(صحيح بناري: حديث نمبر 6410) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

CEC Raja leaves for Brazil for EVM briefing

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Chief Sikandar Sultan Raja on Monday departed on an official visit to Brazil where he will receive a briefing on the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). He was accompanied by the director general of Information Technology (IT) on a two-day visit. They will receive a briefing on the EVM. (Report on Page 8)



Govt increases petrol price by Rs4.53, diesel by Rs8.14

The new rates of petrol and diesel after the increase are Rs293.94 and Rs290.38 respectively. The new fuel prices will be effective from April 16. n addition to this, the government jacked up the

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawaal-ul-Mukarram 7, Tuesday, April 16, 2024



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 5

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Ahlan Wa Sahlan Marhaba

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar receiving Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal Bin



High-level Saudi delegation reaches Pakistan as investment likely

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of Saudi Arabia, led by Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, has arrived in Pakistan on Monday, with the newly-elected government hoping to attract billions of dollars in investment from kingdom.

The delegation consists of Saudi Minister of Water and Agriculture Eng Abdul Rahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadley, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resourc-

Deputy Minister of Investment Badr AlBadr, Head of Saudi Special Committee Mohammad Mazyed Al Towaijri, and senior officials from Ministry of Energy and Saudi Fund for General

Investments. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Saudi Arabia Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy and other cabinet members welcomed the delega-

tion at the airport. The visit was taking place to provide a significant boost to

es Bandar Ibrahim AlKhorayef, expedite action on the under-bilateral cooperation and foster a Mohammed Bin Salman agreed to Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Arabia Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman, during their recent meet-

> economic cooperation. The Saudi team was expected to hold meetings with the president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, counterpart ministers,

ing in Makkah to enhance bilateral

COAS and SIFC committee. The visit is anticipated to

standing reached between Prime mutually beneficial economic part- expedite the first wave of a

nership between the two nations. Pakistan is hoping to attract billions of dollars in investment from Saudi Arabia as part of its initiative under the banner of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a civil-military forum aimed at removing bottlenecks and other bureaucratic hurdles hindering foreign

investment. In recent visit to the Kingdom, PM Shehbaz and Crown Prince

\$5 billion investment package for

In January last year, the crown prince had directed the Saudi Development Fund (SDF) to study increasing the deposit amount in the State of Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to \$5bn.

The move, according to the Saudi Press Agency, confirmed Saudi Arabia's position on supporting the economy of Paki-

$Finance\, Minister$ meets USPBC delegation in Washington



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday met a delegation of the US Pakistan Business Council (USPBC) in Washington DC to discuss the government's commitment to improving the business climate in the country.

According to a Finance Ministry press release, the minister during the meeting highlighted the government's dedication to attracting both foreign and domestic investments in key sectors, including agriculture, IT, mines and minerals, and energy.

China pins responsibility for Iran escalation on Israel

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: China has put the responsibility for the recent escalation in the Middle East on Israel's action, calling its attack on Iran's embassy an act of extremely vicious nature.

Making a statement at the United Nations Security Council Briefing on the Situation in the Middle East, Chinese ambassador Dai Bing said that a crisis in the region would have serious spillover effects.

"On April 1, Iran's diplomatic premises in Syria were attacked by airstrikes, resulting in loss of several Iranian personnel and severe destruction to the premises," Bing said.

"This is a grave violation of the UN Charter and international law and a breach of the sovereignty of both Syria and Iran. The attack is of an extremely term security in the region. If missiles, he said.



vicious nature," he added.

He called on all parties to 'exercise maximum calm and restraint' and resolve their differences and disputes in accordance with the purposes of the UN Charter and international law to prevent further

Bing also said that the current situation was a direct consequence of Iran's actions in Gaza.

"It serves as another reminder that the Palestinian question remains central to the Middle East issue and bears on the flames of the Gaza conflict are allowed to continue raging, then the adverse spillover is set to spread still further, making the region even more unstable,' Bing said.

"Countries and peoples in the Middle East have no desire for, nor can they afford a larger conflict or war."

Iran had launched explosive drones and fired missiles at Israel late on Saturday in its first direct attack on Israeli territory, a retaliatory strike that raised the threat of a wider regional conflict, as the U. S pledged "ironclad" backing for Israel.

Israel's military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said Iran launched dozens of ground-to-ground missiles at Israel, most of them intercepted outside Israeli borders. They the peace, stability and long- included more than 10 cruise

Romina urges masses to cooperate with rescue teams amid relief efforts in rain-hit areas



ISLAMA-**BAD: Prime** Minister's

Monday expressed her grief over the loss of lives and property due to rains. The Climate Coordinator

in a statement urged that the people should cooperate with rescue agencies and actively participate in relief work.

Romina said, "Pakistan is climate change. However, affected by the recent rains."

stan and its "sisterly people".

跨 City Desk



Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on

facing serious challenges like Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are the most

PM Shehbaz Sharif orders improvement of power transmission network to reduce oil import

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday emphasising the improvement of power transmission network, directed the energy ministry to maximize the utilization of renewable energy resources to reduce the country's oil import bill by billions of dollars. "Ultimately, we have to move to renewable energy.

The oil import worth billions of dollars can be controlled by using alternative resources like solar, wind and hydel. Make cold calculations and I believe, you will be the winner in the long term," he remarked addressing a meeting he chaired to review the power sector's performance.

The prime minister said utilising renewable energy challenge.



resources would also ensure riddance from the crude oil tanker mafia acting as parasites and eating up the national money. He pointed out that the country currently imports oil worth \$27 billion to meet its power and transportation needs, a figure that could be significantly reduced by transitioning to alternative energy sources. Discussing the ongoing drive against power theft, he lauded the performance of the Punjab government and expressed the hope that the other provinces would also follow suit to overcome the

Bahawalnagar incident not a big issue: Naqvi



👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the Bahawalnagar incident should not be considered a major issue.

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore on Monday, Naqvi said even brothers residing in the same house can fight sometimes and the matter should not be blown out of proportion.

He also said that the evidence emerging from Amir Tamba's murder investigation was "clearly pointing" to India's involvement.

Naqvi also said that India had been involved in four other murders on Pakistani soil before Amir Tamba as well.

He added that the campaign against overbilling will not stop despite pressure on the Federal Investigation Agency.

Naqvi said that FIA's director general is under immense pressure over the campaign but it will not stop under any condition.

He added that 830 million units had been overbilled in Lahore alone and even poor people who consumed only 300 units were affected. Naqvi said that action has

already been started in Lahore circle and will soon be carried to other circles as well. He said that the campaign will be extended to the entire country.

The minister added that he could not speak for the past but there would be no pressure on FIA from now on.

He also added that several laws in the country are in the process of being amended,

Naqvi also said that people have to wait hours at airports across the country which should not happen.

Chairman Ulema Council lauds Saudi support for Pakistan's economic growth

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday said that Pakistan was poised to make economic growth with the strong support of the brotherly country of Saudi

Arabia. He attributed the country's positive economic trajectory to the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Sved Asim Munir, particularly in fostering

Continued on Page 8

Oil tankers association to suspend petrol, diesel supply

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Oil Tankers Association has announced the suspension of petrol and diesel supply from Tuesday (today) because of a reduction in the supply by the administration.

In a statement, the association the supply of petroleum products would remain suspended to Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Gilgit Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kash-

The supply to all airports would also remain suspended, it added. "The supply would remain suspended until the fulfilment of our

Continued on Page 8

Lightning, downpours kill 41 people across Pakistan flash floods because more rain is where damages occurred," Prime battered by rain and some areas Another eight people were

₿ AFP

ISLAMABAD: At least 41 people have died in storm-re- and most populous province, lated incidents across Pakistan since Friday, including 28 killed by lightning, officials said on Monday.

Pakistan's National Disaster

Punjab, Pakistan's largest

expected in coming days. witnessed the highest death toll, with 21 people killed by lightning

between Friday and Sunday. "I have asked the NDMA to coordinate with the prov-Management Authority (NDMA) inces... and for the NDMA to has warned of landslides and provide relief goods to areas

Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on

People living in open, rural areas are more at risk of being struck by lightning during thunderstorms.

At least eight people were killed in Balochistan province, including seven struck by lightning, where 25 districts were in southern Sindh province.

were flooded. Schools in the province were ordered shut on Monday and

Tuesday, delaying the return of students after Eid al-Fitr holidays at the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. Four people were killed in road accidents linked to flooded roads

ince of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including four children, when houses collapsed in the heavy downpours. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, speaking to local media,

killed in the northwestern prov-

blamed climate change for the surge in lightning incidents.

Azad Kashmir cigarette industry seeks separate tax slab for its business

MUZAFFARABAD: A delegation of representatives of the cigarette industry of Azad Kashmir met with the Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Magam. Kashmir Affairs Minister in Islamabad and tendered their demands with Minister Kashmir Affairs that a separate tax slab should be made for Azad Kashmir's local industry and Pakistan's multinational industry.

The Minister said that problems of Azad Kashmir's cigarette industry will be solved on a priority basis, during the meeting, representatives of cigarette companies told the Minister of Affairs. Kashmir Amir Muqam and provided all the evidence in the context of the recent actions against the cigarette companies and also provided the details of the threats given to them. Steps will be taken for approval of sales tax invoices.

Consideration will also be given to ment. seeking the mediation of all records



from the industry to the Excise Depart-

The Minister said that AJK Indus-

and stability of the Pakistani economy. problems of Azad Kashmir's cigarette Engineer Amir Maqam said he industry and providing facilities.

try plays a key role in the development will spare no minute in solving the

Rainv season



UAJK advances Academic Infrastructure with cutting-edge equipment

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) is on the cusp of a new era of academic excellence with the arrival of cuttingedge educational equipment, generously funded by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). This transformative project, valued at over four billion rupees, aims to enhance various teaching departments at the King Abdullah Campus of the varsity.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, who has cham-



pioned the cause of quality education and research since his appointment in 2017, this initiative marks a significant step forward for the university.

Prof. Dr. Abbasi's efforts culminated in a historic agreement signed on July

28, 2022, under the auspices of Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan. The generous support from the Saudi government underscores a shared commitment to advancing education and fostering academic excellence in the

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi expressed his gratitude, stating, "This investment is not only a testament to our enduring partnership with Saudi Arabia but also a significant milestone in our journey towards providing world-class education to our students."

The Resident Director of the King Abdullah Campus, Prof. Dr. Ayaz Arif, emphasized the transformative impact of the new equipment on research opportunities and academic diversity. "With this support, our students will have access to resources previously only available in developed countries, unlocking unprecedented opportunities for growth and innovation," remarked Prof. Dr. Ayaz Arif.

The King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Campus of UAJK stands as a symbol of the longstanding political, economic, and academic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Wazir tribes held second Grand Jirga to solve the problems of Angoor Ada border

Maxim Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: The second Grand Jirga of 9 major tribes of Ahmad Zai Wazir was held in Wana Rustam Bazar of Lower South Waziristan District on Monday to make Pak-Afghan border with Afghanistan the biggest trade route of the region.

Addressing the Jirga, Jamiat Ulemae-Islam District President Maulana Mirza Jan, Malik Saeed Ullah, Malik Jameel, Malik Saidra Noor and Waziristan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saif Ur r Rehman said in their respective addresses that due to the suspension of commercial and business activities on the Angoor Ada border, the tribes here have lost



treasury after the end of commercial and business activities at the border crossing.

The leading elders of 9 tribes said that all the tribes should take concrete steps to increase the trade activities on the Angoor Ada border and to continue the Pak-Afghan trade permanently, so They said at the same time, billions that our future generations can benefit of rupees have reached the government from this trade route.

They emphasized in the Jirga that Ahmad Zai Wazir's tribes should not be satisfied with taking only temporary measures this time rather, such steps must be taken unanimously, that the unemployment and poverty here will end.

On this occasion all the elders and Ullamas appealed to Ahmad Zai Wazir tribes to fully participate in the Grand Angoor Ada border either.

On the other hand, a protest sit-in by the local tribes has been going on for the last five months at the Angoor Ada border.

According to the sit-in participants, the government should take concrete steps to provide electricity for the local

Sit-in participants said however, the local tribes should be allowed to carry hand carry at Angoor Ada border.

Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Lower Nasir Khan says about this that most of the demands of the participants of the ongoing sit-in at Angoor Ada border have been fulfilled by the district administration.

DC further said however, hand carry is not allowed at any other borders, due to which it cannot be allowed here at

Two killed in Nala Jagran in Neelum after heavy rains

NEELAM: According to the spokesperson of District Disaster Management Authority, Muhammad Akhtar Ayub, the wife of Rehmatullah, a resident of Katan Dogian, a son and a daughter were swept away in the Nala Jagran. According to the District Disaster Management Authority, the dead body of Safida Bibi wife Rehmatullah age 35 years has been found while Faizan Ahmed son of Rehmatullah age 10 years has been referred to Muzaffarabad in critical condition after first aid at Jhambar Hospital. The search for the body of Adibah Bibi daughter Rehmatullah aged 5 years is going on. As a result of heavy rains, rivers have flooded at many places across the district, posing serious risks to property and citizens. The Neelum highway is under the influence of landslides at several places. In the continuous rain, the staff of the Highways Department is busy in keeping the Neelum highway fully restored. It has been urged to move to safe places. He has appealed to the tourists to avoid traveling to Neelam until the weather clears.

Abolition of Interest Awareness Campaign Conference will be held on April 28: Mayo

MULTAN: Mayo National Unity Council Central President Chaudhry Muhammad Azam Mayo arrived in Multan from Bahawalpur on a one-day visit. Chaudhry Muhammad Azam Meet With Saleem Ur Rehman Chief Organizer All Pakistan Mayo Association. Mayo Conference To be held in Karachi on April 28. for infor-



mation Chaudhry Muhammad Azam Mayo will leave for Lahore on April 16 on a two-day visit where he will meet Mayo dignitaries and office-bearers at the residence of Central Senior Vice President Muhammad Tahir Khan Mayo on April 16. and Central General Secretary Muhammad Tahir Ismail in Air Force Colony Lahorewill stay at Mayo's residence. On April 17 at 11 am, Chaudhry Muhammad Yunus Mayo Advocate Member will meet the lawyers in the think tank's office, after that Mayo Students Union will meet the officials of Punjab University while Chaudhry Ahmad Farooq Mayo. Chaudhry will go to his residence in the evening for meetingSher Muhammad will participate in the marriage of Mayo's children and will reach Bahawalpur on April 18. Saleem Ur Rehman Mayo Said Large No Of Mayo Community Members Join the The Conference in Karachi on 28th April 2024

MAPCO promotes 7 officers with the approval of the Senior Selection Board



👺 Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Multan Electric Power Company (MAPCO) Authority has issued a notification for the promotion of 7 officers with the approval of the Senior Selection Board. Engineer Saifullah Sarani, Engineer Asghar Khan Ghalo and Engineer Muhammad Shehzad Rai have been approved for promotion from Superintending Engineer to Chief Engineer. Predecessor of Engineer Muhammad Akram Sial Engineer (T&G) has been appointed. Engineer Asghar Khan Ghalu has been promoted to the post of Chief Engineer and Director General IT and Engineer Mohammad Shahzad Rai has been promoted to the post of Chief Engineer O&M Distribution. Chief Engineer (T&G) Syed Jawad Mansoor Shah has been posted as Chief Engineer/Customer Services Director. Engineer Rajesh Kumar Rathi, Engineer Abdul Hafeez Bhatti and Engineer Mohammad Hasnain Shakeel have been approved for promotion to the post of Superintending Engineer from XEN. Circle Malik Yaqoob Gadara has been directed to report to Mepco Headquarters. Engineer Abdul Hafeez Bhatti has been appointed as Regional Manager (M&T) First Mepco. Engineer Muhammad Hasnain Shakeel has been appointed as Manager Engineering Mepco Headquarters. Jamshed Alam Niazi has been promoted to the post of Director Public Relations. He was performing

Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf's Rubina Akhtar starts election campaign in NA 148

the duties of Director Public Relations MEPCO on current charge basis.

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Leader Dr Robina Akhtar Said i will serve the people and the region fully by being elected in the NA 148 by-election. Dr Rubina Akhtar Further Said People of Constituency NA 148 elect me, the constit-

uency will see change. Dr. Rubina Akhtar Multan: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insafleader Dr. Rubina Akhtar has started her election campaign in constituency NA-148 in connection with the by-elections. Later, the same dirty politics is going on, political before the elections The leaders entertain the people

by talking to the people and when they win, they turn their eyes away. The by-elections will bring forth a new leadership that will address their issuesThe priority will be solved on the basis, Dr. Rubina Akhtar added that if people give me a chance, she will make the constituency unique and the change will be realized in the true sense of the constituency.

All political parties withdraw from Waziristan Olasi Pason



😂 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: An important meeting of all the political parties of South Waziristan Lower district was held at Wana district office of Jamaat-e-Islami on Monday.

In which South Waziristan Lower Awami National Party, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Pakistan Peoples Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan Muslim League-N, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, National Democratic Movement, Pakhtunkhwa National Awami Party and lawyers participated.

The political parties were represented by Ayaz Wazir, Ashfaq Wazir, Imran Mukhlis, Asghar Wazir, Nadeem Amir, Khayal Mohammad, Ziaul Haq, Hamayun, Haroon and Ajmal Khan Advocate.

On this occasion a unanimous resolution was presented in this important meeting, that Waziristan Wana Olasi Paswan was the need of the hour which was only an agenda for peace.



15º – 23º Clear

Namaz Timings .12:08 pm .. 6:39 pm

.. 8:07 pm **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpind	i/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police9	270601-20

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

HOCDITALC

HOSFII	ALJ
CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International .	4603666

CDA	9221334-4
CDA	9208301-0
Met Office	9250360-
RDA	555586
TMA	577088

24th ITCN Asia to be held on April 18-20 in Lahore

№ PPA

KARACHI/ LAHORE: The 24th edition of ITCN Asia, Pakistan's biggest IT and telecom expo and conference, will take place on April 18-20 at Expo Center in Lahore. State Minister for IT & Telecom Shaza Khawaja will be the Chief Guest and HE Deemah Al Yahva, Secretary General of Digital Cooperation Organization will be the Global Guest of Honor at the inauguration of the three-day trade fair.

A delegation of International Investors from 12 countries with an investment fund of \$500 million has scheduled its visit to this event, which is a test ment to Pakistan's lucrative technology ecosystem.

The event will host more than 700 booths, including leading global and Pakistani tech giants Microsoft, Inbox, Redhat, TP-Link, Lenovo, HP, Netsol, Abacus, Dell, etc. More than 250 global speakers will be sharing insights in over 20 knowledge sessions, including the AI Summit, Global Security Symposium, Gaming Roundtable, Skills Roundtable, Investor Summit, Digital Health, Proptech, Freelancer Summit, Made in Pakistan Roundtable,

Event Director ITCN Asia Umair Nizam said the IT, telecom, and associated industries are entering a unique promising era in Pakistan, as the country is embracing technological trends and modern applications in every aspect of

On the direction of SIFC and the policies of the current, the Pakistani tech ecosystem is entering new markets in the Gulf region while solidifying its existing western markets at the same time, he added.

Mushaal, Dr Mohammad Al-Issa discuss various issues

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister's special assistant for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick called on Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Al-Issa Secretary General of Muslim World League (MWL) and lauded the role of the organization for presenting true Islam and its tolerant principles by following the path of centrism and moderation to ward off movements calling for extremism, violence and exclusion to make the world full of peace, justice and coexistence.

Mushaal, who is a wife of unlawfully incarcerated senior hurrivat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, said that the role being played by Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Al-Issa and his organization for promoting inter faith harmony, peace, and social network was commendable.

it was an honour and pleasure to hold meeting with General Secre-

tary of the Islamic World League, who is a distinguished scholar in the Islamic world with a great vision as one of the strongest advocates of moderation.

During the meeting, they both agreed and appreciated the views of respect for all religions, interfaith harmony and the philosophy to live and let live because peace and respect for mankind is the sole panacea to save the world from war, regardless of what faith, religion, race, nation, colour they belong to.

She went on to say that Pakistanis, Kashmiris and the people of Saudi Arabia maintain a strong and lasting brotherhood, as there is a natural affinity and respect from all sides.

The hurriyat leader stated that the MWL has not only played a major role in presenting true message of Islam but it is also providing humanitarian aid, besides extending bridges of The Chairperson Peace and dialogue and cooperation with Culture Organisation said that all in order to engage in positive openness to all cultures and civi-

She also thanked his Excellency Mohammad Al Issa for distributing 1000 packets of rashan during the holy month of Ramadan among Kashmiri refugees living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

During the meeting, various issues, including women empowerment within Islamic guidelines were discussed.

Mushaal said that the MWL introduced Islam and its tolerant values as presented in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah, as it consolidated the concepts of centrism and moderation in the consciousthe Muslim Ummah.

Sabien Hussein Mullick Secretary General Peace and Culture Organisation lauded MWL's role for its efforts to tackle and resolve issues confronting the Muslim Ummah, and to thwart factors causing conflict and discord, which could be judged from its role for highlighting the miseries of oppressed Muslims people and raising voices at various forums for resolving the decades-old issues of Kashmir and Palestine.

Mushaal stated that she was



deeply touched by the view of Dr. Mohammed Al-Issa and his ideas, especially his idea about Muslims facing persecution at the hands of tyranny and the importance of shunning extremism and fanatic

views about other religions.

Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa made a special prayer for the Muslim Ummah especially people of Kashmir, Palestine, Pakistan and for the release and

safety of Mohammad Yasin Malik. Sabien Hussein Mullick, Secretary General Peace and Culture Organisation, little Raziyah Sultana, were also present in the

Welcome

ISLAMABAD: A view of Constitution Avenue decorated with Saudi Arabian and Pakistani banners in the Federal Capital, in connection with visit of Saudi delegation, led by Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan to Pakistan.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PANAH calls on Punjab govt to halt supply of canned flavored milk to school children

跨 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH), Heart Surgeon, Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani has called attention of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif towards the counterproductive effects of supply of Canned Flavored Milk to school children. He has urged on the gov of Punjab to keep the sugary and flavored drinks away from the children for their health.

PANAH learned from media that a project was approved to provide canned flavored milk to fifth-grade students in

The President of PANAH writes in the letter, "We would like to bring to your attention that flavored milks are high in sugar and should not be provided to children as per recommendations by World Health Organization (WHO)."

"This will prove counterproductive and cause increase in obesity and many diseas-



es among the children. We request you to halt the supply flavored milk to school students and switch to unsweetened milk which is a healthier alternative for children, Dr. Kiani said.

He further noted in the letter, "It is well established fact that high consumption of Sweet drinks like sodas, juices, chocolate shakes and flavored milk etc are among the major causes of obesity, diabetes, heart diseases, several types of cancers, liver and kidney diseases, and tooth decay in chil-

drinks are high in sugar and their regular consumption increases the risk of the chronic diseases like diabetes by 30 percent. The National Nutrition Survey estimates that the number of overweight children has doubled from 2011 to 2018 in Pakistan and people living with diabetes

has increased to over 33 million in 2021. Dr. Kiani has offered his expert feedback to the CM Punjab in this regard. He is available to brief and provide more facts about flavored milks and risks associated with it to school aged children.

PANAH was established in 1984 at AFIC/NIHD for the purpose of public advocacy for prevention of heart diseases and training people in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan by virtue of his position is our Patron-in-Chief. PANAH under take research and works closely with policy makers to advocate for policies to reduce Non-communicable The research shows that these Diseases and many other fetal diseases.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari will advance the vision of Benazir in the House: Matloob Shah



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Dubai Vice President Mootloob Shah organized a ceremony regarding the celebrations of Asif Bhutto Zardari's becoming MNA and taking oath in National Press Club Islamabad.

A large number of PPP workers participated in the program. President Pakistan Women's Wing Natasha Daultana also participated

While speaking on the occasion, Matloob Shah said that the entry of Asif Bhutto in the House will further increase the strength of the PPP and it will work for women's rights. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari will raise the voi

forward the vision of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed in the House and

At this occasion the sweets were distributed among the workers after the ceremony.

AIOU extends admission deadline till April 25



ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has extended the date of admissions for the second phase of Semester Spring 2024 till April 25 without late fee. Director Admissions, while giving a briefing to the Vice Chancellor on the ongoing admissions, said that due to the holidays of Eid-ul-Fitr, the students have requested to extend the deadline. Vice-Chancellor, while approving the extension, said that the AIOU is taking all the necessary measures to facilitate the students.

Earlier, the last date for admission was April 15. Now students can take admission in Associate Degree in Arts (BA), Associate Degree in Commerce (BCom), BBA, B. Ed, BS, Post Graduate Diplomas and Certificate courses till April 25 without late fee charges. The admission forms and prospectus are available on the university website. Students can visit their nearest regional office or call the university's helpline 051-111 112 468 for any information.

Eid Festival Bazaars to be organized at all markets from next year: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad has said that the business community is the key player in the economic development of the country and that he would initiate all the necessary steps to facilitate it.

He said this while addressing the

Welfare Associations organized Eid Festivals at five different markets of the capital to enable the customers to

ble price. The Deputy Commissioner ISLAMABAD: Irfan Nawaz Memon, appreciated the ICCI and the Traders Welfare Associations for organizing Eid Festival Bazaars for the benefit of the consumers.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the Aabpara Market is the oldest closing ceremony of Eid Festival Bazaar market of Islamabad and is playing on Chand Raat at Abpara market as central role in improving the economy by promoting trade activities and that It is worth mentioning that the ICCI would continue to work with ICCI in collaboration with the Traders relevant government departments to resolve the issues of the business

community. He also impressed upon the Capital

the beautification of the market by removing encroachments and extending maximum possible facilities to the traders for a suitable atmosphere for their businesses.

He said that the Office Bearers of Market Associations are playing an important role in solving the problems of the traders by sacrificing their own businesses and family responsibilities, which is highly laudable.

He expressed gratitude for all the government bodies and traders for extending complete cooperation with the ICCI for the promotion of trade activities in the capital and announced that from next year Eid

buy articles of their choice at afforda- Development Authority to focus on festival Bazaars will be organized at all the markets of the capital.

Speaking at the occasion, Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tijaran and Traders Action Committee Islamabad commended ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for extending complete cooperation with the traders for solution of their problems and revitalizing the commercial activities.

He also assured his fullest cooperation with the ICCI for the protection of traders' rights and overcoming their problems. On his part former Senior Vice President ICCI Khalid Chaudhry said that traders will continue their just struggle for their



rights and nobody will be allowed to create rift in their ranks.

On this occasion shields from Traders Welfare Association Aabpara were also presented to DC Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, President draw.

ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and SSP Traffic Sarfraz Virk in recognition of their services for the business community Prizes were also distributed among consumers through lucky

Vice Chairman: Managing Editor: Bureau Chief Karachi:

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com Syed Afraz Ali Nazish Bureau Chief Lahore:

(afrazalishah@gmail.com) Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.

Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Igbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Israel's use of AI in **Gaza's destruction**

human right experts Monday deplored the purported use of artificial intelligence (AI) and related military directives by Israel in the occupied Gaza leading to an unprecedented toll on the civilian population, housing, vital services and infrastructure. "Six months into the current military offensive, more housing and civilian infrastructure has now been destroyed in Gaza as a percentage, compared to any conflict in memory," said the experts, who included Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occu-

In a statement, the experts estimated that 60 to 70 per cent of all homes in Gaza, and up to 84 per cent of homes in northern Gaza, had been either fully destroyed or partly damaged. Such "systematic and widespread destruction" is a crime against humanity, insisted the experts - who are not UN staff and receive no salary for their work - before pointing to "numerous war crimes and acts of genocide", alleged by Ms. Albanese in her report to the Human Rights Council. "With Israeli public officials joining calls for Palestinians to leave Gaza, to 'take back Gaza' to build settlements again, and ostensible enthusiasm expressed by prominent former US government officials for 'Gaza beachfront' properties, there is little doubt that Israel's intent goes far beyond the purposes of military defeat of Hamas," the experts maintained. Damage to the Strip is estimated at \$18.5 billion – 97 per cent of the total economy of Gaza and West Bank. More than 70 per cent of this estimate is to replace housing, while another 19 per cent is the cost of civilian infrastructure, including water and sanitation, power and roads. "Homes are gone, and with that, the memories, hopes and aspirations of Palestinians and their ability to realise other rights, including their rights to land, food, water, sanitation, health, security and privacy (especially of women and girls), education, development, a healthy environment and self-determination," said the rights experts. Inside Gaza at the weekend, thousands of people reportedly tried to head back to their homes in the north of the enclave. Images from Gaza showed people of all ages thronging along the coastal road to the north, the majority on foot, others on donkey carts. According to news reports, Israeli tanks blocked the road, forcing Palestinians to turn around. Other reports indicated that Israeli bombardment continued on Monday across the enclave, with Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza also hit, leaving five dead and dozens wounded. Latest data from Gaza's health authorities indicate that more than 33,200 people have been killed in the enclave since October 7, the majority women and children. In a related development, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) announced on Sunday that it had helped restart bread production in Gaza City, after providing fuel and repairs to a bakery's bread-making machines. Before constant Israeli bombardment began on October 7, the Gaza Strip had around 140 industrial bakeries. In a tweet on X, WFP, the Rome-based UN agency, said that it had delivered fuel to one bakery that had been closed for months, contributing to the desperate humanitarian situation in the north of the enclave, where Gazans have been "largely cut off" from aid. "WFP will continue to provide wheat flour and other resources so that bread can be available – but this quantity will only last four days," the UN agency said, in a renewed appeal for "safe, sustained and scaled-up access to prevent famine". And amid continuing uncertainty about whether Israeli forces might attack Rafah, UN refugee agency (UN-HCR) chief Filippo Grandi warned against creating a new displacement crisis from the enclave's southern-most city into neighbouring Egypt. "Another refugee crisis from Gaza into Egypt – I can assure you having been the head of UNRWA myself - I speak from knowledge – would make the resolution of that Palestinian refugee question and as a consequence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict impossible," Mr. Grandi said, referring to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. "So we must fervently do everything for this not to happen. And this is why we have constantly said the priority is to have access inside Gaza, because that is the only way that we can prevent this from happening."

Punjab: Marching Towards a Welfare Society

social protection, quality education, universal healthcare and enabling environment for economic growth are among the hallmarks of a welfare society. Punjab Government, under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is striving hard to ensure the availability of these basic needs of a decent living.

The installation of high-end safe city cameras in 21 major cities of the province is a move to ensure better maintenance of law & order and crime surveillance, in order to provide people a safe and peaceful living environment. The establishment of Special Speedy Trial Courts in Punjab, and an attempt to end a culture of lying and false accusations through a proposed amendment in the defamation law are major Government steps to provide a sense of social security to people, especially the netizens. The construction of one lakh housing units for

the low income people across Punjab is a step to instill a sense of social protection in the struggling classes.

School education reforms in Punjab is very close to the Chief Minister's heart, who has chaired multiple marathon meetings to devise a workable reforms package for ensuring free and better education to the students of around 49000 public sector schools across Punjab. This includes optimum utilization of educational infrastructure and outsourcing of some 13000 non-performing or ghost schools in the province to the private sector to enhance their productivity and utility for the

he provision of credible local students. A plan to start providing tetra pack flavored milk to up to class 5 students of public sector schools to stem stunting and malnutrition in the younger lot, along with the establishment of computer labs and libraries in government schools are commendable Government interventions for the development of quality human resources in the province. The provision of 20,000 motorbikes to students on interest-free easy of the Government for the improvement monthly installments is another educa-

> the Government. Health sector reforms under "Healthy Punjab Programme" is an endeavor to provide state-of-the-art healthcare facilities to people

in Punjab. The upgra-

dation of 2500 Basic

tion-friendly initiative of

Health Units (BHUs) and 300 Rural Health Centers (RHCs) across Punjab is a step in the right direction. Punjab's first proposed public sector Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital in Lahore, Nawaz Sharif Cardiology Hospital in Sargodha, 32 field hospitals to provide healthcare facilities in remote areas, and a program of 200 Clinics on the wheels for the provision of treatment facilities to slum dwellers in the province are remarkable initiatives of the Govern-

healthcare system in the province. Additionally, Madam Chief Minister is also focused on building three medical cities in South, Central and North

ment that will no doubt revolutionize

The proposed launch of Air ambulance

service in Punjab and the start of Rescue ince-wide mega solid waste manage-1122 ambulance service on motorways are no doubt historic initiatives of the Government to ensure timely treatment of patients in case of any untoward accident in far-flung areas of the province.

Provision of free quality medicines in government hospitals, and the proposed free delivery of medicines at patients' doorsteps are other remarkable initiatives of healthcare system in Punjab.

There is no denving the fact that secure environment, stable Government, continuity of economic policies, rapid transportation, easy communication and ease of doing business invoke investors' confidence in the viability of any business

venture, that may guarantee socio-economic uplift of the society. Keeping this thing in mind, Punjab Government fully subscribes to the decisions of Strategic Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a platform that provides a whole-of-the

Government response to ensure ease of doing business to attract investors, both local and foreign. Undoubtedly, the construction, repair and rehabilitation of around 600 roads, 5 expressways and 3 motorways in Punjab under "Sarkein Bahal...Punjab Khushhal Programme" reflects the Government's commitment to provide an enabling environment to the business community to spur economic growth in the province.

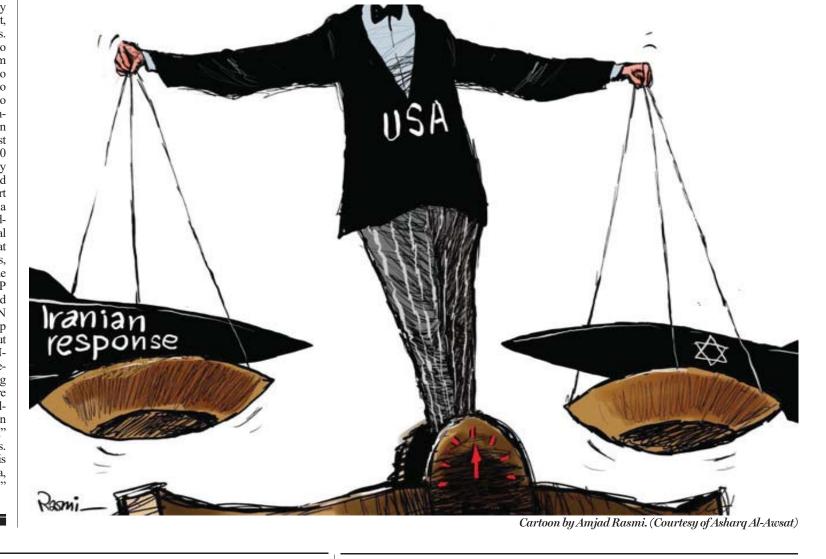
Moreover, the provision of prov-

ment system and the improvement of water supply and drainage system under "Suthra Punjab (Clean Punjab);" the construction and repair of all major and minor roads of Lahore, pavement of streets, installation of tuff tiles, and restoration of 222,000 street lights across Lahore under "Naya Daur...Saaf Lahore (New Era...Clean Lahore)" initiative, and the direction to make all water filtration plants of Lahore functional at the earliest are major steps for providing enabling environment for the socio-economic development of people in Punjab.

A proposed plan to launch a massive crackdown against electricity theft, hoarding and smuggling in the province through district level task forces and 600 dedicated Police teams is a milestone initiative to ensure stable supply of affordable electricity for the businesses to grow. A plan to provide interest-free loans to small farmers for buying farm inputs like seeds, fertilizer and pesticides, under the best-ever farmer cards, is another move to provide economic security to small farmers against unforeseen climate-induced weather shocks.

To wrap up, we can hope that, with the newly-elected Government at the helm of affairs, the continuity of economic policies, a prerequisite of socio-economic development, can fairly be expected. It will, in turn, guarantee peace, stability, welfare and prosperity of the nation and

Writer is senior Information Group Officer and Researcher.He can be reached at arshakir.com@gmail.com



Abdul Rashid Shakir

Old homes – A compulsion or a choice

Farhat Fatima

th eyes staring at entrance gate and heart aching for close sibling, the dwellers of old homes spent another Eid in deep desire to have someone loving besides them whose warmth they could feel

When people were enjoying Eid with families and friends, there were a few living in deep anguish and pain - abandoned by their dear ones and forced to live at an Old Home.

Living at a charity home becomes more painful when your own children, for whom you had toiled hard whole of life, are very much in the same vicinity or the city and refuse to even own and recognize you.

It was at Pakistan Baitul Mall (PBM) Old Home, Lahore when Mr 'Sha' passed away in January this year after nine years long association with Old Home. But, none of his heirs were ready to receive his body.

"We called his only son who lives here in Lahore and asked him to take his body for burial. But, his reply was agonizing," informed Assistant Director Old Homes, Talat Ghauri. "His son stated, 'why you called us. He had died for us 15 years back. Please bury him your-

It was also painful to know that Mr'Sha' had not mentioned his son's name in the list of heirs but his cousin, a doctor - whatever the reasons but this situation can have multiple dimensions. Why an end to someone like Mr 'Sha,' - is it paying back by the Nature for some evil his parents or it is a Nature's test for 'Mr Sha's I can hear her voice."

children to prove their allegiance.

This is an earthly happening. It is more or less everywhere around us where we see parents and children disagreeing, arguing, squabbling, wrangling, quarrelling on multiple issues.

But, commonly these are sorted out and in some cases parents themselves make decisions like Rana Muhammad, a 76 years' old father, residing at the same Old Home at Lahore.

"I have not been abandoned by my children. I am here by choice," remarked Rana Sb. "After the death of my wife, I was extremely lonely. My children tried to compensate, but it was becoming difficult. So, I myself decided to come here where I am happy with my fellows."

His children frequently visit him, take care of his needs and health and also take him home on leave from Old Home. "Now, I am going to my native town on one month leave to celebrate Eid with my children and grandchildren. This is an amicable solution for me and my children."

There are also instances where children had settled abroad and neither could come back to live with their parents or take parent abroad. But, they have not discarded their parents and take care for them even living thousands miles away. Azhar Mahmood, is another passionate father whose daughter is settled in United States as a doctor. But, she fully takes care of her father's material needs as for emotional

needs she herself had to be here. "I came here three years back when my wife passed away. My daughter is in United States. I have no financial issues. Daughter sends me as much money as required," Mr Azhar says. "I know, she can't come here to live with me. - I do not want her to leave her job for me. I only deeds he might had committed in his youth to desire that she talks to me on phone off and so

In amicable settlements, sometimes the Old Home may be a better choice. But, when parents are rebuked, discarded, dissociated, sent to Old Homes and even are not owned when they die; this is shameful and cursed by even Allah Almighty warning of twice punishment - once in this world and once in hereafter.

"It is the most painful when children refuse to take bodies of their deceased parents for burial and sometimes even change their phone numbers," regretted Old Home's Director Muhammad Azam.

"What can be the explanation to this attitude? Perhaps these kids forget that one day they will also be elderly," Azam remarked.

Allah Almighty has bestowed us with countless bounties and a set of rights and duties. And when it comes to rights of Allah, his Prophet and Parents; His commands are ample clear and authoritative.

"When you find them both or any of them in their old age; never be even a bit harsh to them; Talk them obediently and bow in their service," is more or less the meaning of the verses of Holy Quran as Allah lays much emphasis on parents rights.

With the societal transformation, undesired financial issues and an onslaught of exotic cultures posing serious threat to our social fabric, we need a comprehensive strategy to avoid parents-children uneasiness.

And even if, this uneasiness grows resulting in separations; there should be an alternate plan to facilitate elderly properly instead of leaving them on mercy of inhuman treatment of their obstinate offspring.

Note: Some names have been deliberately left incomplete to avoid humiliation for family

Guardians of justice: Islamabad high courts send letter to CJP

Umer Shabbir

slamabad six Islamabad High Court judges wrote a letter to Supreme Court for alleged Pakistani top spy intelligent agency interfering with our judicial system. What does it mean for courts. What will it mean for our cases already decided. What will it mean for the future that's to come this analogy is done by me for this case.

This started with the aftermath of senior puisne judge Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui case aftermath. Six honourable judges have written a letter to Supreme Court for allegedly Pakistan top agency interfering in our judicial system. in this letter its written that we are under continuous pressure. With our families been threatened or been approached where we are unable to deliver justice. This means that the biggest court in Islamabad is under pressure to not provide justice accord-

ing to the letter. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isae has vowed to deal with this issue very throughly and planing on investigating this case. For this he meet with prime minster Shabbaz sharif on 28th march 2024. In this setting along with Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and AGP Awan reported by radio Pakistan. This meeting follows the full court session on the 27th march 24 according to sources its stated that Supreme Court considered to issue sue motto against this with the regards to article 184(3). After this meeting CJP Isa have initiated second full court hearing. It added that a proposal was made in the meeting to constitute an inquiry commission under the Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry Act, 2017, further saying that it should be headed by a retired judge of "impeccable integrity" to investigate the matter.

PM Shehbaz said that a meeting of the federal cabinet would be called to seek its approval for the constitution of the commission. Chief justice taking so motto on this case and clearly stating that he will not take this lightly, shows that he is very serious on this topic

"The CJP clearly stated that interference by the executive in the affairs and judicial workings of judges will not be tolerated and under no circumstances can independence of the judiciary be allowed to be compromised were the words of Chief Justice Pakistan.

According to the press release of 27th march 24 court hearing which went for almost 2.5 hours session deliberated over the issues raised in the letter and developed a consensus among the majority to hold a meeting with the prime minister over the matter "in view of the gravity of the situation".

We urge the chief justice to take action against this. If the allegations are true then adequate actions are to be taken by the court to negate this problem. Expert all over Pakistan are urging to investigate this issue very highly. we citizen should be able to easily go to our courts without the fear that they are been controlled by someone. As this can bring chaos in the country and put our sovereignty at risk we should take this matter very seriously and should initiate the investigation as soon as possible. I know Chief justice of Pakistan no doubly going to get to the bottom of this issue. i think we should wait and see where this goes and his this plays out. Will end with this quote, "Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right."

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect Daily The Spokesman' point of view

President Tokayev signs laws aimed at Protecting the Rights of Women and Safety of Children

Spokesman Report

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has enacted the laws of Kazakhstan "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan Regarding the Protection of Women's Rights and Children's Safety" and "On Amendments and Additions to the Administrative Offenses Code of Kazakhstan Regarding the Protection of Women's Rights and Children's Safety." These laws significantly strengthen protections for women and children. The Kazakhstan Senate passed the legislation on April 11, following its approval on February 21 by the Mazhilis, the lower house of the Kazakh Parliament. This law became the first in the Commonwealth of Independent States region to introduce novel measures for the protection of women

The legislation was developed in collaboration with the Commissioner for Children's Rights, members of Parliament, and various government agencies following directives from President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The law aims to increase the safety and security of families and children across Kazakhstan, focusing on the development of a robust infrastructure to support those in vulnerable situations and to prevent instances of violence.

violence against women and children,



and enhance the safety of minors. Specifically, the intentional infliction of minor health harm and battery have now been criminalised. Additionally, the accountability for intentionally causing moderate to severe health damage has been

Criminal liability now applies to those who incite or assist in suicide, as well as those who promote it. Similarly, sexual harassment of individuals under the age of 16 is now subject to criminal liability. The penalties for kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment of minors have been significantly toughened, reflecting Norms have been introduced to a broader commitment to safeguarding toughen accountability for all acts of young people. Additionally, administrative responsibility for bullying, includstrengthen the institution of the family, ing cyberbullying, of minors has been

established for the first time. To ensure the safety of children in educational environments, institutions are now mandated to immediately report any illegal acts committed by or against minors to law enforcement. Furthermore, to protect children under 16 on public transport, a new rule prohibits their forcible removal for lack of fare payment.

Moreover, legal foundations have been established for a contact centre dedicated to family issues and the protection of women's and children's rights. Government bodies must now collaborate and inform the centre about responses to citizens' appeals. Additionally, laws have been enacted to create family support centres that offer specialised services to domestic violence victims



Furthermore, new principles of marital and family legislation have been established, aimed at strengthening the institutions of marriage and family, fatherhood, motherhood, and childhood, along with the principle of providing moral and spiritual education to children, fostering respect for universal, national, traditional, cultural, and family values.

President Tokayev has been a vocal 16, 2022, and September 1, 2023. The

advocate for strengthening legal measures against domestic violence, which he reiterated as a major social evil during the third meeting of the National Kurultay (Congress) in March this year. The directives to strengthen penalties for violence of citizens. against women and children were issued by President Tokayev in his addresses to the people of Kazakhstan on March

President's commitment to combatting this issue is reflected in the robust provisions of the new legislation, which highlight the government's dedication to the protection of fundamental rights

The law marks a significant step forward in Kazakhstan's commitment to social justice and the protection for women and children

SCO Family in My Eyes" the SCO Countries Art Exhibition of Children and Young Artists Launched in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), together with the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the SCO Secretariat is organizing the SCO Countries Art Exhibition. Pakistani Children and Young Artists are invited to submit their paintings and artworks.

Themed with "The SCO Family in My Eyes", the artworks are supposed to better future of SCO. embody the "Shanghai Spirit", telling the fantastic SCO story from the perspective Children from SCO countries of civilization mutual learn- are invited to participate in ing, green development and the event. The event is open scientific and technologi- and deadline for submissions cal innovation to embrace a is till June 1, 2024.



between 5 to 16 years old and

Pakistani Children aged information on the event Office of the Chinese Embasregarding regulations for art work submission, contact X(former Twitter) account details, and other information, please follow the Facebook page of China Cultur- Center in Pakistan or simply

For relevant detailed book account of the Cultural sy in Pakistan as well as the of Cultural Counsellor and Director of China Cultural al Center in Pakistan, face- open the following links.

TikTok Ad Awards: Celebrating creative excellence on the platform across METAP markets

ISLAMABAD: to celebrate the brands and ing campaigns, as well region. as embracing the unique

experiences.

The Awards will showcase TikTok is proud to announce some of the most inspiring Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, the launch of the first-ev- advertising campaigns that Egypt, Turkey, South Africa er TikTok Ad Awards in have brought authenticithe METAP region. The ty, creativity and joy to the features six main categoawards program is designed platform while achieving ries that encompass various groundbreaking results. The agencies leading the way initiative aims to acknowlon TikTok with their crea- edge exceptional talent

cies based in the METAP

region, encompassing and Pakistan. The program aspects of successful TikTok "We are thrilled to launch

tive and high-perform- and innovation within the the TikTok Ad Awards METAP to recognize and The TikTok Ad Awards is celebrate the outstanding nature of TikTok and deliv- now open for submissions creativity showcased by

ering exceptional advertising from brands and agen- brands and agencies on our platform across the region," said Shadi Kandil, General Manager, Global Business Solutions, Middle East, Turkey, Africa, Central and South Asia-TikTok. "This awards program aims to highlight the campaigns that push boundaries, captivate audiences, and drive meaningful impact. We can't wait to see the exceptional submissions from the METAP markets."

Palestine's Embassy in Pakistan denies fake news regarding the adoption of 3,000 Palestinian orphans

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the State of Palestine in Pakistan announces that, Subsequent to what was published on social media in the past few days, regarding the adoption of 3,000 Palestinian orphans, is a fake and illegal; Our embassy condemns this act and confirms that the policy of territory of the State of Pales-

we confirm that there are NO tions, sponsoring orphans, Palestinian orphans arrived in Pakistan

We would like also to draw your attention to fake news and allegations, regarding repeated circulation of appeals for donations in specific bank's accounts to collect donations for the Palestinian people in light of the genocide, criminal's war, and destruction in the the State of Palestine stipu- Gaza Strip. Accordingly, we lates sponsoring Palestini- appeal to our fellow Pakiembassy regarding this issue

or helping hidden families, so we can direct you to the official, accredited and reliable authorities.

The Embassy of the State

of Palestine reserves all its legal rights regarding those issues and with cooperation with the Pakistani authorities/ officials will follow up this matter.

We extend our grateful E. the Prime Minister, the tine and not outside it and before making any dona- government officials, and and personalities.

the Pakistan army.

We also appreciate highly the entities and personalities that made through accredited Pakistani institutions. And we assure you that the donations were sent to Palestine-Gaza and we are still continuing sending to Gaza through high cooperation between our embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, the National Disasappreciation and thanks to ter Management Authority our brotherly people of Paki- (NDMA), the AI-Khidmat an orphans (only) within the stani people to contact our stan, H. E. the President, H. Foundation, the Red Crescent, and other institutions

inDrive Partners with Hands Foundation for inDrive "Ride-to-Donate" campaign to serve the neglected communities

₿ PPA

KARACHI: In an effort to make a meaningful impact on communities in need, inDrive is proud to announce its partnership with Hands Foundation to partner with the Ride to Donate campaign. Through Ride to Donate, inDrive users contributed to charitable projects simply by using the inDrive app for their transportation needs. The "Ride-to-Donate" project aims to proceed with a 10% donation on every fourth ride to the Hands Foundation, supporting their initiatives focused on community development.

"We are thrilled to partner with Hands Foundation to launch the Ride Kiran added enthusiastically. ing forces with inDrive, the



Ms. Sidra Kiran, PR and commitment to fight social Communication Manager at inDrive."We believe that by mobilizing our community through purpose-driven initiatives like Ride to Donate, we can amplify our impact and inspire others to join us in building a more equitable society," Ms. Sidra

to Donate initiative," said "This partnership reflects our injustice and empowering our neglected communities to make a positive difference

in their lives. Hands Foundation is renowned for its impactful projects and unwavering dedication to serving marginalized communities. By joinorganization aims to expand its reach and create lasting change in the lives of those in need.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with inDrive on the Ride to Donate initiative," said Spoke person at Hands Foundation. Together, we can harness the collective power of individuals and technology to address pressing social challenges and create a brighter future

The Ride to Donate initiative was launched to serve the communities where users can simply participate by the 'Ride to Donate' banner within the inDrive app. Every ride taken during the campaign contributes to making a difference in the lives of others.

Largest Halal Fair In Russia will open on 14 May

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: More than 40 thousand visitors and 4.5 thousand goods according to Halal standards from all over the world. On 14-19 May 2024 in Russia (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan) will open the country's largest trading platform for Muslims-the International Trade Fair Kazan Halal Market.

The fair will be held as part of the annual International Economic Forum "Russia-Islamic World: KazanForum", which traditionally gathers representatives of all countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

ver between Russia and the OIC states has been growing. In 2021, it totalled \$113.3 billion, a 43.2% increase compared to 2017," said Hussein Ibrahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC, in an address to the participants of KazanForum-2023. The halal market and mutual supply of products complying with the norms of Islam opens new opportunities,

he believes. The global Halal market is growing very fast and is now estimated at \$2.6 trillion. I hope the work of the Forum will contribute to the further development of the Halal industry in Russia and

"In recent years, trade turno- trade. And by 2028, the market is expected to be worth more than \$11 trillion," said the OIC Secretary General in May 2023.

The development of the industry and foreign trade is facilitated by the international fair of the best halal products within the framework of KazanForum.

At Kazan Halal Market one can buy food, clothes, accessories, cosmetics and other consumer goods with Halal certification from leading manufacturing companies of the Islamic World. In 2023, visitors could familiarise themselves with products from Iran, Afghanistan, Senegal and



Turkey. It is expected that this year companies from Indonesia and Malaysia will show addition-

al interest in the fair and in enter- Forum of Tatar religious figures; ing the growing Russian Halal

A total of 400 exhibitors took part in Kazan Halal Market and the Russian Federation; presented 4,500 products. The fair became a place of attraction for Halal connoisseurs and a convenient platform for family shopping. It was visited by more than 40 thousand guests, includ-

Malaysia, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Morocco, Bahrain, Chad, Sene-

gal, Iran, Turkey, Gabon; Representatives of foreign

- participants of the All-Russian and retail trade, consumer goods.

- young diplomats of the OIC -deputies of the State Duma of

- members of regional govern-

ments of the Russian Federation. In 2024, the Kazan Halal Market International Trade Fair will be held on 14-19 May in the Kazan Agro-Industrial Park. Participants will be able to pres-Official delegations from ent their products on the trade area of 5 thousand square metres. Participation fee-210 USD for 1 equipped trading place with a showcase. Specialisation of the fair: food products, wholesale

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
70,544.58	70,314.71			
Day's High	Day's Low			
70,608.88	69,914.10			
Index Value	Change			
15,057,198,666	+229.87			
Percentage	Time			
+0.33%	15 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
7,965.53	-30.05			
Percentage	Time			
-0.38%	15 Apr, 4:50 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
37,888.38	-94.86			
Percentage	Time			
-0.25%	15 Apr, 1:22 pm GMT-4			
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average			
Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value	ei Stocks Average Change			
	_			

Open Market Forex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	181	183	
Bahrain Dinar	738.93	751.93	
Canadian Dollar	201	203.5	
China Yuan	38.39	38.79	
Danish Krone	39.64	40.04	
Euro	295	298	
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.8	
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44	
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94	
Kuwaiti Dinar	901.72	910.72	
Malaysian Ringgit	58.24	58.84	
NewZealand \$	164.94	166.94	
Norwegians Krone	25.49	25.79	
Omani Riyal	721.54	729.54	
Qatari Riyal	76.35	77.05	
Saudi Riyal	73.3	74.05	
Singapore Dollar	206	208	
Swedish Korona	25.53	25.83	
Swiss Franc	303.88	306.38	
Thai Bhat	7.59	7.74	
U.A.E Dirham	75.4	76.15	
UK Pound Sterling	345	349	
US Dollar	278	280.7	

Time

15 Apr, 3:15 pm

GMT+

Percentage

-0.74%

Infinix NOTE40 Series vs. the Competition: Why It Stands Out



LAHORE: Smartphone enthusiasts have now a plethora of options, each promising cutting-edge features, and top-notch performance. From established giants to emerging contenders, the market is brimming with choices catering to diverse needs and preferences. In this article, we delve into a comparison of some notable contenders, concluding with a spotlight on the Infinix NOTE 40 Pro and its exceptional offerings.

Starting our exploration is the OPPO 78, boasting impressive specifications with a price tag of PKR 71,999. Powered by the Snapdragon 680 4G processor, it offers 8GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage. Its 6.43-inch AMOLED display delivers vibrant visuals, complemented by a 50MP+2MP rear camera setup. While it features a generous 5000mAh battery with 67W Supercharging, it lacks support for wireless charging and reverse charging.

Setting it apart from its competitors, the NOTE 40 Pro offers multiple charging modes, enabling users to stay powered throughout the day. Along with the 20W Wireless MagCharge it also offers reverse charging functionality, adding to its versatility. Infinix NOTE 40 series, with its promise of diverse yet multiple charging modes, stands as a testament to the brand's commitment to empowering users, offering them the autonomy to lead their lives without constraints.

In a market flooded with options, the Infinix NOTE 40 Pro emerges as a compelling choice, offering a blend of top-tier specifications, innovative features, and competitive pricing. With its exceptional charging capabilities, immersive display, and powerful camera setup, it stands poised to redefine the smartphone experience for users seeking performance and value. Starting from an unbelievable price of PKR 54,999 Infinix NOTE 40 series is available to purchase at outlets Nationwide.

Difficult economic conditions increasing Pakistan's dependence on Arab nations: Mian Zahid Hussain

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the Middle East crisis is worsening; therefore, Pakistan needs to exercise caution.

The challenge for Pakistan will be to strike a balance between its relations with Saudi Arabia and Iran he said

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan's reliance on Arab nations is growing due to challenging economic circumstances.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the Middle East conflict is increasing, which can take any shape. It is most likely that this conflict will continue

but will not turn into a major war, but still Pakistan has to be careful in this regard, he added. The business leader said that Pakistan's dependence on Arab countries is increasing,

but this relationship should not be at the cost of any third party.

In the current situation, balancing relations with Arab countries and Iran will be a severe test of our leadership in which success is the

Mian Zahid Hussain said that President Asif Ali Zardari's contact with his Iranian counterpart is very important in the current situation as the scope of tension between Israel and Hamas is expanding, and now Iran has also jumped into this matter.

Now, the US and Israel, with the help of their allies, will try to teach Iran an economic lesson instead of a military one.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that a few months ago, Iran had launched a missile attack on Pakistan in which some people were killed, to which supporting terrorists. Pakistan immediately retaliated, but due to diplomatic efforts from both sides.

That issue between the two neighbours was resolved, but trust was not fully restored, and both sides continued to accuse each other of



Mian Zahid Hussain said that Saudi Arabia wants to invest heavily in Pakistan, while millions of its Pakistanis also work there and send billions of dollars annually.

Millions of Pakistanis are also working in Pakistan.

other Arab and Gulf countries and sending massive foreign exchange, which cannot be ignored in any case. On the other hand, Pakistan wants natural gas from Iran and the employment of a large number of Pakistanis along the Iranian border is related to trade

Therefore, it is challenging to ignore Iran. It is impossible to import gas from Iran because it is not acceptable to America. Still, it is also a fact that more than a dozen countries in the American camp are doing business with Iran. so Pakistan also hopes that, sooner or later, it will be able to import gas.

Pakistan will have to pay a fine of up to twenty billion dollars if it decides not to buy gas from Iran, Mian Zahid Hussain further said that President Zardari has contacted the Iranian leadership, and now Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Mian Nawaz Sharif should also take Saudi Arabia into confidence because the kingdom leadership trust this family the most in

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed inaugurates evening OPD in Pims on Monday. Federal Secretary for Health, Iftikhar Ali Shalwani is also present on the occasion.



MEPCO Earned Profit of 22 Billion Rupees has Been Made in the First half of the current financial year 2023-24

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Executive Officer MEPCO Engineer Rana Mohammad Ayub Khan has said that due to the hard work of MEPCO workers and officers day and night and performing their duties whole heartedly, Mepco a profit of 22 billion rupees has been made in the first half of the current financial year 2023-24. Officers and employees should continue their best performance and work harder to achieve the line loss and recovery targets given by the Ministry of Power (Power Division). It is our responsibility to crack down on electricity thieves, cases should be registered against them and compensation should be collected. He was addressing a high-level meeting held at Mapco headquarters. He said that steps should be taken to reduce the loss rate in areas with high loss feeders and day and night operations should be conducted against electricity thieves in these areas. It is our duty to facilitate the customers and any kind of negligence in this duty is not tolerated. Every officer/employee should improve his/her performance and perform his/her duties responsibly and honestly. During the



public holiday of Eid-ul-Fitr, the supply of electricity continued continuously and 97% of the areas of MAPCO region were successfully supplied with electricity. Complaints of burning or damaged transformers have been received in remote areas and it is very important to improve the services in these areas. The Chief Executive Officer said that the officers of the operation circles should resolve the complaints of power outage due to wind and storm in the shortest possible time and create a positive image among the consumers. We all have to create an atmosphere of trust between our customers and Mapco and it is possible to build trust by promoting a customer-friendly culture. He said that

it is not impossible to achieve the recovery goals, it should be made possible in every case and one's abilities should be used for the interests of the company. The Chief Executive Officer congratulated all the officers on Eid-ul-Fitr and the promoted officers. On this occasion, General Manager Operation Nasir Ayaz Garmani, Chief Engineer Jam Gul Muhammad Zahid, Finance Director Mian Ansar Mehmood, Director General HR & Admin Waqas Masood Chaghatai, Chief Engineers Muhammad Shehzad Rai, Syed Jawad Mansoor Shah, Saifullah Surani, Muhammad Akram Sial, and Mohammad Asghar Ghalo, and other departmental officers/heads were also present.

Visit of the Saudi delegation will be a milestone for Pakistan's economy: Atif Ikram Shaikh



ISLAMABAD: President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh termed the visit of the Saudi delegation as a milestone for the economy and hoped that recent visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan's to the capi-The focus is on a positive The pledge to complete the like textile, pharmaceutifive-billion-dollar investment cal. rice, leather, dairy farmtrail would soon begin restor- ing etc. It is bound to play ing the confidence of inves- a supporting role for the

ment of this denomination concluded.

from the platform of the SIFC in the Reco Deq prospect was a positive step for the bolstering the economy. The role of the Investment Council is significant and timely, he added. There is a need for a framework to help widen the possibilities of it happens in response to the cooperation in different fields of the economy.

President Federation Atif tal of the brotherly kingdom. Ikram said that Pakistan has vast potential to augment continuation of the invest- investment-driven relations ment projects in Pakistan. with Saudi Arabia in sectors tors from all over the world. welfare of the people in the Atif Sheikh said invest- two brotherly countries, he

Petroleum dealers are facing lot of loss in their business: **Abdul Sami Khan**



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD:2nd Meeting of FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Petroleum Product's and Dealers held today under the Chairmanship of Abdul Sami Khan (SI), Convenor of the committee, to highlight the problems being faced by the Petroleum dealers all across Pakistan.

The committee was attended by petroleum dealers all over Pakistan, including Ajk, Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and AJK.

The convenor of the committee emphasised, that

due to smuggling of petrol from neighbour country, the dealers are facing lot of loss in their business. Due to non/cooperation from government agencies, the volume of smuggling products is increasing day by day, almost more than 2 billion dollars per year loss to National exchequer. Further, OMCs are also not cooperating with dealers which is causing great damage to the business on account of club cards expense and non-implementation of imposition of required fee as instructed

Pakistan's resources cannot support 200 white elephants

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that the resources of Pakistan are insufficient to support two hundred white elephants.

trillion rupees in five years, and the Every government recruits an army entire cost of corruption rests with the people, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a lions of rupees. statement issued here today that to carry the burden of two hundred white elephants, so the government should get rid of them.

These two hundred state-run state-run corporations has crumbled

enterprises have not contributed to them, which has become a burden the country's development. Instead, four trillion rupees have been wasted in five years, the entire burden of which was borne by the poor, which has compromised their quality of life.

According to Shahid Rasheed Butt, every government that comes to power transforms government State-owned firms had wasted four institutions into recruitment centers. of incompetent and corrupt individuals, contributing to losses worth tril-

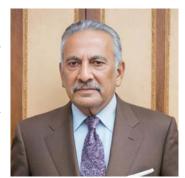
Apart from this, new departments the country's resources are not able are also established to get party workers employed at the cost of the coun-

Moreover, political interference in

on the country. At present, there are $\,$ many such departments whose existence is unnecessary, but millions of rupees are being spent on them.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that dozens of countries have developed by adopting the path of privatization, foreign investment, elimination of subsidies, discouraging manipulation, promoting competition, and adopting a free trade model.

He said that Vietnam was a very backward country that decided to undertake economic reforms in 1986 to overcome poverty, unemployment, and inflation. Their leadership surprised the whole world by selling 9000 state-owned companies in a few years.



Now, Vietnam has become a model for many countries, which is grow-

ing at a rate of seven percent per year. On the other hand, it takes decades for Pakistani politicians to sell a single company, which speaks volumes

about the competence and honesty of leaders and bureaucrats. The business leader noted that with a young and expanding popu-

lation, the largest difficulty facing Pakistan is its sluggish economic growth. The current state of affairs shows that the middle class is shrinking and poverty is increasing.

The situation in regional nations is precisely the opposite of this. Their vibrant middle class is growing, poverty is declining and their growth rate is impressive.

He said that if the Pakistani government can get rid of failed institutions, there will be no need to impose more taxes on the people and increase the cost of electricity, gas, and petrol.

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Ahsan stresses to transform sports, tourism scenarios

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ahsan Igbal on Monday underscored the need to transform country's sports and tourism scenarios to project its true image globally. Ahsan, who is also Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives was given additional charge of IPC ministery recently.

"I am honoured that the prime minister has entrusted me with this responsibility," he said while talking to media after chairing his first meeting as IPC minister here at Pakistan Sports Board. He emphasized the significal claimed three medals.

cance of the IPC ministry in the field of sports. "The 18th Amendment does not mean that the federation should neglect the coordination," he said.

Highlighting the importance of national coordination for the development of the country's potential in tourism and sports, he said.

"The establishment of a National Tourism Council is necessary. Similarly, we will have to make concerted effort to revive the country's sports reputation," he added.

The minister also spoke about Pakistan's performance at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, last year wherein it only



"Today, Pakistan's name is not prominent in the Asian Games as it used to ucts.

be in the past. "We will have to take some serious steps for sports development. We will have to declare 2025 as the year of sports revival," he asserted. He highlighted the significant investments made by other countries for hosting prestigious sport events to get recognition and promote themselves.

'We need to launch the National Internship Programme on a large scale this year," he added.

He also mentioned Pakistan's dairy industry, pointing out the low export numbers compared to other countries. He stressed the need for Pakistan to explore new markets for its meat prod-

Ex-Australia opener

Slater remanded in

police custody for

various charges

Returning Rafael Nadal wants to enjoy comeback 'gift'

➢ Sports Desk

LAHORE: Tennis superstar Rafael Nadal said Monday that returning to action at the Barcelona Open is a "gift" and he wants to enjoy every moment of what he expects to be the last year of his career.

The 22-time Grand Slam winner has not played an ATP Tour match since January, when he felt a hip injury flare up at the Brisbane International.

Nadal, who missed virtually all of the 2023 season, will face Italian Flavio Cobolli on Tuesday in the first round on the centre-court in Barcelona which bears his own name.

The 37-year-old withdrew from the Monte Carlo Masters earlier in April and is hoping to compete at Roland Garros in May, where he is a record 14-time champion.

"More than lamenting where I wasn't able to be, I prefer to be happy that I am here," Nadal told a news conference.

"On a personal level it is a gift for me my last year and I want to enjoy every continued Nadal.

Rafael Nadal, the record 12-time but as I've said, in the end life marks about the semi-finals."



Barcelona Open winner, has not your path for you." played a match on clay since winning the French Open in 2022.

Despite viewing 2024 as his final year as a professional, the veteran said he was not setting any deadline for retirement.

"We'll keep going forward until I to be in Barcelona. I'm taking this as have the feeling that it's not worth it,"

"I'm not putting a deadline on that,

The Barcelona Open draw had put Rafael Nadal on a collision course with Spanish compatriot Carlos Alcaraz in the semi-finals but the 20-year-old was forced to withdraw Sunday because of fitness concerns.

"Let's hope he recovers well and quickly, it's bad for the tournament

because he's the top seed," said Nadal. "I'm not in a position to be thinking



A Sports

LAHORE: Former Australia opener Michael Slater has been remanded in police custody after being charged with more than a dozen offences, English news outlet The Guardian reported.

According to The Guardian, the 54-yearold cricketer-turned-commentator's case was summoned in Maroochydore magistrates court on Monday.

The former cricket player is being charged on 19 counts for alleged acts that purportedly occurred on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland on various dates between December 5, 2023, and April 12,

In addition, Michael Slater was charged ith ten charges of violating his bail and

disobeying a domestic violence order. The Queensland Maroochydore Magistrates Court reportedly heard Slater's case on Monday. The report, however, did not identify the victim.

Meanwhile, the local police confirmed detaining a 54-year-old man from Noosa Heads at the Sunshine Coast last Friday over the alleged domestic violence incidents for several days.

Slater has been remanded in custody, with the case scheduled to be heard in the same court on Tuesday.

The former opener was first arrested on grounds of stalking and domestic violence in connection with his ex-wife in October 2021. In 2022, Slater was charged with domestic violence which got dismissed on mental health grounds in a Sydney local

Slater, who forged a career as a high-profile cricket commentator was let go by Australia's Channel Seven in 2021.

Last year, he was also arrested for assaulting a police officer after an heated argument, leaving the victim with a cut to their

It is worth mentioning here that Michael Slater, after making his debut during the 1993 Ashes, went on to represent Australia in 74 Tests. He accumulated 5,312 runs at an average of 42.83 with the help of 14 centuries.

He also played 42 ODIs for Australia and culminated 987 runs at an average of 24.

GSP CM Punjab Baseball League 2024 camp commences with top players nationwide



LAHORE: Today marks the commencement of the highly anticipated GSP CM Punjab Baseball League 2024 camp at FC Baseball Ground in Lahore. Welcoming top players from across Pakistan, the camp serves as a rigorous training ground ahead of the league's kickoff on April 18th. Under the expert guidance of esteemed foreign coaches, both male and female athletes have begun their preparations in earnest.

The inaugural session witnessed esteemed guests, including General Secretary Syed Fakhar Ali Shah of the Pakistan Federation Baseball, alongside organizing committee members Amjad Nawaz Khan and Ahsan Omer. Their presence underscored the significance of this event in fostering talent and promoting the sport nationwide.

Mr. Brian, head coach of the Baseball team, extended a warm welcome to all participants, alongside fellow coaches Nisar Ahmed, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Nadeem Shirazi, Tariq Pasha, Saqib Butt, Umair Bhati national coaches where among them, fostering an environment of camaraderie and determination. With the camp set to conclude on April 17th, players are poised to hone their skills, aiming for excellence as they gear up for an electrifying season.

Executive Director of Pakistan Federation Baseball, Moazzam Khan Klair, expressed his hopes that this camp will significantly boost the sport of baseball in the region.

Naseem Shah close to amass landmark in Pakistan-New Zealand T20Is

№ A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's right-arm pacer Naseem Shah is on the verge of achieving a significant milestone amid the upcoming five-match home T20I series against New Zealand.

Naseem, who made his international debut against Australia in 2019, has 98 wickets to his name in international cricket and is just two strikes away from joining his teammates Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Amir and others in the 100-wicket club.

Out of his 98 wickets, 24 came against Sri Lanka, followed by 23 against New Zealand and 11 against the Netherlands.

Naseem Shah's tally of international wickets comprised 51 Tests, 32 ODIs and 15 T20I wickets.

For the unversed, Pakistan will host New Zealand for a fivematch T20I series, scheduled to run from April 18. Rawalpindi's Pindi Cricket Stadium will host the opening

three T20Is between Pakistan and New Zealand on 18, 20 and $21\,\mathrm{April}$ before action shifts to Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium where the last two matches will be played on 25 and 27 April

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

Reserves: Haseebullah, Mohammad Ali, Agha Salman, Sahibzada Farhan, Mohammad Wasim Jr.

New Zealand squad

Michael Bracewell (c), Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson, Jacob Duffy, Dean Foxcroft, Ben Lister, Cole McConchie, Jimmy Neesham, Will O'Rourke, Tim Robinson, Ben Sears, Tim Seifert (WK), Ish Sodhi, Tom Blundell, Zak Foulkes.

Pakistan vs New Zealand T20I series schedule

April 18 — 1st T20I, Rawalpindi April 20 - 2nd T20I, Rawalpindi April 21 — 3rd T20I, Rawalpindi April 25 — 4th T20I, Lahore April 27 - 5th T20I, Lahore

Will Shaheen Afridi not play all matches against New Zealand?

KARACHI: In a rather disappointing news for cricket fans, Pakistan's star pacer Shaheen Afridi is likely to miss out on multiple matches in the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand, sources told Geo News on Monday.

They added that it has been decided to "rest" the left-arm bowler as part of the team's rotation policy to manage the players' workload ahead of the upcoming 2024 T20 World Cup slated for June later this year.

Shaheen is likely to be on the sidelines for the first two matches of the five-match series. However, he would be part of the last three matches, the sources added.

It must be noted that Shaheen was recently removed as captain of the T20I side and was replaced by Babar Azam.

England spin great Derek Underwood dies at 78

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Derek Underwood, the most successful spin bowler in England Test cricket history, has died at the age of 78, his former county Kent announced on Monday.

Underwood took 297 wickets in 86 Tests with his distinctive brand of brisk left-arm spin. He was noted for being particularly

were in use for much of a 24-year firstclass career that ran from 1963 until He famously bowled England to a

at The Oval in 1968 on such a surface, taking 7-50 when a draw had seemed inevitable. Underwood made his England debut national games.

as a 21-year-old in 1966 and played his last Test in 1982.

Together with outstanding wicketkeeper Alan Knott, he formed a celebrated combination for Kent and England.

Both Underwood, affectionately nicknamed "Deadly", and Knott might England had they not been involved in fashion. Kerry Packer's breakaway World Series of South Africa in 1982.

Even so, Underwood's tally of Test



wickets is 42 more than the next effective on uncovered pitches, which highest by another England spinner, Graeme Swann. Former England captain Mike

Atherton said Underwood would be "held to be England's best spinner" Test victory over arch-rivals Australia even though he faced different conditions from modern bowlers, who play on covered pitches and have the benefit of the decision review system in inter-

"On pitches that were drying, from wet to dry, he was said to be near unplayable," Atherton told Sky Sports.

You think of spinners being quite slow and flighty, but because of the conditions that pertained at the time, particularly the uncovered pitches, he was somebody who had quite a long have achieved even more success for run-up and bowled in a kind of a cutter

"You speak to someone like Ian Cricket of the late 1970s and a rebel tour Chappell, who would have played against him in the Ashes as an Australian batter, and he would say Derek

Underwood was amongst the most difficult bowlers that he played against." Derek Pringle, a former England

all-rounder who played against Underwood for Essex, said on X: "Very saddened to hear of Derek Underwood's passing - a superb spin and cut bowler and an unassuming England and Kent legend. I once faced him on a 'turner' at Folkestone and there was only one Deadly Derek and it wasn't

After his playing career was over, Underwood served as president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the owners of London's Lord's Cricket Ground, for an annual term in 2009, and was inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Richard Thompson said: "Derek Underwood will be remembered as one of the finest spin bowlers this country has ever produced and his remarkable record is testament to his enduring skill."

Kent chairman Simon Philip said: "Derek was an outstanding contributor to both Kent and England, winning trophies for club and country and etching his name in the history books forev-

"Watching Derek weave his unique magic on a wet wicket was a privilege for all who were able to witness it."

West Indies' Stafanie Taylor wary of Pakistan's spin bowling 'challenge'

Sports Desk

KARACHI: West Indies all-rounder Stafanie Taylor on Monday, acknowledged that the Pakistan women's cricket team's strength lies in their spin bowling but insisted that the visiting team is "experienced enough" to coun-

ter the challenge. Taylor interacted with the media on the sideline of the West Indies trainbe played here at the National Bank Cricket Stadium on April 18.

The all-rounder accepted Pakirevealed that the touring side is trying not to think too much about it.

"It's definitely a challenge [but] we're not trying to think too much of

and play.

"It's not a case that we're not experienced in playing spin and yes, they're a team that's actually full of spin bowl-

"We know most of their spin bowlers, we've played against most of their spin bowlers so it's not something that

we're not familiar with." Stafanie Taylor then talked about ing session ahead of the first ODI of her previous experience of visiting the three-match series, scheduled to Pakistan in 2021 when the touring team whitewashed the home team 3-0

in the ODI series. The all-rounder played a pivotal role stan's spin bowling as a challenge but in her side's dominant triumph but is unfazed by the previous record, stat-

ing that is the past now. We were here the last time and we had a very good time. We came out on it and trying to focus on each bowler the better side of things, [but] that's

at a time whenever we go out there past and this series is a fresh one for both teams.

"We [are] hoping that we come out as the batter side.

For the unversed, West Indies will play a three-match ODI series, followed by five T20Is against Pakistan from April 18 to May 3.

All eight matches of the white-ball series between Pakistan and West Indies will be played at the National Bank Cricket Stadium here.

West Indies Squad for white-ball

Hayley Matthews (c), Shemaine Campbelle (vc), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Jannillea Glasgow, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Chedean Nation, Karishma Ramharack, Stafanie Taylor, Rashada Williams, Kate Wilmott.



The Spokesman

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a high-level review meeting regarding power sector in on



PM directs for vital measures to reduce power price per unit for common man

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for drastic measures including shifting of imported coalrun plants, improvement in power supply system, setting up cost effective and renewable energy plants, and function-Wing said in a press release. ing of solar projects to reduce cost of electricity per unit thus benefiting the ordinary people.

The prime minister chaired a high level review meeting regarding the power sector.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ishaq

Attaullah Tarar, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Dr Mussadik Malik, former minister Muhammad Ali, Member of the National Assembly Bilal Zaheer Kiyani, Rana Ahsan Afzal, Salman Ahmed and relevant author-

The prime minister directed for shifting of the coal-run capacity in industries. power plants from the imported fuel to local coal, besides improvement in the power supply system.

He said that in future, only

Dar, Khawaja Muhammad clean, cost effective and renew-Asif, Ahad Khan Cheema, able power plants should be set up in the country.

The meeting was apprised of the 600MW solar power project and the prime minister directed for expediting work on the foreign investment in this regard. The prime minister also

ities, the PM Office Media asked for proposals for better utilization of the current surplus power generation

> He observed that wheeling price of electricity should be reduced for the industrial consumers so that power supply at reduced price could carried out on priority basis.

be made possible, besides for the industrial development and increase in export, grid stations should be installed near big industries.

The process of auction of those power plants of Generation Companies (GENCOs) that were lying dysfunctional and defective should be accelerated, he further directed.

The prime minister said that the government was taking all measures to reduce price of power per unit for the common man whereas to reduce circular debt, reforms in the power sector were being

The meeting was briefed over the existing power generation capability, supply system, government's steps and proposals. It was also apprised of the future power demand and supply.

The meeting was told that by shifting the coal-run plants from the imported fuel would not only save the precious reserves but also would make it possible to reduce power price by Rs 2 per unit for the

The prime minister directed for swift implementation of all the measures within the stipu-

Aseefa Zardari sworn in as MNA amid protest from opposition



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, the youngest daughter of President Asif Zardari and the Late Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as a member of the National Assembly (MNA) amid noisy protest from the opposition benches on Monday.

The house met here with Speaker

sition from the opposition benches. President Asif Zardari was present in the assembly building to witness the oath-taking of Aseefa along with his other children.

Aseefa entered the assembly hall accompanied by her brother and MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. She was greeted in the hall by the lawmakers belonging to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Several other party leaders were also present in the galleries as guests.

Aseefa was elected unopposed in the by-election in NA-207, Nawabshah, a seat vacated by her father after his election as the president. With the oath-taking as an MNA, Aseefa embarks upon the path to parliamentary politics.

The assembly hall reverberated with slogans of 'Jeay Bhutto' on Aseefa's arrival. While the independent lawmakers belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) raised slogans against skewing election results for Ayaz Sadiq in the chair, on the requither release of their party founder.

Opposition welcomes int'l investors' delegation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan on Monday said the opposition welcomed the international investors' delegation from a brotherly country and demanded equal distribution of dividends to the local masses.

Talking to the media outside the Parliament House flanked by MNAs Mahmood Khan Achakzai of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP) and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, he $maintained \, that \, any \, delegation \, from \,$ brotherly nations intended to support economic uplift of the country was warmly welcomed by the opposition.

The opposition, he added, had the only demand that the government should ensure equal and just distribution of the outcomes and dividends of those investments to the local populace of the particular region where the projects were implemented.

"Be it Balochistan or Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or any other province the first beneficiaries of foreign invest-

ment are the local masses. Mahmood Achakzai said that he would welcome any other political party who demanded supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law in the country to join the opposition

Barrister Gohar Ali said that there should be no compromise on rule of law which was the very prerequisite for any democracy to flourish in the country and his party would continue its struggle for the cause.

Opposition unable to lead CEC Raja leaves for Brazil for EVM briefing protest movement against -government: Gabol

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan Raja on Monday departed on an official visit to Brazil where he will receive a briefing on the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM).

He was accompanied by the director general of Information Technology (IT) on a two-day visit. They will receive a briefing on the

Meanwhile, sources said that CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja will prolong his stay in ality of EVM and declared it the country and will return to Pakistan on April 20.

It is pertinent to mention

ponement twice.

In the past, the ECP had objected to hold the February 8 election through EVM and (ECP) Chief Sikandar Sultan declared them as convenient vehicles for electoral malprac-



The electoral body, in 2021 had pointed out as many as 37 objections to the functionto be totally unfit for the task that it is going to be used for.

Later, the PML-N led that the ECP chief was sched-uled to visit Brazil last year, approved legislation in the

the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the general elections.

The bill was moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi on May 26, 2022, and was passed with a majority vote.

Then Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the coalition government was not against the use of EVM in the next general elections. However, he said that his

party had concerns about misuse of technology as the Results Transmission System (RTS) had failed in the 2018

He went on to say that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had also expressed its inability to hold elections through I-Voting and EVMs however, the visit faced post- National Assembly to remove in a short span of time.

跨 City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly (MNA) and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) leader, Sardar Nabil Ahmed Gabol on Monday scrapped the Opposition claims of leading a protest movement against the ruling coalition government and claimed it unable to start the protest campaign due to division within its factions.

Talking to APP outside the Parliament House, the PPPP policy maker categorically stated that the Opposition was divided within its ranks and files which had further dilut-

ed its strength within the House.

Gabol said he was not seeing any strong protest campaign as neither the Sunni Tehreek/Tehreek-e-Insaf or any other political party in the Opposition had any unity or consensus which ruled out any such possibility of a massive protesting theater to be staged by the Opposition.

Abdul Aleem Khan visits Chinese Embassy, condoles Engineers' incident

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Monday.

He called on Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong and expressed his deep sorrow over the recent accident of Chinese engineers, said a press release.

Abdul Aleem Khan while talking to the Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan-China friendship is a symbol of economic stability and peace in the region.

He added that there no one can harm the friendship between China and Pakistan and bilateral relations. He said that every Pakistani is saddened and heartbroken over the death of Chinese engineers.



Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his heartfelt sympathies to the families of the Chinese engineers who were victims of the accident.

While writing in the book in Chinese Embassy, Abdul Aleem Khan gave positive comments for Chinese families who lost their beloved ones.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong expressed his gratitude for Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan's visit to the Embassy and thanked him for his sentiments.

Oil tankers association...

Continued from Page 1

demands," the statement said and claimed that it got no response to the letters sent to the Pakistan State Oil officials and the Islamabad district commissioner.

demand for filling the tankers it added.

through metered system should "immediately be followed". The suppliers added that the district administration and officials violated the February 20 agreement.

The supply would remain suspended in view of token protest The association said that the until the demands were accepted,

Chairman Ulema Council lauds ...

Continued from Page 1

friendly relations with Islamic nations to bolster investment and business opportunities in Pakistan.

Talking to the media, Ashrafi said a high-level delegation led by Saudi Foreign Minister was expected to arrive in Pakistan on Monday evening, marking a significant milestone in bilateral ties, adding the visit would underscore the country's appeal as an investment destination among the Muslim states.

The PUC chairman highlighted that both the prime minister and army chief had effectively garnered support and commitments from key stakeholders, including the Saudi leadership and prominent businessmen.

during the last two months to strengthen Pak-Saudi relations, culminated in successful meetings of Pakistan's leadership with top Saudi officials, including Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman and Muslim World League Secretary-General Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa. Ashrafi said the visit of Saudi

He said concerted efforts made

Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan, accompanied by representatives from vital ministries and business sectors, would reaffirm the growing partnership and commitment to mutual pros-

He expressed optimism about Pakistan's future, foreseeing an end to economic hardships and a brighter outlook for its citizens.

PML-N believes in ensuring prosperity: Azma Bukhari

👺 Bureau Reprt

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz believes in serving the people and credit goes to the PML-N for overcoming electricity load-shed-



Addressing a press conference here on Monday she said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has brought an air ambulance project just in one and a half months. She said that rescue workers are getting training of an air ambulance, adding that it is a small size plane which could be landed anywhere.

Azma Bukhari said that all services of an air ambulance would be free for common man.

She further said that price of 'Roti' has been reduced after doing homework, adding that impossible word is not present in the dictionary of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif and Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz.

She further said that Sehat card would be introduced once again after improving it.

Kashmiris celebrate joyous 'Eid Millan' event in Canada

👺 Bureau Report

MIRPUR: In a vibrant display of unity and cultural celebration, hundreds of Kashmiri families residing in Calgary, Canada, came together to participate in the post-Eid festivities titled 'Eid Millan' on Friday, said a message reaching and released to the media here on Saturday. The US and Canada-based Kashmiri diaspora community celebrated the sanctified festival simultaneously with the observance of the Muslim sacred day, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan ul Mubarak.

"Organized by the Chinar Kashmir Community Foundation (CKCF), a non-profit organization committed to community development and preserving Kashmiri identity, the event was a testament to the strong its gratitude to them on behalf concluded.

within the diaspora community. been actively fostering community cohesion through various social interaction and cultural exchange. On this occasion, CKCF

presented a special shield to acknowledge the services of the following board members: Akhtar Hussain Kayani, Altaf Khan, Anwar Hussain Kiani, Asif Mehmood, Asif Nazir, Imtiaz Nazir, Inzar Shah, Janat Hussain (Shero), Khalid Khan, Khalid Mehmood, Khalid Naeem, Muhammad Riaz Khan, Muhammad Zahid Khan, Sajjad Hussain, Sajjad Tabassum, Saqib Khan, Shahzad Nabi, Syed Abrar Shah, Talib Hussain Khan, and Tariq Mehmood. CKCF extends

social and cultural connections of the community. Mr. Irfan Sabir, Member of the Legisla-Established in 2013, CKCF has tive Assembly of Alberta, and Mr. Happy Mann, Senior Advisor to the Leader of the UCP Commuevents, providing a platform for nity Outreach in Alberta, also participated in the event. They distributed awards, certificates, two Umrah tickets, and other prizes among the winners. The members of the Board of Directors—Abdul Qayyum, Akhtar Kiani, Asif Nazir, Asim Khan, Imtiaz Nazir, Irshad Mahmood, Khalid Khan, Saqib Khan, Talib Khan, Tariq Mahmood, and Zahid Khan—jointly thanked the community members for participating in the Eid Milan party. They resolved to hold more events, gatherings, and training sessions for the empowerment of the Kashmiri community living in Calgary, the message

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi