a briefing on the performance of the circle. All operational and revenue officers of Rahim Yar Khan, Khanpur and Sadiqabad Divisions were also present on this occasion.

## Maryam Khan visits Minar Cancer Center and distributes Eid gifts to cancer patients



**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: According to The Public Relations Officer to The Commissioner Multan Division Commissioner Multan Division Ms Iram Saleemi Said Commissioner Multan Division Division Ms Marium Khan visited Minar Cancer Center and distributed gifts and Eid gifts to cancer patients. Commissioner Maryam Khan discussed with the patients about the available facilities. With the support of Azhar Baloch, Eid gifts were distributed among the patients. On this occasion, Director Minar Center Dr. Saeed Akhtar, other concerned persons were present. Later, Commissioner Maryam Khan visited the women jail and distributed gifts among the women prisoners. Distributed toys, sweets, clothes among children living with women. He interacted with the prisoners, inquired about the problems and needs. Additional Commissioner Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Director Iram Salimi, Superintendent Women Jail Syeda Anbar Naqvi were also present on this occasion.

## Over 6 thousand blood cancer patients in South Punjab: Dr Ahmad Ejaz

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: The Huge number of blood cancer patients in Punjab, including Multan has reached six thousand. The 1500 of blood cancer patients registered in Cancer Center Nishtar Hospital Multan, largest cancer center in South Punjab, Department proved to be a ray of hope for cancer patients Due to the provision of free medicines to blood cancer patients from Nishtar Hospital Multan, their lives started to return to normal. Professor Dr. Ahmad Ijaz, Head of Cancer Department, Multan Masood has said in his statement that blood cancer medicine was invented in the year 2000 and after that there were treatment facilities in five major cities of Pakistan. Blood cancer in Binwaya and Multan as well as in Faisalabad and Pindi Facilities have been made available for the treatment of patients and so far 1500 blood cancer patients have been enrolled in South Punjab and around 6 thousand patients are being given free medicines. He further said that blood cancer is not a hereditary disease. Initial symptoms include enlargement of the spleen, fever, weakness in the body, loss of appetite Getting and getting infected are included, and since South Punjab is an agricultural region, this disease has spread here, one of the main reasons for which has also been revealed is that precautions are not taken while spraying in the fields, masks are not applied and rooms or any other place. If there is pesticide fertilizer and grain lying there, carelessness because their germs enter the human body and they cause blood cancer, he said that cancer is a curable disease. Before the medicine was invented, bone marrow transplants were done for such patients. Patients used to be isolated, but due to modern treatment methods, patients no longer have to be isolated and can live a normal life with the use of this medicine. Blood cancer patients in Multan's cancer department only need their ID card, photo and their report. They can come and get themselves registered to those who need this medicine. It is provided free of charge. My endeavor is to help as many patients as possible to recover and live their normal lives under the supervision of me and my team from the Cancer Department.



## Protest rally in Multan against Israeli atrocities on Palestinian

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The silence of international human rights leaders, including the Muslim Ummah, on Israeli atrocities is shameful. Israel flouted the international laws of war, America and Europe remained silent, and the armies of the so-called independent Muslim countries were lost in dreams. We salute the courage of Palestinian mothers, sisters and children who paid their dues. Speakers Jamaat-e-Islami

Today, on the appeal of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, the Holy Day was celebrated in Multan as well as across the country. In this regard, a protest rally was taken out in front of Madrasa Jama Uloom Masoom Shah Road, which was led by Secretary Jamaat-e-Islami South Punjab Soheb Amar Siddiqui and Amcer Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar



Hashmi. Apart from workers, a large number of citizens participated in the rally.

Speaking on this occasion, Sohaib Ammar Siddiqui said that the history of cruelty and barbarity which is being perpetrated in Palestine for the last 6 months has no precedent. Israel has abandoned all the rules of war. Why are international organizations and human

rights organizations silent on these atrocities?

Those who rave about the death of dogs and cats are ignorant of the value of human life. He added that these atrocities would not have been possible without the support of the United States, when the United States was facing defeat when it attacked civilian populations.

Sohaib Ammar said that a hospital

was besieged for two weeks, children and women were martyred, bulldozers were used on these bodies, the Security Council passed a ceasefire resolution, but failed in the ceasefire. Today we salute the children and women who protected Bait al-Maqdis.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Safdar Hashmi said that there is no example of cruelty and brutality with which the people of Gaza have done. I am grateful to the people of Pakistan who trusted Jamaat-e-Islami and contributed to the Palestine Fund. The silence of world powers and Muslim rulers has proved that they are all the supporters of oppression.

The 5.8 million army of so called Muslim rulers is not just for parade show. He said that today the Holy Day is being celebrated across the country. We are with the people of Gaza and Palestine.

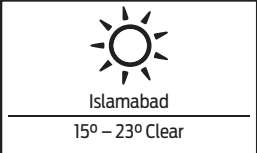
## People will get good news after Eid-ul-Fitr: Mujtabi Shujaaur Rahman

**Khalid Chaudhry**

MULTAN: Punjab Provincial Finance Minister Mujtabi Shujaaur Rahman has said that a strategy has been decided to reduce the burden of inflation on the people and the people will get good news after Eid-ul-Fitr. The services of the former member of the Provincial Assembly Sultana Shaheen from Multan are unforgettable for the party. She will get a rightful place in the party. Provincial Finance Minister appreciated his party services. He further said that the PML-N is using all its capabilities to solve the problems of the people so that the rising inflation and economic crisis will end and the poor class will not have to bear any more difficulties due to the anti-people policies of the former political party. Inshallah, the current government is full of people's trust. Will come down and will try day and night to solve their problems.







**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:22 am
Zohr	12:11 pm
Asr	4:43 pm
Maghrib	6:31 pm
Isha	7:57 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation deleted the citizens' complaints in the comment section**

**PPA**

KARACHI: On the new social media page of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, a resident of North Karachi Sector 5E commented after seeing videos and pictures of the situation in KWSC Social Media New Page, requesting for the manholes to be covered. As a result, the comment section was removed from the new social media page of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, and the comments of the residents were also deleted. According to details, the resident stated that at present, there are 40 to 50 manholes open in Sector 5E, North Karachi, and despite the arrival of Eid, neither the XEN officer of North Karachi nor the Chairman of UC-8 Faisal has taken any action regarding the uncovered manholes. The resident stated that this is a questionable indication of the performance of the CEO of the Karachi Water & Sewerage Board. Along with the broken manholes in Sector 5E, North Karachi, the lids of the manholes are also missing. Incidents are increasing rapidly in Karachi city, with an increase in the number of deaths and injuries among citizens. Just like in various areas of Karachi city, where manhole covers are not being provided, similarly, in Sector 5E, North Karachi, almost 40 to 50 manhole covers are open.

The resident questioned the CEO of the Karachi Water & Sewerage Board, asking whether the newly created social media page is meant to showcase achievements using Water Bills/ Taxpayers money or whether it is created to listen to the problems of the people, document them, and take timely action to address them, and to reach your department.

**Experience Pakistan's Crown Jewel at its finest**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Cultural enthusiasts, history buffs, and nature lovers, pack your bags and book your trip to Hunza Valley, Pakistan! Waiting to welcome you there is Hashoo Group's new 4-star resort, PC Legacy Nasirabad, Hunza, offering exceptional hospitality during your stay. Pakistan, a country rich in diverse cultures, historical landmarks, and breathtaking landscapes, is a captivating destination for tourists worldwide. The spectacular Hunza Valley, located approximately 700 kilometers from the bustling capital of Islamabad, is renowned for its exceptional natural beauty, delectable cuisine, unmatched heritage, and the warm hospitality extended by its locals to visiting guests.



Situated near the base of the majestic Rakaposhi, the resort offers surreal 360-degree views of the surrounding scenery. It features 57 state-of-the-art rooms and suites and boasts 24-hour restaurant service offering a variety of local and international cuisines.

Guests can enjoy a selection of fresh, valley-produced fruits straight from the orchards, along with freshly baked walnut and peach cakes, local raw honey, and other delicacies unique to the valley. Additionally, the property's central

location offers convenient proximity to several tourist attractions, including the majestic Rakaposhi peak, the historic Baltit Fort, breathtaking cherry blossom orchards, the ethereal Attabad Lake, the unique Khunjerab Pass, the exceptional Nagar Naltar Valleys, and various religious sites for Japanese, Thai, and Korean monks. The hotel also features premium fiber optic connectivity, providing an enhanced experience for its guests in a relatively remote region with limited data and telephone

penetration. Guests will be pleasantly surprised to find the hotel significantly staffed by women, reflecting Hashoo Group's commitment to empowering and uplifting local women in the region. Looking ahead, the Group aims to transform the enterprise into one entirely led by women, highlighting their support for women's leadership and economic participation in Hunza.

Whether visiting individually, with family, or friends, tourists can pre-book their exploration of this magnificent region through the exclusive Pearl Tours & Travels facility. This service offers bespoke tours tailored to the unique preferences and plans of its guests, ensuring a personalized and unforgettable experience.

With summer just around the corner, tourists from all over are setting their sights on this northern gem, recognized as one of Pakistan's most famous destinations. Plan ahead and book your unforgettable vacation today!

**Meeting**

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson IPO-Pakistan meets Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan, Ulanbek Totuaev on Friday.



**Chairman PRCS meets DG Rangers Sindh to discuss humanitarian efforts in the province**

**PPA**

KARACHI: Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, the Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), convened a significant meeting for discussion with Major General Azhar Waqas, the Director General (DG) of Rangers Sindh, at the Pakistan Rangers Sindh Headquarters on Friday. The meeting centered on ongoing humanitarian initiatives in Sindh province.

During the dialogue, Chairman Laghari underscored PRCS's steadfastness and commitment, especially during challenging circumstances like the devastating 2022 flood.

Through partnerships with esteemed organizations such as the IFRC, ICRC, and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, PRCS promptly initiated relief efforts, benefiting over 2.8 million individuals across 55 districts, with a focus on underserved areas. PRCS collaborated with the government and Armed Forces, complementing their relief endeavors to alleviate the plight of flood-affected communities.

Chairman Laghari elaborated on PRCS's emergency flood response in Sindh, detailing activities such as distributing essential supplies, providing shelter, installing water treatment facilities, and offering cash assistance to affected families.

Additionally, he outlined ongoing recovery initiatives aimed at providing shelter, livelihood support, water and sanitation facilities, hygiene promotion, and food distribution.

Moreover, Chairman Laghari highlighted PRCS's assistance to Sindh provincial and district branches in capacity building and various programs, including supplying ambulances to enhance emergency care services during flood operations and beyond.

DG Rangers Sindh, Major General Azhar Waqas, lauded PRCS's significant contributions, emphasizing its pivotal role in natural disasters. He praised the National Society's

dedication under the leadership of Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, which transcends ethnic or cultural boundaries, contributing significantly to humanitarian endeavors.

DG Rangers Sindh pledged full support from the Rangers Sindh to PRCS in humanitarian endeavors and expressed readiness for collaborative actions to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable communities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari and DG Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas exchanged commemorative shields.

**Justajou Foundation, OGDCL distribute Eid ration to poor in Hyderabad**



**Qayoom Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: In Hyderabad, the social organization Justajou Foundation and OGDCL distributed ration to hundreds of families to include the poor and needy people of Hyderabad city and surrounding areas in the joy of Eid. Chairperson of Justajou Foundation Sadaf Raza Waraich, Regional Coordinator of OGDCL Zahid Hussain Mahesar, Secretary of Justajou Foundation Abdul Wahab Munshi, Rotary Justajou Club Secretary Bezaud Bashir Memon, Gymkhana President Dr. Agha Taj, Secretary Tariq Bajari, well-known lawyers, Imdad Ali Unar, Ishrat Lohar, Pir Marvi, Imran Ali Barano, Shehzad Raza Waraich, Abir Qazi, Samia Qazi and others participated. Speaking to the media on this occasion, the leaders said that we have continued the social activities of the foundation and have also included the poor people in the joy of Eid. He said that Eid ration has been given to hundreds of poor families. Our effort is to include the needy and deserving people in the joy of Eid who could not celebrate Eid due to difficulties in the past, he said that the Justajou Foundation helps the weak and those suffering from economic difficulties to stand on their feet. wants to do, that is the reason to lead people in backward and rural areas to these power minutes through various projects.

**CBD Punjab and Henxeng University forge strategic alliances for Nawaz Sharif IT City**



**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (CBD Punjab), in conjunction with the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA), has reached significant milestones during their recent visit to China. Led by the Chief Operating Officer of CBD Punjab and RUDA Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, the delegation embarked on a journey to explore strategic partnerships and investment opportunities for the development of Punjab's infrastructure and economy.

A major highlight of this historic visit was the signing of transformative Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Henxeng University, a pivotal step towards the realization of Pakistan's biggest IT city, the Nawaz Sharif IT City being established by CBD Punjab. This collaboration underscores CBD Punjab's commitment to fostering educational excellence and technological innovation within Punjab. The MoU with Henxeng University is hailed as a significant milestone in the journey towards establishing Nawaz Sharif IT City as a hub of technological advancement and talent development.

COO CBD Punjab and RUDA Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunities presented during the visit, stating, "Our engagement in China marks a pivotal moment in our efforts to realize Punjab's development goals. The signing of MoUs with Henxeng University signifies a significant step towards establishing Nawaz Sharif IT City as a beacon of innovation and progress. We are confident that these partnerships will contribute immensely to the socio-economic prosperity of Punjab."

In addition to the MoU with Henxeng University, further agreements were inked in the field of information technology with prominent companies, highlighting the diverse spectrum of partnerships forged during the visit.

**University of Agriculture, Metageny Business Group sign MoU for agriculture development**

**Abdul Majid**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between University of Agriculture Faisalabad and Metageny Business Group Canada to implement joint efforts in the field of agriculture.



The agreement was signed by Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University Faisalabad and Hira Asim, CEO of Metageny Business Group Canada, during a ceremony held at the Vice Chancellor's Chamber. Director External Linkages Dr. Kashif Salimi, Dr. Zaheer Ahmed, Osama Asim, Dr. Muhammad Tahir and others were also present on this occasion. According to the agreement, both institutions will make joint efforts in the field of research, training and teaching. Additionally, both institutions will organize seminars, conferences, including capacity building, exchange of educational information, integrated research projects. Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan said that the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad is taking all possible steps to tackle the challenges facing agriculture so as to set a new chapter of development by ensuring food security and rural development. He said that through joint efforts, the issues for agricultural development will be carried out along with benefiting from each other's experiences.

**Kashmiri/Pakistani national Raja Azhar Iqbal assumed his slot as Judge United Kingdom**

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

RAWALPINDI: Barrister Raja Azhar Iqbal, an AJK national hailing from Mirpur has been appointed as Judge by the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom. He has assumed his office Thursday.

Barrister Raja Azhar Iqbal belongs to village Boa Kalan Mirpur, AJK. He is the first Kashmiri from the region to have been appointed as Judge in the UK Judiciary by the Lord Chancellor. Being Judge he will exercise his functional jurisdiction over entire England.

Barrister Raja Azhar Iqbal before his new appointment was Chairman diplomatic wing of Muslim Conference England.

**Muslim Ummah must support Palestinians on Al-Quds Day: Shia Ulema**

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Blinded by Israeli cruelty and innocence, they are trying to trample humanity by forgetting international laws, mountains of cruelty are being broken on Palestinians and Muslims are being massacred in Palestine, thousands of Muslims have become victims of Israeli brutality and cruelty, and have prayed for death, the oppressed daughters and innocent children of Gaza are looking at the Muslim Ummah, and the Muslim Ummah is keeping a criminal silence, the entire Muslim Ummah should unite and support the oppressed Muslims of Palestine, and Gaza has become a graveyard for people, these views were



expressed by Syed Ghazanfar Abbas, the head of the coordination committee Shia Ulema Council District Faisalabad, from the Al-Quds rally that went from the Central Imam Bargah Uzzakhana Shabir Dhoobi Ghat to Aminpur Bazar Chowk under the auspices of the Shia

Ulema Council. While speaking, among the other speakers, the leader of the Shia Ulema Council Maulana Ejaz Hussain Mehdi, Syed Nisar Hussain Kazmi Safdar Ali Shan Advocate, Sheikh Mahmood Hussain IO Pakistan Adnan Alvi, and others while speak-

ing said that the World Al-Quds Day demands this. That we as human beings should support the oppressed Muslims of Palestine. He said that the silence of Muslim rulers on Israeli aggression is equivalent to supporting Israel. He said that there have been public protests against Israeli aggression in countries around the world, including the United States and Great Britain. are The participants of the rally said that millions of people, women and adults in Palestine have been victims of Israeli aggression, the Pakistani army should declare a full-fledged jihad against Israel and the government of Pakistan should immediately end its relations with the United States and Israel, and declare war against Israel



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# Judges' Letter and Disturbing Efforts to Controversialize Prominent Intelligence Agency - III

In addressing internal challenges such as espionage, organized crime, and political extremism, intelligence agencies help maintain law and order, preserving democratic values and societal cohesion. Moreover, they support military operations and strategic planning by furnishing accurate and timely intelligence on enemy movements, capabilities, and intentions. Beyond security concerns, intelligence agencies contribute to economic prosperity and diplomatic standing by monitoring global markets, trade routes, and technological advancements, offering valuable insights for growth and innovation. Furthermore, by engaging in intelligence sharing and collaborating with allied nations, they cultivate diplomatic ties and reinforce mutual trust and cooperation on shared interests.

ism, efficiency, and structured approach, the ISI stands among the world's premier intelligence agencies. Serving as an integral component of the Pakistan Army, the ISI operates discreetly, exerting a profound influence on national defense strategies.

Functioning as the eyes and ears of the state, the ISI diligently safeguards Pakistan's national interests and its populace. While the precise number of agents remains undisclosed for security reasons, it is estimated that the ISI boasts a considerable workforce, surpassing ten thousand agents. Since its inception, the ISI has remained instrumental in fortifying Pakistan's security apparatus.

Notably, the ISI played a pivotal role during the Afghan-Soviet War, pivotal in arming and training Afghan forces to resist Soviet incursions. This historic achievement underscores the ISI's strategic vision and resolute determination to counter external threats. Former ISI head, late Hameed Gul, famously remarked, "When the history of the world is written, it will be written that ISI defeated the Soviet Union in Afghanistan with the help of America. Then another

sentence would be that the ISI defeated the US with the help of the US."

In recent years, the ISI, in collaboration with the Pakistan Army, launched successful operations such as Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad to combat terrorism, extremism, and radicalism within Pakistan's borders. These intelligence-led endeavors have been pivotal in dismantling terrorist networks and thwarting destabilizing forces.

Despite facing criticism from anti-state elements and foreign agencies like RAW and Mossad, the ISI continues to operate with professionalism and diligence. It remains steadfast in safeguarding Pakistan's national security interests against global espionage networks and hostile conspiracies. Upholding national security interests remains the ISI's foremost objective, underscoring its indispensable role in protecting Pakistan from external threats. Following the World Trade Center attacks, Pakistan aligned itself with the global war on terror, during which the ISI successfully uncovered and dismantled numerous terrorist networks established by Pakistan's adversaries to destabilize the state, its institutions, and

society. These networks received backing and funding from neighboring nations like India and Afghanistan.

Managing international and regional espionage networks would have been insurmountable without the assistance of the ISI. Kulbhushan Yadav, a retired Indian Navy officer, engaged in perilous activities in Pakistan's Balochistan province, acted as a spy for India's intelligence agency RAW. He was apprehended by Pakistan Security Forces on March 3, 2016, on charges of espionage and involvement in terrorist activities in Balochistan, with his capture owing to ISI-provided intelligence. RAW had long operated from neighboring states to destabilize and undermine Pakistan, predated the World Trade Center incident. Pakistan bore a heavy toll for its role in the war on terror, with India striving to fragment Pakistan along ethnic lines and utilizing Afghanistan as a base for anti-Pakistan operations. India spearheaded anti-state activities across Pakistan, including Balochistan and KPK, perpetuating cycles of unrest and strife. India's involvement in sponsoring and supporting terrorism within Pakistan is evident, as demonstrated by incidents such as the 2023 bomb blast in Johar Town, Lahore, where Pakistan's Home Minister confirmed India's culpability.

*To be continued*



Analysis  
Abdul Basit Alvi

In particular, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) holds paramount importance as Pakistan's leading intelligence agency. Tasked with gathering, processing, and analyzing information pertinent to Pakistan's security worldwide, the ISI commands respect for its invaluable contributions to the nation. Established in 1948, this arm of the Pakistan Army plays a pivotal role in safeguarding national security by procuring vital intelligence. Renowned for its professional-

## No protection for Gaza civilians

Aid officials called on the UN Security Council Friday to step in to stop the carnage in Gaza as the war enters its sixth month amid a man-made famine, Israel's constant bombardment, targeted killings of aid workers and Palestinians civilians and "zero accountability" for the perpetrators. Briefing the Council on the current situation on the ground, Ramesh Rajasingham, coordination director with UN humanitarian affairs office, OCHA, and Janti Soeripto of the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Save the Children, outlined the latest impact of the devastation that has followed Israel's war against Gaza.

Rajasingham said more than 32,000 Palestinians have been killed, another 75,000 injured and 1.7 million people – two thirds of the enclave's population – "forcibly displaced" to Rafah in the south. Intense Israeli bombardment and fighting continues, with Israel still apparently intent on a military operation in Rafah to root out Hamas fighters.

At the same time, Israel's siege has left Al-Shifa Hospital "almost entirely destroyed", and the lack of protection for aid workers is tragically evident, he said, pointing to Israel's deadly attack killing seven World Central Kitchen workers on Monday. "Sadly, we cannot say that this tragic attack was an isolated incident in this conflict," he said, extending condolences to those killed. "They join more than 220 of our humanitarian colleagues who have been killed, 179 of them UN personnel."

This pattern of conduct calls into serious question the parties' compliance with international humanitarian law, he said, emphasizing that allegations of serious violations must be investigated and the suspects prosecuted. "The undeniable lack of protection for aid missions has forced World Central Kitchen and at least one other aid organization – the [non-governmental organization] NGO Anera – to suspend their operations, he said, adding that both organizations provide hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza with food each week. "It is unclear when their work will resume."

In addition, "it is clear there is no protection of civilians in Gaza," he added. "If they have no protection from the dangers of armed conflict there, they must be allowed to seek it elsewhere, he said, emphasizing that it is vital to recall that any persons displaced from Gaza must be guaranteed the right to voluntarily return, as international law demands. In northern Gaza, one in six children in Gaza are severely malnourished, and more than 30 people have died of starvation, requiring immediate action, he said, adding that the primary obstacle is getting aid distributed.



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

## Eid shoppers prioritize children's joy over personal comforts

Muhammad Atif Ismail

As the joyous occasion of Eid approaches, the bazaars that once brimmed with festive fervor now present a deserted look especially during day time due to tight grip of inflation, however, some families could be witnessed after sun set.

Amidst the vibrant displays of colorful fabrics, glimmering jewelry, and shining shoes, middle class citizens with diminishing purchasing power are found engaged in minor level shopping at some popular bazaars and markets including Gardezi, Gulshan, Hussain Agahi and Cantt markets but a reasonable number returned without shopping.

Similarly, many customers were being observed purchasing clothes, shoes, toys and jewellery for their kids while sacrificing their own requirements, said Sunny, a shopkeeper in Gardezi Market. He, however, remarked that over 90 percent of customers were voicing concerns about inflation. He added that the customers from rural areas were noted absent compared to previous year's visit to the bazaars.

In a clear reflection of the prevailing economic woes, Mr Arshid Sasi, a cloth merchant, also shared his perspective on the inflationary scenario. Arshid, with a furrowed brow lamented and stated, "Inflation has caused a severe blow to the business." The prices of fabrics have skyrocketed, making it increasingly challenging for customers to afford

even the most basic attire for Eid festivities. He however stated that parents preferred to purchase clothes for their kids. He estimated that over 30 percent decrease in the number of customers at his shop.

Suhaib Khan, an owner of a shoe shop, also hinted that the situation was equally dire for shoe retailers. "With the cost of raw materials soaring, we are compelled to pass on the burden to customers, further dampening their spirits. The volume of sales has plummeted and it reflected the grim reality of shrinking incomes", he stated.

Saqib Noori, a shopkeeper in Town Wajhianwala of district Khanewal, also highlighted a concerning trend which is a remarkable decrease in the number of customers visiting his shop, amounting to nearly 40 percent, compared to previous years.

He observed that customer response was better during the marriage season before Ramazan. He remarked that a substantial portion of his clientele hailed from rural areas with an agricultural background. He however expressed optimism and pointed out that April was the month of wheat crop harvesting, and it was a crucial time for rural communities heavily reliant on agricultural yields. Anticipating an influx of customers following the emergence of crops in markets, he pinned high hopes about a potential surge in sales at his shop.

About Eid Shopping trends, Noori also revealed a dilemma that customers wanted to purchase clothes on deferred payments until May. "Unfortunately, I am unable to cater to their demands due

to resource constraints", he stated.

Despite the prevailing adversity, citizens like Riaz Lodhi, Batool Bibi, Usman Alvi, Farqan, Amjad Sulaiman and some others driven by unwavering parental love, prioritize their children's happiness above all else.

Batool Bibi stood as beacons of sacrifice and ignored her own shopping due to financial constraints. She however stated that she had almost new clothes and shoes as she had worn on occasion of the marriage ceremony.

Usman, a labourer at Gulshan Market, with his paternal affection, remarked, "Though times are tough, I couldn't bear to disappoint my children on Eid. I made sure to purchase the finest clothes and accessories for them, even if it meant cutting back on my own expenditures."

Sakeena Bibi, a poor woman from Vehari also echoes similar sentiments, stating, "As a parent, seeing the joy on my children's faces is priceless. Despite the financial strain, I couldn't resist indulging them with gifts to celebrate the occasion."

Parveen Bibi, a maid, with a tender smile, adds, "Eid is a time of joy and togetherness, especially for children. I spared no expense in ensuring my kids have everything they desire, despite the hardships I myself face."

However, at the city's top shopping malls, the gathering of customers is as per routines of Eid festival. Huge numbers of families, mostly hailing from elite class, are doing handsome shopping. The sale at various brands is satisfactory, said Niaz, Waleed and Tauseeq, the assistants at different outlets.

## Unveiling Dynamics: Safeguarding Chinese Interests in Pakistan - II

Pakistan and China are on the verge of finalizing modalities for third-party participation in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), aimed at enhancing the project's regional scope and attracting additional investors. The draft shared by the Chinese side outlines general principles and objectives for third-party involvement, emphasizing inclusivity, mutual benefits, and government-led steering of CPEC. This move reflects a strategic shift towards broader regional connectivity and economic integration, with CPEC serving as an open platform for cooperation. The establishment of the Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination underscores the collaborative efforts to streamline third-party participation and ensure sustainable development.

While economic cooperation between China and Pakistan has made great progress, security challenges continue to be a significant concern for Chinese investments and personnel in the country. The recent suicide bombing targeting Chinese engineers at the Dasu hydropower project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province serves as a grim reminder of the risks faced by foreign nationals. The attack, claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), underscores the complex security environment in Pakistan, plagued by insurgency and jihadist activities.

Additionally, the thwarted attempt to breach the Gwadar Port Authority compound further highlights the diverse threats facing Chinese interests in Pakistan. To ensure the safety of their investments and personnel, it is crucial for Chinese companies to implement robust security measures and conduct a strategic reassessment of their operations in the region.

The recent attack targeting Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan has implications for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit to Beijing. It is likely that the focus of the visit will shift towards eval-

uating the effectiveness of current security measures for Chinese residents and projects in Pakistan. Additionally, the summary highlights the grievances of Baloch separatists towards Chinese involvement in projects like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). These grievances stem from concerns about marginalization, economic deprivation, and inadequate development in Balochistan despite its resource richness. The lack of tangible benefits from CPEC in Balochistan has fueled resentment and enabled separatist groups to exploit local grievances for recruitment and propaganda. Moreover, the targeting of Chinese interests by jihadist groups and Baloch separatists poses challenges for Pakistan's government in convincing Beijing to initiate new projects. To address these challenges, the summary suggests that addressing Baloch grievances and collaborating with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to tackle security threats are essential steps towards improving the situation.

The recent developments in Pakistan-China relations underscore both the opportunities and challenges inherent in this strategic partnership. While the reopening of the Khunjerab border signifies resilience and cooperation, security concerns pose formidable obstacles to economic development and regional connectivity, particularly within the ambit of CPEC. As Pakistan navigates these complexities, addressing security imperatives, fostering inclusive growth, and mitigating grievances will be crucial in sustaining the momentum of bilateral cooperation and realizing the shared vision of prosperity and stability in the region.



Analysis  
Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

(The author is the Secretary General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association, serving in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter, and is also a foreign affairs analyst and media advisor based in Peshawar. For further inquiries or correspondence, he can be contacted via email at [syed.gilani@gmail.com](mailto:syed.gilani@gmail.com).)



# Foreign Ministry welcomes the Human Rights Council's adoption of Palestinian resolutions on accountability

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates welcomed the adoption by the Human Rights Council in its 55th regular session today, Friday, of the three Palestine resolutions before the Human Rights Council and under the second item of its agenda, under the title of the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the necessity of ensuring accountability and achieving justice. Likewise, under Clause Seven on the rights of the Palestinian people, the two resolutions include the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and the settlements.

The Foreign Ministry thanked the member states that adopted and voted in favor of the resolutions presented by the State of Palestine through our mission and the fraternal and friendly countries and groups, and their vote, which comes at a time when the Palestinian people are exposed to a genocidal war, which reflects the princi-

pled position of the member states on the importance of holding the colonial system accountable. And Israeli apartheid, with 28 countries voting in favor of the accountability resolution, including sister Arab countries, and important European, Asian, and African countries, with European consensus and 13 countries abstaining (Albania, Benin, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Georgia, India, Japan, Lithuania, Montenegro), the Netherlands, Romania), and 6 countries voted against (Argentina, Bulgaria, Germany, Malawi, Paraguay, and the United States).

The decision on the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people was approved by international consensus, with 42 countries voting in favor of the decision, 3 countries abstaining (Albania, Argentina, and Cameroon), and two countries isolated themselves by voting against (Paraguay and the United States).

The settlements decision was unanimously approved by 36 countries that

voted in favor of the resolution, while 8 countries abstained (Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Romania), and three countries isolated themselves by voting against (Malawi, Paraguay, and the United States).

The Foreign Ministry called on the countries that did not support the resolution to review their positions, stand in the right place of history, reject genocide and apartheid, support Palestinian human rights, and abandon policies and double standards that will undoubtedly harm the credibility and reputation of these countries, and place them in the position of complicit in the fires of genocide and will encourage Israel continues with its crimes.

The Foreign Ministry pointed out the importance of the resolutions at a time when Israel and its various tools, including its occupying forces and officials, and terrorist colonialists, are committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of genocide, as the resolution calls on "all countries to

stop the sale, transfer, and transfer of weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment to Israel." The occupying Power, in order to prevent further violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses, and to refrain, in accordance with international rules and standards, from exporting, selling or transferring surveillance goods, technologies and weapons, including "dual-use" items, when assessed that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that these goods, technologies or weapons may be used to violate or misuse human rights against the Palestinian people.

In addition to the necessity of realizing the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, as for the colonial settlements, we stressed in the resolution the importance of stopping dealings with the settlement system and not providing any assistance that contributes to the preservation of this illegal system, and calling on countries to take the necessary measures to dry up the sources of settler colonialism,

as well as Requesting the Permanent Investigation Committee to prepare a report to identify the settlers, the colonialists who commit crimes against the Palestinian people.

The Foreign Ministry expressed that the international consensus and positive vote on the Palestine resolutions at this particular time constitutes a form of rejection of the Israeli practices and crimes committed by the occupation forces or their tools represented by settler terrorism, and under a fascist government whose program is based on crimes against the Palestinian people and their rights. It also constitutes Voting is a mechanism to deter the occupation, protect the Palestinian people, and preserve their rights until they are achieved, leading to an end to the Israeli colonial occupation and its racist regime.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that the decisions included practical mechanisms for implementation in the face of the genocide committed against the Palestinian people, and that the votes

must be translated into practical steps through which countries express their commitment to shoulder their responsibility in ensuring accountability for criminals, who committed crimes against the Palestinian people, and achieving Justice and redress for the victims of our people and their families.

The Foreign Ministry affirmed that it will work hard to implement these decisions and transform them into effective mechanisms from the countries of the international community to put them into effect, to deter, hold and hold Israel accountable, and work to stop the aggression against the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip and after more than 184 days of aggression, prevent forced displacement, and protect civilians. Ensuring the application and respect of international law in the land of the State of Palestine and imposing the foundations for ending colonialism and dismantling Israeli apartheid.

## Celebrations

ANKARA: Ambassador of Pakistan to Türkiye H.E. Dr. Yousaf Junaid speaking on Pakistan Day reception held here.



## Amna Baloch calls on EU's special envoy on human rights



Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Amna Baloch Friday called on European Union's Special Envoy on Human Rights Olof Skoog in Brussels and discussed matters of mutual concern. In the meeting, they also discussed ongoing engagement tracks and agreed to strengthen Pakistan-EU relations.

# Imran Qureshi's solo show organized by Pakistan Embassy, Netherlands

Spokesman Report

HAGUE: The Pakistan Embassy in the Netherlands has organized the first solo exhibition of Pakistan's leading visual artist Imran Qureshi at the prestigious Pulchri Studio. The show titled "Scattered Yet Together" will continue till 14 April 2024.

The exhibition was officially opened by Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ms. Marieta Reijkerker Chairperson of Pulchri Studio, and artist Mr. Imran Qureshi.

Ms. Marieta Reijkerker Chairperson of Pulchri Studio, in her opening remarks said that she was glad to see work of a leading Pakistani artist displayed and it was a result of two yearlong discussions with Ambassador Tarar.

An "Artist Talk" with Mr. Imran Qureshi was also organized alongside the opening ceremony.

Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar gave an overview of how the exhibition had been curated and current status of contemporary art in Pakistan. He mentioned different genres of works and how contemporary miniature painting from Pakistan has become a global art movement. Ambassador Tarar also highlighted the cultural links between Pakistan and the Netherlands and that Pakistani visual artists like others in the world have been inspired by the Dutch masters during their education or careers.

Mr. Imran Qureshi during the talk shared how he joined the Miniature Department at National College of Arts, Lahore which was at that time

one of the only places offering a graduate degree in Miniature painting. He recalled his different large-scale projects including the rooftop commission at New York's Metropolitan Museum and how he used skills of traditional miniature in evolving a large-scale contemporary work of art.

The talk and exhibition opening was attended by a large number of people. It included high ranking officials from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Mr. Wouter Jurgens - Director for department of Asia and Oceania, Ambassador Dewi van der weerd - Ambassador for International cultural cooperation, Ambassador Bea ten Tusscher - the Dutch Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion and Belief, Ambassador Joanna Roper - British Ambassador to The Hague,

Ambassador Thomas Drew - former British High Commissioner to Pakistan, representative from Rijksmuseum, artists, and representatives from different galleries and museums in The Hague.

Pulchri Studio is a Dutch art society established in 1847 and is housed in its current building since 1901. It is a gallery space frequently used for multiple exhibition and visited by the locals and tourists alike.

Pakistan and the Netherlands enjoy good bilateral relations. Both countries marked 75 years of their diplomatic relations in 2023. "Scattered Yet Together" is a Public and Cultural Diplomacy initiative by Pakistan Embassy the Netherlands to introduce Pakistani art, culture and heritage to the people of the Netherlands.



Nihao! China

# China's Grand Canal Tourism Overseas Promotion Season 2024 has been officially launched in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Cultural Center in Pakistan and Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan have rolled out series of online activities to promote tourism image of Grand Canal to Pakistani as well as world audiences. The season will feature nearly 100 activities across the world, focusing on the natural scenery, cultural heritage and societal progress of the ancient waterway system which has been listed as world heritage.

These activities include series of photography exhibitions, video broadcasts, online interactive exhibition, and tourism routes video series. These promotional activities



also comprise of promotional videos and photography exhibitions of different municipalities and provinces of China Grand Canal flow through, such as Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Shandong and Henan.

The Grand Canal is a vast water-

way system in the eastern plains of China, running from Beijing in the north to Zhejiang province in the south. As a world cultural heritage, the Grand Canal of China is the earliest, largest and longest man-made canal in the world.

On June 22th, 2014, the 38th

session of UNESCO World Heritage's committee announced the Grand Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, becoming the 46th World Heritage Site in China.

The official launch ceremony of the China's Grand Canal Tourism Overseas Promotion Season 2024 was held in Wuxi, China on 2nd April 2024. During the launch ceremony, Network of International Cultural Link Entities (NICE) and BMW China unveiled the Grand Canal Culture Protection and Education Project.

Moreover, the Department of Culture and Tourism, the Foreign Affairs Office of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government, and the People's Bank of China Jiangsu Branch released eight new meas-



ures aimed at revitalizing inbound tourism. These measures address concerns of international tourists, such as limited access to information on Jiangsu's tourism, challenges with payment, bookings at popular sites and language barriers, and

the need for travel routes that cater to emerging demands.

The event, marking its second edition since 2022, is a collaborative effort by the Network of International Cultural Link Entities (NICE), the Department of Culture

and Tourism of Jiangsu Province, and the Wuxi Municipal People's Government.

The "China's Grand Canal Tourism Overseas Promotion Season 2024" will take place online, and each day we will present you with an engaging program regarding China's Grand Canal, such as the promotion of local culture and tourism projects, the showing of documentaries about intangible cultural assets, photo exhibitions, and more. The viewers in Pakistan and all over the world can follow and enjoy all these interesting photography exhibitions, videos series broadcast and other pertinent activities on Grand Canal on official Facebook page of China Cultural Center in Pakistan.



**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
68,416.78	67,756.03
Day's High	Day's Low
68,439.37	67,912.35
Index Value	Change
12,721,252,360	+660.75
Percentage	Time
+0.98%	4 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,911.16	-64.73
Percentage	Time
-0.81%	5 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
39,000.78	+403.80
Percentage	Time
+1.05%	5 Apr, 12:19 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,992.08	-781.06
Percentage	Time
-1.96%	5 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.7	184.5
Bahrain Dinar	739.18	746.89
Canadian Dollar	204	206.2
China Yuan	38.5	38.9
Danish Krone	40.48	40.88
Euro	299.5	302
Hong Kong Dollar	35.57	35.92
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.91	912.91
Malaysian Ringgit	58.92	59.52
New Zealand \$	167.02	169.02
Norwegians Krone	25.38	25.68
Omani Riyal	721.71	729.71
Qatari Riyal	76.35	77.05
Saudi Riyal	73.3	74.05
Singapore Dollar	206	208
Swedish Korona	25.72	26.02
Swiss Franc	307.13	309.63
Thai Bhat	7.61	7.76
U.A.E Dirham	75.4	76.15
UK Pound Sterling	350	354
US Dollar	277.2	280.25

**Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited announces dividend of PKR 1.7635 per unit**



**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMC) is a leading pure Islamic asset management company in Pakistan, and part of Pak-Qatar Group, which is Pakistan's pioneer and premier Islamic financial services group. PQAMC has recently announced the monthly dividend of Pak-Qatar Monthly Income Plan (PQMIP) which is one of the plans under PQAMC's 'Shariah-Compliant Income Fund'. The plan is also amongst the highest return paying plan in the category.

As per the PQAMC Website, the announced dividend is PKR 1.7635 per unit. PQAMC is rated AM2 with 'Stable Outlook' by PACRA—the internationally acclaimed rating agency. The PQMIP plan is also rated A+ with a 'Stable Outlook' by PACRA.

The Chief Executive Officer of Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited – Mr. Farhan Shaukat has approved the distributions of dividends for the month of March 2024, under the authority delegated to him by the Board of Directors.

Mr. Farhan further stated that: "The above entitlement will be distributed to the unit-holders, whose names appear in the register of unit-holders at the close of business on March 28, 2024."

Pak-Qatar Group has a vision to add value to the economy of Pakistan by making valuable investments and creating innovative and Halal financial ventures and services for sustainable growth.

The stakeholders can also review the performance of Pak-Qatar Monthly Income Plan on the website of the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP)—the trade body for Pakistan's multi billion rupees asset management industry.

# Borrowed solutions have failed, home-grown ones be tried

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Friday that Pakistan badly needs International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme to remain afloat. Pakistan cannot survive without the IMF programme.

However, he noted that without changes in all significant areas, such as taxes, energy, and the agriculture sector, a fresh loan from the IMF would not fix the problems but delay the economic doomsday scenario.

In a statement released here today, Shahid Rasheed Butt claimed that wagering on the IMF is a serious fallacy.

Our economic managers need to understand that the IMF's primary role is to guarantee that

the nation can continue to meet its financial obligations and that it is the managers' job to reform the economy and spur growth.

Pakistan needs an indigenous solution to escape its ongoing economic crisis, which calls for a reduction in the role of bureaucracy.

According to Shahid Rasheed Butt, in order to spur growth, the permission mafia's role should be reduced and the tax system should be made simpler.

The business leader said that thorough deregulation is required to realise economic potential fully; otherwise, investors would continue to favour unproductive sectors.

Reduced regulatory requirements for companies will allow people in the business world to freely consider expansion and innovation, as a significant portion of industrialists' energies and resources are currently directed towards



complying with regulations, he stated. In Pakistan, tax evasion is a common practice due to the high rates and difficulty of tax

compliance. However, things can be changed permanently with streamlined procedures and consistent taxation across all sectors.

The only option left to the state organs is to raise prices, which negatively affects both production and the public because they have been unable to curtail corruption and inefficiency in the energy industry.

He said that increasing tax rates on the current taxpayer pool while disregarding those who are not in the system is a bad strategy that will never allow the economy to escape the IMF's control.

Real changes that involve reducing regulations and uniformly taxing all income levels would remain unattainable, and the economy would stay stuck in a low-growth trap until significant political stability is attained.

He, therefore insisted that there be more communication amongst all political parties.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan meeting with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Jiang Zaidong, to offer his condolences over the recent accident of Chinese engineers.



Photo: PID

# SLIC leads the way in healthcare innovation, says Jam Kamal Khan, Minister of Commerce

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Today, the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) was honoured to host the esteemed Minister of Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, and distinguished guests at its state-of-the-art Data Management Centre located within the iconic State Life Tower, Islamabad. During the visit, SLIC's CEO, Shoab Javed Hussain, provided a comprehensive overview of the facility's advanced technological capabilities, highlighting its pivotal role in revolutionizing efficiency and service delivery through digital solutions.

Mr. Jam Kamal Khan commended SLIC's commitment to advancing healthcare initiatives across Pakistan, emphasizing the centrality of the Data Management Center in this mission. With a dedicated focus on disease surveillance, electronic medical records, and informed diagnosis, SLIC stands at the forefront of pioneering solutions aimed at fortifying the nation's



healthcare infrastructure.

Echoing this sentiment, Mr. Shoab Javed Hussain expressed pride in SLIC's achievements, highlighting the corporation's dedication to transparency and efficiency. Mr. Hussain further stated that, "SLIC is not just an insurance corporation; it is a financial and protection ecosystem and this is evident through

the seamless integration of modern data processing tools into our operations, including the Data Management Center driving the health system, a paperless claims management system, and the largest e-claim repository in Pakistan."

Key components of SLIC's Health IT Infrastructure encompass real-time HMIS, an E-Claim Management

System, Business Intelligence Tools, AI-Based Screening Claims, and Digital Payments. Central to SLIC's mission is the prioritization of patient care management, facilitated through initiatives such as the Patient Monitoring System (PMS), a 24/7 Call Centre for Patient Feedback, and Mobile Applications aimed at enhancing accessibility.

# Big tobacco companies running malicious campaign against the Ministry of Health

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Public health activists in Pakistan have raised concerns over the tobacco industry's persistent attempts to derail tobacco control efforts in the country. This longstanding tactic by the tobacco industry to disrupt tobacco control efforts, particularly during pre-budget months, has once again come under scrutiny by public health advocates.

According to activists, the tobacco industry's misleading campaigns aim to distract the public, especially youth, policymakers, media, and the government of Pakistan from its ulterior motive: profit at the expense of public health.

Health activists have expressed concerns over the widespread dissemination of false statements by the tobacco industry, which only serve to conceal the harm caused to the people of Pakistan. The tobacco industry has spared no effort to expand its business while jeopardizing the future of Pakistani youth and children by enticing them with its harmful products.

These efforts include attempts to block or weaken tobacco control measures such as taxes on cigarettes, smoke-free laws, sales to minors, and promotional and advertising restrictions. The tobacco industry's efforts to divert attention from public health initiatives include using celebrities and social media to attract youth with falsified claims, spreading false statistics and myths to

downplay the harm caused by their products, and most recently maligning government departments and officials who support tobacco control.

These attempts are driven by their economic interests in maintaining and expanding tobacco sales, despite the well-established health risks associated with tobacco use. However, public health advocates, researchers, and policymakers continue to work to counter these efforts and implement evidence-based strategies to reduce tobacco use and its impact on public health.

Tobacco control remains a critical issue in Pakistan, with smoking-related illnesses imposing a significant burden on healthcare systems and contributing to preventable deaths. Despite being a signatory to the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the number of smokers in Pakistan has reached up to 31 million. The cheap and easy affordability of tobacco means approximately 1200 children start smoking every day, and nearly 170,000 lose their lives every year due to tobacco-induced diseases.

In response to these alarming developments, activists are calling on the government to remain vigilant and resolute in their efforts to combat the tobacco epidemic, ensuring the implementation of evidence-based policies that protect the health and well-being of all citizens.

# CAA, Punjab govt struck Walton land deal for security reasons

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Wednesday said that the CAA and Punjab government struck a government-to-government transaction for Walton Airport land during 2020-21 mainly because of security concerns.

According to an official statement issued here on Wednesday stating that a news report was broadcast based on a self-proclaimed organization called the Aircraft Owners and Operators Association (AOOA) had written to a senior government official. It discussed a fake and baseless story and is a desperate attempt to defame the leadership of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority. Furthermore, it aims to undermine the mega Central Business District project initiated by the Punjab Government in Lahore, the statement says.

To lend context, there were serious safety concerns regarding the continuation of flight operations from Walton Aerodrome. As a result, it was already proposed to the federal government to relocate the training and other operations to a more appropriate location.

The decision was prompted by the escalating risks posed by aviation activities to the large commercial and residential

areas near Walton Aerodrome. In 2020/21, the Punjab Government approached the federal government to acquire the land of Walton Aerodrome for the establishment of the Lahore Central Business District. This was a government-to-government transaction undertaken by both the federal and provincial cabinets in 2021.

Under this, the federal government directed the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority to transfer the land to the Lahore Central Business District Development Authority. Both governments approved this project wherein 52pc ownership is with the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and 48pc with the Punjab Government/Central Business District Development Authority.

It was in these circumstances that the land of the former Walton Aerodrome was transferred to the Central Business District Development Authority of the Punjab.

The Central Business District Development Authority is responsible for the development and execution of the project. On the other hand, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority has purchased 480 acres of land in Muridke from the Punjab Government to establish a new General Aviation Aerodrome which is near completion.

# Eid shopping Festival commences in capital city

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: ICCI Eid shopping festival kicked off in Sector I-8 to provide an affordable shopping experience to the residents of the twin cities. The festival will last till Chand Raat. The festival has been organised by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with ICT Administration, MCI and the concerned market association.

Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon along with Assistant Commissioner Ms. Farwa Batool and President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari inaugurated the Festival.

Speaking at the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon lauded ICCI and other partners for organising the Eid shopping festival.

He highlighted the pivotal role of traders in the economy and expressed ICT Administration's willingness to collaborate in organising activities aimed at promoting trade, indicating a proactive approach towards supporting trade endeavours.

President ICCI said that the purpose of the shopping festival is to facilitate inflation-stricken people to experience Eid shopping



at discounted prices.

He highlighted that the festival would offer shoppers a variety of entertainment options, including a traditional food area, an art and crafts corner, mehndi stalls, a dedicated kids' area, corporate stalls, a live music stage, exciting lucky draws, engaging quizzes, captivating laser lights, and stunning lighting displays.

It is pertinent to mention here that similar Eid Festivals have also been kicked off at Alhpara market, Blue Area, F-7, and F-10 Marakiz.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari also called upon DIG Police, SSP Traffic and those at the CDA helm of affairs for providing elaborate security, ensuring smooth flow of traffic and ensuring neat and clean atmosphere around all the business centres.

On this occasion Jan Mohammad, CEO Redson Blue, Khalid Chaudhry, former SVP, Ameer Hamza, Executive member, Faizan Shahzad, Executive member, Raja Fayyaz Gul, President I-8 Markaz and Zahid Qiureshi, General Secretary were also present.



# PCB appoints Sami-ul-Hasan Burney as Director Media & Communications

**A Sports**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday, appointed Sami-ul-Hasan Burney as the Director - Media and Communications.

Burney was given the charge hours after renowned Pakistan sports journalist Aalia Rasheed stepped down from the position.

"Dear friends, I have resigned as Director Media & Communications PCB," wrote Rasheed on X, formerly Twitter.

Sarim-ul-Hasan Burney has previously served as PCB Director Media but had relinquished his position after Zaka Ashraf took charge of the board last year.

Notably, the Pakistan cricketers are currently participating in the physical fitness camp, organised in collaboration with the Pakistan Army, to prepare for the upcoming five-match home T20I series against New Zealand.



The camp commenced on March 26 and will conclude on April 8. New Zealand are slated to reach Pakistan on April 14 for the crucial series, leading to the ICC Men's T20I World Cup.

Rawalpindi's Pindi Cricket Stadium will host the first three T20Is between Pakistan and New Zealand on 18, 20 and 21 April.

The two sides will then travel to Lahore to lock horns in the remaining two T20Is on 25 and 27 April, respectively.

Pakistan Players taking part in the Physical fitness camp in Kakul are:

Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Fakhar Zaman, Sahibzada Farhan, Haseebullah, Saud Shakeel, Usman Khan, Mohammad Haris, Salman Ali Agha, Azam Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Irfan Khan Niazi, Shadab Khan, Imad Wasim, Usama Mir, Mohammad Nawaz, Mehran Mumtaz, Abrar Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Ali, Zaman Khan, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Aamir Jamal, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Amir.

# Mahmood Jan Babar, Nadir Khawaja reach Table Tennis finals in PPC Ramazan

**Sports Desk**

PESHAWAR: In the HBK Ramazan Sports Gala organized under the aegis of the Peshawar Press Club, Mahmood Jan Babar and Nadir Khawaja in Table Tennis and Kamran Ali and Faizan Qazalbash were able to reach the Table Tennis event.

In the Badminton competitions, the team of Irfan Musazai and Ali Sheikh, the pair of Asmat Shah and Abid Khan, Zafar Iqbal and Shehzad Fahad reached the semi-finals. On this occasion, President Peshawar Press Club Arshad Aziz Malik, former President M Riaz, General Secretary Irfan Musazai, senior journalists Faridullah, Ijaz Ahmad Khan and a large number of journalists and media workers were also present.

Addressing the ceremony,



IG Police Akhtar Hayat Khan was the chief guest. He said that sports and positive activities teach us to fight for victory and defeat along with patience. Appreciating the Press Club and said that the leadership and organizers of the Press Club deserve congratulations for organizing the best entertainment gala for their members.

Due to professional engagements, they cannot find time for themselves. He said that the efforts to increase the welfare and professional capacity of jour-

nalists from the platform of Peshawar Press Club, as well as organizing positive activities like Ramazan Sports Gala for them, is a praiseworthy matter. Our journalist brothers who run after the news are also good players, he said.

Earlier, Peshawar Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik while welcoming the special guests and participants said that in this mega sports event of Peshawar Press Club. More than 150 working journalists are participating in various indoor games, while for the last few years this tournament has become a festival which provides opportunities for entertainment to working journalists working under severe mental stress and pressure.

At the end of the ceremony, Peshawar Press Club President Arshad Aziz Malik thanked the Inspector General

of Police and presented him with the Ramazan Sports Gala T-shirt and honorary shield. In the first semi-final, Faizan defeated Khuram Pervaz and made it to the final, while in the second semi-final, Kamran Ali defeated Kashan Awan and reached the final. The first semi-final of the table tennis event was played between Mahmood Jan and Zeeshan Liaquat. In which Mahmood Jan won, in the second semi-final, Nadir Khawaja defeated Aftab Ahmed and managed to reach the final.

Shehzada Fahad, Tahir Waseem, Shahzad and Arif Ikram won their respective matches in Carrom board competitions. Tariq Aziz, Arshad Maidani, Bilawal Arbab, Arif Ikram, Nadir Khawaja, Irfan Khan, in the Ludo event. Shah Faisal and Ehtesham Bashir qualified for the quarter-finals.

# Bahawalpur Football Association holds elections



**Sports Desk**

BAHAWALPUR: Bahawalpur District Football Association had held its annual elections for year 2024 here.

Under the auspices of Pakistan Football Federation, elections for year 2024 were held here at Bahawalpur Stadium.

Umair Khalid and Mamoon-Ur-Rasheed contested for the office of president.

Farooq Kahdim and Rai Shujaat contested for the office of general secretary.

Munazzam Hussain and Hafiz Hussain contested for the office of finance secretary.

Twenty-Four foot clubs of Bahawalpur district cast their vote in the elections.

Sixteen foot clubs voted for Umair Khalid, Farooq Khadim and Munazzam Hussain, respectively.

According to the results, Umair Khalid has been elected as president, Farooq Khadim as general secretary and Munazzam Hussain as finance secretary of the Bahawalpur District Football Association.

# Talented youngsters will be provided chance in National Games

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting took place here on Friday between former hockey great Olympian Khawaja Junaid and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, wherein it was decided that the talented youngsters, identified through the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Programme would get the opportunity to participate in the National Games, scheduled to be held later this year. The selected athletes will undergo rigorous training to hone their skills, enabling them to represent Pakistan with excellence, said a news release.

The meeting focused



on the revival of hockey in Pakistan and the broader engagement of youth through sports initiatives.

Rana Mashhood underscored the government's commitment to revitalize hockey, highlighting ongoing efforts for that. It was discussed that Pakistan was gearing up for the South Asian Games (SAG), with

a keen focus on showcasing country's talent on the international stage. Rana highlighted sports' role in positively engaging the country's youth, highlighting its potential to foster unity, discipline, and national pride.

He reiterated the government's unwavering support for initiatives aimed at

harnessing the country's sporting talent and promoting a culture of athleticism and camaraderie. Khawaja Junaid expressed the optimism that the golden era of hockey in Pakistan would be revived. He commended the government's proactive approach for sports development. He assured his full support to the initiatives, discussed during the meeting.

He emphasized the importance of nurturing young talent and providing them with ample opportunities to excel. The meeting concluded on a high note, with both the parties reaffirming their commitment to collaboratively work for the advancement of sports in Pakistan and the empowerment of its youth.

# Ronaldo more resilient than Neymar? Bombshell report leaves fans shocked

Neymar recently revealed his plans for the future after his \$98.24 million deal with Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal ends and it seems that he may not be as resilient in the Arabian Peninsula as Al Nassr's Cristiano Ronaldo.

According to Daily Mail, the 32-year-old ex-Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) star is already eyeing his next move after a nightmarish year in Saudi Arabia and has reportedly promised one of his former clubs that he will make a sensational return next year.

After striking the deal with Al Hilal in August 2023, Neymar only managed to make five appearances for the club before suffering an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury during Brazil's World Cup qualifier against Uruguay in October.

He was then ruled out for the season.

Ronaldo, the 39-year-old former Real Madrid star who also joined a Saudi club in a \$214.04 million deal ahead of Neymar, seems to be thriving in his team.

# Pakistan vs. New Zealand T-20 physical tickets to go on sale from Saturday April 6

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The tickets for the five-match Pakistan vs New Zealand T-20 series will be available for purchase from Saturday, 6 April 12pm onwards at various TCS express centres in Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Multan, Peshawar and Karachi.

The fans can visit any of the designated TCS express centres and buy physical tickets for the T20I series. Additionally, the pre-booked online tickets can also be picked up from the same centres.

It is pertinent to note that entry to the stadium will only be allowed with a valid physical ticket purchased from TCS while E-Tickets and photocopies of the tickets will not be accepted.

Moreover, one customer is allowed to buy up to 10 tickets per CNIC for each match. A total of 36 TCS express across the country, as mentioned in the list (attached), will be selling the tickets for this series.

The fans can self-collect or buy the tickets from TCS express centers from 9am to 5pm.

# NBP Empowers Blind Cricketers on Global Stage



**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) proudly supported the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) by sponsoring the Pakistan Blind Cricket Team's participation in the recent Triangular Blind Cricket Series held in the UAE. The matches played at the ICC Cricket Academy in Dubai, offered blind cricketers valuable international exposure. The series not only raised awareness about the capabilities of visually impaired players but also provided a platform for these talented athletes to showcase their skills on the international stage.

NBP, a long-standing supporter of blind cricket in Pakistan, has partnered with the PBCC for more than a decade to organize annual T-20 Cricket matches for visually impaired players across the country.

# Macron holds out hope of seeing Mbappe at Olympics



**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: French President Emmanuel Macron said Friday he remained hopeful national team captain Kylian Mbappe would be able to play for his country at the upcoming Paris Olympics.

"I hope he will be able to play at the Olympic Games," Macron said when asked by pupils during a visit to a school in the French capital.

Mbappe has previously made clear his desire to represent France at the Games, but that possibility dissipated when Real Madrid recently warned they would not release any of their players to take part in the Olympics.

The 25-year-old World Cup-winning forward is currently at Paris Saint-Germain but has told the Ligue 1 side he intends to leave when his contract expires at the end of this season, with Madrid his expected next destination.

The Olympic football tournament — which is for Under-23 players with three overage players allowed per squad — does not fall during FIFA dates for international matches, which means clubs have no obligation to release their players for the competition.

Kylian Mbappe will lead France at Euro 2024 which runs from June 14 to July 14 in Germany.

The Olympic football competition begins on July 24 and runs to August 9, with France in a group alongside the United States, New Zealand and another side still to be determined.

Emmanuel Macron also stated that he would go to Germany for the semi-finals and final of Euro 2024 should Les Bleus get there.

"I will go if we are in the semi-finals or in the final," he said, pointing out that the final in Berlin falls on France's national day, July 14.

# Emirates Cricket Board slaps five-year ban on Usman Khan

**A Sports**

Right-handed opener Usman Khan has been banned for a five-year period by the Emirate Cricket Board (ECB) over "breaching his obligations" owed to the cricketing body.

The ECB, after a detailed investigation, claimed to have found Usman Khan misinterpreted his decision to play for the UAE national men's cricket team.

"After a detailed investigation, Usman was found to have misrepresented to ECB about his decision to play for the UAE team and has used the opportunities

and development provided by the ECB to him to seek out other prospects and it was evident that he was no longer wanting to play for ECB nor complete the eligibility criteria which he was under an obligation to do," ECB said in a statement.

"Usman participated in the ECB Sanctioned International League T20 Season 2 earlier this year in the UAE Category as a local player.

"The ECB also entered into an ECB Employment Contract with Usman for a period of one year. This was done to give him security and allow him to fulfil his eligibility criteria that would

allow him to represent UAE in international cricket."

The sanction imposed will prohibit Usman from participating in any ECB tournaments for the next five years.

"Usman is found to have breached his obligations owed to ECB and will therefore not be allowed to participate in ECB sanctioned tournaments/leagues as well as local events organized under the aegis of councils/academies in UAE for a period of five years," ECB concluded.

For the unversed, Usman Khan, who played the previous two editions of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) as an over-

seas player, impressed with his consistent batting exploits and was thus approached by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to consider representing his homeland.

He was subsequently named among the 29 players participating in the ongoing physical fitness camp, being held in collaboration with the Pakistan Army at Kakul, Abbottabad.

The ongoing camp is slated to conclude on April 8 and the details suggest that the Pakistan squad for the upcoming five-match home T20I series against New Zealand will be shortlisted from the 29 probables.



It is worth mentioning here that Usman Khan only participated in the UAE's domestic tournaments and was yet to make his international debut for the country.



## Called on

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Friday.



Photo: ISPR

## CJCS briefs President Zardari about security situation, armed forces' preparedness

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Friday called on President Asif Ali Zardari and briefed him about the security situation of the country as well as the operational preparedness of the armed forces. In the meeting, the CJCS also highlighted that the armed forces of the country had the capability to effectively deal with internal and external security challenges.

President Zardari lauded the role of Pakistan's armed forces in defending the national frontiers as well as their contributions towards the country's socioeconomic development. He said that he had complete confidence in the security forces of the country to successfully overcome the internal and external security challenges. The CJCS felicitated President Zardari on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan. The meeting expressed the resolve to stamp out the scourge of terrorism with the support of the nation.

## Mushaal blasts Modi for sinister plot to change demography of IIOJK



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Former Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick blasted the notorious fascist Hindutva regime for its sinister plot to change the demography of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) under its nefarious scheme to settle outsiders in the occupied valley.

Mushaal, who is a wife of unlawfully incarcerated senior hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said that the fascist Narendra Modi-led government was hell-bent on accomplishing his notorious agenda to convert the mulism majority into minority and to snatch the lands of Kashmir in IIOJK in total disregard of local and international laws. She said that the blood-seeking

Indian government adopted two pronged strategy to change the territory's demography, as on one hand the brutal occupation forces were given license to kill Kashmiri people ruthlessly sans any fear of accountability and on the other, settle outsiders in the region in line with its settler colonial agenda to snatch the lands of Kashmiris.

Mushaal lamented that the supremacist Indian government was committing all war crimes in the valley to crush the Kashmiri people and annihilate their identity altogether.

The senior hurriyat leader stated that lakhs of domicile certificates were issued mostly to non-locals in the scenic valley, as the occupied authorities virtually put up the territory for sale to change its demography, identity and culture aimed at altering the results of a plebiscite if it were to ever take place.

Mushaal made it clear that the people of Kashmir would resist Modi's plot to change the demographic composition of the Muslim-majority region tooth and nail and would not let the notorious regime to execute its nefarious plan come what may.

However, she called upon the world community and UN bodies to shun the ostrich-like attitude burying their heads in the sand and should react strongly and swiftly to foil the Indian settler plot, besides taking steps to find out permanent solution to the decades-old land dispute.

## Govt to establish Danish schools in Islamabad, other areas of country: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the government will establish new Danish schools in remote areas of Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and other areas of the country including Islamabad where the children will get state of the art free education, boarding, and food facilities.

He was talking to the participants of the Iftar-dinner hosted by him in honour of orphaned children and children with special abilities at the Prime Minister House on Thursday. Besides he also announced to



establish state of the art hospitals in Islamabad, AJK and GB. The prime minister, on the

occasion, taking keen interest in the children, interacted with them and inquired about their

well-being. "I am happy to meet the cute children came from vari-

ous institutions including SOS and Hassan Academy," he said adding today the children were the chief guests while he was their host.

During his interaction with the children, the prime minister said he found them very intelligent who will join different professions in future and will play key role in the country's development and prosperity.

He said no doubt, the parents were the biggest blessings, but the Holy Prophet Muhammad PBUH was also born with no father and his mother passed away when he was only six years old.

## Pakistan calls for global action on India's extra-territorial killings

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday said that the Indian network of extra-judicial and extra-territorial killings was now a "global phenomenon".

Speaking at her weekly media briefing in response to journalists' questions, Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the news of Indian involvement in an extrajudicial killing in Canada has shown that India's network of extra-territorial

killings has now gone global. Pakistan issued the statement only a day after The Guardian detailed how Indian authorities had been targeting people it considered hostile to India in foreign lands.

The report cited intelligence officials from both countries, as well as documents shared by Pakistani investigators, saying they "shed new light on how India's foreign intelligence agency allegedly began to carry out assassinations abroad as part of an emboldened approach to national



security after 2019".

The FO spokesperson stated that Indian intelligence agency RAW has been active-

ly involved in abductions and assassinations in South Asia, adding that Pakistan has remained a target of a series of targeted killings and espionage by RAW.

She added that in December 2022, Pakistan released a comprehensive dossier providing concrete and irrefutable evidence of India's involvement in the Lahore attack of June 2021.

The attack was planned and executed by Indian intelligence, she said, adding that in 2016, a high-ranking Indian

military officer Commander Kulbhushan Yadav confessed his involvement in directing, financing and executing terror and sabotage in Pakistan.

"India's assassination of a Canadian national on Canadian soil is a clear violation of international law and the UN principle of state sovereignty. It is also a reckless and irresponsible act that calls into question India's reliability as a credible international partner and its claims for enhanced global responsibilities," she added.

## CM Maryam for implementing national action plan in letter and spirit

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz said that the national action plan could not be implemented in letter and spirit in the past, stressing to re-activate the same to fight menace of terrorism effectively.

Chairing Provincial Apex Committee in Lahore, the chief minister said that the national action plan was formulated after Army Public School tragedy in December 2014 against the terrorism.

"The national action plan was not implemented as it should have been. It should implemented in letter and spirit," she added. The chief minister also lauded the efforts and sacrifices of security forces in war against terrorism.

CM Maryam said that strict action will be taken against criminal gangs operating in South Punjab. "It is also emerged as the terror-

ists possess modern weapons and equipment including the ones coming through Afghanistan," she added.

The chief minister termed the issue of weapons coming from Afghanistan a 'big challenge'. She added that the terrorists have also become digitalized and it is essential to stay ahead of them.

Speaking the apex committee, the Corps Commander Lahore Lt. Gen. Syed Aamir Raza said cooperation for elimination of terrorism will be continued.

Lt. Gen. Syed Aamir Raza said effective measures are being taken for elimination of terrorism in the province. He appreciated the work of the Counter Terrorism Department and other stakeholders for their coordinated efforts against the terrorism.

Earlier, the Punjab chief minister has approved establishment of a new department for anti-narcotics and building of three police stations for drug control.

## NDMA launches Disaster Management Coordination Forum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has established a national level forum titled 'Disaster Management Coordination Forum' (DMCF) to bolster provincial coordination. The forum is designed to provide strategic guidance and to oversee, coordinate and monitor disaster management activities and interventions at both national and provincial levels, a news release said.

The inaugural meeting of the DMCF was convened at NDMA Headquarters, presided by Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik. The meeting was attended by all Members, including NDMA senior management, as well as the Director Generals of Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA) and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).

## Pakistan's weekly inflation up by 0.96 percent

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), recorded an increase of 0.96 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on April 4, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 326.29 points as compared to 323.20 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.45 per cent.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 16 (31.37%) items increased, 13 (25.49%) items decreased and 22 (43.14%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included bananas (3.57%), wheat flour (2.68%), eggs and LPG (1.89%)

each, diesel (1.18%), gur (0.63%), sugar (0.41%), mustard oil (0.26%), pulse masoor (0.25%) and potatoes (0.23%).

On Year-on-Year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included ladies sandal (12.52%), tomatoes (11.93%), gents sandal (8.70%), petrol (3.45%), chicken (2.99%), long cloth (2.23%), onion (1.30%), bread (1.03%), beef (0.75%), garlic (0.70%), mutton (0.41%) and rice basmati broken (0.14%).

The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices gas charges for Q1 (570.00%), onions (107.59%), chillies powder (86.05%), gents sandal (66.71%), gents sponge chappal (58.05%), garlic (53.51%), tomatoes (35.77%), gur (34.00%).

## Japanese envoy calls on defence minister



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan, Wada Mitsuhiro called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif here on Friday and assured his Government's continued support to Pakistan and to exploring new avenues of mutual collaboration. The Minister for Defence expressed that Pakistan-Japan diplomatic, military and economic relations are based on the principles of goodwill and mutual trust for each other, a

news release said.

He desired that Japan would help create economic activities in Pakistan as well as bring investment in maritime and industrial manufacturing sectors. The Minister also commended the efforts of Japanese Government for regular holding of Pakistan-Japan Politico-Military and Military to Military Dialogues, adding that such interactions are a concrete expression of the desire of both the countries to enhance mutual defence collaboration.

## ECP notifies victory ...

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Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Amir Wali Uddin Chishti, Faisal Vawda, Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, Zamir Hussain Ghumro, Sarmad Ali, Quarat-Ul-Ain Marri, Rubina Qaim Khani, and minority member Poonjo, all hailing from Sindh and representing various political affiliations such as PPP, MQM, and an independent candidate.

The senators notified from Balochistan comprise Ahmed Khan representing JUIP, Anwar ul Kakar as an Independent candidate, Aimal Wali Khan from ANP, Jan Muhammad from NP, Sardar Al Haj Muhammad Umer Gorajj representing PPP,

Syedaal Khan from PML-N, Shahzaib Durrani also from PML-N, Bilal Ahmed Khan from PPP, Abdul Wasay representing JUIP, Husna Bano from PPP, and Rahat Jamali.

It may be recalled that half of the Senate members - 48 - retired after completing their six-year term in March, prompting elections on April 2 to fill 90 vacant seats, with 18 already secured through uncontested elections.

However, elections for 11 seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were postponed due to a deadlock between the provincial government and opposition regarding the oath-taking of elected MPs on reserved seats. Consequently, 19 senators were elected in April 2.