

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
حضرت عائشہ نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے عرض کیا: یا رسول اللہ! کیا مورتوں سے ان کے نکاح کے سلسلہ میں اجازت لی جائے گی؟ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہاں۔ میں نے عرض کیا لیکن کنواری لڑکی سے اجازت لی جائے گی تو وہ شرم کی وجہ سے چہرہ مادھ لے گی۔ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اس کی خاموشی ہی اجازت ہے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6946)
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Pakistan to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr today

Pakistan would celebrate Eid today as the Shawwal moon was sighted on Tuesday. The Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee chairman announced the decision at a press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday. Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad said testimonies of moon sightings were received from the majority of the country and hence Eid would be celebrated on April 10. He added that the moon was sighted in Karachi, Dir, Faisalabad, Skardu and other areas.



China, Russia set example for major-country relations: Wang Yi

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday stressed that China and Russia have set an example of friendly interaction and win-win cooperation between major countries as well as neighbors. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks at a joint press conference following a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Beijing. (Details on Page 5)

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Planning for new generations

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets a student of Danish School, Jand, Attock in the ceremony at the proposed siter of Danish School, Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM announces Daanish Schools expansion to realise Quaid's Pakistan dream

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that the federal government would establish Daanish Schools in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and remote areas of Balochistan and Sindh to fulfill the aspiration of Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan by delivering quality education to children coming from economically disadvantaged families.

"This is not the fault of the poor children if their parents cannot afford quality education despite working hard or those who are orphans... If the iron gates of the Aitchison College or Grammar School are obstructing their way (to quality education), the door of Daanish Schools are open for them," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony of inspection of site for Daanish School being established in Kuri area of the federal capital.

To be established over 30 acres of land, the school will provide free education and accommodation to the children from the capital city and its suburbs with a vision to provide equal opportunity for quality education.

Calling the alarming figure of 26 million out-of-school children a "criminal negligence", the prime minister said Quaid-e-Azam's dream about Pakistan would remain unfulfilled without making arrangements for their

education.

"There can be no bigger national service or the fulfillment of the responsibility than enrolling these out-of-school children," he said and announced that the federal government would fully bear the expenses of constructing Daanish Schools in AJK, GB, remote areas of Balochistan and Sindh. Prime Minister Shehbaz also announced that the federal government would declare an education emergency in the country and would dole out

all possible resources to educate particularly the children from disadvantaged families.

He told the gathering of federal ministers, bureaucrats, heads of international institutions, educationists and students that the Daanish Schools project was initiated under PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif's vision and that the students were making an impact in debate, sports and other fields internationally.

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Yousaf Raza Gillani elected unopposed as Senate chairman



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and People's Party stalwart Yousaf Raza Gillani was elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Senate.

PML-N's candidate for deputy chairman Senator Syedal Khan Nasir was also returned uncontested in the election.

No candidate of opposition parties had filed nomination papers against Yousaf Raza Gillani and Nasir, who were the ruling alliance's candidates for the Senate presiding offices.

Earlier today, 43 newly elected Senators took oath of office at the Parliament House in Islamabad.

Presiding Officer Senator Ishaq Dar administered the oath.

Yousaf Raza Gilani, Ahad Cheema, Anwaarul Haq, Hamid Khan, Mohsin Naqvi, Anousha Rehman, Ishaq Dar, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Allama Nasir Abbas and other prominent persons took oath of the office.

When the session began

today with Senator Ishaq Dar as the presiding officer, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members launched the protest and demanded adjournment of the house till the election of senators from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking on the floor of the house, PTI leader Senator Ali Zafar demanded the election be deferred as the process would be unconstitutional till the house is complete.

He also blamed the Election Commission of Pakistan for making controversial decisions.

In response to the objections raised by the opposition members, Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar said that nothing is unconstitutional happening here today and that the house is complete for all functional purposes.

He also blamed the PTI for creating obstacles in the election of lawmakers from KP after which polls were postponed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

President Zardari felicitates nation, Muslim Ummah on Eidul Fitr

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari felicitated the Pakistani nation and the Muslim Ummah on the auspicious occasion of Eidul Fitr and urged them to show compassion and generosity and share their happiness with the poor and needy. In a message, he said, "On this auspicious occasion of Eidul Fitr I felicitate and express my sincere wishes to the Pakistani nation and Muslim Ummah."

"I pray to Allah Almighty to bring immense blessings, happiness, peace and security to everyone on this blessed day."

"After all the fasting, prayers and charity in the sacred month of Ramadan, we should be thankful to Allah Almighty for bestowing all the blessings



and happiness on us." "During Ramadan we submitted to will of Allah and followed the principles of compassion and generosity," he said adding, "Eidul Fitr is the day to share our happiness with others and show generosity to the deprived sections of society."

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Eid means sacrificing for our nation

Army chief issues Eid Mubarak wishes to all

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Armed Forces of Pakistan, alongside CJCS and Service Chiefs, extend heartfelt Eid Mubarak wishes to all citizens of Pakistan. "For a soldier, the true essence of Eid lies in the pride of serving on the frontlines, safeguarding our nation, away from loved ones and the festivities of Eid. May the blessings of Allah shower upon our beloved homeland, ushering in peace and prosperity. Ameen." On this auspicious occasion, let us reflect upon the unwavering courage of our national heroes, serving as a beacon of inspiration for both the Armed Forces of Pakistan and the entire nation. We remain eternally grateful to these brave souls and their families for their sacrifices. Let us pay homage to the martyrs of Pakistan, who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland, ensuring its safety and sovereignty.

Two terrorists killed in South Waziristan operation: ISPR

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation by security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan district on Tuesday, the military's media wing said. In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations said that two terrorists were killed after an intense exchange of fire between security forces and militants. The ISPR said that weapons, along with a large quantity of explosives, were also recovered from the site. The terrorists remained "actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area," it added. The statement said that a sanitisation operation was being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR said. Last week, security forces killed 10 terrorists in two operations in KP. Meanwhile, two terrorists were killed in Balochistan's Panjgur district operation.

FBR to block sims of 500,000 non-filers after Eid

Commerce Des

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue has decided to block the sims of 500,000 people who have failed to file tax returns. According to a recently published news report, FBR is planning to issue a general tax order after Eid-ul-Fitr announcing the blockage of sims for people who are liable to pay tax but have not filed returns. The sims will be blocked by the end of April. FBR has already finalised a list of almost 400,000 people after consultations with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. The revenue collector reportedly has much larger plans but is planning to send a message through the initial blocking of sims, indicating that it is serious about enforcing tax compliance. FBR had wanted to block as many as 2 million sims but the proposal was opposed by telecom companies who said that it would be hard to undertake such a massive exercise. The people who likely to be affected by the measure had been served notices after they failed to file tax returns, but they did not budge.

Mushahid Hussain foresees Pakistan entering another crisis

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senior politician Mushahid Hussain said that Pakistan was going in the direction of crisis as the country was facing domestic instability along with unsustainable foreign policy. "The foreign policy is somewhat in crisis as we have gotten into fights with three of our neighbours in the last five years. China is also not happy with the terrorism in the country and their trust has taken a hit," he said during his appearance on a TV show. Pakistan has gotten into fights with Iran and Afghanistan in recent times, he added. Recalling his earlier statement regarding a "regional reset", Mushahid Hussain said that he called for better relations with the neighbours. According to the senior politician, Pakistan will need to improve its economy along with its matters related to foreign policy. On China-Pakistan relations, he said that as many as 13 Chinese nationals have been killed in six attacks during the last five years. The government failed in keeping its promise to provide foolproof security to Chinese nationals, he added.

CM greets on sighting of Shawwal-ul-Mukarram moon

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has extended warm wishes to the Muslim community on the occasion of sighting of the Shawwal moon, marking the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations. In her message, she expressed hope for peace, faith and safety in the coming month. She also reflected on the significance of Ramadan, hoping that the prayers and supplications offered during the holy month would be accepted. As the festive moon heralds the arrival of Eid-ul-Fitr, the chief minister conveyed her desires for joy and prosperity to permeate every home. May Allah Almighty also bless the oppressed Muslims of Gaza and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) with peace and safety. May Allah grant them the Eid of freedom, she prayed.

PM greets countrymen, Ummah on Eidul Fitr

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended his heartfelt greetings to his countrymen and the entire Muslim Ummah on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and asked everyone to help the least fortunate among them. In a message, he said, "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I extend my heartfelt greetings to my countrymen and the entire Muslim Ummah. This day marks the end of Ramadan, a month of immense blessings, spiritual growth, forgiveness, patience, tolerance and resilience." "The underlying message of Eid is that of solidarity,



compassion, generosity and harmony and inspires us to build a peaceful and prosperous society. While we enjoy the celebratory delight of this great occasion, we must not forget the least fortunate amongst us. I appeal to you to help those around you who deserve our support so that they could also share the joys of this occasion."

AJK Spokesman says PM Anwar Haq has done right thing for public welfare

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Government Spokesman and Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan has said that the current coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq has taken practical steps for public welfare but did not advertise like previous governments. He raised the long-standing issues of Azad Kashmir with them, increased the salaries of employees, gave subsidy on flour, the credit for taking the negotiations with the traders' committees in a positive direction also goes to the current coalition government. I have always kept public welfare as the first priority, development funds worth billions of rupees will be given to each

constituency for ideal development. Spokesman Azad Kashmir Government and Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan while talking to Senior Journalist Abdul Hakeem Kashmiri in PID Complex Forum said that he does not believe in revenge, accountability is the vision of the present government, we are clear and transparent to promote the best governance. Developed the system.

Accountability Bureau is an independent body, the government will not play a role in the affairs of the institution, it is on the same page with the federal government and institutions, some people want to exploit political matters.

In response to a question, Azad Kashmir Government Spokesman and



Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan said that I have never done nepotism. Critics don't care, our focus is to take steps to provide all possible relief to

the people.

He said that in the past, section officers were recruited on slips. In response to a question, he said that they will spread false propaganda against me. I am an easy target because I am a migrant.

He said that I understand that those who spread unjustified propaganda against me are financed from somewhere, silence is considered weakness. will The opponents have an open offer of the Court of Law, I say to them, if you have evidence, present it, the stories of the front men are long, the slanders of the front men on me are false, I am politically trained and never slander anyone. He said that the government will continue to take all possible measures for public welfare.

Happiness

ISLAMABAD: Vice-President of Pakistan People's Party of Dubai Matloob Shah is arriving with newly Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani during a Iftar dinner, at a local hotel on Tuesday.



Eid must be celebrated with simplicity: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

GHAZIABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister AJK an President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that during the auspicious hours of Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid should be celebrated with simplicity while remembering the oppressed people of Izzah and Kashmir. But in one of his messages, he said that Eid-ul-Fitr is an opportunity to celebrate the completion of Ramadan and worship. Today, the hearts of Muslims around the world are drowning in the grief of the children of Iza. Withered. The oppressed Muslims of Uzza have become a picture of pain and agony

under the open sky today and the destruction that has been going on for six months has made them familiar with the moments of doomsday. But the guarded Muslims are losing their right to worship in this historic mosque. Thousands of Kashmiri young children, women are locked in the jails of India and Kashmir and thousands of people have been martyred by the Indian army. I should remember these oppressed people in our prayers. In the grief of these oppressed people, Eid should be celebrated simply to show the awareness of the people.

President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan discussed in detail the latest situation of Azad Kashmir and Occupied Kashmir, includ-



ing the recent elections in Pakistan.. President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan said that the sacrifices of the people of Occupied Kashmir will not go in vain and India will have to account for its atrocities. Narendra Modi's brutal policies have put South

Asia on the brink of destruction. India has made life difficult for the people of Occupied Kashmir. Occupied Kashmir has become a prison. Stand up in support of human rights and play your part to implement the UN resolutions. The UN resolutions are a proof that the Kashmir issue is controversial. India is playing the role of anti-peace by deviating from these resolutions. He said that the people of Azad Kashmir are with the people of Occupied Kashmir and they will play their full role against any aggression by India. A concrete policy should be prepared for implementation. Kashmir will be free soon and India will have to leave Kashmir in humiliation and recognize the right of Kashmiris.

Speakers call for global intervention over Kashmir to ensure peace

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The speakers at a seminar on Saturday urged the international community to intervene in the Kashmir crisis to ensure Kashmir's right to self-determination for bringing peace and tranquility in the region.

The event titled "From Amritsar Treaty to Abrogation: Kashmir's Journey For Self-Determination and Peace" which witnessed the participation of prominent scholars, youth activists and locals including women, was organised by Jammu Kashmir Peace & Justice Organization (JKPJO).

The seminar, held in two sessions, shed light on the harrowing history and ongoing struggles of the Kashmiri people, highlighting the inhu-



man repercussions of the Treaty of Amritsar, signed on March 16, 1846 between the British East India Company, and Ranjit Singh, head of the Sikh kingdom of Punjab. The speakers highlighted how this infamous agreement, orchestrated by colonial powers and regional actors, perpetuated decades of slavery, exploitation and marginalization under

and social scientists. It not only established Jammu and Kashmir as a unified state but also introduced a peculiar system where the people of Kashmir became subjects under a ruler's authority.

Transitioning into the second session, a notable gathering of civil society members, including luminaries such as Professor Shahid Hussain Mir, Prof. Sajid Hussain, senior journalist Khizar Hayat Abbasi, and Muhammad Yaseen Khan, attended the event. They severely condemned the atrocities endured by Kashmiris, spanning from the oppressive Dogra rule to the recent revocation of Articles 370 and 35A by India.

Professor Shahid Hussain Mir eloquently delineated the centuries-long struggle of Kashmiris, highlighting the systemic

discrimination and oppression faced under various rulers. He poignantly recounted harrowing events such as the killings of silk factory workers in 1924 and the massacre outside Srinagar Central Jail in 1931, shedding light on the deep scars etched into Kashmir's collective psyche.

In his concluding remarks, Chairman of JKPJO, Tanveer ul Islam delved into the aftermath of partition in 1947 and the subsequent human rights abuses perpetrated against Kashmiris. He fervently appealed to the international community, particularly nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait to proactively facilitate dialogue and advocate for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris.

Shabir Shah urges Muslims to observe Eid-ul-Fitr with simplicity

Abdul Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Incarcerated chairman Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Shabir Ahmed Shah, while urging well-off people to come to the rescue of the poor, destitute, needy and the orphans, has upon them to observe Eid-ul-Fitr with austerity and simplicity.

Felicitating the Muslims throughout the world, who are caught between the crosshairs of conflict and unending violence, the DFP Chairman in his message from Tihar jail prayed to the Almighty Allah to ease the sufferings Muslims and help them come out this terrible situation.

He lamented that the Palestine and Kashmiri Muslims have been caught in a whirlpool of violence for decades with innocent people being killed ruthlessly at the hands of occupation forces.

He said that there was a dire need that the Muslim Ummah should adopt a unified stand on these age-old disputes and stand in unity against the fascist regimes that have broken all records of savagery.

Referring to Kashmiris' historic struggle Shah expressed his optimism that the unprecedented sacrifices rendered by the Kashmiri people would never go in vain.

Reiterating Kashmiris' resolve to carry forward the struggle, he said that the ongoing liberation struggle would continue until it reaches its logical conclusion.

Shah, while lauding the sacrifices and struggle of the Kashmiri people, said that the valiant people of Kashmir have scripted a new history of resistance against the Indian imperialism.

He paid great tributes to the Kashmiri martyrs, who have laid down their lives for the noble cause of freedom.

He also hailed Hurriyat activists and leaders for their resolve and steadfastness toward the resistance movement.



Fool proof security to be provided to Chinese Nationals: RPO Dr Abid Khan



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad Dr Muhammad Abid Khan and commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed chaired the meeting at commissioner office. RPO Dr Abid Khan exhorted the CPO Faisalabad, DPOs of Jhang, Chiniot and T. T Singh, SP CTD, SP Special Branch, Director SPU to beef up the security arrangement of foreign nationals. Furthermore, he directed CPO Faisalabad to meet with Chinese nationals working at FIEDMC. Moreover, he directed that all District officers, Special protection unit (SPU), CTD and Special branch conduct a fresh security audit of all Chinese facilities to refurbish the foolproof security arrangement. Further, SOPs regarding security arrangement should be implemented in letter and spirit. RPO Dr Muhammad Abid said that the provision of peaceful environment and impeccable sense of security to Chinese Nationals is prime duty of Police. Moreover, he warned that laxity and slackness in duty will not be tolerated.

PPP AJK in action for the victory of Yousaf Raza as Chairman Senate of Pakistan



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir celebrated the 29th of Ramadan as Day of Mercy for the central vice chairman of the party, former Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, who was elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan.

The leadership paid tribute to the Electoral College for the choice of this prudent leadership yesterday in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir, with the election of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, the officials and workers of the PPP Azad Kashmir as the Central Deputy Information Secretary nominated candidate for Assembly Constituency L. A. Thirteen Lipa Valley Seven Shaukat Javed Mir Central Vice Chairman People's Youth Organization Syed Junaid Kazmi attended Darbar Aliya Sain Sakhi Soheili Sarkar, offered floral wreaths and paid Nawafal for the security of the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, freedom and democracy of Palestine.

Shaukat Javed Mir prayed for the stability, national prosperity of the armed forces of Pakistan and said that the unopposed election of Syed Yusuf Raza Geelani is for the skyscraper of the republic and the nation on the strong foundation of Pakistan's good name and new exemplary traditions. There is a fresh breath of oxygen. Meanwhile Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, former Prime Ministers Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan in their separate congratulatory messages congratulated the newly elected Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani.

Calling the unopposed election as a national breakthrough, he said that they have the ability to get the country out of internal and external threats together with the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and the Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif. Under the leadership of the Constitution, the rule of law, the stability of democracy, the invincible defense, the freedom of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism, lawlessness, extremism, and intolerance will unite the entire nation under the green crescent flag.

Azad Kashmir Cabinet Ministers Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Colonel Waqar Noor Malik Zafar Iqbal, Sardar Javed Ayub Khan, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Ms. Nabila Ayub, Chaudhry Aamir Yasin, Ms. Nabila Ayub, Ahmed Raza Qadri. He said that conciliation policies in Pakistan have become indispensable in the broader national interests of the country. Both political forces will succeed in planning for revolutionary reforms according to the wishes of the people.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:19 am
Zohr 12:09 pm
Asr 4:45 pm
Maghrib 6:34 pm
Isha 8:01 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulates Yusuf Raza Gilani and Syedal Khan

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated Yusuf Raza Gilani on being elected Chairman Senate, and Syedal Khan on being elected Deputy Chairman Senate. She said, "The election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman Senate is a proof of the confidence of people of Pakistan." She added, "I hope Yusuf Raza Gilani and Syedal Khan will tackle the challenges facing nation in an effective manner. They will provide full support for Khushal



Pakistan." Madam Chief Minister said, "It is hoped that under the guidance of Yusuf Raza Gilani and Syedal Khan, the Senate will continue to function as a platform for constructive dialogue and debate in accordance with the democratic principles." She added, "The experience of Yusuf Raza Gilani and Syedal Khan in public service will certainly prove useful for the development of Pakistan."

Preparation of Eid

ISLAMABAD: A man gets a facial at a beauty salon ahead of Eid al-Fitr which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Add Chief Secretary Visit Panja sahab

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Additional Chief Secretary Home Nurul Amin Mengal visit to Attock district, visit to Sri Panja sahab Hasan Abdal and Chinese camp Hattian in Attock district, according to details, Additional Chief Secretary Home Nurul Amin Mengal visited Attock district on this occasion.

DPO Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan and DC Rao Atif Raza were also present with him, Additional Chief Secretary Home in connection with the Baisakhi Mela conducted at Gurdwara Sri Panja sahab Hasan Abdal for Sikh pilgrims coming from home and abroad. Checked security arrangements, DPO briefed Additional Chief Secretary Home regarding security arrangements for foreigners, Additional Chief Secretary Home visited Sri Panja Hasan Abdal and Chinese Camp Hattian on behalf of Attock Police. Expressed satisfaction over the security arrangements.

Dr Ramesh Vankwani clarifies CM KPK 's unjust criticism over Gandhara Corridor Bill

By PPA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent minority MNA Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani has requested Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to join hands for transforming Gandhara as an international role model for the faith tourism with the active collaboration of federal & all provincial stakeholders.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister in response of criticism on newly-introduced bill in the National Assembly for establishing the Gandhara Corridor to connect Pakistan with the Buddhist world, Dr Vankwani clarified that the bill is not at all a part of any conspiracy to snatch or take over the Gand-



hara Civilization remains in KP, emphasizing that "It is in fact to ensure that the provinces receive due facilitation and support from the federal government to promote and market Gandhara for increasing revenue through systematic arrival of international pilgrims via the federal capital Islamabad."

He urged that the bill was an attempt at exploring opportunities for strengthening Pakistan's economy as well as projecting a positive image of the country, as establishing a high-level facilitation center at federal level to promote Gandhara faith

pilgrimage with the collaboration of provinces would not violate the 18th Amendment which ensures provincial autonomy.

Dr Vankwani further stated in his letter that Gandhara should not only be limited to the remains or archeological sites as Gandhara civilisation is actually based on tolerance, harmony and brotherhood among different faiths, communities and segments of human society. According to him, Gandhara civilisation comprises several historical archaeological sites spread across Pakistan and has the potential to attract the followers of Dharmic religions of the subcontinent, including Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism.

600 police, volunteers to ensure fool-proof security on Eid-ul-Fitr

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock Police has issued a security plan regarding Eid-ul-Fitr, 600 police officers, 13 elite sections and 707 volunteers will perform duty on Eid-ul-Fitr, 24-hour police patrolling throughout the district on Eid-ul-Adha. A coordinated system has been set up, according to the details, under the direction of District Police Officer Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, District Police Attock has issued a fool-proof security plan for Eid-ul-Fitr, according to which 350 people will be arrested on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr across the district. Eid prayers will be offered at mosques, 14 open places and 27 Imambarahs, for the security of which 600 police officers and youths, 13 elite sections and 707 volunteers have been deployed. There will be a zero-tolerance policy and strict action will be taken against those who violate the law, DPO Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan said on this occasion that he will supervise all the security arrangements himself and as always. This time also Attock Police will not compromise on security matters, additional police personnel will be on standby at the police headquarters to deal with any unexpected situation, the DPO said in his message to the police officers that Eid. On the joyous occasion of Fitr, during duty, treat the public with good manners and no negligence and slackness in duty will be tolerated.

Transmission Mapco ready to handle emergencies during Eid-ul-Fitr holidays: Rana Ayoub

By Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: In light of the instructions of Chief Executive Officer Mapco Engineer Rana Muhammad Ayub Khan, transformers trolleys have been prepared across the region to deal with emergencies during the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays. In case of transformer burning or damage in any area, the concerned operational staff will install trolleys on emergency basis to ensure restoration of electricity. General Manager Operation Mapco Engineer Nasir Ayaz Garmani said that uninterrupted power supply will continue in Mapco region during Eid-ul-Fitr holidays and all shutdown permits have been canceled while all complaint centers across the region will remain open for the convenience of consumers and the public. And the staff provided round-the-clock services in three shifts will give All regional and field stores of the region will remain open and supply of additional material to the operational staff will continue to deal with emergency situations.

Prof. Prof. Kulsoom Paracha organises seminar on Crafting Your Career



By Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A seminar on Crafting Your Career: The Art of CV Excellence was organized at Multan Women's University. According to the spokeswoman, the seminar was organized under the auspices of Directorate of Career Counseling and Alumni Affairs of Multan Women's University. Dr. Sadaf Mahmood Highlighted the importance of COV writing in career counseling Host and Additional Director of CC&AA Dr. Fatima Zafar Baig Assistant Director Dr. Fariha Sohail Dr. Muhammad Irfan from Department of Management Sciences, Emerson University Multan (Resource Person) Concluding remarks about effective CV preparation Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Dr. Kulsoom Paracha said that Women University Multan is empowering its students with the necessary knowledge and skills for their future career endeavors by providing them with traditional education as well as life skills. The organization of this seminar is a proof that the university owns it He is serious and concerned about the future and career of the students. CV preparation is an important step which reflects the personality of the student. Will later be among the participants and speakers of the seminar Certificates were distributed. On this occasion, Registrar Dr Maimona Khan and others were also present.

USC achieves record sales of Rs 44 billion during Ramadan



By Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Utility Stores Corporation (USC) has recorded its highest-ever sales of Rs 44 billion during the month of Ramadan, marking the first time in its history that it has successfully surpassed the set sales target of Rs 40 billion under the Prime Minister's Relief Package. "USC has achieved historic sales in the Prime Minister's Ramadan Relief Package 2024 and has broken all its previous records," a spokesman for the corporation said in a news release on Tuesday.

According to the details, the government had announced a historic subsidy of Rs 12.5 billion through the USC, for which timely arrangements and professional planning by the management of the Corporation were made, ensuring the smooth availability of all items in abundance. "The management and workers worked day and night to successfully deliver 19 basic items under this Prime Minister's Ramadan Relief Package to registered families of BISP up to PMT-60," the spokesman said. He also noted that the computerization of the Utility Stores Corporation and modern technology made monitoring of USC operations possible, with every transaction now being recorded. "Due to the excellent strategy of Utility Stores Corporation and a well-organized supply chain management system, achieving such a huge sales target was made possible, which is undoubtedly a positive step for the growth of any organization," the spokesman remarked.

Multan CPO meets Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss security: Sadiq Ali Dogar

By Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: City Police Officer (CPO) Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar along with his team visited the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan President Mian Rashid Iqbal and other members discussed peace and security, formation of DRC committee and other issues in honor of the participants. Iftar dinner was also given by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan in this regard last evening CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar SSP Operations Multan Arsalan Zahid SP Investigation Rana Muhammad Ashraf SP City Division Hasan Raza Khakhi, SP Sadr Division Shamsuddin, SP Gulgasht Ayaz Hussain, SP Cantt Tahir Majeed, CT And Multan Jalil Imran Ghalizai along with other police officers of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan President Mian Rashid Iqbal gave a welcome speech and highlighted the history and aims of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Is. Whenever the Multan police contact the Multan Chamber to



improve the law and order situation in the area or for security arrangements, the Chamber provides full support and especially the former CPOs continue to visit the Multan Chamber. are and the plate of Multan Chamber in association with the business community. Various measures have been taken to improve law and order in the region, the best example of which is the establishment of five o service in Multan, installation of security cameras, Citizen

Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) and Police Mobile Service Center.

The police service center vehicle should be sent to Multan Awan twice in a month for driving license and other facilities. Speaking, Sadiq Ali Dogar said that the country's economy The primary role of businessmen and industrialists for development and stability is the primary responsibility of the police to not only maintain an enviable situation of law and order for businessmen and industrialists, but also to promote it by stabilizing it under the rule of law. A completely peaceful environment to do your business should be provided so that they can strengthen the country's economy through business development. Special teams have been formed to eradicate crime from the city, which has given success to the Multan Police. Ready for patrolling in these areas but with mutual coordination Matters will improve. In this regard, SSP Operations has been appointed as Liaison Officer to solve the problems of the members of the Cham-

ber of Commerce and Industry. O Jalil Imran Ghalizai also said with reference to the driving license that Multan Along with Jinnah Park, driving test centers have also been set up in Jalalpur Parwala, Shijaabad, Multan Cantt and Makhdoom Rashid, where the number of people for the work has been increased, by which the applicant is given driving license in one day. Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, Convener Govt Liaison sub-committee and former president Khawaja Muhammad Hussain, general secretary Ivan Muhammad Shafiq, Syed Iftikhar Ali Shah, Khawaja Muhammad Fazel, Khawaja Nadeem Shehzad, Adnan Chaghatai, Naveed Iqbal Chaghatai, Chaudhry Tariq Karim, Ehtshamil Haque, Aurangzeb Alamgir, Khawaja Manzoor Qadir, Salim Nasir, Aqeel Qureshi and others participated while Khawaja Muhammad Hussain to CPO Multan Insignia of the House was also presented and iftar dinner was also given in honor of the participant.

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Baseless Propaganda Against SIFC Related Activities in AJK - III

As AJK positions itself as a prominent tourist destination, green tourism companies play a vital role in shaping the region's tourism industry. Prioritizing environmental sustainability, community engagement, and cultural preservation, these initiatives pave the way for a more sustainable and responsible tourism sector in AJK. As travelers seek authentic and meaningful experiences, green tourism projects offer a glimpse into a future where tourism and conservation mutually benefit both people and the planet.

Recently, baseless propaganda has been spread against the Green Tourism Company in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which does not align with reality. The Green Tourism Company is dedicated to promoting tourism through eco-friendly projects and modern development approaches. It is engaged in tasks that will significantly contribute to economic development at both national and regional levels. It's important to note that Azad Kashmir possesses rich tourism potential, and the local population deserves equal opportunities for development like the rest of the country. By promoting tourism in Azad Kashmir and providing locals with quality employment opportunities, it ensures a better future for the people. The proactive and well-informed residents of Azad Jammu and Kashmir appreciate the initiatives of the Green Tourism Company. However, certain external forces and elements hostile to the development of Azad Kashmir are disseminating misleading information for personal and political gains. The eco-friendly projects undertaken by the Green Tourism Company are poised to play a pivot-

al role in the advancement and growth of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, ensuring a secure and sustainable future.

In another significant development, a delegation from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) recently visited Azad Jammu and Kashmir as part of the Green Energy Drive. They signed agreements to finance two Hydro Power Projects in the region, totaling \$101 million. The funding will support the Shouther and Jagran 4 Hydro Projects. The Shouther project, with an estimated cost of \$66 million, aims to generate 48 megawatts of electricity. Meanwhile, the Jagran 4 project, costing \$41 million, will produce 22 MW of electricity. Together, these projects will add 70 megawatts to the national grid, bolstering Pakistan's green energy endeavors. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investment Facilitation Committee (SIFC) played a crucial role in facilitating these agreements.

Regrettably, a few individuals are spreading unfounded propaganda against these beneficial activities aimed at the improvement and development of AJK. They claim that these initiatives are intended to sell off AJK's resources and land to outsiders, which is entirely baseless and erroneous. In today's interconnected world, misinformation and baseless propaganda pose significant challenges to progress and development. This is particularly evident in the public discourse surrounding development programs in various countries. Whether driven by political motives, vested inter-

ests, or misinformation, disseminating falsehoods about development initiatives can have far-reaching consequences that impede social, economic, and environmental advancement.

At the core of this baseless propaganda against development programs lies the erosion of public trust and confidence. When misinformation spreads unchecked, it undermines the credibility of government institutions, development agencies, and other stakeholders involved in implementing these programs. This

loss of trust not only weakens public support for ongoing initiatives but also hampers future efforts to address pressing societal challenges. Moreover, baseless propaganda can exacerbate social divisions and foster distrust among different segments of society. By disseminating false narratives that sow discord or create unfounded fears, propagandists undermine social cohesion, threatening the stability and unity of the nation.

Economically, baseless propaganda can deter investment and impede economic growth. Investors may perceive a country as unstable or unreliable due to misinformation about its development programs, leading them to withhold investment or redirect resources elsewhere. This lack of investment stifles job creation and economic opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. Additionally, baseless propaganda can have adverse effects on the environment and public health. False information about environmental regulations

or public health initiatives may discourage individuals from taking necessary precautions or participating in conservation efforts, resulting in environmental degradation and increased vulnerability to natural disasters and disease outbreaks.

Beyond its immediate consequences, baseless propaganda against development programs can have long-term implications for democracy and governance. When misinformation is used to manipulate public opinion or undermine democratic institutions, it erodes the foundations of democracy and undermines principles of transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. Such circumstances can erode democratic principles, potentially leading to political instability. Combating baseless propaganda against development programs necessitates a comprehensive approach that encompasses education, media literacy, and proactive communication strategies. Government, development organizations, and civil society entities must collaborate to counter misinformation, promote evidence-based discussions, and cultivate trust in development endeavors. By fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and fact-based decision-making, we can mitigate the adverse effects of baseless propaganda and pave the path toward inclusive and sustainable development.

Readers, it is crucial to emphasize that the people of Pakistan and AJK wholeheartedly believe that the development initiatives initiated under SIFC are entirely aimed at benefiting Pakistan, AJK, and their citizens. The populace unequivocally rejects the unfounded and false propaganda propagated by those who oppose the vision of a developed and prosperous Pakistan.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Chief Minister's Punjab Revamping Plan

A meeting chaired by Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique has reviewed in length "Chief Minister's Lahore Revamping Plan" in a meeting held at the Commissioner's Office, here today. Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider and other concerned officers attended the meeting. It was decided during the meeting that committees consisting of elected representatives will be formed to monitor the revamping process.

Local Government Minister directed all civic services agencies including Lahore Metropolitan Corporation, WASA, LDA and Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) to avoid duplication of development schemes and submit the details of prepared projects for further deliberations and approval. He said that after the completion of the revamping plan, not a single street or sewage artery will remain unpaved in Lahore. He said that the executing agencies should ensure GIS mapping of revamping schemes. The Minister, while directing the arrangements for temporary drainage of sewage water on Bund road, vowed to implement a strict system of monitoring mechanism in the revamping plan.

He said that it is difficult to achieve the goals of providing civic facilities without the participation of citizens. "Special attention should be given to community mobilization in "Lahore Revamping Plan" by the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. "We will strictly ensure the implementation of the deadline decided on the order of the Chief Minister", he resolved. Zeeshan Rafique said that the system of immediate redressal of citizens' complaints will also be made effective. During the meeting, the Local Government Minister directed the officers of Lahore Waste Management Company to stay in the field and emphasized that even during the Eid holidays, the work of waste collection should be completed by going door to door.

On this occasion, Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that during the revamping plan, the experiences of "Suthra Punjab" and "Ab Gaon Chamkeinge" programs will be taken into consideration. He directed the RUDA to find a permanent solution to the sewage problems in Aziz Bhatti Town. Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider told the meeting that she is reviewing the schemes of Wasa, LDA and Baldia Uzmi on a daily basis.



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

Prices of fruits, vegetables go beyond affordability level

Fakhar-e-Alam

As the sun rays bath the mud house of poor fruit seller, Ayaz Khan starts his journey from his village to the fruits and vegetable market hoping to purchase apples, guavas, bananas, and citrus at reasonable rates to support his six members of the family on the financial front.

Donned in traditional attire—woolen chadar, Chitrali cap, and wearing Peshawari Chappal, Ayaz Khan (32), who is assisted by his elders brothers, wakes up early in the morning and starts his Chingchi rickshaw soon after having breakfast and rushed to the fruit market Pabbi Nowshera, expecting to get fresh fruits through open auction on reasonable prices by anticipating sale.

The alarming surge in vegetable and fruit prices in Peshawar and Nowshera districts raised significant concerns among the citizens, prompting them to call upon the district government to ensure the availability of essential food items at reasonable rates and take strong action against price hikers and hoarders.

A visit to vegetables and fruit markets at Chamkani Peshawar by this scribe revealed that one kilogram apple was being sold at Rs300, banana at Rs150 per dozen, guava Rs150 strawberry at Rs 600 per kilogram, citrus at Rs 350 per dozen and citrus fruit Rs 300 which was almost beyond of purchasing power of the under privileged.

Similarly, prices of small onion has swelled to Rs 350 per kilogram, tomato at Rs150 per kilogram, potato at Rs120 per kilogram, taro-root (kachalu) at Rs200, cauliflower at Rs200 per piece, carrot Rs200 at per kilogram, capsicum at Rs280, coriander leaves at Rs40 per 250 gram, cucumber at Rs80 kilogram, ginger at

Rs1000 kg, garlic at Rs240 per kilogram, lemon at Rs150per kg and pumpkin at Rs150 per kilogram. Similarly, one kilogram chicken is being sold at Rs700, boneless chicken at Rs1200, Rs 800 per kg large animal's meat and Rs1800 small animal meat per kilogram respectively in the local market.

"I came to purchase fruits for engagement party of my granddaughter but the prices are sky high this morning and will come again at night hoping for its reduction at Pabbi fruit market," said Misal Khan, a retired Information Officer while talking to media.

Complaining about soaring prices of fruits and vegetables after election 2024, Khan said that district administration has failed to regularly check prices of daily use items including fruits and vegetables and people were left at the mercy of price hikers and hoarders in Nowshera and Peshawar.

Professor Dr. Zilakat Malik, former Chairman, Political Economics Department, University of Peshawar said that Pakistan has ranked 99th out of 121 countries facing challenges of food insecurity, malnutrition, stunting and hunger due to population bulge, low agriculture productivity and climate change.

He said the massive flash floods 2022 had destroyed over 1.7 million hectares of an agrarian land and major agricultural products such as rice, tomatoes, onions, wheat, and other vegetables in all provinces of Pakistan and have cost 800,000 heads of livestock, thus exposing an additional 2.5 million people to hunger, malnutrition, stunting and poverty especially in Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

He said the prices of fruits and vegetables increased after the agriculture sector had suffered at USD \$3.7 billion due to 2022 flooding, adding approximately 14.6 million people need adequate food security and agricultural assistance in flood-hit areas of the country.

Ms Javeera, spokeswoman BISP KP told the news agency that Benazir Nashonuma is a Conditional Cash Transfer program linked with health and nutrition for addressing stunting in children besides promoting dietary diversity.

Considering the high percentage of stunting, the government has also rapidly expanded the program to all districts of the country with establishment of 488 facilitation centers at tehsil and district-level health facilities, she said.

The budgetary allocation for this initiative was increased from Rs. 4.9 billion to Rs. 20 billion (410 percent increase) for FY 2022-23 that had been further increased to Rs. 32.3 billion (61 percent increase) for FY 2023-24.

Zafarul Mani, KP Secretary Food said that an inclusive mechanism was put in place for monitoring and control of fruits and vegetables in the province. He said that an online food price and control system has been developed through which citizens check the daily prices of essential items and lodge complaints against overcharging vendors or hoarders on which prompt action is being taken.

He said PMRU was empowered to generate weekly reports regarding the set key performance indicators (KPIs) of price magistrates which had also been tasked with ensuring the real-time performance tracking of price magistrates through the KP Inspection Mobile App.

Mani said the district price control committees have been notified with the powers to conduct price review meetings besides notifying fresh price lists of fruits and vegetables for every district, including the newly merged areas.

The market committee has been empowered to monitor the daily auction of fruits and vegetables markets along with providing price lists of the daily auction which will be updated through the "price module" mobile application besides ensuring that price lists of all perishable items on a daily basis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he added.

Use of modern technology vital for agricultural renaissance

Spokesman Report

Agriculture stands tall as the cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, with millions of families directly or indirectly relying on this vital sector for their livelihoods. However, a significant portion of farmers are still facing limited access to modern agricultural tools, which are indispensable for achieving bumper crop yields. From soil analysis to post-harvesting techniques, the tools play a pivotal role in every phase of agricultural production.

Dr. Khan advocated for the adoption of modern plowing tools, citing innovations like the windrow turner developed by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan (MNSUAM), which facilitates composting on a large scale, converting farm waste into valuable resources. Investment in the compost market, Dr. Khan suggested, could be lucrative, with the global market potentially reaching five to seven billion dollars. He also stressed the importance of soil moisture retention and advocated for the use of rippers to break hardpan soil layers as it enabled better water absorption. The agriculture scientist also reported a global decline in phosphorus reservoirs and also attributed it to the increasing prices of DAP fertilizers. He proposed utilizing animal manure as a phosphorus source through modern agricultural machinery. However, acknowledging the significance of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems,

To a query, he stated that the world was moving towards nano-technology, nano-fertilizers and some other modern practices to achieve goals of food security. Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ateel stated "Although agriculture tools are very important

but we cannot term all tools as essential for bumper produce. He added that sometimes heavy machinery conveyed loss. "We need to promote such modern tools which work with precision and offer more profit", Saqib maintained. Efficient machines at all stages of crop growth, right from soil preparation to post harvest management, must be utilized amicably. In traditional farming practices, farmers waste 70 percent of pesticides, and fertilizers, however, they could avoid by utilizing modern spray tools. Now, drones are the latest tools for spray. These contain sensors and manage spray at affected areas only, said Saqib. Similarly, there emerged some more latest but efficient tools which harvest only the ripe fruits, etc. Apart from this, there were some machines also available for accurate and precise use of fertilizers. When fertilizers used traditionally, about 70 percent could not yield the required results. However, the latest machines are the solution to our different agricultural problems. Saqib Ateel also suggested prioritizing investment in these transformative technologies for sustainable agriculture.

Shahid Hameed Bhutta, the known mango grower, also shared his experiences and stated that machinery was essential for smart agriculture practices and gaining more production. Similarly, there is a dearth of labor in the agriculture field.

The role of machinery cannot be denied, he said, adding that a huge portion of peasants lacked access to machinery due to limited sources. He stated that the government should come forward and provide machinery to small farmers through reverse engineering. Agriculture department officials Abdul Samad and Rashed Sidhu, while commenting on farm mechanization, stated that the Punjab government was offering subsidies on 56 agricultural tools of different nature to facilitate the farming community.

Pakistan pushes UN Security Council to ensure implementation of its Gaza ceasefire resolution

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has urged the UN Security Council to take appropriate steps to ensure implementation "in letter and spirit" of its resolution (2728) that called for a ceasefire in besieged Gaza. Speaking in the General Assembly, Ambassador Munir Akram said that as agreed at the Arab-OIC Summit in Riyadh, the 15-member Council should impose an immediate ban on the export of weapons and ammunition to Israel and hold it responsible for their crimes against the Palestinian people in the enclave.

The 193-member Assembly met to debate 'the use of veto on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question.'

At the same time, Ambassador Akram reiterated Pakistan's unflinching support for the admission of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations, saying, "This step will make a Palestinian State a political reality and inevitability."

The UN General Assembly meeting was called following the veto of a draft resolution, documented as 2024/239, submitted by the United States, prompting a discussion on the situation in the Middle East, particularly concerning the Palestinian question. Acknowledging the subsequent adoption of Security Council resolution 2728 (2024) calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the Pakistani envoy expressed disappointment in Israel's non-compliance with the resolution, emphasizing the binding nature of Security Council resolutions under Article 25 of the UN Charter. Noting that the vetoed resolution contained several positive elements, he said there were significant deficiencies in it, particularly the absence of a demand for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, which had the overwhelming support of the entire UN membership, as expressed through the adoption of the two General Assembly resolutions.

The Pakistani envoy also criticized the vetoed resolution for its failure to address Israel's military actions adequately, including the killing of innocent Palestinians and the absence of reference to the ICJ's preliminary findings and recommendations. He also noted the resolution's lack of attention to the threatened Israeli ground offensive in Rafah.

Referring to Israel's military campaign against Gaza, Ambassador Akram emphasized the urgency of a ceasefire, condemning Israel's actions that resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives, targeting of essential infrastructure, and obstruction of humanitarian aid. He underscored the necessity for any decision by the Security Council to prioritize an immediate cessation of hostilities and the lifting of barriers to humanitarian assistance.

Reiterating Pakistan's support for the two-state solution, Ambassador Akram said that the establishment of an inde-



pendent State of Palestine, with Al-Quds as its capital, was the only viable path to lasting peace

in the Middle East. He called for the revival of the peace process, inclusive of key Arab and OIC

countries, saying, "The brutality and bloodshed in Gaza has persisted for too long. They must

end now, and their recurrence must be prevented through a durable two-state solution."

China, Russia set example for major-country relations: Wang Yi

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday stressed that China and Russia have set an example of friendly interaction and win-win cooperation between major countries as well as neighbors. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks at a joint press conference following a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Beijing.

The bilateral ties should always be

based on non-alliance, non-confrontation and non-targeting of any third party, he said. Wang said both sides advocate for all countries to pursue dialogue instead of confrontation, partnerships instead of alliances, oppose any hegemony or cold war mentality, and promote the building of a global community of shared future. The two countries should always pursue win-win cooperation, he said, adding that both sides will continue to advance a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization; oppose unilateralism, protectionism or de-coupling;

and will safeguard the stability of global industrial and supply chains. Both sides should promote an equal and orderly multipolar world, Wang said. Noting that the voices of the Global South are rising, he said both sides believe all countries, regardless of size, should be treated as equals, while rejecting hegemonism and power politics, promoting democracy in international relations. China and Russia support the United Nations' central role in global governance system, and stand ready to strengthen international coordination, he added.



World-renowned photographer visits Northern areas Pakistan

PPA

AMSTERDAM: Mr. Jimmy Nelson a world-renowned visual storyteller based in Amsterdam had visited the Northern areas of Pakistan including the Kailash valley in Chitral and Baltoro glacier - one of the largest glaciers outside the Polar regions and near the world's second highest mountain K2. The Embassy of Pakistan, the Netherlands had facilitated Mr. Nelson's visit to Pakistan with help of Pakistani authorities including Interservices Public Relations (ISPR). Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar met Mr. Nelson at his studio in Amsterdam where he shared his stories and documentation from his visit and expressed the interest to visit other parts of Pakistan.

Mr. Nelson narrates his journeys through indigenous cultures and lives through the lens of his



camera. He has compiled three books of photography and stories including 'Before They Pass Away' and 'Homage To Humanity'. His work is also displayed as photo and immersive exhibitions in different parts of

the world. Mr. Jimmy Nelson calls Pakistan among the most beautiful destinations in the world. Pakistan was one of his first destinations as a young adventurer and photographer and he also

visited the country recently. Ambassador Tarar said that the Embassy with the help of Pakistani authorities would continue to promote tourism in Pakistan and looked forward to Mr. Nelson's next visit.

CPJ calls on Taliban to drop plans to restrict Facebook access in Afghanistan

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has called on the Taliban not to move ahead with their plans to restrict or block access to Facebook in Afghanistan, saying that would further impede the free flow of information in the country. On April 6, Najibullah Haqqani, the Taliban's acting Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology, announced that they have finalized a plan to restrict or completely block access to Facebook in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban's plan to restrict or block access to Facebook would be a further blow to freedom of information in Afghanistan," Beh Lih Yi, CPJ's Asia programme coordi-



nator, said in a statement. "Social media platforms, including Facebook, have helped to fill a void left by the decline of the Afghan media industry since the Taliban's August 2021 takeover and the ensuing crackdown on press freedom," she said.

"The proposed ban highlights the worsening censorship by the Taliban." Facebook is one of the most popular social media platforms widely used by media outlets to disseminate news and information in Afghanistan, including TOLONews, which has

over 4.5 million followers on Facebook, CPJ pointed out. When contacted, Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid told CPJ via messaging app that "Facebook will not be banned but restrictions will be imposed on it," according to the press release.

UNGA chief urges UN Security Council to 'end the bloodshed' in Gaza

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly President, Dennis Francis, appealed on Monday for "all those with leverage" to use their power to bring an end to the six-month-long war in Gaza. Francis convened the 193-member Assembly, UN's most representative body, following the Security Council's failure to adopt a resolution put forward by the United States last month.

The debate was triggered by a 2022 Assembly resolution that calls for a meeting to be held within 10 working days whenever a veto is cast in the Council. "Once again, we convene under this initiative as the conflict in Gaza rages into its sixth bloody month, as death and destruction rule the day, and as divisions among Member States, especially in the Council, persist," Francis said.

During the Security Council meeting on 22 March, China and Russia vetoed a UN draft resolution that stated the "imperative" for "an immediate and sustained ceasefire to protect civilians on all sides", facilitating "essential" aid delivery and supporting ongoing

talks between Israel and Hamas towards an end to the hostilities, tied to the release of hostages. Russia, China and the US are permanent members of the 15-member Council, together with France and the United Kingdom, and they all have the right to veto any decision. Non-permanent member Algeria also voted against the resolution.

Three days later, the Council adopted a different resolution - which many had vowed to support - calling for a ceasefire for the remainder of Ramadan as well as the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. Resolution 2728 was drafted by its 10 non-permanent members. Francis outlined the terrible toll in Gaza, which includes more than 32,500 Palestinians killed, 1.7 million displaced, and over 1.1 million facing a catastrophic level of food insecurity.

While welcoming resolution 2728, he lamented that "it comes after 25 months of division, bloodshed and unconscionable loss." Noting that Ramadan ends on Tuesday, he implored Security Council members to meaningfully use their power in support of an immediate and lasting

ceasefire. "I urge all those with leverage to do all in their power to end the bloodshed in Gaza now," he said. "Let us see the end of the waiting, including for the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in line with the two-state solution, as the only credible formula for lasting resolution."

Russian Deputy Permanent Representative Dmitry Polyanskiy said his country and China vetoed the US draft resolution which "not only was not geared towards ending hostilities in Gaza, but which essentially gave Israel carte blanche to continue its inhumane operations which run counter to international humanitarian law". He pointed to the "historic responsibility" that permanent members have regarding the maintenance of international peace and security, saying "It is specifically for this that the veto mechanism exists in order to prevent the pushing through of nefarious and dangerous initiatives at the Security Council."

He said Russia's decision to veto "was the only correct way" as it allowed for the other resolution to be adopted, "the heart of which was a direct demand for an immediate establishment of a ceasefire for the period of



Ramadan, which is to result and lead to a lasting ceasefire." China's Ambassador Dai Bing said that Beijing's decision to veto was based on the need to uphold international justice, the purposes and dignity of the UN Charter, and the responsibility and authority of the Security Council. The grave concerns and strong dissatisfaction of Arab States with the draft resolution were also taken into account.

He noted that since the start of the war in October, the international community has been overwhelmingly calling for a ceasefire and an end to the fighting, demanding the Security Council take concrete action. "However, the United States, as a country with significant influence over the parties concerned, has repeatedly obstructed the Council's voice on the ceasefire and has vetoed four times against the

Council's efforts to promote an immediate ceasefire," he said. Furthermore, the US draft deviated from the consensus of Council members and ran counter to the expectations of the international community.

"If adopted, it will mean that the killings in Gaza will continue. It will mean that the vicious act of violating international law and international humanitarian law will continue," he said. "China has no hesitation in exercising its veto against a draft resolution that will have such serious consequences."

Palestine Ambassador Riyadh Mansour noted that the General Assembly called for a cessation of hostilities 20 days after the start of the conflict. A month later, the Assembly demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, stressing the need to protect civilians and stem what was already a dire humanitarian catastrophe. Meanwhile, the Security Council took nearly six months to do the same. "Now these resolutions need to be fully respected and fully implemented so the genocide in Gaza can stop; so families on both sides can reunite in life, not death," he said.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
70,314.71	69,619.98
Day's High	Day's Low
70,677.29	69,857.14
Index Value	Change
11,887,576,551	+694.73
Percentage	Time
+1%	9 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,934.79	-8.68
Percentage	Time
-0.11%	9 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,755.40	-137.40
Percentage	Time
-0.35%	9 Apr, 1:07 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
39,773.13	+426.09
Percentage	Time
+1.08%	9 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.7	184.5
Bahrain Dinar	739.38	747.38
Canadian Dollar	204	206.2
China Yuan	38.45	38.85
Danish Krone	40.45	40.85
Euro	299.95	302.9
Hong Kong Dollar	35.57	35.92
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.91	912.91
Malaysian Ringgit	58.92	59.52
New Zealand \$	167.63	169.63
Norwegians Krone	25.38	25.68
Omani Riyal	722.1	730.1
Qatari Riyal	76.35	77.05
Saudi Riyal	73.3	74.05
Singapore Dollar	206	208
Swedish Korona	25.72	26.02
Swiss Franc	307.11	309.61
Thai Bhat	7.61	7.76
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.2
UK Pound Sterling	349.5	353
US Dollar	277.5	280.5

Tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan

COAS Gen Asim Munir trying to take Pakistan towards improvement in the economic field: Atif Ikram

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh has paid tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan and other security forces on the occasion of Eid and said that under the leadership of

Commander Syed Asim Munir, the Armed Forces of Pakistan have strengthened the defense of the country. While performing the great duty of security, guard the borders of the country, on which the whole nation salutes all of you.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Commander Asim Munir is also working to improve

the economic situation of the country and a forum like SIFC has been formed which is working tirelessly to bring investment in the country.

President Atif Ikram said that the entire business community is standing side by side with its armed forces and other security forces and wherever in need, we will step

by step. While extending greetings on the occasion of Eid, we reiterate that there is no place to hide in our country for destroying peace, terrorists and facilitators.

The people of Pakistan who loved most with country, as always, will foil the nefarious design of the forces creating chaos in the country.



Back to hometowns

LAHORE: Overcrowded buses make its way along a road, in the Provincial Capital, as people head towards their hometowns for the Eid-ul-Fitr festivities, which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

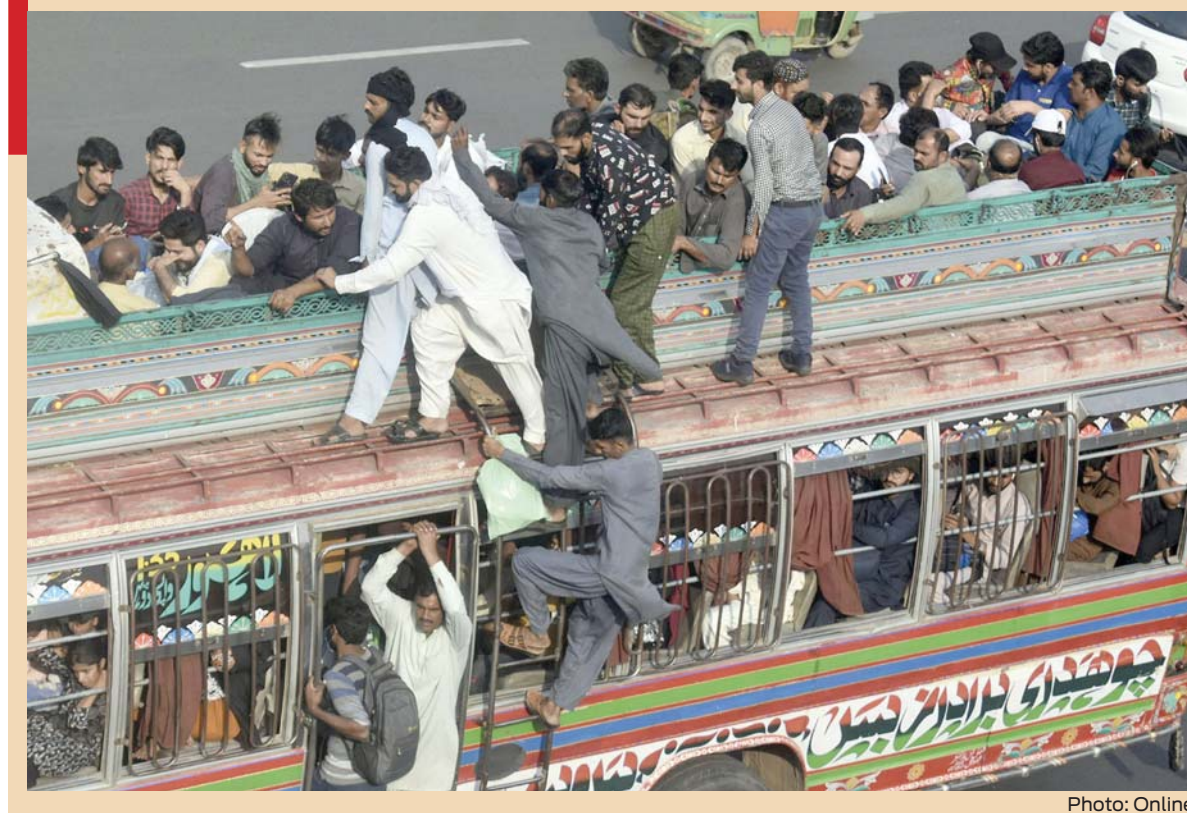


Photo: Online

ICCI President hails Saudi Arabia's decision to invest \$5 billion in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has highly appreciated Saudi Arabia's decision to fast track the initial tranche of \$5 billion investment in Pakistan.

It is important to mention here that the decision has been taken in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman in Makkah the other day. Last year Saudi Arabia had promised to invest \$25 billion within next 5 years under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) seeking investment in energy IT, minerals, defence and agriculture sectors from the Arab countries.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in a statement said that along with sitting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the last visits of COAS General Asim Munir, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz played a significant role in materializing the deal.

He said that Saudi Arabia has always played a supportive role for strengthening Pakistan's economy and people's welfare

in general. Adding that it is crucial for both Pakistani and Saudi businessmen to determine areas of complementarity and comparative advantage between the two countries. The chambers of commerce



and investment ties with Saudi Arabia in textile, pharmaceutical, rice, leather, seafood, dairy farming and other sector which need to be explored for enhancement of Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia.

He concluded the statement by saying that Saudi Arabia has always stood shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan in difficult times and that this time also the Saudi investment will go a long way in pulling the cash stashed Pakistan to come out of the prevailing economic mess.

and Industry is determined to stimulate the business and commercial activities in Pakistan with the coordination of international partners to make the country a paradise for foreign investors.

He said that there are huge trade opportunities between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The current economic and political environment has made Saudi Arabia an important partner for economic development and lucrative market for exports of Pakistan. There are huge potentials available for Pakistan to enhance its trade

and investment ties with Saudi Arabia in textile, pharmaceutical, rice, leather, seafood, dairy farming and other sector which need to be explored for enhancement of Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia.

He concluded the statement by saying that Saudi Arabia has always stood shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan in difficult times and that this time also the Saudi investment will go a long way in pulling the cash stashed Pakistan to come out of the prevailing economic mess.

IFC approves financing for PTCL Group's acquisition of Telenor Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided a go-ahead for financing to PTCL Group for the purchase of Telenor Pakistan. The decision follows PTCL Group's signing of a share purchase agreement with Telenor Pakistan for the acquisition of a 100 percent stake in the company on a cash-free, debt-free basis.

PTCL has been engaged with IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, for financing to materialize the deal. The approval of financing by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) not only signifies renewed trust in Pakistan's economy but also underscores the immense poten-

tial of the country's telecom sector. Moreover, it reflects the confidence of the international body in the PTCL Group's capabilities as a leading facilitator in realizing the 'Digital Pakistan Vision'.

PTCL Group had signed the share purchase agreement with Telenor Pakistan for the acquisition of a 100 percent stake in the company in December last year. The agreement is one of the most noteworthy events in the country's telecom sector. The deal is not only poised to strengthen the market standing of PTCL Group but also transform the country's telecom and digital sector by accelerating growth and innovation.

The acquisition of Telenor Pakistan by PTCL Group is subject to necessary regulatory approvals.

Tobacco exports increase 32.09% to \$60.581 mn in 8 months

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The exports of tobacco witnessed an increase of 32.09 per cent during the first eight months of the financial year 2023-24, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year. The tobacco exports from the country were recorded at US \$60.581 million during July-February (2023-24) against the exports of US \$45.863 million during July-February (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the exports of tobacco also surged by 3.80 per cent going up from 16,742 metric tons to 17,378 metric tons, according to the data. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the export of tobacco however decreased by 50.62 per cent during the month of February 2024 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of tobacco from the country during February 2024



were recorded at US \$4.132 million against the exports of US \$8.368 million in February 2023. On a month-on-month basis, exports of tobacco also dipped by 64.17 per cent during February 2024 when compared to the exports of US \$11.531 million in January 2024, the PBS data revealed. It is worth mentioning here that the exports from the country witnessed an increase of 8.93 percent during the first 9 months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) compared to the corresponding period of last year, PBS reported. The exports from the country increased up to \$22.914 billion during July-March (2023-24) as against the exports of \$21.036 billion in July-March (2022-23), showing a growth of 8.93 percent.

Remote areas now integrated into FTO network: Meher



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman's (FTOs) Coordinator Meher Kashif Younis has said that in a significant achievement, the FTO has now integrated even the remote areas of Hub and Mianwali into its network. Speaking at an orientation session with the business community here Tuesday, he added that this development marks the first time in the country's history that such regions are connected to facilitate prompt redressal of taxpayers' grievances against the tax collectors of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

He said that expansion of the network underscores the government's commitment to improve tax administration and ensure fair treatment for all taxpayers, regardless of their geographic location. By bridging the gap between remote areas and the central tax authority, the initiative aims to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency in tax collection processes.

Meher Kashif said, access to the FTO network empowers taxpayers in Hub and Mianwali with a mechanism to seek resolution for their concerns and complaints regarding taxation malpractices. It promotes a culture of responsiveness and fairness within the tax system, ultimately fostering trust and compliance among taxpayers.

He said this achievement represents a step forward of FTO Dr Asif Mahmood Jah in advancing Pakistan's tax infrastructure and fostering a more equitable environment for taxpayers across the country including those residing in traditionally underserved areas.

About disposal of cases, the Coordinator said that 2,156 taxpayers complaints were decided in the first quarter of calendar year across the country which is more than previous year. He said FTO is hardly one call away and any aggrieved taxpayer can approach the nearest regional office for seeking prompt action on complaint.

Hybrid seeds can revolutionize Pakistan's agricultural economy: PHHSA

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Replicating the decades-long highly successful experience of hybrid rice in Pakistan, the hybrid seeds hold immense potential in achieving the country's import substitution and fostering surplus production for export also in other crops such as cotton, wheat, edible oil, and pulses. Hybrid seeds

Talking to reporters here, Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik said, the hybrid seeds can

revolutionize Pakistan's agricultural economy.

"Hybrid Rice has demonstrated its effectiveness in significantly increasing yields per acre compared to traditional rice varieties. By applying similar methodologies and technologies to other crops, Pakistan could witness a substantial reduction in its reliance on imported agricultural products, resulting in significant cost savings and economic benefits," he maintained.

In the case of cotton, he said, adopting hybrid varieties could lead to higher yields per hectare, thus reducing the



need for imports and potentially creating a surplus for export. With Pakistan being one of the world's largest cotton producers, such a shift could have a significant impact on the country's economy. Similarly, introducing

hybrid wheat varieties could enhance productivity and quality, leading to reduced reliance on imported wheat and potentially positioning Pakistan as a net exporter of wheat, he added.

Shahzad Ali Malik mentioned that focusing the hybrid varieties of edible oil crops such as soybean or sunflower could bolster domestic production, reducing the need for importing costly edible oils. This would not only saves foreign exchange but also enhances food security within the country.

He was of the view that investment in hybrid pulses could address the

chronic shortage of pulses in Pakistan, which often leads to imports to meet domestic demand. By increasing domestic production through hybrid varieties, Pakistan can reduce its dependence on imports and potentially become a surplus producer for export.

He claimed, this strategic shift towards hybrid varieties would not only ensures food security and self-sufficiency but also opens up opportunities for exporting surplus production, thereby boosting the agricultural sector and the economy as a whole.

'Exceedingly harsh,' Wahab Riaz on Ramiz Raja's remarks about Amir

A Sports

Former Pakistan pacer and national selector Wahab Riaz reacted to former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja's remarks about left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir.

Pakistan's newly-constituted seven-member selection committee announced a 17-member squad for the five-match home T20I series against New Zealand which saw the return of Amir.

Explaining Amir's selection, Riaz highlighted the valuable experience Amir possesses and also his recent performances in the franchise league cricket including the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

"Going forward, we have a lot of injury-prone players and Amir's performance is also in front of everyone.

"PSL is one of the best tournaments from where you select players, especial-



ly for T20s, and if somebody is available, we should only take into account their performance and Amir is one of those choices.

Wahab Riaz then went on to term Ramiz Raja's statement regarding Mohammad Amir as "exceedingly harsh" but acknowledged the freedom of speech.

"Ramiz Raja's remark regarding Mohammad Amir is exceedingly harsh and carries a distinctly negative connotation, yet everyone retains the freedom to voice their opinions," stated Riaz.

Earlier, former Pakistan captain and renowned commentator did not mince his words while lashing out at Amir's return to international cricket, stating once a player was involved in fixing should not be brought back.

"My opinion on this is very simple. While sympathy may exist for him [Amir], in my book there is no forgiveness. If God forbid my son was to engage in such actions, I would disown him," Raja said on a local news channel.

"I remember the time when these players did fixing because I was doing commentary at Lord's. People hated me because I was being identified with the fixers, in their opinion, and I can never forget the criticism we faced on media," he added.

Five players return to Pakistan's white-ball squads for West Indies series

A Sports

LAHORE: Five women cricketers have been recalled to Pakistan white-ball squads as the National Women's Selection Committee, led by Saleem Jaffar, announced a 16-member each ODI and T20I squads against West Indies women's team.

The three ODIs – part of ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 – will be played between 18 and 23 April, while the five T20Is will take place from 26 April to 3 May. All eight matches will be played at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi.

For the ODI series, wicketkeeper-batter Sidra Nawaz (67 ODIs, 56 T20Is), Rameen Shamim (3 ODIs, 4 T20Is) and Tuba Hassan (selected in both squads) (1 ODI, 21 T20Is) – have been recalled.

Ayesha last featured for Pakistan in the T20I format against South Africa in 2021, Gull Feroza's last outing for the Pakistan women's team in the T20I format was against Sri Lanka in 2022, while Rameen's last T20I match was against South Africa in 2019.

Tuba, who made her ODI debut against Australia in 2023, last appeared in the T20I format against England in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2023.

Ayesha, Gull Feroza and Rameen, who are part of T20I squad, will participate in the National Women's One-Day Tournament commencing in Faisalabad from 17 April. Before the T20I series, the three players will rejoin the national team squad.

Selection committee explains Azam Khan's inclusion in Pakistan squad

A Sports

LAHORE: Bilal Afzal, a member of Pakistan men's selection committee, explained wicketkeeper batter Azam Khan's inclusion in Pakistan's squad for the upcoming five-match home T20I series against New Zealand.

Afzal, who also served as provincial minister under Mohsin Naqvi-led caretaker Punjab setup, revealed that Azam's selection was a unanimous decision, considering his standout performances in the Caribbean.

"Selecting Azam Khan was a unanimous decision by the selectors. His performances (stats) on the pitches of the Caribbean have been a standout.

"We thought to give him a proper chance so he could prepare himself for the upcoming World Cup. It will build his confidence and we want him to win this World Cup for us," he added.

Despite boasting an exceptional record in franchise cricket, Azam Khan had a



forgetful start to his international career, managing only 29 runs in eight matches with the highest score of 10.

Pakistan squad for T20I series against New Zealand: Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Amir, Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah,

Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Usman Khan, Zaman Khan, Usama Mir

Non-travelling reserve: Sahibzada Farhan, Haseebullah Khan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mohammad Ali, Salman Ali Agha.

New Zealand are slated to reach Pakistan on April 14, two days after Pakistan's

squad announcement, 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.

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Ramadan Sports Festival organized by Pakistan Sports, Education and Culture Council concluded

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Ramadan Sports Festival was organized by Pakistan Sports, Education and Culture Council and Dewa Academy, which concluded after two days. The festival included Sepaktakarw, football and tennis competitions for men and women in which a large number of players participated.

The festival was inaugurated by Chairman Pakistan Sports, Education and Culture Council Rizwan Lodhi and Muhammad Imran (Ex national badminton player).

In the Sepaktakarw event, Hunza Leopard was declared the champion for men and Karachi Green for women. While Dewa One won the football and tennis competitions and won the trophy.

In girls, Karachi Red won the trophy. The best players of the tournament were Ajal among men and Sobia among women. Amizuddin, Asif Ayan, Mehboob



Hussain, Sange Ali, Shehbaz Ali, Zohair Ali, Muhammad Farhan, Nasira, Shabana, Sheeza showed the best game.

The chief guest of the closing ceremony, former Member of National Assembly Rehan Hashmi, distributed the prizes to the winning teams. Rehan Hashmi appreciated the talents of the youth and assured full cooperation from his side in the future as well. At the end, iftar dinner

was organized for the players and guests.

The event organizers were Huma Bano, Hammad, Azam, Osama Chaudhry, Muhammad Mazhar and Faizan. President Pakistan Sports, Education and Culture Council Syed Asrarul Hasan Abidi thanked the guests and announced that a massive event should be organized on the occasion of Labor Day. In which teams from different universities will also participate.

Zafar Iqbal Mughal Municipal Commissioner Korangi, Ismail Qamar Chairman Taluk Foundation, Arif Sheikh CFO Pakistan Steel Mill, Waliullah Khan President SMS Foundation, Engineer Syed Musa Raza Director Haramain Travels, Dr. Noman Lari Director Physical Education City College, Hamid Aqeel Director Me Food, Khawar Ahmed Senior Manager FU, Mirza Adnan Baig were also present.

Mohammad Amir opens up after Pakistan comeback

A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan's left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir has reacted to his inclusion in Pakistan's squad for the upcoming five-match home T20I series against New Zealand.

Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Amir wrote: "Bismillah Hir-Rahman-Nir-Raheem" (In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful).

For the unversed, Mohammad Amir, in March, took his retirement back from international cricket and declared himself available for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, scheduled to run from June 2 in the USA and the West Indies.

"I still dream to play for Pakistan! life brings

us to the points where at times we have to reconsider our decisions," stated Amir.

"There has been few positive discussions between myself and the PCB where they respectfully made me feel that I was needed and can still play for Pakistan after discussing with family and we'll wishers I declare that I am available to be considered for upcoming t20WC.

"I want do this for my country as it comes before my personal decisions. Donning the green jersey and serving my country has always been, and will continue to be, my greatest aspirations."

Mohammad Amir shockingly announced retirement from international cricket back in 2020 at the age of 28 citing differences with the then-team management.

Time and time again the star pacer was asked about making a comeback to international cricket, citing his exceptional performances in league cricket.

He claimed ten wickets in nine matches for Quetta Gladiators during the recently concluded Pakistan Super League (PSL) season nine.

He has represented Pakistan in 50 T20Is and picked 59 wickets at an average of 21.40.

Pakistan squad for T20I series against New Zealand

Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Amir, Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi,



Usman Khan, Zaman Khan, Usama Mir

Non-travelling reserve: Sahibzada Farhan,

Haseebullah Khan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mohammad Ali, Salman Ali Agha

UEFA accepts rare Real Madrid request

The Union of European Football Associations (Uefa) allowed Real Madrid to play the match against Manchester City in the Santiago Bernabeu as Pep Guardiola's team was welcomed by the White Kits Tuesday.

Both the teams are set to play the first leg of the league's quarter-final.

In the last year's semi-final, the Sky-Blues were victorious over the Whites and now it is time for Carlo Ancelotti's team to even the score.

As Ancelotti is ensuring that the faceoff between the two should end in his favour, other people of the 14-time European Cup winners are making sure things are favourable at home such as

maintaining the loudness by closing down the roof of the recently-renovated stadium where 80,000 are anticipated to show up.

The managers of Real Madrid are also expecting fans to pressure Man City as they have been advised to wear all-white outfits for the much-awaited football game.

The purpose is to secure the commanding position as they will enter the second leg in the rival's location next week.

Santiago Bernabeu — where the current match is being played — was transformed over the last couple of years, with the placement of a retractable roof, which has added to its beauty.

PM greets countrymen...

Continued from Page 1

On this day, let us also remember those martyrs who have sacrificed their lives so that the nation lives in peace and tranquility," the prime minister remarked. "We salute our gallant veterans who work tirelessly to protect our borders, maintain internal security and contribute to peacekeeping missions abroad. They deserve our utmost respect and recognition." He also urged Muslims around the world to remember their Palestinian and Kashmiri brothers and sisters who were facing the worst kind of atrocities of the occupation forces and they will be constrained to enjoy the joys of Eid.

"We all pray to Almighty Allah to ease their difficulties."

"May the underlying meaning and significance of Islam spread among us all as a guide to the emancipation of humanity and may the world be filled with peace and harmony. Ameen," he added.

PM announces Daanish Schools...

Continued from Page 1

Recounting the journey of the visionary project, the prime minister said they resisted the immense criticism of the initiative just to support the children from low-income groups with quality education at par with elite-class education institutions.

In his address, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui lauded the vision behind Daanish School and said the scope of the project was being expanded to other parts of the country.

He requested the prime minister to declare an education emergency to address the challenges and shortcomings in the education sector and that every vacant building should be used for teaching purposes.

Chairman of Benazir Income Support Program and Akhuwat Foundation Amjad Saqib recalled the journey of the establishment of Daanish Schools aimed at addressing the disparities in the society and lauded the Punjab Education Endowment Fund which benefited around 450,000 students in Punjab.

President Zardari felicitates nation...

Continued from Page 1

"On this auspicious day we should help the needy, poor, orphans and destitute and share happiness of Eid with them," he continued.

The President said, "this auspicious occasion of Eid sends us the message that as a nation we are determined to overcome challenges, extend a helping hand to the needy and ready to work for a bright and prosperous future for everybody."

"In our everyday lives we should make an effort to become a united and strong nation by showing brotherhood and tolerance and ensuring social and economic justice and mutual unity and solidarity," he said, adding, "On behalf of the Pakistan nation, I want to give the message to the oppressed Muslims of Gaza and Palestine that the whole Pakistani nation express solidarity with you."

He said, "We impress upon the international community to ensure immediate peace in Gaza and provi-

sion of assistance to the Palestinians. The oppression, barbarity and genocide by Israel is the gravest violation of human rights."

The President said, "On this occasion of happiness, we should also not forget the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

He assured that the whole Pakistani nation stood with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

Pakistan would continue moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiris for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people, he added.

The President said, "On the occasion of this blessed day, I pray for the welfare and prosperity of every Pakistani and the whole Muslim Ummah. May Allah Almighty shower His blessings on our nation and keep us on the path of righteousness and bless us with unity, peace and prosperity. Ameen!"

Worship

LAHORE: Devotees come out from the mosque after completing Itikaf on the last night of Ramadan.



Photo: APP

PM-Leaders-Call Round-up

PM exchanges Eid greetings with leaders of Turkiye, UAE, Qatar & Oman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday spoke to the leaders of Turkiye, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Oman and exchanged Eid greetings with them.

The telephonic conversations held between PM Sharif and the leaders of the Islamic nations focused on conveying best wishes on the auspicious occasion of Eid and the resolve to strengthen bilateral ties.

In a call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, both sides conveyed sincere wishes for the peace, prosperity and unity of the people of Pakistan and Turkiye.

PM Sharif reaffirmed his commitment to further

strengthen bilateral cooperation with Turkiye across all sectors of mutual interest including economy and trade.

"The two leaders reaffirmed to continue firmly and resolutely supporting each other on their core national interests. They also called for peace in Palestine," the PM Office said in a statement.

Shehbaz Sharif called President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to extend his best wishes and convey warm greetings on the blessed occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

During their "most warm and cordial exchanges", the PM Office said, the prime minister lauded the strong bonds and close cultural, religious and historical affil-

iation between Pakistan and the UAE.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reiterated UAE's strong support to Pakistan and reaffirmed the shared desire of both sides to further strengthen these fraternal ties meaningfully.

Shehbaz Sharif in a telephonic conversation with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani extended greetings of Eid ul Fitr.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated the close fraternal ties between Pakistan and Qatar and reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to closely working with Qatar in all areas of common interest. He reiterated his government's commitment to deepen economic and trade relations between

the two countries," the PM Office said.

The Emir of Qatar warmly reciprocated Eid greetings and conveyed his best wishes to the people of Pakistan.

PM Sharif received a telephone call from Qatar's Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani wherein the two leaders exchanged Eid greetings.

"They expressed their satisfaction at the close fraternal ties between Pakistan and Qatar while reaffirming their common resolve to work closely in all areas of mutual interest," the PM Office said.

In this context, the Prime Minister emphasized that cooperation between the two countries had the potential to enhance significantly, in trade,

investment and other related areas.

Shehbaz Sharif phoned Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq, and extended Eid greetings to him.

The prime minister prayed for unity among the ranks of the Ummah and for an end to the atrocities being committed by Israel against the innocent Palestinians, a PM Office statement said.

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq warmly reciprocated the Eid greetings and conveyed his best wishes for the people of Pakistan.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely with each other and to further solidify bilateral ties into mutually rewarding economic cooperation.

Saudi Embassy hosts grand Iftar for MWL Secy-Gen Dr Al-Issa

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia hosted a lavish Iftar dinner on Monday evening in honor of the Secretary-General of Muslim World League (MWL), Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa at a local hotel. Dr. Al-Issa is currently on an official trip to Pakistan from April 7 to 16, 2024, aiming to strengthen bilateral ties and promote interfaith harmony.

The reception was graced by the presence of several esteemed guests, including Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and Minister for Petroleum and Energy, Musadik Malik. Also in attendance were prominent figures such as, Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Sami Chairman Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq Haqqani, Chairman of Central



Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khahir Azad, Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. Notable

religious scholars and leaders representing diverse schools of thought also marked their presence at the event. The gathering provided a platform for meaningful discussions on fostering interfaith understanding and cooperation. Participants exchanged views on the significance of promoting tolerance and dialogue in today's global context, emphasizing the importance of mutual respect and understanding among different religious communities.

ECP imposes ban on officer transfers in NA 148 until conclusion of by elections

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ECP has imposed a ban on officer transfers in NA 148 Multan district until the conclusion of by-elections and announcement of the winning candidate on May 19.

According to the spokesperson, the ECP has also announced a ban on government functionaries or elected representatives, including local government for announcing any development scheme for NA 148, Multan district, until the declaration of by election's results.

Where will top politicians celebrate this Eid?

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Top politicians including PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari are all set to celebrate this Eidul Fitr at their hometowns.

According to sources, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will celebrate Eidul Fitr in Lahore while President Asif Ali Zardari will offer Eid prayers in Nawabshah.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi will celebrate Eid in Lahore and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto will offer Eid prayers in Larkana.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Gohar Ali Khan will offer Eid prayers in Buner and Leader of Opposition Umar Ayub Khan will



celebrate at Hariapur. Parvez Khatak will offer Eid prayers in Nowshera.

MQM convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui will offer Eid prayers in Karachi and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman will celebrate Eid in DI Khan.

Senate chairman candidate Yusuf Raza Gilani will celebrate Eid in Multan and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq will offer the prayers in Lahore.

NA Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah will celebrate the event at hometown, Nawabshah.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif will offer Eid prayer at Jati Umrah, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah at Sehwan Sharif and KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur in DI Khan. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti will celebrate Eid in Chagai.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif will offer Eid prayers in Sialkot, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar will offer Eid prayers in Lahore and Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani will celebrate Eid in Chagai.

Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman will celebrate Eid in Lahore, Balochistan Governor Abdul Wali Kakar in Quetta, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori in Karachi and KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali will offer Eid prayer at the Governor House Peshawar.

Punjab Assembly Speak-

er Malik Ahmad Khan will celebrate Eid in Kasur, Sindh Assembly Speaker Owais Qadir Shah in Sukkur, KP Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati in Manshara. KP Assembly leader of opposition Dr Ibrara Rehman will celebrate Eid in Shanga.

Azad Kashmir President Barrister Sultan will offer Eid prayer in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Anwarul Haque in Bhimbar and Azad Kashmir Speaker Latif Akbar will offer Eid prayers in Muzaffarabad.

PML-N Punjab President Rana Sanaullah will offer Eid prayers in Faisalabad and Sunni Ittehad Council chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza will celebrate Eid in Faisalabad.

Former federal minister Syed Khurshid Shah and provincial minister Nasir Hussain Shah will offer Eid prayers in Sukkur.

CM Maryam directs fool-proof security arrangements on Chaand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr

PPA

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to ensure fool-proof security arrangements on Chaand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr. She said, "Police and law enforcement agencies should be vigilant on Chaand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr."

Madam Chief Minister also directed to ensure best security arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr gatherings, especially in mosques and Imam-bargahs. She said, "Additional police personnels should be deployed in markets, bazaars and shopping centers." She added, "Senior police officers should also be in the field



to review security arrangements on Chand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr."

Madam Chief Minister highlighted, "The police will have to work diligently to maintain public order." She added, "The security plan devised for the occasion should be implemented in letter and spirit."

Tarar felicitates Gilani, Saidal over election as chairman, deputy chairman Senate

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday congratulated Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Saidal Khan Nasar on being elected Chairman and Deputy Chairman Senate respectively. In a statement, the minister said that today, the democratic process had also been completed in the Senate.

"The election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman (Senate) is a reflection of the confidence of the people of Pakistan, the minister remarked. The minister said that both Syed Yusuf Raza Geelani and Saidal Khan were experienced and seasoned politicians.

Tarar said that the upper house had an important role for the strengthen-



ing of the federal units and following the democratic values. He expressed the hope that Yusuf Raza Gilani and Saidal Khan will continue to play their constructive role for the supremacy of the Constitution and the development of the country.

ECP asks political parties to submit election expenses details by April 22

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has instructed political parties to submit information on expenditures incurred during the general elections and disclose their list of donors by April 22.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the commission asserted that all political parties participating in the general elections 2024 are required, as per Section 211 of the Elections Act, 2017 to provide a roster of donors who have contributed one million rupees or more towards the election campaign.

Furthermore, it stated that political parties must submit reports of election expenses within 60 days from the publication date of returned candidates' names in the official gazette. The deadline for submitting both documents is April 22, 2024.

Dar appointed leader of the House in Senate



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was appointed as leader of the House in the Senate on Tuesday, according to a notification issued by the Senate Secretariat. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is also the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), appointed Dar to the post.

"Dar will act as leader of the House on behalf of the Prime Minister to represent Government and to regulate Government business in the Senate with effect from April 9, 2024," said the notification.

Buses, trains are overcrowded amid usual Eid exodus

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The bus terminals and railway station are overcrowded with passengers as people want to go to their hometowns to celebrate Eidul Fitr with families.

According to some reports, almost half of the people living in Lahore belong to other parts of the province and they always wish to celebrate Eid with their families.

The government has announced a four-day holiday from April 10 till 13. Muslims offer special prayers on Eid morning and spend time with their families and loved ones.

The general bus stand at Badami Bagh, city terminal on Bund Road and bus stand at Thokar Niaz Beg are overcrowded as the outsiders want to leave Lahore before midnight.

The passengers also faced difficulty in getting the tickets as overcharging was rampant at the bus stands.

Similarly, the railway station was also overcrowded with the passengers

because a large number of commuters travel by train.

Pakistan Railways had announced four special trains on the eve of Eidul Fitr this year to facilitate the passengers.

Railways authorities have instructed passengers to follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) while travelling by trains and at stations. The first special train left Karachi for Peshawar. The second special train departed from Quetta for Rawalpindi.

The third special train left Karachi for Lahore. The fourth special train will depart from Lahore to Karachi at 5pm on April 9 (today).

Meanwhile, the railways authorities also launched a special train for Narowal this Eid. The train departed from Lahore Railway Station at 9:20am on April 9.

The Pakistan Railway has bought 1.5 million litres of diesel to ensure the smooth operation of trains during Eidul Fitr.