

فرمان رسول
ہم سے عبداللہ بن عبدالمطلب نے بیان کیا کہ نبی سے محمد بن عبدالمطلب نے بیان کیا کہ نبی سے میرے والد نے بیان کیا کہ نبی سے ہبل بن سعد سے بیان کیا کہ نبی سے فرمایا کہ میں اور تمہیں کی پرورش کرنے والا جنت میں اس طرح ہوں گے اور آپ نے شہادت اور درمیانی اگلیوں کے اشارے سے (قریب کو) بتایا۔
(بخاری ص 6005)

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Israeli war in Gaza left over 13,000 children dead: Unicef

Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell has said that more than "13,000 children" were killed and "countless" others sustained injuries during the Israeli aggression on Gaza. "Homes, schools and hospitals in ruin. Teachers, doctors and humanitarians killed. Famine is imminent. The level and speed of destruction are shocking. Children need a ceasefire NOW," Russell wrote on X handle, formerly known as Twitter.



Sindh authorities given one-month ultimatum to restore law and order

The SHC on Saturday gave a one-month ultimatum to the provincial authorities to restore law and order in the province amid rising incidents of street crime in Karachi. Geo News reported. The directives were issued after SHC Chief Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi chaired a session on the law and order situation in Sindh. Justice Abbasi ordered the provincial authorities to restore law and order across the province within a month.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazan-ul-Mubarak 27, Sunday, April 7, 2024

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 17, Issue: 358 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Visit

MADINAH MUNAWARAH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being received by Governor of Madinah H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Sultan Al Saud at Madinah Airport on Saturday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz arrives in Saudi Arabia on three-day visit

Spokesman Report

MADINA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, along with his delegation, arrived in Saudi Arabia on Saturday on a three-day visit.

Governor of Madina Prince Salman Bin Sultan Al Saud received the prime minister at the airport. The prime minister will stay in Madina and will offer prayers at Masjid-e-Nabawi.

PM Shehbaz travelled on a commercial flight and during the flight mingled with the passengers, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan. The passengers took selfies with the prime minister and had a chat with him.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and members of the federal cabinet including Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Asif, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan, Attaulah Tarar and Ahad Cheema accompanied the prime minister.

The visit is Sharif's first foreign trip since forming a coalition government in February. The two are longtime allies, with the South

Asian nation often turning to Riyadh for financial help during its balance of payment crises. Since it averted a sovereign debt default last summer by securing a \$3-billion IMF bailout, Pakistan has been in dire need of financial support from the multilateral lender and friendly countries.

At a press conference in Lahore on Saturday, Information Minister Attaulah Tarar said the trip was the prime minister's first foreign visit since his election.

The prime minister will also perform Umrah and offer prayers at Masjid-i-Nabawi during his time in the kingdom.

"The prime minister is expected to meet the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and discuss issues of mutual interest. The leaders will also exchange views on regional and global developments," according to the foreign office statement.

It added that the leadership of both countries was committed to advancing fraternal ties and mutually rewarding economic and investment relations

Shangla attack

PM Shehbaz orders action against five officers

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Information Minister Attaulah Tarar said on Saturday Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif ordered action against RPO Hazara division, DPO Upper Kohistan district, DPO Lower Kohistan district, Dasu Hydropower Project Security Director and KP Special Security Unit Commandant in fifteen days.

In a press conference at the PML-N's Secretariat, Tarar said that PM Shehbaz had presided over many meetings on Chinese security and a committee was formed for an inquiry into the Dasu incident as Chinese.

He said that the incumbent government was taking all possible measures to strengthen the national economy and the economy and the industry both were showing posi-

tive signs.

Tarar stated that Bloomberg stated it clearly that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had a good experience of talking to financial institutions and bringing economic reforms.

"The stability of the rupee helped stabilize the country's economy and positive news were coming with regard to the stock exchange as well," he maintained. He said all these positive indicators were showing that business confidence had increased in the country.

He said it was very unfortunate that anti-state elements which could not digest the country's progress were stuck to their negative agenda.

"Chinese engineers were attacked in Dasu and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Dasu and met Chinese engineers and expressed grief over the incident besides offering con-

dolescence," he added.

He said that Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain went to Wuhan, China, on a special flight that carried mortal remains of five Chinese personnel, who had died in the terror attack and expressed condolences with the Chinese government and officials.

He said that the PML-N government had always given importance to Pak-China friendship. He said, "After the incident, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the Chinese Embassy and met the Chinese Ambassador. The premier also visited Dasu to boost the morale of the Chinese engineers and give a message that Pakistan gives high importance to its friendship with China."

The information minister that

the quick action was a proof that no compromise would be tolerated on the security of the Chinese in future. He further said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was personally supervising security matters pertaining to Chinese projects and the Chinese and an effective system was being evolved in this regard.

It is pertinent to mention here that at least five Chinese nationals were killed in a terrorist attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Shangla district.

District Inspector General (DIG) of Malakand said that a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a convoy of foreign nationals that was on its way from Islamabad to their camp in Dasu, Shangla.

"Five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed in the attack," the police officer said.

Security forces kill eight terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan IBO: ISPR

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Saturday killed eight terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) Intelligence-based operations (IBO) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, ARY News reported, citing Inter-Services Public Relations.

As per the ISPR press release, the security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Dera Ismail Khan. The security forces after an intense fire exchange killed eight terrorists.

The eliminated terrorists were involved in attacks on law enforcers and civilians,



the action of the law enforcers, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Earlier, law enforcers conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) and neutralized two high-valued terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan District.

During the operation, an intense fire exchange took place between the law enforcers and terrorists as a result of which two terrorists, identified as ring leader Ashraf Sheikh and Burhan Ullah, were killed.

The law enforcers after the operation confiscated weapons, ammunition, and explosives from the possession of the eliminated terrorists.

Naib Subedar Khalid embraced martyrdom amid KKH landslide clearance operation

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom on Saturday after succumbing to his critical injuries received during a landslide clearance operation while two other soldiers got critically injured in Chillas. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), on April 4th, a landslide near Gonar Farm, Chillas had blocked Karakoram Highway (KKH) for all types of traffic.

However, in order to help the affected traffic and stranded people, a detachment of Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) headed by Naib Subedar Khalid and two soldiers immediately reached the site and started the clearance. During the process of clearance, another slide was triggered that critically injured the detachment. The martyred soldier was identified as Naib Subedar Khalid who succumbed to the critical injuries and embraced, shahadat, whereas Sepoy Waseem and Lance Naik Azmat were recovering from serious injuries. "The nation is grateful for their service and dedication to assist people. Pakistan Army remains committed to serve the nation against all adversities," the ISPR said.

Pakistan denounces Indian minister's provocative remarks

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday denounced the provocative remarks made by the Indian Defence Minister during a recent televised interview, in response to a media revelation regarding India's clandestine operations within Pakistan. "Pakistan stands resolute in its intent and ability to safeguard its sovereignty against any act of aggression, as demonstrated by its robust response to India's reckless incursion in February 2019, which laid bare India's hollow claims of military superiority," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press statement.

On 25 January 2024, Pakistan provided irrefutable evidence, elucidating India's campaign of extrajudicial and transnational assassinations on Pakistani soil. India's assertion of its preparedness to extra-judicially execute more civilians, arbitrarily pronounced as "terrorists", inside Pakistan constituted a clear admission of culpability. "It is imperative for the international community to hold India accountable for

PTI to separate its candidates from SIC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has decided not to merge with the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), party chairman Barrister Gohar Khan has said and added that all lawmakers would be part of the PTI after getting back the iconic electoral symbol: bat.

In an interview with Dawn News show Doosra Rukh, Gohar said that the PTI has decided not to integrate into the religio-political party and take back its members from Parliament.

On February 19, the PTI announced its decision to ally with the SIC under which the victorious party candidates in the general elections joined the religio-political party in the national and provincial assemblies to secure reserved seats.

The decision was part of its efforts to form governments in the Centre, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the help of a new partner. More than that, winning candidates from Imran Khan's party had to join a party to secure reserved seats.

But the party failed in its efforts as the Election Commission of Pakistan decided against the allocation of reserved seats to

Imran and Bushra contracted nikah 48 days after her divorce, says lawyer

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja has told an Islamabad court that the PTI founder and Bushra Bibi contracted their nikah 48 days after Khawar Maneka divorced her.

District and Sessions Court Judge Shahrukh Arjumand heard a set of appeals by Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against their sentences. They were each sentenced to seven years in prison for marrying before the end of Bushra Bibi's iddah — usually a four lunar months-and-ten-days or 125 day period after the divorce.

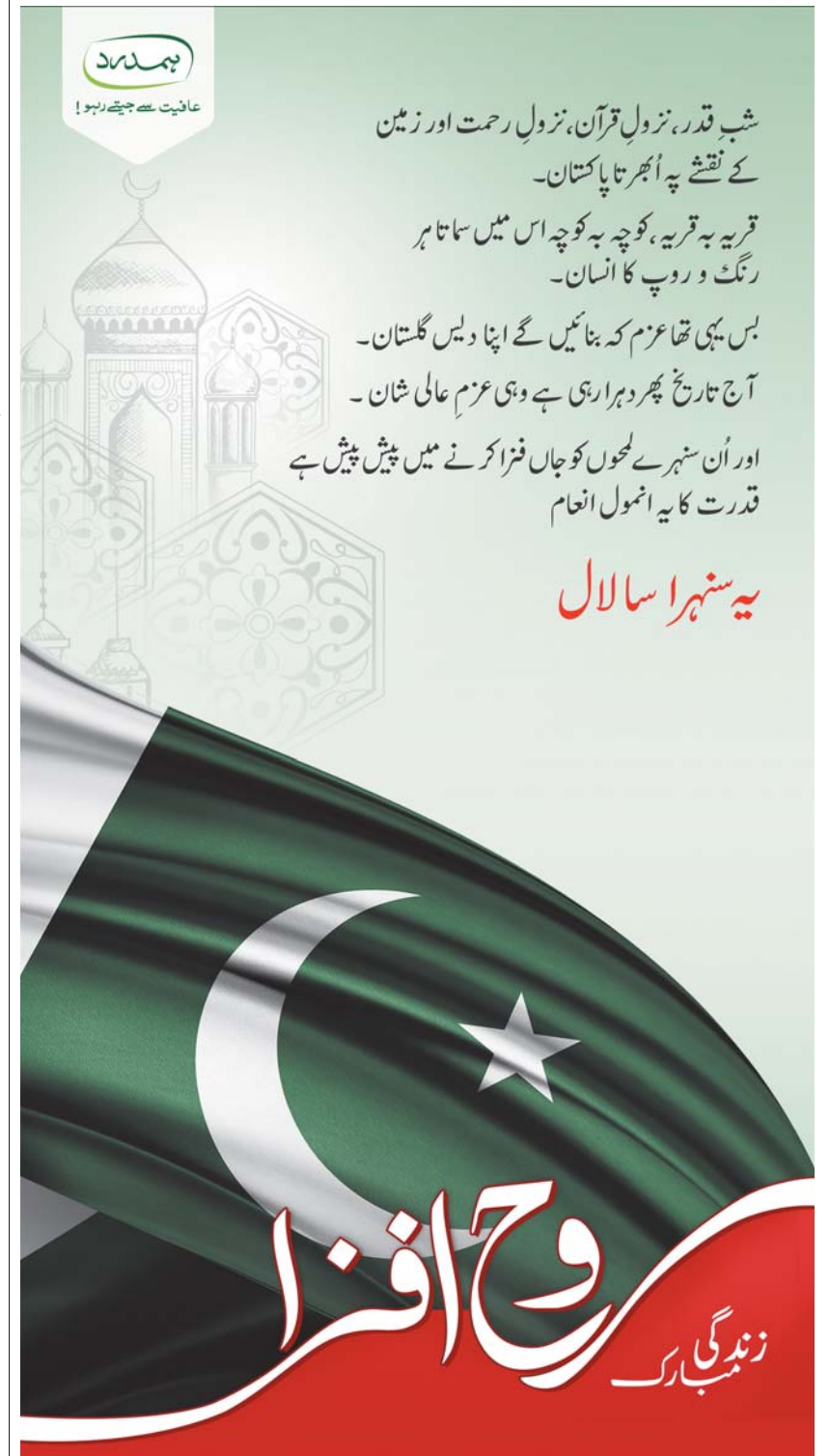
As the court met, Khawar Maneka's counsel Rizwan Abbasi failed to show up in the court, Raja showed his mobile phone to the judge showing an image of Rizwan Abbasi sitting in the courtroom next room. He said Abbasi was not willing to appear before the court.

The judge decided to proceed with the hearing without Abbasi and Khawar Maneka in the audience and allowed Raja to present his arguments.

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RPO Faisalabad issues strict orders on one-wheeling, aerial firing on Eid-ul-Fitr

Abdul Maid

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad, Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan issued strict orders to Sarbar Ahan Police of all four districts regarding prevention of production, sale and consumption of poisoned liquor, aerial firing, one-wheeling and hooliganism on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

He issued instructions that the persons involved in the manufacture and sale of poisoned liquor should be identified early and coordinated action should be taken against them and a coordinated strategy should be adopted to arrest the drug dealers. Reading parties should be formed.

RPO Faisalabad said that in the past, precious lives were lost due to aerial firing and people suffered permanent disability due to injuries, so CPO Faisalabad, DPOs Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chiniot to prevent aerial firing. Adopt an effective strat-



egy. If there is any untoward incident regarding kite flying, strict department-

tal action should be taken against the concerned SHO/SDPO. Protecting the life and property of the people is an important national duty of the police.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, due to the rush on the strikers, the manches start hurling and one-wheeling. A zero-tolerance policy should be adopted against the youths who engage in one-wheeling and hurling and they should be arrested in this regard. P patrolling, DSPs and SHOs should make police patrolling more efficient. Adequate traffic arrangements should be implemented so that there are no problems in the flow of traffic, in this regard traffic plans should be issued ahead of time. Patrolling should be ensured in highways, recreational areas, parks, busy areas and keep a close watch on suspicious persons.

Brief the force and implement the directives to make the security arrangements foolproof.

Sui Gas Task Force Multan Region takes action against eleven gas thieves

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Regional General Manager Sui Gas South Punjab Hussai Zafar said four consumers were stealing gas by installing the meter upside down. Whose meters were disconnected by the task force? A consumer was using the domestic meter for commercial purposes which was disconnected by the task force team. And sent to the billing section for a penalty.



In the remaining six cases, consumers were illegally supplying gas to other houses through rubber pipes. Whose rubber pipes were taken down. The special recovery team of the Sui Gas Task Force recovered fifty thousand rupees. Like Multan, strict action instructions have been issued to all sub-areas on gas theft. The in-charge task force has said that after Hussain Zafar became the regional manager, the operations of the task force have improved.

Month of Ramazan gift from Allah and teaches us patience and self-sacrifice: Sajjad Aheer



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: ICMA Multan Branch Council Chairman Muhammad Sajjad Aheer and Secretary Muhammad Yusuf Siddiqui have said that the month of fasting teaches us patience and self-sacrifice. The Quran to strengthen our relationship with Allah by giving us the fortune of receiving blessings Science is confirming the facts stated in the Quran. The Holy Qur'an is the law of life for all mankind. On the occasion of the Vice Chairman Branch Council Muhammad Shoab and Shahbaz Ahmad, Chairman of the Students Advisory Committee said that fasting and the Quran are hand in hand. The Holy Quran is the blessed book of Allah. Muslims gain closeness to God by worshipping in the ceremony C-MA Multan Branch Council members Mubasher Ali, Tasadeq Ijaz and other members participated in large numbers

Azaan chief says service of poor, helpless people is best form of worship

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Executive of Azaan Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Chaudhry Waseem Raza Jatt has said that serving the poor, forced and helpless groups suffering from social apathy is the best form of worship. He expressed these thoughts with the motto During the meeting with the provincial delegation, central president Muhammad



Owais Anwar, provincial president Punjab employee Hussain Khan Kheda, general secretary Punjab Malik Ashfaq Ahmed Sandila and district president Ghazanfar Malik said the call to prayer from the platform of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. With excellent working relationship Through active struggle against the growing trend of corruption and injustice, senior vice president Multan Sajjad Ahmed Bhatti, vice president Khawaja Dilshad Ahmed and general secretary club Abid Khan and others participated in the meeting.

Senior Registrar of Nishtar Burn center removed from post due to administrative problems

Quratul Ain Asim



MULTAN: Secretary Health Punjab Specialized Health Care and Medical Education Mr. Ali Jan Order to Dr. Ahmed Ali Malik who was the cause of administrative problems in Pak Italian Burn Centre Nishtar Hospital Multan, has once again been removed from the burn center. As a result of the report, a letter was issued to remove them from the burn center Some time ago, Dr. Ahmad Ali Malik was removed from the burn center due to administrative problems. It has been learned from the sources that the higher authorities have stopped the political intervention of former MNA Malik Ahmad Hussain Dehar in the burn center Multan. It is assured to stop after which there is a strong possibility that the burn center The senior faculty will withdraw their resignations and all matters including operations at the burn center will return to normal as detailed in the matter of senior faculty resignations and strike, Senior Registrar Plastic Surgery Dr. Ahmed Ali Malik removed from the post, Secretary Specialized, of Healthcare and Medical Education Department According to the notification issued by Dr. Ahmed Ali Malik, he has been immediately removed from his post and ordered to report to the Specialized Healthcare Department. It may be noted that after the appointment of the new Executive Director Burn Unit Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar, the senior faculty resigned and started a strike in the OPD and operation theaters and alleged that the Senior Registrar Dr. Ahmed Ali Malik and former MNA Malik Ahmed Hussain. ED's powers over Dehar's political backing are using and their behavior is also not correct, after which the affairs of the burn center started to deteriorate badly, a detailed report was also prepared by the two institutions and sent to the Provincial Health Minister Punjab and the Chief Secretary Punjab.

MEPCO chief orders through operation against electricity thieves

Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Superintending Engineer Operation MEPCO Multan Circle Amjad Nawaz Bhatti has said that a thorough operation should be conducted against the running and dead defaulters and the electricity bills should be collected from them. Connections of running defaulters should be disconnected immediately and connections in other sub-divisions/areas installed in the names of dead defaulters should be disconnected and notices under Land Revenue Act should be sent against them through Tehsildar Recovery. He was addressing a meeting of officers of Mapco Cantt Division. He said that cases should be registered in the ongoing operation against electricity thieves in Cantt, Hasan Parwana, Industrial Estate and Nawwan Shahr subdivisions and fines should be collected from them and deposited in the treasury.

Departure

ISLAMABAD: People heading to their hometowns dejectedly wait for public transport in the Federal Capital. Thousands are leaving to take advantage of a four-day holiday for Eidul Fitr festival, April 9, will be the last working day before Eid. Intercity transporters raise fares ahead of Eid.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Commissioner Marium Khan inaugurates golden wheat crop harvesting in Vehari

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Ms Marium Khan Inaugurated Golden Wheat Crop Harvesting in Vehari. The fertile lands of Multan Division stand ready to yield the golden wheat harvest.

Commissioner of Multan Division, Maryam Khan, lauded the sweat and toil of farmers as she ventured into the field to acknowledge their efforts. She personally initiated the wheat harvesting alongside farmer brethren, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Vehari Syed Asif Hussain Shah and Additional Deputy Commissioner Taib Khan.

On this occasion, Commissioner Maryam Khan announced that



the Punjab government has set the procurement price of wheat at 3900 rupees per 40kg.

To facilitate procurement, an app will be introduced by PITB known as Bardana App with the initiation of request submission commencing at midnight on April 13th and closing at midnight on April 17th.

Notification recipients will commence six bag of 100 kg for procurement, providing 6 bags per acre, starting from April 19th for farmers with 8 acres or less. Wheat procurement targets will be announced daily at procurement centers. Deputy Commissioner Vehari Syed Asif Hussain Shah provided a detailed briefing, with agriculture department officials also in attendance

LHC orders no activity on 18 kanal of University of Agriculture land

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Lahore High Court has issued an injunction that till the next hearing, there will be no activity on the 18 kanal 19 marla land located next to the Qaim Sain Darbar funeral home of the University of Agriculture, otherwise other actions will be considered contempt of court.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Professor Dr. Iqra R Ahmad Khan has sent a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, in which it has been said that 19 kanals of the University of Agriculture, adjacent to the funeral home, were demolished by some political persons under the guise of religious color. are trying to

seize the land, while the decision of the Supreme Court in 2001 regarding the ownership of the said land is in favor of the university.

It has been told that Zafar Iqbal Nagra and Raja Riaz are trying to destroy the atmosphere of peace and order. In this regard, they are telling people against the truth that the government has allocated the said land of the university as an Eid Gah, which is completely opposite to the truth.

He said in the post that Zafar Iqbal Nagra and his family remained in possession of the said land till 2019 despite the decision of the Supreme Court in 2001 and in this regard they have illegally collected 21.568 million. The post states that occupation of

public property by an MPA will bring bad name to the political party and to prevent this, the Chief Minister of Punjab should be informed about the facts.

On this occasion, spokesperson Dr. Jalal Arif said that the Vice Chancellor along with Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretary Board of Revenue, Deputy Commissioner, Vice Chancellor, Raja Riaz, Zafar Iqbal Nagra, Dr. Jalal Arif and others discussed this issue on April 4.

In which the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan informed the meeting about the document in favor of the university regarding the land and told that there is a decision of the Supreme Court in favor of the university in 2001 and the

university on this land.

The housing colony is being established. Dr. Jalal Arif said that the funeral home is being established in a good manner for public interest on the three kanal land of the university in front of Qaim Sain Darbar and its administrative matters are being handled locally.

It is being decided with the consultation of individuals, however, he said that the funeral home located in front of the Qaim Sain Darbar is considered sacred by the management of the University of Agriculture and this funeral home will always remain. He has requested the public to support the truth and not to take the law into their hands instead of being a tool of evil elements.



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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:23 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	4:43 pm
Maghrib	6:32 pm
Isha	7:58 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

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PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116

Relatives of Raffique Khaskeli denounce his killing in Fake encounter demand Justice

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA: Relatives of Raffique Khaskeli have accused police of killing him in a fake encounter.

A large number of people including family members of Raffique Khaskeli-a man killed by police in an alleged encounter a couple of days ago, took to streets in Mirpur Sakro city to protest the brutality of Thatta police.

As per the version of Gharo police, Raffique Khaskeli allegedly abducted 6 year old girl Nabila from outside his house in Gharo city and she was recovered next day near Mirpur Sakro city.

The alleged suspect Raffique went into hiding after the recovery of minor girl, until police received a tip off regarding his presence in a poultry farm near babra area.

Upon arrival of police Raffique allegedly opened fire at police party after which an encounter ensued. After half an hour of cross fire the alleged suspect was shot dead by police.

However the relatives of the deceased rejected the version of police during protest and said that Raffique had family terms with Shahbawaz Jokhiyo and he would frequently visit their house. Brother of deceased said that the girl was very much familiar with Raffique Khaskeli and the story of abduction was concocted.

Father in Law of deceased claimed that the father of Nabila and Raffique were also business partners. Adding that police took his son in law from his residence two days before the alleged encounter and shifted him to an unknown place.

Social worker Advocate Ayaz Lashari said that Sindh had turned into and police state. He accused SSP Thatta of running his own court adding that several people were critically injured in self-explained encounters.

Hamdard foundation holds 32nd international Children's Conference to highlight health challenges

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Every sound and action carries weight, thus raising awareness about the nature of each issue stands as the initial stride towards its eradication. Across the globe, people encounter health challenges. Only with collective efforts, we can overcome these challenges. These views were expressed by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President HFP, at 32nd international Children Health Conference, held online under the aegis of Hamdard Public school Karachi and HFP on the topic of "My health, my right" on the occasion of World Health Day on April 7, 2024, presided over by Dr. Luo Dapeng, world Health Organization (WHO) representative in Pakistan. Prof. Dr Raza-ur-Rehman, Dean of Faculty at Hamdard University attended the conference as chief guest. Dr. Sara Salman Zuberi, Head, WHO Sub-Office, Sindh was the guest of honour.

She further said for the past

32 years, Hamdard Foundation Pakistan has consistently hosted the International Children Conference annually. This initiative was inaugurated by Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said to foster the mental and intellectual growth of youth, equipping them for forthcoming challenges. Guided by his vision, Hamdard Pakistan remains dedicated to advancing health and education in the country. Health constitutes a fundamental entitlement for every individual.

Dr. Luo Dapeng in his presidential address said that every year, the World Health Organization (WHO) sheds light on various medical challenges confronting the global community. This year's theme aims to globally advocate for the significance and benefits of prioritizing individual health. World Health Day, observed annually on April 7th, is an occasion for the WHO to enhance public awareness regarding human health and foster endeavors toward establishing healthier environments

for populations worldwide. The WHO manifesto underscores the organization's commitment to safeguarding human health and advancing global health initiatives. It emphasizes the initial strides made in healthcare and hygiene globally. Furthermore, it stresses the imperative of recognizing health risks stemming from environmental changes and pollution, urging the younger generation to address environmental concerns. The commendable efforts of the Hamdard Foundation Pakistan in Pakistan's healthcare and education sectors are noteworthy. It is envisaged that young people will assume a pivotal role in disseminating awareness within their communities through this platform.

Dr. Luo commended the speeches delivered by young speakers at the conference and congratulated Ms. Sadia Rashid on holding such wonderful Conference.

Dr. Raza-ur-Rahman said that mental health often lacks



the attention in health discussions it deserves, but these young speakers' focus on mental wellbeing was commendable. The interconnectedness of our body, thoughts, mind, society, and environment, and added that negative societal influences can detrimentally effect on health. Thus, as a nation, comprehensive measures must be implemented to enhance our overall wellbeing. He commended the children's speeches, highlighting that the

conference transcends mere gathering or showcasing of talent; rather, it provides a platform for free discourse on specific topics. Participation in such conferences bolsters children's confidence and enriches their personalities.

Sara Salman Zuberi said that Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said established several distinctive traditions, which the Hamdard organization continues to uphold. One significant tradition is the hosting of the Interna-

tional Health Conference aligned with the theme designated by the World Health Organization on World Health Day. Pakistan's efforts to advance health have garnered appreciation from the World Health Organization. Ms. Sadia Rashid has gracefully maintained this cherished tradition of Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, organizing the conference each year on World Health Day with utmost dignity.

During the conference, young delegates delivered informative speeches and shared insightful perspectives on the topic at hand. Representing Pakistan, the United States of America, Australia, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka, they contributed to the discussion. Young speakers emphasized the significance of cultivating a culture of integrity and raised concerns about the presence of the polio-virus in Pakistan and Afghanistan, despite its eradication elsewhere worldwide. A delegate from Afghanistan urged Pakistan to invest in the healthcare sector in Afghanistan

Eid Bazaar

ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking interest in crafts at a Eid Bazaar arranged by the Management of Serena Hotels in collaboration with Behbud Crafts celebrating Women Artisans through Economic Empowerment at Bazaar Court, of Serena Hotel at Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Success lies in the teachings of Quran, VC AIOU

PNP

ISLAMABAD: "All the good things and achievements of this world and the hereafter have been mentioned by Allah in the Quran. The Quran is not just a book to be read and understood, but it is necessary to live our lives according to its teachings," said Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, while addressing the Khatam al-Qur'an ceremony on the 25th night of Ramazan at the University's Colony Mosque.

The Vice Chancellor stated that success lies in truly following the teachings of the Holy Quran. Dr. Nasir announced the construction of a separate hall for women on the upper floor



of the mosque at the request of the mosque administration. The event began with Naat Khawani, with Muhammad Abu Bakr Jamsheed, Muhammad Hasan, and Rayan Wazir reciting Naats. Qari Wasal Ahmad completed the recitation of the Holy Quran in the Taraweeh prayer. Special prayers were offered for the

security of the country, the development of the University, and the oppressed Palestinians on this occasion.

Moreover, Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood addressed the audience at the launch ceremony of the statistical report on non-formal education for the year 2020-21. He pointed out

that even after 70 years, 26.2 million children are not attending school, which is a cause for concern. Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized that with a literacy rate of 75 percent, the country can make progress towards development. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts to bring out-of-school children into the education system.

Dr. Ziauddin Hospital achieved another milestone in liver cancer treatment



PNP

KARACHI: Dr. Ziauddin Hospital proudly announces the initiation of Liver Cancer Treatment by Radioembolization Therapy (TARE), a groundbreaking approach poised to revolutionize the fight against hepatobiliary cancers, which constitute a significant portion of malignancies in adult males in Pakistan, accounting for 10.7% of all cancers. This marks a monumental step in the realm of medical and liver treatment as the hospital has commenced cases in this category.

A seminar titled "Y-90 Radioembolization (TARE) in Liver Cancer Workshop and Live Cases" was also organized by Dr. Ziauddin Hospital to highlight the key points of this cutting edge treatment modality and provide orientation to the physicians in this highly specialized field. This was the first ever seminar and live cases workshop on TARE organised in Pakistan.

Renowned experts in interventional radiology and nuclear medicine, Prof. Murat Cantasdemir and Prof. Cuneyt Turkmen joined from Turkey to oversee these procedures. Prof. Muhammad Ali, head of Interventional Radiology at Dr. Ziauddin Hospital led the team of physicians from the hospital who performed these procedures.

During the workshop, Dr. Cuneyt Turkmen highlighted the benefits of TARE and TheraSphere, emphasizing their indications, dosimetry and advantages such as reduced side effects compared to traditional treatments.

Interventional radiologist Dr. Murat Cantasdemir elaborated on TARE for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), explaining its benefits in unresectable and unablatable HCC. He emphasized that TARE can also be performed in HCC with early vascular invasion.

Additionally, Prof. Muhammad Ali, explained the pre-treatment planning and discussed the TARE cases being performed at Dr. Ziauddin Hospital. He emphasized the need for a combined multidisciplinary approach to combat liver cancer.

Besides Dr. Murat, Dr. Cuneyt & Dr Ali an expert panel comprising specialists from Dr. Ziauddin Hospital's Liver transplant surgery, Interventional Radiology, Nuclear medicine, Gastro hepatology and Oncology are present to ensure comprehensive and seamless patient care.

Dr. Ziauddin Hospital attributes this milestone to visionary leadership, dedicated teamwork, and a steadfast commitment to patient care. As a Center of Excellence in healthcare, particularly for liver diseases, Dr. Ziauddin Hospital remains steadfast in its mission to provide the epitome of quality healthcare to the people of Pakistan.

Business community witnesses slight improvement in sentiments: Gallup Survey

PPA

KARACHI: Largely pessimistic about the future, more of the country's business owners now have developed a better perception of their businesses as the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is trying to revive the cash-strapped economy.

A latest Gallup survey conducted in the first quarter this year finds that 47% of Pakistan's businesses, especially those selling garments, commodities, stationery and gift items, perceive themselves to be in a bad or worse conditions. This shows a three percent improvement over the previous quarter.

The current business situation score on Gallup Business Confidence

Index has improved by seven percentage points to 6% in 1Q2024 from -1% in the previous quarter, noted Gallup Pakistan Survey report.

"While economic security has not fully stabilized due to the ongoing political situation, the business situation score has improved regardless," it said.

It said while the current business score on Gallup Business Confidence Index continued to recover for the fifth straight quarter, the future business score and direction of the country score see a reversal.

Asked about their expectations for future business conditions, the businessmen were pessimistic about the future as the net future business confidence score has worsened by 16% since last quarter and now stands at 4%,

according to the survey report.

The business community's perception about the direction the country is heading in was negative as only 20% respondents said Pakistan was heading in the right direction. The direction of the country score has fallen to -60%, down 13 percentage points compared to the previous quarter.

"There is an overall decline in the future business and direction of country scores" between the third quarter of 2023 and first quarter of this year, the report observed.

Like the previous survey, inflation was the most cited problem as more than two out of four businesses would want the new government to control. The proportion of those who want the government to arrest the devaluation

of the rupee has also increased.

"Political instability and taxes have taken a backseat in concern relative to the past quarter, while utility bills and business-related legislation have become more of a concern," the report said.

Asked whether business conditions during past three months induced a decrease in the workforce, three out of 10 businesses surveyed said yes. This number shows 6% decline over the previous quarter.

Given the still backbreaking inflation and a slow economic activity in the country, businesses were asked about their sales this Ramazan and more than half of them said it had worsened. Only 18% said they are doing better.

Moreover, a majority, 73%, of the

businesses surveyed do not have the hope that the newly elected government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will address the country's business problems. Only 25% of the businesses surveyed were somewhat hopeful.

The survey reveals that while majority of businesses, 74%, did not make such complaints some service providers and manufacturers said they had to pay bribes in past six months ending March to run their businesses.

About half of the businessmen, 45%, think of the government as irrelevant for their business, while 23% look at it as a facilitator and 33% consider it a hurdle, according to the survey report.

Despite government's claims to have reduced load-shedding, the number of businesses braving power outages has

increased by seven percent to 45% this quarter compared to the previous one.

"After many quarters more businesses perceive that their current situation is better than before which is a positive news, said Bilal Ijaz Gilani, executive director at Gallup Pakistan and chief architect of the Gallup Pakistan Business Confidence Index Pakistan, in the report.

He, however, said pessimism about the country's economic future as well as the direction of the country has deteriorated.

"Lack of certainty about both politics as well as economic policies continues to hurt the business community's sentiment despite the fact that there is some improvement on the ground," Gilani said.

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‘Extrajudicial Killing: Responding to India’s Actions’-I

In January 2024, Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary made a significant revelation, alleging that India had orchestrated at least 12 extrajudicial killings in Pakistan linked to the Kashmir cause and the Khalistan movement. This disclosure marked the third high-profile accusation against India following similar allegations involving Canada and the United States. By engaging in these unlawful acts, India has aligned itself with countries like the USA, Russia, and Israel, known for eliminating adversaries both domestically and internationally with impunity.

The statement made by Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary made in January this year did not gain significant traction and was dismissed within and outside the country as routine accusations exchanged between the two countries for political point-scoring, lacking substantial evidence.

The Foreign Secretary’s statement was vindicated when similar allegations were corroborated by an investigative report by “The Guardian,” on April 4, 2024 disclosing that nearly 20 killings in Pakistan since 2020 were attributed to India. The Guardian report was authenticated when in a revealing interview with CNN, Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh admitted to carrying out extrajudicial killings and warned of similar actions in Pakistan if terrorists sought refuge there after committing acts

of terrorism. While aimed at Pakistan, this admission hinted at India’s readiness to extend such operations across international borders, including in the territories of influential nations like the USA and Canada.”

The narrative of the Indian espionage agency was compelling. This is how the narrative unfolds. India has successfully managed the rebellion and insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and has, for the most part, tightened its grip over Sikh separatists inside the nation. However, neutralizing their handlers—who were mostly based in Pakistan, the US, and Canada—was a more pressing issue. To resolve the issue, the Indian government authorized RAW to conduct covert operations to kill firebrand Sikh and Kashmiri leaders and handlers, in the US, Canada, and Pakistan motivated by the KGB, Mossad, and CIA, which are notorious for eliminating its enemies abroad.

The Raw launched strikes in three distinct nations as part of Compliance. It eliminated Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a well-known Sikh activist who was shot and killed in Vancouver, Canada, in September of 2023. On 30 Nov, 2023, RAW enlisted the help of a hitman in New York to murder Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, another Sikh activist, but before

the killer had accomplished the task, the US security forces frustrated the attack.

The Raw was particularly careful while targeting Pakistan. It first created sleeper cells in the UAE, later established a system to finance the killing spree through Dubai, Nepal, and Mauritius. Later, it cultivated local criminals, Afghan illegal aliens, and Jihadis to carry out the assassinations of individuals primarily connected to Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, allegedly linked with masterminding high profile terrorist attacks inside India.

The narrative, while seemingly logical and compelling, ultimately failed to achieve its objectives in any of the three cases. Canada and the United States reacted assertively, issuing stern warnings to India and demanding accountability for the masterminds, financiers, and RAW operatives involved in the killings. Canada went a step further by expelling the Indian Ambassador and downgrading diplomatic and economic ties. This action could potentially jeopardize Canadian Investment of \$3,754.05 Mn and Bilateral trade of \$9.9 Bn in 2022 with India. Similarly, strained relations with the United States will impact Indian exports of \$118.8 billion and US investments totaling \$63.03 billion.

The Guardian report garnered significant

attention in Pakistani media, becoming the main topic of prime-time talk shows, however, the Pakistani government did not provide its official response until the next day, when the Foreign Office spokesperson issued a detailed press release beginning with customary rhetoric, but later offered specific details about two assassinations: that of Shahid Latif and Mohammad Riaz.

In both cases, a RAW agent stationed abroad recruited a professional killer in Pakistan, who then assembled a team of target killers responsible for targeted assassination. In both the cases, assassins were apprehended, leading to the disclosure of the entire plan to Pakistani authorities.

The Press Release primarily drafted for consumption of the media ended with a safe, calibrated and measured customary response, where it condemned India, charged it for breaking the United Nation Charter, violating the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan and international diplomatic norms, and calling on the international community for collective action to hold India accountable. However, it fell short of outlining Pakistan’s concrete counteractions.

While behind closed doors, the government must be thinking of adopting a firm and strategic approach, drawing inspiration from the responses of Canada and the United States to similar incidents and giving a befitting response to India.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Betrayal of humanity

Israel’s war on Gaza has turned into a “betrayal of humanity”, the United Nations’ humanitarian chief has said. In a statement on the eve of the six-month anniversary of the war, Martin Griffiths, the outgoing under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief, called for a “collective determination that there be a reckoning for this betrayal of humanity.”

“Each day, this war claims more civilian victims,” said Griffiths, who will leave his post at the end of June due to health reasons. The destruction wrought across the Gaza Strip by Israel since Oct 7 makes for grim reading – over 33,000 people killed and, according to the World Bank, over one million Palestinians are without homes, close to 90 per cent of health facilities have been damaged or wrecked and schools have been destroyed or turned into shelters for the newly homeless. “Rarely has there been such global outrage at the toll of the conflict with seemingly so little done to end it and instead so much impunity”, Griffiths said. He said the grim milestone should not be just a moment of remembrance and mourning, “it must also spur a collective determination that there be a reckoning for this betrayal of humanity.” It still unclear how much more destruction and death Gaza will endure before peace settles across the troubled enclave, nor what type of society will emerge from the conflict, but six months after hostilities started UN agencies are already strategizing for the future, however uncertain. Gaza has witnessed an almost complete destruction of economic activity in all sectors. That the damning analysis of Aya Jaafar, an economist at the UN International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILO estimates that more than 200,000 jobs have been lost in Gaza, some 90 per cent of the pre-conflict workforce. The UN agency further calculates that income losses there have reached \$4.1 million per day, which equates to an 80 per cent decrease in the enclave GDP (the amount of money earned from the sale of all goods and services). This includes Palestinians who received salaries for work carried out in Israel but who are now unemployed in Gaza. Construction has typically been one of the most important industries in Gaza, but according to the ILO, activity in the sector is down some 96 per cent. Other key productive areas, including agriculture and the industrial and services sector, have also all but ceased. The few businesses that are still operating are generally small-scale local enterprises, including bakeries, other food-related businesses and some pharmacies.



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

Judges’ Letter and Disturbing Efforts to Controversialize Prominent Intelligence Agency - IV

With Pakistan possessing nuclear capabilities, safeguarding these assets from falling into malevolent hands is imperative. The ISI remains at the forefront, gathering intelligence to preempt and thwart any attempts to compromise our nuclear facilities. Thus far, none of Pakistan’s nuclear installations have succumbed to terrorist attacks or hostile infiltration, with the ISI pivotal in securing these assets. Additionally, Pakistan Army and ISI have ensured the security of CPEC, countering India’s efforts to impede Pakistan’s prosperity, particularly through targeting CPEC.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Presently, Pakistan enjoys a relatively stable and peaceful environment, facilitating unhindered movement and fostering the resurgence of sports activities. Within the intricate fabric of national security, intelligence agencies function as silent sentinels, tasked with protecting a nation’s interests against multifaceted threats, both foreign and domestic. However, when these agencies become ensnared in controversy, the ramifications can extend far beyond the realm of the intelligence community. Analyzing the consequences of making a country’s intelligence agencies contentious sheds light on the intricacies and obsta-

cles confronting governance, security, and public trust. One of the most immediate repercussions of casting doubt on our intelligence agencies is the erosion of public trust and confidence in the state’s capacity to safeguard its citizens. Operating in the shadows, our intelligence agencies rely on secrecy and discretion to execute their missions effectively. When these agencies become embroiled in controversy—be it due to allegations of misconduct, politicization, or failure to avert security breaches—it undermines public faith in their capabilities and raises concerns about their accountability and oversight.

Furthermore, the contentious nature of our intelligence agencies can have adverse effects on national security and foreign relations. In an increasingly interconnected world, where threats transcend borders and alliances, intelligence cooperation is crucial for identifying and countering emerging threats. When a country’s intelligence agencies are engulfed in controversy, it can strain relationships with foreign partners, impede information sharing efforts, and compromise collective endeavors to combat terrorism, cyber threats, and other transnational challenges. Additionally, the politicization of our intelligence agencies can undermine

their efficiency and impartiality. When intelligence assessments are swayed by partisan interests or exploited to further political agendas, it distorts the decision-making process and compromises the integrity of intelligence analysis. This can lead to flawed policies, misguided interventions, and a loss of credibility both domestically and internationally. Over time, politicization undermines the professionalism and autonomy of our intelligence agencies, jeopardizing their ability to provide unbiased and objective guidance to policymakers.

Moreover, casting our intelligence agencies in a controversial light can have detrimental effects on morale and recruitment within the intelligence community. Intelligence professionals are often drawn to their vocation by a sense of duty and a commitment to serving their country.

However, when their endeavors are undermined by public scrutiny, suspicion, or political interference, it can demoralize personnel, foster distrust, and dissuade skilled individuals from pursuing intelligence careers. This compromises the capabilities and effectiveness of our intelligence agencies, hindering their ability to fulfill their mandate of protecting national security.

Readers, it is essential for authorities to closely and meticulously address this issue, exerting sincere efforts to prevent the controversialization of our defenders, particularly given its close association with national security matters.

Plight of Pakistan’s Youth: Tackling Unemployment and Limited Opportunities

In Pakistan, one of the greatest challenges faced by the youth today is the daunting issue of unemployment and the lack of adequate opportunities. With a fast-growing population and a competitive job market, the youth find themselves struggling to secure stable employment and harness their full potential. The repercussions of this issue are vast and deeply impactful, affecting not only the individuals themselves but also the socio-economic fabric of the nation as a whole. The unemployment rate in Pakistan is forecast to 8.00% in 2024. The unemployed people in Pakistan is forecast to 6.61m in 2024. The employment rate in Pakistan is forecast to 52.27% in 2024. The total labour force in Pakistan is forecasted to 82.66m in 2024.

Youth unemployment is a pressing issue that has far-reaching consequences. It not only leads to financial instability and economic dependence but also contributes to a sense of disillusionment and hopelessness among the younger generation. The lack of opportunities for skill development and career advancement exacerbates this problem.

A minor example can be observed that on 23-03-2024 Punjab Police department has announced that it will recruit 43 officers BS-14 (Advt. Number 07/2024 Case No.6H2024) on contract basis for the period of two years. Out of total, 15 posts will be allocated to women candidates, three to special persons and two to minorities. There are 40711 applicants for this contract base recruitment.

One of the primary reasons behind the high rates of youth unemployment in Pakistan is the discrepancy between the skills possessed by young individuals and the demands of the job market.

The prevalence of nepotism, favouritism, and corruption in the recruitment process further compounds the challenges faced by young job seekers in Pakistan. Many qualified and deserving individuals are overlooked in favour of less qualified candidates with connections or personal affiliations, perpetuating a system of inequality and injustice that hampers social mobility and economic growth.

The inadequate opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation also contribute to the problem of youth unemployment in Pakistan. Many young individuals with creative ideas and entrepreneurial aspirations find themselves lacking the support and resources necessary to bring their visions to fruition. A lack of access to funding, mentorship, and business incubation programs further limits the ability of young people to start their own ventures and contribute to the economic development of the country.

These initiatives, addressing the systemic issues of nepotism, favouritism, and corruption in the recruitment process is essential to ensure a level playing field for all job seekers. Implementing transparent and merit-based recruitment practices can help eliminate bias and discrimination in the hiring process, allowing qualified and deserving individuals to secure employment based on their skills and qualifications rather than personal connections or affiliations.

Beyond these systemic changes, fostering a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and equal opportunity is essential to create a more conducive environment for the youth to thrive and succeed. Providing equal access to education, training, and employment opportunities for all young people, regardless of their background or socio-economic status, is key to building a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone has the chance to fulfill their potential and contribute to the progress of the nation.

At the end of the issue of youth unemployment and inadequate opportunities in Pakistan is a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires comprehensive and sustainable solutions. By investing in education, skills development, entrepreneurship, and merit-based recruitment practices, Pakistan can unlock the potential of its youth and pave the way for a brighter and more prosperous future for the nation. Empowering young people to pursue their aspirations, unleash their creativity, and contribute to the development of their communities is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic necessity for building a thriving and resilient society in the years to come.



Analysis

M. Ameer Hamza

Leaders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan emphasize the importance of further expanding

News Desk

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN: A meeting between the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took place in the city of Khiva.

At the meeting, issues of further strengthening the strategic partnership and alliance between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, as well as expanding practical cooperation, were discussed.

Particular attention was paid to accelerating cooperation projects, implementation of investment agreements and trade contracts, in accordance with previously reached agreements at the highest level.

The heads of states also listened to reports from the Deputy Prime Ministers on the progress of joint projects in various fields, such as mechanical



engineering, energy, transport, mining, textile and food industries. The presidents gave specific instructions to increase trade turnover, develop an industrial cooperation program and implement infrastructure projects

in the field of transport and energy.

The importance of starting work on the creation of the International Center for Industrial Cooperation this year, as well as expanding the activities of the joint foreign trade company, was noted.

Issues of developing humanitarian and tourism ties, holding joint events in the field of culture, education and sports were also discussed.

The parties exchanged views on regional issues, including the rational use of water resources and cooperation within the framework of the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia, as well as a discussion of the situation in Afghanistan.

The schedule of upcoming joint events in various formats was reviewed. The meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere characteristic of relations between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Malaysian delegation along with IMRF visits AIOU



PPA

ISLAMABAD: An eight-member Christian delegation, consisting of four Malaysian missionaries and four Pakistanis, led by the Chairman of the Implementation Minority Rights Forum (IMRF), Samuel Payra, visited Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi presided over the ceremony while Chairman IMRF the chief guest.

In his address, Samuel Payra stated that all the institutions of Pakistan stand with the minorities and are at the forefront of securing their rights. He emphasized that the constitution of Pakistan protects minorities and highlighted that a significant amount of work is being done to promote inter-faith harmony in Pakistan, which is unparalleled in any other country. Additionally, there are numerous buildings in Pakistan named after minority leaders, serving as evidence of the mutual love and brotherhood within the country.

Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi stated that both the Muslim and Christian religions were revealed by God and share common traditions and values. He also mentioned that the Department of Inter-faith Studies at AIOU is open to collaboration on matters related to peace and harmony. Members of the Malaysian delegation, including Darren Philip, Sonita Anglik Philip, Jason Philip, and Alvin, expressed their appreciation for the love and hospitality they received from Pakistan. The event was attended by all the faculty members of Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Azerbaijan vow to work jointly to boost global climate action and disaster resilience



PPA

The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H. E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov called upon the Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Mr. Ezaz A. Dar at the Ministry, according to news released on Saturday. The spokesperson for the Ministry Muhammad Saleem Shaikh said that during the meeting the Ambassador highlighted very close and brotherly relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, which date centuries back in history. In turn, Mr. Ezaz A. Dar acknowledged the close ties between the people of the two countries and indicated that Pakistan is committed to further enhance the relationship with Azerbaijan, said the ministry spokesperson.

The Ambassador apprised that the Republic of Azerbaijan as host country, based on the efforts which were made at the UN-led annual global climate conference (COP28) held last year in Dubai towards the Global Climate Agenda, aspires to hold the conference in a manner that helps in upscaling global climate action and upcoming COP29 will build on the momentum from the Dubai climate conference and advance international community's collective cause in Baku, and in the process set up Belem (COP30) for success.

The Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan underlined during the meeting at the ministry that achieving significant results at COP29 will need a joint effort by all stakeholders, including countries, international organizations, international financial institutions and the private sector.

Meanwhile, the ambassador especially stressed that by the order of H. E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2024 declared as the "Year of Solidarity for a Green World" in the Republic of Azerbaijan and hosting and presiding COP recognises Azerbaijan's endeavours in addressing climate change not only at national, but also at regional and global scales.

New York earthquake-Statue of Liberty shakes

The ongoing week has not been good for the iconic Statue of Liberty in United States' New York City as it was struck by lightning on Wednesday and less than 48 hours later, it was shaking during an unusual 4.8 magnitude earthquake.

In a video shared by EarthCam on X, the statue and the New York City skyline trembled when the quake hit around 10:23am. A person commented on X: "Lady Liberty has had a rough week."

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan called on Federal Minister of Industry and Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Eid al-Fitr: Saudi Arabia asks citizens to sight Shawwal moon on Monday

RIYADH: The authorities in Saudi Arabia on Saturday asked the citizens to sight the Shawwal moon on the evening of April 8 (Monday).

In a statement, the Saudi Supreme Court called on the residents to report the moon sighting and notify the respective authority.

As per the Sharia, the sighting can be done with the naked eye or by using binoculars, following which the discovery must be notified to the nearest court or centre, Alarabiya News reported.

In Pakistan, the Met Office, however, predicted that the first day of Eid al-Fitr would fall on April 10, as the Shawwal moon was expected to be sighted on April 9.

China promotes human organ donation, transplantation

Xinhua

LANZHOU: Citizens came to mourn for the organ donors at the provincial organ donor monument on which the names of 272 donors of bodies, organs, and corneas are engraved in northwest China's Gansu Province before the Qingming Festival, or Tomb-Sweeping Day, which falls on April 4 this year.

Traditionally, Chinese society believes that a burial brings peace to the deceased, so the donation of bodies and human organs was once difficult to accept, said Ren Jinquan, vice president of the Red Cross Society of China, Gansu Branch.

However, in recent years, this phenomenon has gradually changed, with a marked increase in the number of volunteers registering for body and organ donation, many of whom are young people and college students, Ren said.

"The moment I donate my organs, it means that my life will continue, and patients who need organs may get reborn," said Chen Gang, a PhD student at Lanzhou University who signed his name on the body donation registration form.

Data from the China Organ Donation Administrative Center shows that, as



of March 30 this year, over 6.71 million people in China have registered as volunteers to donate bodies and human organs. According to the Red Cross Society of China, Gansu Branch, there were only 80 registered body and organ donation volunteers in the province before 2014. Now, the number reached 112,000 by the end of 2023.

China has formed a relatively mature organ donation and transplantation system. Since 2010, China has estab-

lished five major systems for human organ donation, acquisition and distribution, transplantation clinical services, transplantation quality control, and donation and transplantation supervision.

To better ensure the healthy development of organ donation and transplantation, China has also revised the Regulations on Human Organ Transplantation, which will come into effect on May 1 this year.

"China's human organ distribution and sharing computer system can automatically match the list of patients who best meet the conditions of organ transplantation in a few seconds, which greatly shortens the distribution time from organ donation to transplantation and ensures the openness, fairness, and justice of organ donation and transplantation," said Jiao Zuoyi, deputy dean of the Second Hospital, Lanzhou University.

The technology and quality of organ transplantation in China has also gradually improved. For example, split liver transplantation technology has been maturely applied in medical institutions in central China's Hubei Province and east China's Jiangsu Province.

In January, the Union Hospital, Tongji Medical College, and Huazhong University of Science and Technology performed surgeries with such technology, giving hope to two patients with liver failure.

Data from the China Organ Donation Administrative Center shows that as of March 30 this year, China has completed 51,776 cases of organ donations from the deceased, with more than 159,115 human organs donated.

Devcom-Pakistan Public Forum

Speakers show grave concerns over influencing judiciary

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at the Devcom-Pakistan 'Public Forum' urge the Executive to take all possible measures to stop spy agencies undue fiddling and influence on the rule of law, saying the judiciary is the last hope of justice against all forms of tyrannies in the society.

They said the spy agencies influencing or interfering with the judiciary has raised potential dangers to the principles of justice, democracy, and the rule of law. While intelligence agencies may play a crucial role in national security and gathering intelligence to protect citizens, their involvement in judicial matters is an attempt to undermine the independence of the judiciary, one of the cornerstones of a democratic society. Any form of interference from spy

agencies could compromise this independence, leading to biased judgments or decisions that may serve the interests of the Establishment rather than upholding the rule of law.

The Devcom-Pakistan weekly online public discussion was organized on Saturday with the keynote speech by former Senator Farhatullah Babar, the Board Member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). The other guest speakers included Vice Chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr. Nadeem ul Haq, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed, development expert Qaiser Aijaz, journalist Sadia Rasheed, and social worker Amina Sadaf.

Farhatullah Babar said that independence of judiciary is enshrined in all the three consti-

tutions of 1956, 1962 and 1973 and enhanced by jurisprudence like the Al-Jehad Trust case the judiciary has security of tenure, adequate emoluments & pensions and exemption from accountability by the executive, elements necessary for its independence. However, judiciary independence has been undermined by repeated martial laws on the one hand and by pliant and compromised PCO judges who readily took oath of allegiance to the dictator on the other, he said.

Farhatullah Babar said the pliant and PCO judges legitimized repeated military interventions, murder of elected Prime Minister, dissolution of assemblies and political parties and much worse, not once but many times over. The judges-general nexus has been the greatest undermined inde-

pendence of judiciary more than anything else. He said however it is reassuring that now the judges appeared to jettison the past as evident from the recent verdict in the ZAB case and the letter written by 6 IHC judges calling it "a most welcomed step in course correction".

Dr. Nadeem ul Haq said our system is the extension of the colonial system and we are forced to live in it. Not likely to come out of it very soon because the power mongers all around us. They want power by hook or by crook, and on the other hand politicians lack capacity to understand the legislation-making process. They also lack planning and management skills. They only want to come to power by abusing the system and that encourages the nonpolitical forces to intervene in every state institution.



Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed said Allowing spy agencies to influence the judiciary undermines the system of checks and balances that is essential for preventing abuse of power and safeguarding individual rights. The judiciary serves as a check on the executive and legislative branches of govern-

ment, and any undue influence from intelligence agencies weakens this vital function. After deteriorating Pakistan's political system, now spy agencies are up to ruin the remaining meager trust over the judiciary, adding more to the dark-side of the Establishment.

Munir Ahmed said the abuse of spy agencies to influence the judiciary opened the door to potential abuse of power, including political-motivated prosecutions, surveillance of political opponents, and erosion of civil liberties. Without proper oversight and accountability mechanisms, intelligence agencies may act with impunity, undermining democratic principles and the rule of law. Their involvement in judicial matters may further obscure the decision-making process and limit transparency, making it difficult for the public to trust the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

Qaiser Aijaz said Justice Munir's legacy shall end now. Now the institutions have been exposed for their maneuvered decisions, illogical pressures and lack of transparency. All the civil society and general public shall stand by the independent judiciary, and say no to all the pressures.

No delay in wheat procurement target decision, clarifies finance ministry

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In response to reports appearing in a section of the press, the Finance Ministry here on Saturday clarified that there had been no delay in the decision-making process regarding wheat procurement targets. "News stories appearing in a section of the press have given the misleading impression that ECC has delayed the decision on wheat procurement targets. There is no truth to these assertions," the ministry said in a statement issued here.

The Economic Coordination of the Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet discussed the matters related to wheat procurement in its meeting held on April 4, 2024 and after considering the views of the relevant federal ministries, the members of the ECC felt that it would be advisable to include the provincial governments in the deliberations, as they would be responsible to implement the decisions on the ground. The meeting was therefore reconvened on April 5 and representatives of all the provincial governments participated, the statement added. They provided updates to the committee on the latest situation relating to procurement of wheat in their respective areas and apprised it of their requirements for bank credit for the purpose. The committee after detailed deliberations approved the procurement target proposed by the Ministry of Food Security and the provinces and the cash credit limits required for the purpose. The relevant departments did not suggest any enhancement or reduction in targets presented by the Ministry of Food Security, neither did the ECC approve any such change. The government of Punjab informed the Committee that it was closely monitoring the wheat situation in the province and had initiated procurement process. They further informed that the provincial government would continue to intervene to make sure that farmers are able to sell their produce at the support price level. The ECC in its inaugural meeting resolved that all the matters brought before it would be deliberated in detail with a view to make informed decisions, instead of rushing through and rubber-stamping hasty measures. The Committee would also continue to ensure that all the stakeholders are onboard before arriving at decisions which have far reaching implications. The detailed discussions during the meetings of the ECC on April 4 and 5, 2024 are reflective of this policy.

SCCI urges PLA to resume Peshawar-Karachi operations

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has expressed concern over the closure of PLA flight operation from Peshawar to Karachi and urged the authorities to consider the matter. Vice President SSCI, Ejaz Khan Afridi said that the closure of PLA flights would affect the business community besides inflicting losses to the national carrier, said a statement issued here Saturday.

He demanded the PLA authorities to start two flights from Peshawar to Karachi within a week to facilitate the business community and the people of the province. He said the resumption of flight operations from Peshawar to Karachi would also benefit travellers and help PLA to generate revenue.

Cultural festivals contribute to economic development of region: Maxwell Shanti

PPA

LAHORE: This year too, the Pakistan Cultural Festival is being celebrated by one of the oldest educational institutions of the Punjab provincial capital with same traditional zeal and enthusiasm at the end of the current month, which would be a blend of competitive enthusiasm and impressive learning.

The cultural festivals contribute to the economic development of a region by creating cultural resources, promoting tourism, and generating economic value through branding and accessibility, said Mr. Maxwell Shanti, the principal of the historical St. Anthony's High School. Maxwell Shanti, who has given the school a new look with his hard work and outstanding performance, said in a statement that the school's students will display the vibrant colors and diverse culture of their country through stunning performances of folk songs and delivering speeches on this important matter.

The principal, who is running simultaneously the main campus on Lawrence Road as well as the Faisal Town branch of St. Anthony's School, added that the attire in colorful costumes of their respective provinces, the young and talented students will mesmerize the audience with their performances of traditional and folk songs. The students will also set up a stall, displaying various traditional items, and offering food. Mr. Shanti observed that the Cultural Festival embodies St. Anthony's commitment to deliver an unforgettable and captivating experience, combining the thrill of competition with the richness of cultural diversity.

Mistakes of negotiations with terrorists must not be repeated: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Saturday that terrorists are enemies of Pakistan and are deterring investment in Pakistan.

He stated that without eliminating terrorists, a massive operation is necessary for the country to flourish.

Negotiations with the terrorists, according to Mian Zahid Hussain, were a mistake that shouldn't happen again.

Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that terrorists are

following the agenda of scaring domestic and foreign investors.

He said that the mistake of negotiation and a peace agreement with the terrorists should not be repeated, as it would be tantamount to surrendering.

The business leader stated that the terrorists prefer to target Chinese citizens in order for Pakistan to lose its closest friend. In these circumstances, some so-called experts and others are repeating old demands of negotiations with terrorists, which is condemnable.

He said that national security is the most critical issue, and it is irrational to repeat failed experiments.

Mian Zahid Hussain stated that the terrorists' victory in this war is impossible. Still, it is



causing a lot of damage to the country, which necessitates determination to stop it.

He stated that the Afghan government's expectations in this regard are unrealistic, given the abundance of opportunities they have received. Still, they need more time to be ready to go beyond lip service.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that on the one hand, trade agreements are being negotiated with Afghanistan; on the other hand, their land is being used against Pakistan, which is unacceptable.

Chinese experts are safe in Afghanistan and unsafe in Pakistan, which is surprising. The friendly country of China should also cooperate with Pakistan in efforts to end terrorism, he demanded.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Istanbul Grand Airport (IGA) calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday.

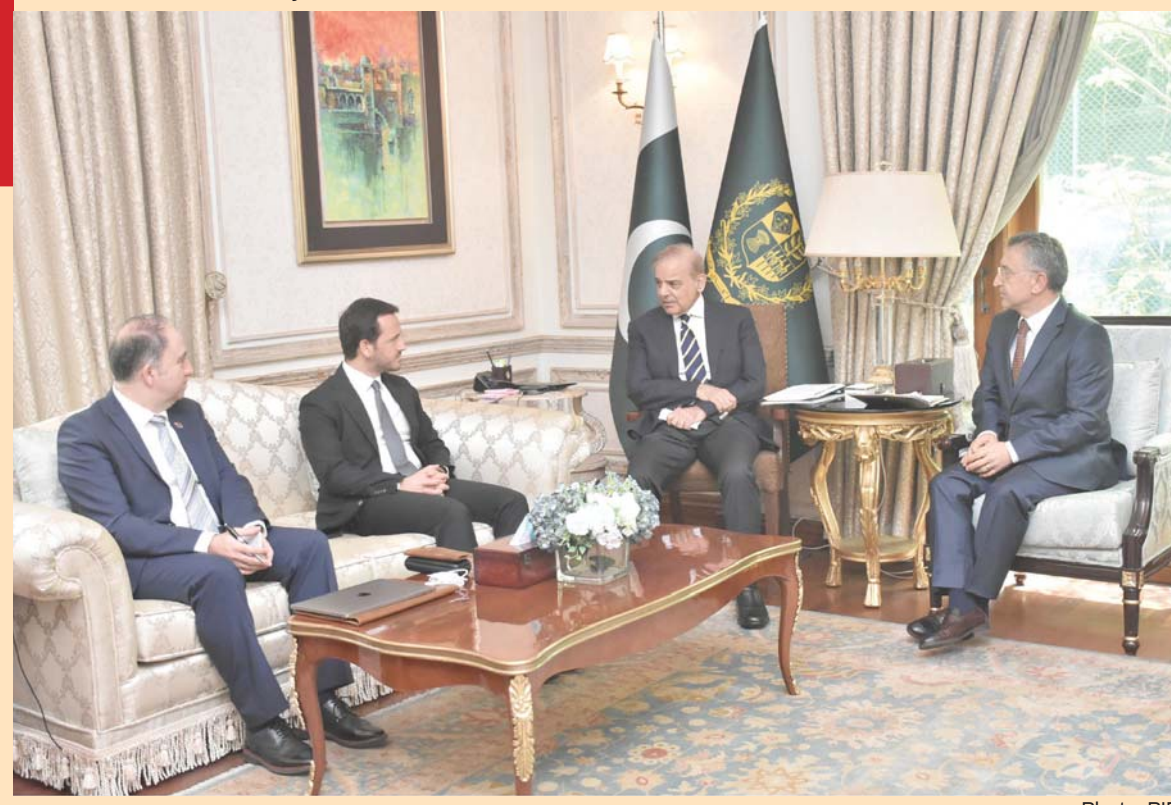


Photo: PID

FPCCI hails PM's Saudi visit as positive development for economic recovery

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Shaikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has termed the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia as a positive development for economic recovery. In a statement here Saturday, he said the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia would pave the way for economic recovery in Pakistan. Our brotherly Islamic country has always supported us in difficult situations, he added.

Atif Ikram said our economy is currently in a difficult situation. A worrying slide is affecting all sections of the society, including the businesses community. Saudi Arabia's investment



estimated at USD 1 billion in Recodec will stoke the national economy out of the economic crisis.

Atif Ikram Shaikh, while praising the SIFC efforts for economic recovery, said that a considerable amount of investment being arranged by the SIFC platform for Recodec might increase the effectiveness of this platform. It might divert the trend of policy from seeking aid toward ensuring investment in major projects of Pakistan, he added.

Tajir Dost Scheme: ICCI President says broadening of tax net need of hour

PPA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has welcomed the Federal Board of Revenue's 'Tajir Dost Scheme' under which the trader would register themselves through Tajir Dost scheme in Tax Asaan App through their mobile phones or FBR's web portal or by visiting FBR's tax facilitation centers.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the business community always remained tax compliant and favors broadening of tax net to pull the country out of the economic crunch.

However, he emphasized that the tax should be simplified and the shopkeepers should be given facilities and have to be made to file a single page return once in a year.

He added that tax net has to be broadened for the economic development of the country but business community must



not be unduly disturbed/harass and the business leaders as well as Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry must also be taken into confidence before going for any such significant decision. The ICCI President said economic

problems cannot be resolved until the problems of the business community are amicably resolved and for this purpose the government should introduce measures to enhance the confidence of the business community.

Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfraz Alpa Visits RCCI

PPA

RAWALPINDI: The Regional Police Officer (RPO) Babar Sarfraz Alpa visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Saturday. President RCCI and Chairman Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Saqib Rafiq along with Group Leader RCCI Sohail Altaf welcomed the RPO and discussed the issues related to the business community of Rawalpindi. President also congratulated the RPO on taking charge.

The RPO assured that his office is available at all times. The Safe City project will be fully operational by the end of May, which will help in curbing car and motorcycle snatching, street crime and robbery. The establishment of law and order in the city is the top priority of his office as law and order is very important in the promotion of business activities and investment. He said that collective and

joint efforts are required to maintain the law and order issues and also appreciated the recommendations for addressing encroachment and traffic congestion in the city. A joint meeting will be held after eid in this regard, he added. RPO welcomed the Police Trader Liaison Committee at police stations and said that it will help

in resolving disputes. RPO also lauded Chairman RWMC and President RCCI for the efforts being carried out for the clean Rawalpindi.

President Saqib Rafiq in his remarks said that Rawalpindi city has become densely populated due to growth and migration, we need additional police force and police stations.

Senior Vice President RCCI Mr. Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, distinguished RCCI members, President Markazi Anjuman Tajran Rawalpindi Mr. Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries/VP FPCCI Mr. Tariq Jadoon, among others were also present in the meeting.

Commerce Minister, HanGeng discuss Investment opportunities in Gawadar



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister, HanGeng discussed investment opportunities in Gawadar.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) HanGeng Trade & Yuanhua Industrial, Andy Liao here on Saturday called on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan to discuss foreign investment opportunities in

Gawadar and ways to expand exports. They explored Gawadar's potential for economic growth and collaboration between foreign companies and local authorities, according to press statement issued by commerce ministry.

Minister Khan assured Liao of the full government support for investment and trade initiatives, emphasizing collaboration for mutual economic prosperity.

FRIA stresses need for a revisit of economic policies for high growth

PPA

LAHORE: The Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam has stressed the need for a revisit of the economic policies, as the economic indicators throughout the previous fiscal year remained very depressed amidst high inflation, low exports, depleting foreign reserves and continued uncertain position of the local currency.

Shahbaz Aslam, who is also the PIAF senior leader, said that almost all indicators of the economy continued to show poor performance,

including volatile exchange rate, unprecedented hike in markup rate, repeated increases in electricity rates, gas shortage, price spiral, mismanagement and bad governance, becoming the hallmarks of the government.

He said that massive fall of rupee value continued to damage the economy, as the rupee witnessed a huge depreciation; one of the highest devaluations of local currency in Pakistan's history in this period. He urged the policy makers to concentrate on increasing tax-to-GDP ratio which was the lowest in Pakistan in the region in 2023.

Govt Jinnah College lift Inter College Ramazan T-20 Cup title

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Government Jinnah College won the Inter College Ramazan T-20 Cup night Tournament after beating the Government College 36-B Landhi No.4 by 3 wickets in the Final on Thursday night at Eid Gah Ground Nazimabad.

On this occasion Syed Najmi Alam Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh was the Chief Guest and distribute the Prizes in simple but impress Ceremony. Winner Trophy and Cash Award Rupees Five lacs received by Captain Government Jinnah College Rizwan Khan while the Runner-up Trophy and Cash Award Rupees Two Lacs fifty Thousand by Captain of Government College 36-B Landhi no.4.

Other cash Prizes received by Man of Final Match and Best Bowler of the Tournament by Naeem Gul of Government Jinnah College, Best Batsman Ghazi Ghouri of Government College Formen, Player of the Tournament Abdul Rafay. of National College Morning. Special Presented to Chief Guest Syed Alam by Khalid Nafees Chairman Tournament Committee, Tabish Jawed Senior Vice President by M. Touseef Siddiqui Tourna-



ment Secretary and also Shield given to Rahat Ali Shah, Coordinator, Arif Waheed and Nawaid Alamin Members Tournament Committee.

Tabish Jawed Senior Vice President Regional Cricket Association Karachi, Former Test Cricketer Touseef Ahmed, Zafar Ahmed, Muhammad Ahmed Naqvi, Afzal Qureshi, Afzal

Sheri, Tariq Hafeez, Dr. Arif Hafeez, Zaib Iqbal, Jawed Iqbal also present on the occasion.

Earlier in the Final Match Government Jinnah College beat Government College 36-B Landhi no.4 by 3 wickets.

Scores in Brief:
Government College 36-B Landhi

no.4 75 all out in 17.5 Naeem Gul 2/15, M. Ahad Ali 2/15, Nadir Shah 2/16, M. Daood Khan 2/17.

Government Jinnah College 76/7 in 14.3 overs. Kashan Fahim 25. Saifullah 3/8, Hassan Ali Khan 2/13.

Imran Jawed and Aqil Adil Supervise the Final Match While Imran Ali was official Scorer.

Tickets for Ireland-Pakistan T20I series sold out

A Sports

DUBLIN: Pakistan's upcoming tour to Ireland drew massive attention from cricket fans as all the tickets for the three-match T20I series have been sold out.

Talking to X, formerly Twitter, Cricket Ireland confirmed that their home series against Pakistan was a sell-out.

"And that's a sell out! Thanks for your support. Further men's and women's home internationals will be announced shortly," the cricketing body stated.

The Pakistan Men's Cricket Team will tour Ireland for a three-match T20I series in May 2024. All three matches will be held at Clontarf in Dublin on 10, 12 and 14 May 2024 and will start at 3 PM local time.

The three-match away series will serve as a stepping stone for the Green Shirts to boost their preparations for this year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and the United States of America (USA).

Notably, Pakistan and Ireland are placed in the same group of the mega event and are slated to lock horns on June 16 at Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium in Lauderdale-hill, Florida.

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Notably, the Pakistan cricket team participated in a two-week long physi-



cal fitness camp, organised in collaboration with the Pakistan Army, to prepare for the upcoming five-match home T20I series against New Zealand.

New Zealand are slated to reach Paki-

stan 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 cricketers' physical fitness camp at Kakul concludes

A Sports

KAKUL: The national men's cricket team's physical fitness camp, under the supervision of the Pakistan Army, in Kakul, Abbottabad, was concluded on Saturday.

Talking to X, formerly Twitter, Iftikhar Ahmed shared footage of national cricketers having a fun time at a peak. The all-rounder termed the camp challenging while also lauding the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the initiative.

"The conclusion of an amazing, yet challenging camp in Kakul. A great initiative by the



PCB to help raise the fitness standards and team building exercises," wrote Iftikhar.

A total of 29 players participated in the physical fitness camp, which commenced on

March 26 to boast the national team's preparation for the five-match home T20I series against New Zealand.

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 Harris, Salman Ali Agha, Azam Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Irfan Khan Niazi, Shadab Khan, Imad Wasim, Usama Mir, Mohammad Nawaz, Mehram 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.

New Zealand are slated to reach Pakistan on April 14 for the crucial series, leading to the ICC Men's T20I World Cup.

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Two Pakistan women cricketers suffer minor injuries in car accident



A Sports

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain and middle-order batter Bismah Maroof and spinner Ghulam Fatima suffered minor injuries after being involved in a car accident here on Friday.

According to the details, Bismah Maroof and Ghulam Fatima, accompanied by a local player, were going for a cup of tea when their car collided with a footpath while taking a U-turn.

The players received immediate medical attention from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) medical team and also underwent precautionary scans.

"Despite sustaining minor injuries, both players received immediate first aid and are currently under the care of the PCB medical team," stated PCB.

"The two players also underwent precautionary CT Scans, which came out clear," the statement added.

Notably, both players are part of the probables attending a training camp for the upcoming series against the West Indies, scheduled to begin on 18 April.

The training camp will conclude on April 8.

West Indies are scheduled to arrive in Karachi on 14 April to feature in eight white-ball matches, including three ODIs, which are part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25.

The three ODI matches will be played at the National Bank Stadium (NBS) in Karachi on 18, 21 and 23 April.

The ODI series will be followed by five T20Is, to be played at the same venue, starting from 26 April.

The ODIs are set to begin at 330pm PKT, while the first ball in the T20Is will be bowled at 730pm PKT.

Pakistan Women's Probable Squad for West Indies Series:

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

Series schedule:

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

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

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

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

26 Apr - First T20I at NBS (730pm local time)

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

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

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

3 May - Fifth T20I at NBS (730pm local time)

De Bruyne double leads City to emphatic win at Palace

Sports Desk

LONDON: Kevin de Bruyne struck twice to inspire Manchester City to a dominant 4-2 win at Crystal Palace on Saturday and move the champions level on points with Liverpool at the top of the Premier League table.

Stunned by conceding an early goal scored by Palace striker Jean-Philippe Mateta, De Bruyne equalised with a superb shot and after second-half goals by Rico Lewis and Erling Haaland the Belgian midfielder added his second.

"It's just like every other title race. We have to win every game," the 19-year-old Lewis told TNT Sports. "There's three teams in it and we have to be the strongest team."

Odsone Edouard grabbed a late consolation for the hosts but with seven games remaining City are level on 70 points with Liverpool and two ahead of Arsenal, although both their title rivals have a game in hand.

Mateta had shocked the travelling City supporters with a goal in the third minute, but De Bruyne, who along with Haaland was rested for Wednesday's 4-1 win over Aston Villa, levelled in the 13th minute with an inch-perfect finish that had manager Pep Guardiola blowing the Belgian kisses.

"I just try to be more of an example with the way I am on the pitch," De Bruyne said. "I won't be the person to tell others how to live their lives but I try to show on the pitch."

Lewis put the visitors ahead soon after the interval, Haaland bagged his 19th goal of the season in the 66th minute from close range and De Bruyne netted his 100th goal for City to keep them well in the hunt for a fourth successive league title.

"The main message was to keep on going," Lewis said. "The chances would come. We needed to get into the box and that's what we did."

"As a kid you dream of scoring a goal and celebrating. I want to get more goals and assists."

World champions Spain thump Belgium in Euro 2025 qualifiers

Sports Desk

LAHORE: A Salma Paralluelo hat-trick inspired Spain to a 7-0 win in Belgium on Friday in the opening fixture of their Euro 2025 qualifiers, while Marie-Antoinette Kato to gave France a narrow home win over Ireland.

Paralluelo goals bookended a Jenni Hermoso strike in a clinical start by the Spanish, before the Barcelona attacker scored her third two minutes after the break and Esther Gonzalez and Sheila Garcia then completed the rout.

"Salma had a great game. She's a player with goals who gives us a lot," said Spain coach Montse Tome.

In Leuven in Belgium, Paralluelo broke the deadlock with a precise finish from a corner in the eighth minute and Hermoso doubled the lead eight minutes later.

After 30 minutes, former Ballon

d'Or winner Alexia Putellas set Paralluelo up with a delightful backheel and the 20-year-old turned and finished assuredly inside the box.

The hat-trick came soon after the interval when Paralluelo swept home Ona Batlle's cross from inside the six-yard box.

Gonzalez netted a fourth for Spain on 64 minutes, before Garcia and Gonzalez struck again in the last five minutes to complete an emphatic away win.

Earlier in Group 2 of the Euro 2025 qualifiers, Denmark won 3-1 in the Czech Republic 3-1 thanks to an early Amalie Vangsgaard strike and two goals in four second-half minutes from Stine Ballisager and Josefine Hasbo.

Olympic hosts France beat the Republic of Ireland 1-0 in Metz. Herve Renard's side dominated the visitors but lacked incision in a combative encounter in Group 3.

Paris Saint-Germain forward Katoto netted in the sixth minute to give the Euro 2022 semi-finalists a winning start to their campaign.

The 25-year-old was quickest to react to Maelle Lakrar's pass across goal and tapped the ball over the line from one yard out.

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France were unable to break down the stubborn Irish defence a second time but were never troubled.

"I'm very satisfied with this match in terms of the spirit, the desire to get forward, to press," said France coach Renard, adding that the Irish are "a very difficult team to destabilise".

In the same group, England drew 1-1 with Sweden at Wembley. Alesia Russo's opener midway through the first half was cancelled out by a 64th-minute Fridolina Rolfo header.

The breakthrough came for the reigning European champions

in the 24th minute from Russo's close-range stooping header after Lauren James picked out the Arsenal forward.

Soon after the hour, Rolfo levelled when she headed in Rosa Kafaji's cross at the back post.

Moments later, Stina Blackstenius raced clear but her left-footed finish rolled wide of Mary Earps' post. Elsewhere in League A, Norway beat Finland 4-0 at home in Group 1 while Italy beat Euro 2017 winners Netherlands 2-0 at the San Vito stadium in Cosenza.

Roma forward Valentina Giacinti opened the scoring on four minutes with a clinical right-footed finish, before Agnese Bonfantini turned in Michela Cambiaghi's cross to secure the three points just before the hour.

Iceland won 3-0 at home against Poland and Germany came from two down to win 3-2 in Austria.

In League B of the Euro 2025



Qualifiers, Wales made a flying start to their campaign with a 4-0 home victory over Croatia and Scotland were held to a goalless draw in Serbia.

Montenegro beat Andorra 6-1 in Podgorica and Luxembourg, 117th-ranked in the world, came from behind to win 2-1 at home to Albania in League C.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding security of foreign nationals.



Photo: PID

Interior Minister presides over important meeting regarding security of Chinese citizens

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over an important meeting regarding security of Chinese citizens at Interior

Ministry. The security of foreigner's especially Chinese citizens was thoroughly reviewed in the meeting. Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Agha and other senior officials of the Interior

Ministry also attended this meeting. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi directed to make sure that the Chinese citizens get foolproof security during their stay in Pakistan and emphasised the protec-

tion of foreigner's especially Chinese citizens in Pakistan at all costs. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi: "We should make sure to follow the security SOPs when it comes to the security and protection of the

foreigners in the country and Chinese citizens in particular. The enemies of the state do not want Pakistan to prosper, but they are mistaken. We will not let the nefarious motives of the miscreants be successful."

Education ministry withdraws 'Dance for Education Program' notification

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training and National Commission for UNESCO on Saturday while clarifying the news items published in some section of media and shared on social media, stated that neither the Ministry nor the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO directed or organized the Dance for Education program. In a clarification issued on Saturday, it is stated that Education Ministry did not make it compulsory for schools to participate in 'Dance for Education Program'; rather, it was circulated solely for informational purposes regarding UNESCO's international initiatives.

The clarification letter further said that Dance for Education program, is part of a broader campaign aimed at emphasizing the importance of education worldwide. The letter issued earlier is hereby withdrawn, and any resulting misunderstanding is sincerely regretted, it added. It is worth mentioning here that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), plays a crucial role in promoting peace and security through international cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication. One of its initiatives, the

Didn't de-notify Gen Qamar Bajwa despite 'betrayal': PTI founder

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Saturday asserted that he did not de-notify former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa despite his actions 'felt like a betrayal', ARY News reported. "Although General Bajwa's actions felt like a betrayal, we [the then PTI government] refrained from convening a committee to confront him," the deposed prime minister said while speaking to journalists in an informal conversation during the hearing of the Toshakhana reference in Adiala jail.

During the conversation, PTI founder Imran Khan once again called for negotiations for the betterment of the country. "It's for the betterment of Pakistan, so convince me for negotiations," he said.

"If I could meet Gen Qamar Bajwa twice following removal of our government, then I can meet anyone. Right now, it is not about me, but is about Pakistan," the former prime minister told reporters.

PTI founder Imran Khan said that he could have de-notified

General Bajwa despite his "betrayal", however, he chose not to as he did not want to confront the Pakistani army.

On the Toshakhana reference, the former prime minister said that he and his wife Bushra Bibi were convicted in the reference by claiming that the value of the jewellery set was Rs3 billion while the real value was Rs18 million.

In this regard, he said that he would file a case against the chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the prosecution witness Inam Shah.

Khan said that the former spy chief General Faiz Hameed (Retd) and General Bajwa informed him about corruption within the Sharif family and their acquisition of cars from Toshakhana.

However, the PTI founder said that their cases have not been pursued.

"Bushra Bibi has been convicted to break me," he claimed.

The former prime minister expressed hope that the judiciary would uphold justice, as he lauded the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) six judges' letter alleging interference of intelligence agencies.

On the issues related to PTI, Khan claimed that some of his

party leaders were in contact with the "establishment" and were attempting to dismantle the party.

He said that the same people were leveling allegations against former First Lady Bushra Bibi.

On his wife's health and allegations of poisoning, Imran Khan said that it will be premature to ascertain anything until Bushra Bibi undergoes an endoscopy.

Days earlier, Bushra Bibi alleged that in a poisoning bid floor cleaner was mixed in her food.

In an informal talk with media outside the accountability court after attending hearing of 190 million pounds graft case, former prime minister Imran Khan's wife alleged that on Shah-e-Mairaj, floor cleaner was added in her food.

"I am experiencing swelling in the eyes, discomfort in the chest and stomach, as well as a bitter taste in food and water," she said.

A day earlier, a medical report of the former first lady found no evidence of any poisonous substance being given to her at the Bani Gala sub-jail.

The medical report was released by the Pakistan Institute of Medical Science (Pims) after four senior doctors performed a medical examination of the Bushra Bibi.

Two terrorists killed in N Waziristan operation

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation conducted by the security forces on Saturday in North Waziristan District.

During conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which two terrorists were

killed whereas weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from them, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

"Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism," the ISPR said.

Two terrorists killed in Panjgur IBO

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The security forces have killed two terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted in Panjgur District of Balochistan. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Saturday, on the night of April 5-6, the security forces had conducted the IBO on reported presence of terrorists.

Among the killed two terrorists, one was identified as Asad alias

Hasrat who were killed after an intense exchange of fire during the conduct of operation, whereas a cache of arms, ammunition and explosives was also recovered. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as innocent civilians in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," the ISPR said.

By-elections: ECP empowers ROs, POs with first-class magistrate authority

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has granted Returning Officers (ROs) and Presiding Officers (POs) powers equivalent to those of first-class magistrates to ensure the seamless execution of the forthcoming by-elections on five National and 16 provincial assembly constituencies scheduled for April 21.

District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) were vested with magisterial powers as per the notification issued by the ECP, in adherence to Section 193 of the Election Act 2017.

The Presiding officers have the authority to employ these powers during the by-elections across five national and 16 provincial assemblies in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, spanning from April 20 to 22, until the official declaration of final results for the candidates.

Returning Officers (ROs) and District Returning Officers (DROs) are empowered to take action against candidates who violate the code of conduct set forth by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

These officers have the authority equivalent to that of a Magistrate first class concerning offenses outlined in Sections 169 and 171. They can also initiate legal proceedings under Section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and conduct summary trials as per Chapter XX of the code. It is important to note that by-elections will be conducted on April 21 for 21 constituencies of National and Provincial Assemblies.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will hold by elections on vacant national and provincial assembly seats, on April 21.

The election commission has announced its schedule of by elections on vacant assemblies' seats across the country.

China provides equipment to Gwadar port for meteorological disasters management



News Desk

BELJING: China has provided equipment of early warning system to Gwadar port to help mitigate detrimental impacts of natural disasters like catastrophic flood, torrential rain as well as meteorological hazards.

The equipment doled out by China Meteorological Administration (CMA) to Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), includes the establishment of one mobile vertical observation system, one Beidou Navigation sounding station and three automatic weather stations (AWS) including two backup AWS and large screen. After equipment's installation and functioning at Gwadar Port, next beneficiary areas are Jiwani and Turbat in Balochistan, as per Chinese media. The collaboration between CMA and PMD is a part of boosting China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) capacity for emergency management of major meteorological disasters under the Belt and Road Initiative.

China Meteorological Administration is also assisting PMD for enhancing its institutional capabilities

to meet the emerging hydro-meteorological challenges.

For site-selection, transportation, installation, commissioning, daily operation and maintenance, PMD has constituted a three-member team which will coordinate with the counterpart CMA. Last year, on March 24, meteorological officers and experts from China and Pakistan held talks on deepening cooperation in meteorological science and technology in Beijing.

During its visit to the Chinese capital, the Pakistani delegation also visited relevant agencies under CMA to learn about the progress of the cloud-based early warning support system in Pakistan and discussed customized plans for Pakistan.

The PMD and CMA will strengthen cooperation in monitoring, forecasting, hydrology and communication, and research and training. China and Pakistan are important members of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association II. The bilateral cooperation between the two countries is of vital significance for meteorological development in Asia.

Pakistan denounces...

Continued from Page 1

its heinous and illegal actions," it asserted. India's ruling dispensation habitually resorted to hateful rhetoric to fuel hyper-nationalistic sentiments, unapologetically exploiting such discourse for electoral gains. "Such myopic and irresponsible behaviour not only undermines regional peace but also impedes the prospects of constructive engagement in the long term," it added. The foreign office further said that Pakistan had always demonstrated its commitment to peace in the region. However, its desire for peace should not be misconstrued. "History attests to Pakistan's firm resolve and ability to protect and defend itself," it was reiterated.

PTI to separate its candidates...

Continued from Page 1

the PTI-backed SIC for "having non-curable legal defects and violation of mandatory provision of submission of the party list for reserved seats."

The complete show would be aired on Saturday. "We will join our party after getting back the bat symbol. We won by the support and vote of the PTI and we also want representation of the PTI in Parliament," Gohar said.

It was part of the agreement that the PTI would re-join the party, he said and added: "We will re-join our party after getting the certificate."

He went on to add that SIC Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza would not join the PTI and hinted that the religio-political party would not merge with the party due to the difference in ideology.

Imran and Bushra contracted nikah...

Continued from Page 1

Salman Akram Raja told the court Khawar Maneka had confirmed in the court that he divorced Bushra Bibi on November 14, 2017, and by January 1, 2018, at least 48 days had already passed.

Raja said Bushra and Imran Khan contracted nikah 48 days after the divorce.

He said Imran Khan had never denied the nikah.

The PTI counsel said Imran Khan had already told the trial court that a ceremony was held in February after he had informed his sons about the nikah and that it was a mere wedding blessing ceremony. It was not a nikah ceremony, according to Raja.

Sindh Rangers seeks powers of police amid rising crimes in province

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Rangers director general suggested on Saturday that the institution should be given police powers to ensure law and order in the province amid rising crimes, demanding special authority as given in the past to fight terrorism.

This came during a meeting presided over by Sindh High Court Chief Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi on the disturbed law and order situation in Karachi, Larkana, Sukkur and other areas of the province. The meeting lasted for more than four hours.

In the recent past, the southern province of Pakistan has seen an increase in crime and many people have lost their

lives. Street crimes and the presence of dacoits in the riverine areas, better known as Katcha, have disturbed the situation.

Officials told the Sindh government last month that nearly 16,000 street crimes had so far been recorded in the metropolis since January. Home Minister Zia Larjan and IGP Riffat Mukhtar had said that 7,822 cases of street crime in the city were recorded in January 2024 and 5,876 in February and 2,234 in March (till 12 March).

The Sindh IG gave a detailed briefing on the operation against dacoits in the riverine areas including street crime in Karachi and the law and order situation, prompting the CJ to say that there was unrest in the province.