



Two killed in suspected suicide bombing in Karachi targeting foreigners

PM for further strengthening economic, trade ties with Turkiye

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reiterated the government's resolve to further strengthen economic relations and trade partnership with Turkiye. He was talking to a delegation of the Turkish investors which called him here at the Prime Minister Office.

expressing confidence in the leadership of the prime minister, took keen interest in investing in Pakistan's Pakistan and Turkiye had a for the warm welcome.

long-standing brotherly relationship spanning centuries. He said reforms had been made in the system to take full advantage of the potential of foreign investment in Pakistan. Ambassador of Turkive to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, CEO Terminal YAPI Cenk Coskun and other Turkish and Pakistani officials participated in the meeting. Federal ministers Mohammad Ishaq Dar, The Turkish investors, Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Ahad Khan Cheema, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officials also attended diverse areas. The prime the meeting. The delegation minister said the people of thanked the prime minister

Pakistan committed to ensure safety of foreign nationals: FO

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack in Karachi's Landhi area, saying it was fully committed to ensure the safety

e taken to bring the perpetranews release said.

It added that such dastardly acts only strengthened the resolve of the Government and the people of Pakistan to eliminate the scourge of terrorism. "Pakistan remains commit-

ted to ensuring the safety of

foreign nationals residing in of foreign nationals. the country. We will continue "All necessary measures will to work with our international partners to fight terrorism tors to justice," a Foreign Office in all its forms and manifestations.

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: A suspected suicide bomb explosion in Karachi's Landhi Mansehra Colony killed two individuals and injured two security guards on Wednesday. The deceased are believed to be suicide bombers.

SSP Tariq Mastoi said that police had foiled the attack by acting dilligently. He confirmed that a vehicle carrying foreign nationals had been targeted but all four foreigners inside had remained safe.

The SSP added that the foreigners were travelling to the Landhi Export Processing Zone.

Mastoi said that a total of three attackers had been involved in the incident including a suicide bomber on a motorcycle. He added that one attacker had been killed by ers. Reuters later reported that



third had managed to flee the nationals. scene.

The injured security guards and the dead bodies have been transferred to Jinnah Hospital. Initial reports suggest the vehicle belonged to foreign-

"We received information about the presence of terrorists in the same area a few days ago," a source in the Counter-Terror-

ism Department (CTD) stated. Images from the scene showed what looked like body firing from the police while the the van was carrying Japanese parts of the suicide bomber and ers.

a dead body of another person lying on the ground.

Windows of the van carrying foreigners was shattered. It's airbag had been deployed due to the crash.

Eyewitness account

A security official who survived the attack said that the foreigners wer travelling as a three-vehicle convoy.

He added that a security vehicle led the way, while four foreigners were in a van behind them followed by an SUV which also carried foreigners.

official The security confirmed that only the van carrying the foreigners had been targeted and security had immediately pushed back the SUV to keep it safe.

He said that there had been a loud explosion followed by intense firing from the attack-

He added that police had immediately arrived on the scene and engaged the attackers, killing one of them.

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar has taken notice of the recent attack on a convoy of foreign nationals, Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

According to spokesman for Sindh home minister, Lanjar has instructed the additional inspector general of Police, Karachi, to furnish a detailed report on the incident.

He emphasized the importance of thorough investigations by the police into the matter.

Lanjar has instructed the police to provide a comprehensive account of the actions taken in response to the attack. He reiterated that the province's peace and security are paramount and that any attempts to disrupt it will not be tolerated.

Pakistan aims of new IMF loan

ter Muhammad Aurangzeb is interviewed by Karin Strohecker, Reuters Chief Correspondent Emerging Markets, during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting at the IMF and World Bank's 2024 annual spring meetings in Washington on April 18, 2024. Reuters

contours of a new International Monetary Fund loan in May, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb told Reuters, and has kicked off talks with ratings agencies to lay the groundwork for a return to international debt markets.

oillion arrangement with the fund runs out in late April and the government is seeking a longer and bigger loan to help bring

Continued on Page 8

Iran refutes claims of Israeli attack on Isfahan

腾 Reuters

TEHRAN: Iran has refuted claims of the Israeli attack on its soul, following the explosions in Isfahan.

Explosions heard in Isfahan were a result of the activation of air defence systems, an Iranian official told Reuters on Friday, adding that no missile attack was carried out against Iran. Earlier, US media outlet ABC

News in a report claimed Israeli missiles hit a site in Iran, days after Tehran launched a retaliatory drone strike on Israel.

Iran's Fars news agency said an explosion was heard at an airport in the central city of Isfahan but the cause was not immediately known. Iran

跨 Spokesman Report

sit-in has termed it the failure of

then Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) led federal

its findings revealed that then

Punjab government led by

Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif

- incumbent Prime Minister

- did not attempt to stop the

Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan

(TLP) protest in the province.

provincial government allowed

free movement of the protesters

and also provided security to the

government was hesitant to

take action against the protest-

The report said that Punjab

gathering.

According to the report, the

The inquiry commission in

and Punjab governments.

Centre, Punjab's

failure led to Faizabad

of Isfahan, Shiraz and Tehran, state media reported. Several Iranian nuclear sites are located in Isfahan province,

suspended flights over the cities

including Natanz, centerpiece of Iran's uranium enrichment program.

Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport was closed to all flights until 0700 GMT, according to a notice to airmen posted on a US Federal Aviation Administration database.

Some Emirates and Flydubai flights that were flying over Iran early on Friday made sudden sharp turns away from the airspace, according to flight paths shown on tracking website Flightradar24.

CCTV footage of Karachi bombing shows attacker seconds before attack

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

KARACHI: A CCTV footage of the terrorist attack that targeted foreign nationals in Karachi has revealed how the alleged terrorists freely reached the site of the attack without any obstructions.

Multiple videos of the incident have emerged since the attack. One of them shows two of the three alleged attackers riding a motorcycle towards the site of the incident.

Another footage shows the foreign nationals' vehicle travelling on the road as it is rocked by an explosion.

A man can be seen prowling on the sidewalk in anticipation of the vehicle. As soon as the vehicle appeared, the man can be seen running across the road and blowing himself up near the vehicle travelling in the fast lane.

Another vehicle behind the van, immediately reverses to get away from the explosion.

Bilawal Bhutto demands govt to hold tripartite dialogue to curb terrorism

😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday demanded the government to initiate tripartite dialogue with the neighbouring countries to curb the menace of re-surging terrorism. While talking to media outside the Parliament House, the Chairman Bilawal appreciated Sindh police for thwarting a terror attack in Landhi, Karachi vesterday morning.

Bilawal said, "This is also a reminder that the menace of terrorism is once again rising in Pakistan. The federal and provincial governments will have to take action against the terrorists and ensure to engage the neighboring country to take action against them." The Chairman PPP said that as a foreign minister he had



held a tripartite dialogue at the foreign ministry among the foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, adding, "We should have similar efforts to eliminate terrorists." The Chairman PPP said Imran Khan's government policy regarding the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, terrorism and about the neighboring country, the way that government let free the terrorists from prisons and invited the terrorists who were in Afghan prisons before the fall of Kabul to enter Pakistan were all wrong. The parliament was not taken

on board and the President of the time was giving the terrorists clemency, he added. "That was the policy of Imran Khan's government. We had criticized that policy then and now we should have a clear stance to see the issue as political but as an issue of national security. You cannot have the policy of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. This dual policy will not work and the Army, police, common people rendered great sacrifices to eliminate these terrorists in the past," he said. Speaking about the destruction by the floods in the modern country like United Arab Emirates, Chairman Bilawal said that the

climate change is increasing in its intensity with time. Pakistan is an under-developed nation and we are trying to give relief to the people with our limited resources.

to agree outline in May, says finance czar

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minis-

Pakistan hopes to agree the

The country's current \$3

sit-in: commission ers owing to threats to the lives of PML-N supremo Nawaz LAHORE: The commission Sharif, Rana Sanaullah and probing the 2017 Faizabad

other government officials. The Punjab government was relieved after the protesters entered Islamabad as the Shehbaz Sharif-led provincial government wanted the centre to deal with the matters related to the Faizabad sit-in.

However, the Islamabad administration was overwhelmed by the approaching situation amid the free movement of the protesters into the capital city, the report stated.

As per the report's findings, then Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and the Punjab CM had a heated verbal exchange during a meeting as

😂 Commerce Desk

2 The Spokesman

National Saturday, April 20, 2024

Prime Minister says will utilize all available resources for development of Azad Kashmir

😂 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would utilize all available resources for development of the state and well-being of its people.

Prime Minister Haq said this while addressing the divisional development review meeting held here today.

to serve the people of the state with after May 16". utmost sincerity, said that delaying tactics on the part of state machinery won't be tolerated.

For development and prosperity of the state, he said, the state administration will have to work with a missionary spirit. He said that the state resources were solely meant for the development of the state and welfare of the masses.

"There is no shortage of funds in any sector", the PM said. He, however, said timely completion of projects was his government's top priority.

first and foremost priority.

projects were being carefully reviewed. Misuse of public funds, corruption or any kind of negligence will not be tolerated", he said, adding that those found guilty will have to face the consequence.

Directing local government officials to finalize all local government schemes by May 15, the PM made it While reiterating his commitment clear that "No scheme will be approved

He said that funds for all the ongoing projects of the Mirpur Division would be released in second week of May

"All under-construction roads across the Mirpur division should be completed before June", the PM said.

"The government has saved 21 billion rupees from various departments this year", he said.

He said that maintaining law and that proper utilization of funds and order in the state was the coalition

The meeting was also attended by He said that all the development Senior Minister Col. Retd. Waqar Noor, Government Secretaries, Chief Engineers, Divisional and District Officers

> Earlier The Prime Minister also witnessed a MoU ceremony in Islamabad at Kashmir plan House and

Hailing the signing of memorandum of understanding between TEVTA and NAVTTC as a significant development, the prime minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that it was high time that talented, educated and hard-working people especially the youth should come forward and take full advantage of this opportunity. The AJK premier, while speaking at the signing in ceremony, said that the MoU between TEVTA and NAVTTC would provide a rare opportunity for skill development of the youth in Azad Kashmir. "It will help reduce the growing unemployment in the region", the



TEVTA Chaudhry Farid Ahmed signed ter Col. (retd) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Gulmina Bilal, Director General Planthe memorandum of understanding. Minister TEVTA Sardar Amir Altaf, ning NEVTTC Moin Hasan Khokhar PM said. Earlier, the Executive Direc- Amongst others who were present on Chief Secretary Dawood Muham- and others.

tor NEVTTC Aamir Jan and Chairman the occasion included senior minis- mad Burich, Chairman NEVTTC Ms.

Fire

ISLAMABAD: Firefighters try to extinguish a fire in oil tanker at PSO petrol pump in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

First anti-rape crisis cell in Punjab to help victims of sexual violence

😂 Asim Tanveer



MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Marryam Khan was briefed in meeting by the United Nations Women Punjab Program Coordinator Sidra Humayun on the establishment of the first anti-rape crisis cell at Nishtar Hospital. She

informed that the first anti-rape crisis cell in Punjab province has been established at Nishtar Hospital. So far, 48 cases have been reported. This anti-rape crisis cell has been established at Nishtar Hospital in collaboration with the Punjab Health Department, UN Women, and the US Government, providing medical aid to women and children victims of sexual violence to facilitate their access to justice based on evidence. This cell is part of the protection program in collaboration with the US, which the Punjab Health Department has established with the technical assistance of the United Nations Women. The antirape crisis cell is operating 24 hours a day. Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan said that the establishment of the anti-rape crisis cell in Multan is very important in the context of the importance of South Punjab. This cell plays a crucial role in providing justice and is evidence of the government's ongoing war against sexual violence. She said that meetings should be convened immediately on these cases so that issues can be resolved.

Wana police foiled smuggling attempt, forest dept fined 3 lakh 70 thousand on truck

😂 🛛 Adam Khan Wazir

Ghazi, Niazi institute award ceremony in Multan to honor outstanding Pakistani writers

腾 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The first annual award ceremony with the support of Ghazi and Niazi Promotion of literature Society and Ansar Adab was held at Gillani House, Multan under the chairmanship of Gillani family head and Chairman Tehreek Aman Pakistan Makhdoom Yazdani Gilani. Makhdoom Javed Hashmi Makhdoom Syed Tanveerul Hasan Gilani, Makhdoom Rajan Bakhsh Gilani and Nawabzada Tabish Khan Durrani were in this annual award conference, more than a hundred writers from all over Paki- Dr. Mukhtar Zafar, Dr. Farhat Abbas, stan will be given awards for their literary services, including Life Achievement Award, Recognition Art Award, Pride of Performance Award, Rahmatul Ul Alamin Award, Service Literature



Dr. Baghi Marwat, Dr. Saeed Asim, Mumtaz Athar, Dr. Saeed Asim, Azhar Saleem Majuka, Prof. Naseem Shahid Nasir Bashir, Arshad Iqbal Bhatta, Aamir Shahzad Siddiqui, Fazal Abbas Award Noor Ahmad Ghazi Award And Zafar, Ali Raza Khan, Dr. Farzana, were Mehdi. Jasrat Khayali. Majeed Salik award. A banquet was also organized

included in the Rajan Bakhsh Gilani Award. Kokab Ali. Imran Mumtaz. Imran Ali Awan. Sheikh Salim Naaz. Dr. Shozab Kazmi Khalifa Masroor Hussain Siddiqui. Ahmed Masood Qureshi. Abbas Malik. Dr. Mushtaq

Advocate. Professor Iman Qaisrani. Ashfaq Ahmed Ghori. Sarwar Samdani Advocate. Ghazanfar Hashmi. Yasin Raza Towana. Ejaz Danish. Dr. Imran Haider Gardizi Dr. Maqbool Gilani. Sultan Mahmood Shaheen. Professor-Jameel Ahmad. Dr. Qasim Jalal, Akmal Hanif. Syeda Tasneem Bukhari. Umar Siddique Ansari and others are among the recipients of the award. In his presidential address on this occasion, Makhdoom Yazdani Gilani said that in the current crisis situation of the country, the responsibilities of the pen have increased and For the country's development and development, the pen is full role should be played On this occasion, Rahat Ameer Khan Niazi Tri Khelvi and Sabir Ansari expressed their gratitude to the people of the pen and expressed their determination to continue the annual

'We will march to Lahore' if wheat purchase not started: Senator Aon Abbas

😂 Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Abbas Bapi said that if the purchase of wheat at Rs 3900 per maund is not started from the farmers by April 28, then the farmers will take a long march from Multan to Lahore, which I am giving an ultimatum. And they will jam the whole of Lahore, he expressed these thoughts at the Multan Press Club During the press conference, Moin Riaz Qureshi MPA General Secretary PTI South Punjab Malik Adnan Dogar. MPA City President PTI Multan Barrister Waseem Khan Baduzai. MPA Sunni Unity Council Leader PTI Multan senior leader Ejaz Hussain Janjua was also present

Aun Abbas Bapi further months, wheat was ordered tons of wheat. We don't mind in the country including Punja-



from Ukraine, although during putting the father's picture bA serious crisis may arise. 32 the PDM government, four on the bardana too, but all million tons of wheat was in the the ones with the pictureThe government should buy wheat. warehouses of Punjab, which is Wheat is currently flowing on still there today. He would not be in trouble, he said, "Unfortuthe roads. Because Maryam Nawaz Sharif did not get the nately, wheat from Ukraine."A profit of one billion was made vote in South Punjab, she is by ordering, which should be taking revenge from the farmfully investigated and told to ers, but she has no idea if the the people who benefited from farmer gets the right price for Ukraine's wheat. He said that his wheat. If not found, he will the current government is not not cultivate wheat in the next said that during the last seven ready to buy even two million year, which will reduce wheat

million tons of wheat were brought from Ukraine. Among those who brought wheat from Ukraine were Shehbaz Sharif, Anwar-ul-Haq, Dr. Mohsin Naqvi and the government of that time. What if the official price of wheat in Punjab is fixed at 39 hundred rupees per maund till April 28If it is not done, then the farmers' movement will not be able to be stopped

We will shut down the entire on trolleys and go to Lahore.

Lahore with the farmers. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will run a movement with the farmers. Maryam Nawaz Sharif has not yet told how much wheat will be bought. Maryam Nawaz Sharif will decide by April 28. It is our right to protest. Govt. Now wheat is behind those who profit from wheat bought from UkraineIn response to a question, he said that wheat may have been ordered from Ukraine due to international pressure, but the government has not announced how much wheat it will buy in Punjab. Despite 4 million tons of wheat in Punjab, why did they order wheat from Ukraine? Even though the wheat of the farmers of Punjab is lying in the warehouses and nobody is ready to take the flour with green bags, the farmer will take his wheat

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: District Police Officer Farman Ullah has said on Friday that the police foiled a major smuggling attempt in Daza Ghundai area of Wana tehsil, and the police took important action.

DPO said that the Daza Ghundai police stopped the truck for checking, so valuable wood worth lakhs of rupees was hidden in the junk.

DPO Farman Ullah added that the Daza Ghundai Police referred the truck to the Forest Department for further legal action.

Forest department officials took immediate action and imposed a fine of 370,000 on the truck.

On the other hand, the District Police Officer told the media that all possible measures are being taken to prevent smuggling and no one can be allowed to do business in the name of smuggling

He said that smuggling is an illegal business so all the business community should stay away from this business and your legitimate business should be prioritized.

Addl. Secretary BISP Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor launches inaugural tender

😂 PPA

ISLAMABAD: In adherence to the "E-Pak-Procurement Regulations, 2023" stipulated by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor, Additional Secretary of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), marked a significant milestone today by initi-



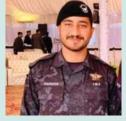
ating E-Procurements within the organization. The inaugural tender, titled "Procurement of Enrollment Slips with QR Code Receipts", was officially launched through the E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (e-PADS) of PPRA today, at the BISP Headquarters.

The introduction of E-Procurements in BISP underscores the organization's commitment to modernize its procurement processes in line with contemporary regulatory frameworks. By leveraging e-PADS, BISP aims to streamline its procurement operations, enhance transparency, and ensure the efficient utilization of public funds.

Constable Shahab Ali Khan Shaheed

😂 🛛 Tariq khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: Takht Bhai, Constable Shahab Ali Khan, who was killed in an attack by unknown terrorists on a customs squad vehicle in Dera Ismail Khan, was laid to rest with official honors and while removing the martyr to the grave, a police force saluted the martyr. According to details, unknown terrorists attacked a customs squad vehicle in Dera Ismail Khan yesterday, in which five police officers and two passers-by were also



martyred. Among them, young FC Constable Shahab Ali Khan son of Maher Gul of Londkhor Dagai area of Takhtbhai was also martyred. Shaheed Shahab Ali Khan was buried with official honors on Friday. High officials attended in large numbers.



The Spokesman 3



Islamabad 15º – 23º Clear

SERVICES

namaz	Timings			
Fajr	4:04 am			
Zohr	12:07 pm			
Asr	4:48 pm			
Maghrib	6:42 pm			
Isha	8:11 pm			
EMEDGENCV				

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15 Bomb Disposal 15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad Emergency Ambulance...... 1122 & & Rescue Services .. . 4451122 ...9266044 Motorway Police .

Women Police Stations

Islamabad . 9222596 Rawalpindi . 9270601-20

ter of Ethiopia.

seminar titled Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity

Under The Green Legacy Initiative, jointly

organized by the Embassy of Ethiopia in

Islamabad and the SDPI. It was attended

by H. E. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coor-

dinator to the Prime Minister on Climate

Addressing the Seminar, Ambassa-

ary of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia

in Pakistan, H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula

lauded the Prime Minister's Coordina-

tor on Climate Change for her efforts and

wished her good luck for championing all

officials, civil society and media.

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
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Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-7

Tobacco Industry's another deliberate attempt to lure children towards smoking

😂 PPA

ISLAMABAD: Health activists have raised alarms about tobacco industry's attempts to seek approval for the manufacturing of 10-stick cigarette packs on the pretext of exporting to another country. In a press release shared by the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the activists expressed grave concerns over its potential impact on children and low-income groups across the nation.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), stated that for years, the tobacco industry in Pakistan has grappled with regulations banning the sale of single sticks, a measure crucial in deterring young people from smokir

Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad & SDPI collaborate to promote green legacy initiative in Pakistan

efforts for mitigating adverse impacts of climate change.

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the H. E Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdu-Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia la mentioned that the Initiative is the brainchild of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, the (FDRE) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Friday forged Prime Minister of the FDR of Ethiopia collaboration to boost green development, who came into power in 2018 and injected nature conservation and food security various policy reforms that made Ethiopia in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan by peaceful, stable, prosperous, eco-friendly, promoting the Green Legacy Initiative resilient and greener. It has been formally launched at the Embassy in Pakistan in of H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minis-2023, he added. The collaboration was announced at a

He informed that Ethiopia is aggressively taking up green development initiatives starting from its intended nationally determined contributions, halt on import of fossil fuel-based vehicles, net zero target by 2050.

Commenting on the Initiative, he said Change, H. E. Dr. Abid Qaiyum Sulehri, it has different components of human-na-Executive Director of SDPI, government ture relationship, developing synergies and collaboration for one common goal, respect for humanity and politidor Extraordinary and Plenipotentical, economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

He mentioned that mass media mobilization, community ownership and leading role by the top leadership of the country were among the reasons behind success



The Ambassador said the FDR Embassy is honored to collaborate with SDPI and the PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and will commence the initiative from Punjab's mega cities and then will start in Sindh and other provinces. "We will need SDPI support in this

regard and we are proud to announce

Pakistan-Ethiopia fraternity on Green Legacy Initiative.

Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, H. E Romina Khurshid Alam, addressed the seminar via telephone and extended her gratitude to the Ambassador H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula for playing the role of a bridge between Ethiopia, Pakistan and Africa.

"We are ready to collaborate and work together to promote the Green Legacy Initiative. Moreover, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination is working on establishing International Green Parliamentarians' Caucus and it needs help from Ethiopia and where we can work together to save mother nature and learn from each other's success," H. E. Romina Khurshid Alam remarked.

Executive Director SDPI, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said the Ethiopian Ambassador is launching the leading Green Legacy Initiative in Pakistan that changed the flora and fauna of Ethiopia and incurred great societal impacts in terms of employment creation and food security.

He said the government of Ethiopia is sharing its success story with other developing countries facing climate crisis to achieve resilience against environmental degradation.

At the end, the Executive Director, SDPI presented a memento and the latest publications of the SDPI to the Ambassador.

For attention

ISLAMABAD: People walking in clay mud arriving at PIMS hospital, which may cause any incident any time and needs the attention of concerned authorities, in the Federal Capital.



ISSI hosting International Conference next week on Pakistan in the Emerging Geopolitical Landscape' 🍃 PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan Office will be co-hosting a one-day International Conference, titled "Pakistan in the Emerging Geopolitical Landscape," at ISSI on 24 April 2024.

Building on the success of last year's International Conference-"Pakistan's Strategic Frontiers", this year's event will delve into the relationship between Pakistan's strategic position and the rapidly shifting dynamics of West and Central Asia. The Conference agenda focuses on three key themes. The first working session, titled "Unraveling Afghanistan's Shifting Landscape," will examine the evolving situation in Afghanistan, particularly its impact on Pakistan's security and foreign policy considerations. The second session, titled "From Dependency to Diversity: The Evolution of the Middle East," will analyze the changing environment within the Middle East and its influence on Pakistan's regional partnerships and economic interests. The third and final session, titled "Rising Non-Conventional Security Threats in Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Middle East," will seek to address the growing challenges posed by non-traditional threats like cyberwarfare, pandemics, and climate change, emphasizing the necessity of regional collaboration to mitigate these threats.

Through in-depth discussions and expert insights, the Conference aims to achieve a broad set of objectives. It will analyze the impact o the evolving regional landscape on Pakistan's foreign policy, security concerns, and economic opportunities. The Conference will also explore the changing nature of security threats and their implications for regional stability. Furthermore, the discussions will emphasize the importance of fostering regional connectivity and economic cooperation for sustainable development. Ultimately, the Conference seeks to generate valuable knowledge on how Pakistan can effectively navigate its changing regional environment, enhance its diplomatic space, and promote economic development.

and protecting vulnerable populations.

He added that TI had made similar attempts in the past but Ministry of Health did not issue the NOC. The application for 10-stick packs by the tobacco industry is deeply troubling. It will not only undermines the progress made in tobacco control but also directly targets children and low-income individuals who are most vulnerable to the harmful effects of tobac co consumption.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar, Program Manager at SPARC, emphasized the detrimental impact of such a move would have on public health efforts in Pakistan. He said that allowing the sale of 10-stick packs in the domestic market would reverse the strides made in reducing tobacco use prevalence and increasing awareness of its harmful effects. This move directly contradicts the government's efforts to curb tobacco consumption through taxation and regulation.

President AJK, Former PM discuss human rights in occupied Jammu and Kashmir

😂 Beroue Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAF-FARABA: Former Prime Minister and President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan called on President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry here today.

discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern in particular the prevailing political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of



acceptability of unsweetened milk in

the school children" said by Munawar

Hussain consultant at Global Health

Advocacy Incubator. "The flavored milk

contains nearly 10 percent of the sugar.

World health organization recom-

mended reducing sugar consumption

to five percent of total caloric intake

for better health gains, particularly if

During the meeting, the duo Jammu and Kashmir.

The President, while referring to India's sledgehammer policy in the IIOJ&K, said broken all records of oppres-

sion, barbarism and brutality in order to win the upcoming general elections

"All the political parties of that the Modi government has Azad Kashmir should unite and play their due role to

expose the Indian government's nefarious designs and its repressive tactics meant to crush the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle", he said.

Photo: Online by Sultan Bashi

He said that India was involved in the target killing of Sikh leaders in Canada, America and other countries. "India's intelligence agency RAW is also involved in terrorist activities around the world". he said

Sardar Usman Attique and advisor to the president Sardar Imtiaz Khan were also present in the meeting.

PANAH demands Punjab Govt to halt sugary milk supply in schools as it raises risk of obesity

腾 PPA

LAHORE: Pakistan is facing a concerning escalation in the prevalence of overweight, obesity, and non-communicable diseases linked to diet. Data reveals that there is a sharp increase in childhood obesity, with statistics indicating a near doubling of overweight cases among children under 5 from 2011 to 2018. The prevalence of obesity and overweight among women of reproductive age surged from 28% to 38% during the same period. Sweet drinks are very high in sugar with 7 to 8 teaspoons of sugar in a small (250 ml) glass. These drinks include soda, juices, squashes, canned flavored milk, iced tea etc. Regular consumption of flavored milks and other sugary drinks increase the risk of obesity, diabetes, heart



& kidney diseases and tooth decay in research shows that there is a good children. The regular consumption of sweet drinks increases the risk of diabetes by 30%. This was shared during the media sensitization session organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) at a local hotel in Lahore.

"Government may consider providing unsweetened milk to school childisease, several types of cancer, liver dren, which is a healthful option. The it is coming through liquid sources". he added.

Former Director General Health Punjab Dr. Fayyaz Ahmed Ranjha said that non-communicable diseases especially obesity, diabetes, and kidney diseases are increasing in children at an alarming rate in Pakistan. Our unhealthy dietary patterns are among the major reasons of this hike in diseases.

Mr. Sana Ullah Ghumman, General Secretary PANAH emphasized that nutrient present in the milk could not offset the high amount of sugar in the flavored milk. Supply of flavored milk may be counterproductive for the health of children.

Other speakers also highlighted the health harms of canned flavored milk and requested government to provide healthier alternatives to children.

Collaborating for Growth-Leaders In Islamabad Business Summit 7th Edition

😂 PPA

ISLAMABAD: The 7th Edition of Pakistan's biggest corporate event, LEADERS IN ISLAM-ABAD BUSINESS SUMMIT 2024 (LIIBS), will take place on April 23 & 24, 2024, at a local hotel. Curated under the theme of Collaborating for Growth, this



summit brings together a spectacular array of national and international speakers to deliberate on the challenges confronting the world and possible solutions. LIIBS provides a forum for consultative working, sharing of ideas and expertise, and for reiterating the need to work together to achieve common goals, in the best interest of regional and global economies.

The 7th Edition of LIIBS is jointly hosted by Nutshell Group and Unity Foods Limited, in collaboration with OICCI (Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry), with Faysal Bank Limited as the Platinum partner, and InfraZamin Pakistan as the strategic partner.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan; Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives; Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue; Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Petroleum & Water Resources; Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division); and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister of State for IT & Telecom, will grace the Summit with their presence alongside numerous distinguished speakers.

Muhamad Azfar Ahsan, Founder & CEO, Nutshell Group, the person credited with not only creating an event of the stature of LIIBS but also for successfully hosting 6 previous editions, will deliver the welcome address. When questioned on the theme for the 7th Edition of LIIBS, he elaborated on how LIIBS was envisioned to empower Pakistan's image with thought leadership, collaborative framework, and innovative excellence.

Farrukh Amin, CEO, Unity Foods Limited, will be gracing the event with opening remarks as the co-host. His innovative, progressive, and forward-looking approach has been instrumental to the agricultural landscape and food industry of Pakistan.

Faysal Bank Limited, the Platinum partner of the event, brings forth the rapidly expanding realm of Islamic financial instruments and their ethos of prosperity to collaborative plans. Maheen Rahman, CEO, Infra Zamin Pakistan, the Strategic Partner for LIIBS 7th Edition, will also be delivering a keynote and will be participating in panel discussions.

The two-day Summit will bring together more than 15 global experts and 1000+ delegates belonging to diverse industries from both the public and private sectors. The primary agenda will entail discussions and routes for possible partnerships at the individual, business, and national levels, for Pakistan.

Editorial/Opinion

Saturday, April 20, 2024

4	The Spokesmar
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Palestinian request for full UN membership

he Security Council today blocked Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations due to a United States veto on a widely-supported resolution that would have recommended the granting of such status. The proposal, submitted in the 15-member Council by Algeria, received 12 votes in favour, with the United States casting a negative vote and Switzerland and the United Kingdom abstaining.

Before the vote, diplomats said the US mission had been trying to convince one or two other council members to vote against, to mitigate Washington's isolation on the issue, but American officials said they were resigned to having to wield the US veto once more in support of Israel. "We don't want to replace anyone; we want to enter your club as equals," Palestinian envoy Riyad Mansour told the council. He said they would not give up because the resolution was vetoed. "The State of Palestine is inevitable," he said. "It is real." A Council resolution requires at least nine votes in favour and no vetoes from its five permanent members - China, France, the Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States - to pass. The Algerian draft failed, owing to a negative vote cast by a permanent member. If adopted, the draft would have had the Security Council recommend to the 193-member General Assembly that "the State of Palestine be admitted to membership in the United Nations". In 2011, Palestine submitted an application to become a full UN Member State. Although that aspiration did not materialize, it obtained the status of a non-member observer State in November 2012 through an Assembly vote of 138 in favour to nine against (Canada, Czech Republic, Federated States of Micronesia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Panama, Palau, United States), with 41 abstentions. An application for admission to UN membership must be approved by the Council before being forwarded to the Assembly, where the matter requires at least two-thirds support to pass. Introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Algeria said that he is doing so on behalf of his Government, the Arab Group, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, and countless peace-loving countries, urging Council members to vote for the text and the sake of Palestinians. "It is the least we could do to honour the debts we owe to its people," he said. Palestine fulfils membership criteria as defined in the UN Charter. "It is time for Palestine to take its rightful place among the community of nations," he declared, adding: "Peace will come from Palestine's inclusion, not from its exclusion." Failing to do so is a denial of the Council's responsibilities, an unforgivable mistake, and a license to continue injustice and impunity. Amid the ongoing war in Gaza, Palestine had submitted a request to the Secretary-General on 2 April, asking that a 2011 request to become a UN Member State be reconsidered. In 2011, the Security Council considered the request but was not able to find unity in sending a recommendation to the General Assembly, which according to the UN Charter must hold a vote involving its 193 Member States.

Will IK be released any time soon?

TV channel, Mr. Rauf Hassan disclosed several key aspects of PTI's policies and decisions on pressing issues. These included the party's stance on bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, their approach to the six judges' charge sheet against the executive and intelligence agencies, their policy towards JUI, the return of the election symbol of PTI, the reintegration of deserted party members, the party's perspective on internal divisions within PML(N), and the efforts to improve relations between PTI and the influential establishment.

I know Mr. Rauf Hassan from the date to the politicians and of his appointment as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for the Ministry of Information. As Joint Secretary, I received and ushered him to his office. Though he was not very popular amongst the PTI's political leadership of that time, following the removal of many frontline leaders after the crackdown on the party, he virtually emerged as PTI's primary spokesperson, particularly in handling complex and challenging decisions.

While reacting to Sheer Jan Marwat's statement on Saudi Arabia, he said that Mr. Imran Khan, was shocked to hear the unwarranted and obnoxious comments and narrated many instances where Saudi Arabia had rescued Pakistan from difficult financial, economic, and diplomatic situations. He advised the PTI's core committee to meet with the Saudi Ambassador and explain to him the party's stated position, emphasizing that the PTI greatly values the bilateral, fraternal, and brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia and that PTI had no intention to derail Saudi Arabia's investment commitment in Pakistan.

He said that currently, a status quo exists between PTI and the Establishment and relations are icey without any

cold water on assumption of IK's release any time soon. He said after the Chairman's arrest, there was great pressure on him to leave the country, and as soon as the conditions were made favorable, he would be called back. However, the chairman refused to succumb to any pressure whatsoever. He emphasized that the army, an important and vital institution of the country, already has its plate full owing to external and internal secu-

rity and safety threats. Therefore, they should focus on their core functions and leave politics Anal the people of Pakistan, who are the final authority to accept or reject any political leader. Mr. Rauf Hassan, however, said that the establishment

would have to enter into negotiations with the Chairman, as currently, he is the only legitimate and genuine leader in the country.

While discussing the possibility of rapprochement with the JUI, he mentioned that within PTI there are two factions: one headed by Mr. Asad Qaiser in favor, and the rest of the party against such a proposal. He said that the history of animosity between JUI and PTI is very bitter, and it would perhaps take much more time and effort to mend fences and develop a consensus on relevant issues confronted by the nation.

Regarding the decision to take back party leaders who had deserted the party under immense pressure from the establishment, he clarified that the party is well aware about the hardships they had faced and therefore had made a clear distinction between those who left the party, gave derogatory statements against it, and joined other parties, and those who,

n an interview with a national sign of melting, and effectively poured though left the party, neither gave state-back on the path of progress and develments against the party nor joined another party. When specifically asked about Mr. Fawad Hussain, he categorically said that he falls in the first group while Malika Bukhari and Shireen Mazari fall in the second group.

In the matter of the Election Symbol, he said that intra party elections were conducted exactly in accordance with the law, results were submitted to the Election Commission who after exam-



complete and there would be no need to continue depriving the party of its election symbol.

Regarding Mian Nawaz Sharif's decision to become a party to the Supreme Court's suo moto proceedings on six judges' letters, he said that in principle, PTI would stay away from any proceedings as it believes that the judiciary, as a pillar of the state, should be able to resolve the matter amongst themselves, and any outside interference or indulgence would be counterproductive. He added that without a strong, independent, free, and fair judiciary, the state cannot function properly, as is the case in Pakistan currently. He mentioned that the helplessness, unfairness, and biasness of the judiciary were admitted by none other than the judges themselves, and this is the reason the state structure in Pakistan has crumbled. He advised the judiciary to reclaim its lost space as quickly as possible to put the country

opment.

Referring to the internal division within PML(N), he said that, according to credible information the house of PML(N) and the family of Mian Nawaz Sharif have clearly been divided into Nawaz and shahbaz groups. Nawaz Sharif's group believes that Shahbaz, in connivance with the Establishment, has betraved Nawaz Sharif and effectively destroyed his political career. He said that the conflict between the two factions simmering within the family and close circles of PML(N) will soon escalate to the national level, and many deals that were made underhand by both factions of the PML(N) will wreak havoc on the entire party and its followers.

However, despite many policies of the PTI being unveiled, many burning questions remain. When and how will the Chairman of PTI's ordeal finally end? Will he be breathing in fresh air any time soon? Without Imran Khan, will the movement kick started by the PTI and its allied parties in Balochistan, demanding the reissuance of election results on the basis of form 45 gain enough momentum to pose credible pressure on the government and the establishment to either reissue the election results, or decide to conduct fresh elections? Questions also remain about how the incumbent government of PMM(N) will deliver and survive when stalwarts of its own party are withdrawing their support, alleging that even in PML(N), picking and choosing was exercised to select certain candidates and reject others. Another question is how strongly and how soon Nawaz Sharif will commence opposition to the government of his own brother.

Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD.SRBC



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

Shaping the Future: The Evolution A paradigm shift in sociopolitical and Impact of ICFP 2025 awareness

and couples to anticipate and attain their desired number of children and the spacing and timing of their births." This is accomplished through the use of contraceptive methods and the treat- to 250 million today. The Population ment of involuntary infertility. Family Welfare Programme aims to reduce planning involves considerations such as this growth rate, which is essential for the number of children a woman wish- developing countries like Pakistan. As es to have, including the choice to have we commemorate the 25th anniversano children and the age at which she ry of the International Conference on wishes to have them. Factors influenc- Population and Development (ICPD) ing these decisions include marital situ- in 1994, governments have reaffirmed

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Anal

Mansoor Qaisar

ation, career considerations, financial position, and any disabilities that may affect one's ability to have and raise children. For those who are sexually active, family planning may also involve using contraception and other techniques to control the

timing of reproduction. Family planning practices date back to the 16th century in Djenné, West Africa, where physicians advised women to a three-year interval between births. Additional elements of family planning include sex education, prevention ing voluntary family planning, can boost and management of sexually transmitted infections, pre-conception counseling, and infertility management. As complete their education, enter the workoutlined by the United Nations and the force, be more productive, earn higher World Health Organization, family plan- incomes, and increase savings and investning services extend to preparations for ments. Furthermore, for each additionconception. While abortion is not gener- al dollar spent on contraceptive services

amily planning is defined od of family planning, wider access to nancy-related care is reduced by \$2.30. as "the ability of individuals contraception can significantly reduce The last ICFP 2022 in Pattaya City, the need for it.

Pakistan has experienced continuous population growth since the 1940s, with the population increasing nearly sixfold from about 33 million in 1947

the importance of the Programme of Action and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The increased use of contraceptive methods in recent decades has led to improved health, educational, and econom-

ic outcomes, particularly for girls and women. Despite significant progress, challenges remain, including the fact that some 214 million women in developing space their children, recommending countries lack access to safe and effective family planning methods.

Better reproductive healthcare, includeconomies and contribute to sustainable development by enabling women to ally recommended as a primary meth- above the current level, the cost of preg🐞 Kiran Asim

Thailand took place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely disrupted family planning services worldwide. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), these disruptions led to 1.4 million unintended pregnancies. The conference also highlighted pre-existing challenges, as the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that even before the pandemic, at least half of the world's population was unable to access essential health services, including family planning. This context set the stage for discussing the urgent need to restore and expand family planning services globally. The event also marked a decade since

the significant 2012 London Summit on Family Planning, celebrating the substantial increase in global contraceptive use and the expansion of commitments from governments and NGOs to improve family planning access. The ICFP serves as a crucial platform for these stakeholders to reaffirm their commitments and introduce new initiatives, such as the historic pledges announced at this year's conference, including a fiveyear, \$15 million commitment from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). These commitments are essential for advancing family planning and reproductive health services amidst the ongoing global challenges affecting SRHR.

The author is a freelance journalist specializing in FP, SRHR, He shares his insights and updates on X under the handle @MansorQaisar

n the annals of political history, rare are the figures who manage to transcend the boundaries of mere leadership to become catalysts for societal transformation. Imran Khan, the enigmatic Prime Minister of Pakistan, stands as a luminary example of such a phenomenon. His journey from a celebrated cricketer to a transformative political leader has reshaped the landscape of the nation's awareness and engagement with political affairs

With a charismatic appeal and an unwavering commit-

ment to social justice, Khan has single-handedly stirred the embers of political consciousness among the masses, igniting a fervor that has reshaped the very fabric of Pakistani society.

From the chaotic tumult of a dispersed crowd, Khan has woven the threads of unity, forging a nation bound not by ethnicity or creed, but by a shared vision of progress and prosperity. His ascent to power marked a watershed moment in Pakistani politics,

heralding the dawn of a new era where the voice of the common man resonates with unprecedented clarity.

Central to Khan's message is the importance of utilizing one's political rights effectively. Through his advocacy and example, he has taught the masses the value of their votes and the power they hold in shaping the course of governance. This empowerment has led to a more engaged electorate, unwilling to be mere pawns in the game of politics but active agents of change.

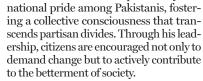
Beyond mere rhetoric, Imran Khan has spearheaded tangible efforts to educate and inform the populace. He has transformed Pakistan from an ill-informed nation to one that is increasingly well-informed.

Khan's tenure has witnessed a remarkable shift in the information landscape, with the proliferation of digital media enabling unprecedented access to information and discourse. No longer bound by the constraints of traditional propaganda, the Pakistani populace now finds itself empowered with the tools to discern truth from falsehood, to challenge misinformation, and to hold their leaders accounta-

ble. Khan's government has embraced this paradigm shift, leveraging social media and digital platforms to foster transparency and communication with the citizenry.

Imran Khan's leadership style, characterized by his accessibility and authenticity, has endeared him to the masses. Unlike traditional politicians who may seem distant and detached, Khan's approachability has allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life. This personal connection has been instrumental in fostering a sense of trust and solidarity among the populace.

Khan has instilled a sense of civic responsibility and



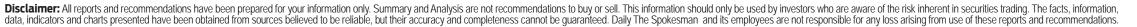
In the wake of Khan's leadership, Pakistan has emerged not as a nation blinded by ignorance, but as a beacon of enlightenment and progress. With every policy decision, every speech, and every action,

Khan has sown the seeds of political awareness, nurturing a populace that is not only informed, but actively engaged in shaping its own destiny.

Yet, for all his accomplishments, Khan remains a polarizing figure, his detractors quick to point out the challenges and shortcomings of his administration. But amidst the cacophony of criticism, one cannot deny the indelible mark he has left on the political landscape of Pakistan.

As Pakistan continues on its journey of political evolution, Imran Khan's legacy transcends the confines of conventional politics, embodying the transformative power of leadership to inspire, to empower, and to awaken the dormant consciousness of a nation. Whether through his bold reforms or his unwavering advocacy, Khan has irrevocably altered the course of Pakistani politics, leaving behind a legacy of empowerment and enlightenment.

As Pakistan marches forward into an uncertain future, it does so with the unwavering resolve instilled by Khan, propelled by the collective aspirations of a people united in their pursuit of a better tomorrow.



Kiran Asim

International

Saturday, April 20, 2024

📸 Hari Raya Aidil Fitri High Commission of Malaysia Hosts Eid-ul-Fitr Open House in Islamabad





The Spokesman 5



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ari Raya Aidil Fitri/Eid al-Fitr the most important festival in Malaysia is the Islamic New Year celebrations of Eid al-Fitr, or as it is known in Malay, Hari Raya Aidil Fitri.

It is customary for some Muslim families to host 'rumah buka' or 'open house', where they welcome neighbours and members of the community into their house to join in the celebrations where one can enjoy festive food such as curry chicken, beef rendang, chicken satay, ketupat, lemang, rose syrup, cakes, cookies, and tarts.

Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan.

and spouse, Madam Amelia Amani Azhar hosted an Eid-Ul-Fitr Open House at the Malaysian High Commission. The invited guests represented a cross section of the society from the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, Pakistani captains of industry, friends of the media as well as the Malaysian diaspora were among those present to celebrate the joyous occasion of Eid-Ul-Fitr.

Donning their national customes, the host-hostess with his team and families at the High Commission welcomed the guests with renowned Malaysian Hospitality. The guests were served with a delightful array of traditional Malaysian and Pakistani cuisines such as mee goreng, mutton curry, nasi goreng, satay On the 19th of April 2024, the High with peanut sauce and traditional Eid COO





it of friendship and peaceful co-existence nation. Pakistan, Addressing the ga



the importance of cultural understand- ing cooperation with Pakistan in variing and mutual respect in strengthening bilateral ties, emphasizing the commonalities and traditions that bind the people of Malavsia and Pakistan.

joining in the celebration and reiterat- Malaysia and Pakistan.

ous fields, including trade, investment, education, and tourism, among others. Considering the candid remarks and feedback from those present, the gather-In his remarks, Ambassador Azhar ing was a success, exemplifying the strong expressed gratitude to the guests for brotherly ties and cooperation between

Ambassador Mohammad Azhar Mazlan

scholar visits Malaysia

COMSTECH distinguished

Kazakhstan Ambassador calls on Speaker National Assembly

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Kazakhstan and committed to further enhance them through increased peopleto-people contacts, strengthened parliamentary cooperation, expanded economic ties, and regional connectivity. He noted that both countries share common views on various regional and international issues of mutual interest. He made these remarks Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin, who called on him at the Parliament House.

The Speaker Sardar Ayaz



during a meeting with the Sadiq stressed the impor- through increased interac-Kazakhstan Ambassador, tance of enhancing parlia- tion between the two legismentary cooperation, noting latures. He mentioned fully that both countries were activating the Pak-Kazakhcommitted to strengthening stan Parliamentary Friendtheir parliamentary links ship Group and encouraging

high-level exchanges between the two parliaments to bring the brotherly countries more closer.

The Speaker also proposed increased interaction between the business communities of both countries for mutual benefit, highlighting the immense potential for investment in oil exploration, energy generation, agriculture, and other economic sectors.

Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin congratulated the Speaker on his successful re-election and expressed his country's high regard for its friendship with Pakistan, keenness to strengthen relations, and enhance cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, including parliamentary cooperation.

🐞 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH distinguished Scholar, Prof. Dr. Murtaza Najabat Ali has visited Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), in Malaysia, under COMSTECH Distinguished Scholar Program. Prof. Dr. Murtaza Najabat Ali, is a COMS-TECH Distinguished Scholar in the fields of biomaterials, drug delivery systems, medical device research and development.

He is CEO of Revive Medical Technologies (RMT), Inc., a pioneering medical devices and healthcare equipment Research and Development (R&D) company headquartered in the USA, with R&D facility in Pakistan. His expertise spans non-active and active medical devices / wearable devices, AI-based solutions, biomaterials, and drug delivery systems. His

visit, scheduled from April 16 to 19, cialization Centre (BITCOM) at was organized in partnership with the College of Engineering at UiTM. Prof. Murtaza was warmly received by Prof. Dr. Hamidah Mohd Saman, Assistant Vice Chancellor of the College of Engineering, UiTM, said a news release issued here on Friday. He had productive discussion with Prof. Datuk Dr. Shahrin bin Sahib, Vice Chancellor of UiTM, who expressed keen interest in utilizing Prof. Murtaza's expertise to enhance UiTM's research capabilities and bridge the gap between academic research and commercialization in the biomedical field.

During his visit, Prof. Murtaza delivered talks at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah, and at the College of Engineering at UiTM.

He also engaged with the Business Innovation & Technology CommerUiTM, providing insights into regulatory pathways and strategies for overcoming challenges in commercialization and FDA approval processes for biomedical products.

In addition, he shared his expertise in a radio interview at UiTM's Konti Radio UFM 93.6Mhz, and highlighted the role of COMSTECH in enhancing scientific research and collaboration among OIC member states.

Furthermore, Prof. Murtaza also toured various medical research facilities at UiTM Sungai Buloh Campus, and Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology (IMMB).

Prof. Murtaza's visit to UiTM highlights the commitment of COMS-TECH and UiTM to fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange in biomedical research and development.

Expense on education is not expenditure but investment: Khalid Maqbool

🐞 PPA

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, called on the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui in his office. The meeting was attended by Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Wani and the Country Director British Council Mr. James Hampson.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that the Ministry of Education is working on a programme that aims to declare education emergency in Pakistan.

He said that the number of Out of School children of Pakistan is ballooning and the only way to address this issue is by making it a national agenda. He said that due to rapid and uncontrolled urbanisation slums in major cities are propping up.

He said that these slums are ignored in every education policy. He highlighted the

be left behind.

He encouraged the UK to provide support in the cause of eliminating out of school children. He said that we need to bring all the stakeholders especially donors on the same platform so that all the effort can be channelled and streamlined.

He said that we are burning the midnight oil in ensuring that the cause of education becomes one of the main agendas of national effort towards progress.

Ms. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner to Pakistan said that UK and Pakistan are the oldest partners and have been shoulder to shoulder since 1947.

She informed the minister that UK encourages expansion of its green programme which can lead to an increase in enrolment of Pakistan students in UK universities via distance learning

She also informed the minister that Google

ing Pakistan in its bid to address the issue of access to education.

British High Commissioner and the education minister also discussed the challenges and opportunities that come with the devolution of education to the provinces.

Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Wani highlighted that Ministry of Education is developing a comprehensive plan which will declare an education emergency in the country and will furthermore align all the stakeholders on the same page.

He said that all the donors and NGOs operating in Pakistan are working in silos and compartments. He said that there is a concreted effort on the way to ensure that a single platform can align and channel the effort of all stakeholders in the education sector of Pakistan

James Hompson, Country Director British Council told the minister that after China



the biggest British Council Programme is in from the British Council and expressed a Pakistan. He requested the minister that the Global Chief Executive of British Council will be visiting Pakistan in May and would like to visit him.

Federal Minister welcomed the initiative cities of the country.

deep desire to enhance collaboration between British Council and Pakistan especially with respect to increasing educational outreach programmes for slums in the metropolitan

importance of ensuring that no child should Education is highly interested in support-

Economy/Commerce

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

	00-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close			
70,909.90	70,290.11			
Day's High	Day's Low			
70,968.98	70,186.93			
Index Value	Change			
13,651,927,650	+619.79			
Percentage	Time			
+0.88%	19 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
7,895.85	+18.80			
Percentage	Time			
+0.24%	19 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones	JSA: Dow Jones Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
37,842.62	+67.24			
01,012.02	101.24			
Percentage	Time			
,				
Percentage +0.18%	Time 19 Apr, 12:33 pm			
Percentage +0.18%	Time 19 Apr, 12:33 pm GMT-4			
Percentage +0.18% Asia Pacific: Nikk	Time 19 Apr, 12:33 pm GMT-4 cei Stocks Average			
Percentage +0.18% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value	Time 19 Apr, 12:33 pm GMT-4 cei Stocks Average Change			
Percentage +0.18% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value 37,068.35	Time 19 Apr, 12:33 pm GMT-4 cei Stocks Average Change – 1,011.35			

Open Market	. Forex	Rales
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181	182.8
Bahrain Dinar	740.55	748.55
Canadian Dollar	201	203
China Yuan	38.47	38.87
Danish Krone	39.78	40.18
Euro	293	296
Hong Kong Dollar	35.53	35.88
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.11	912.11
Malaysian Ringgit	58.08	58.68
NewZealand \$	164.22	166.22
Norwegians Krone	25.61	25.91
Omani Riyal	723.2	731.2
Qatari Riyal	76.45	77.15
Saudi Riyal	73.3	74.05
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.5
Swedish Korona	25.31	25.61
Swiss Franc	305.47	307.97
Thai Bhat	7.56	7.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.2	75.9
UK Pound Sterling	342.5	346

Saudi delegation visits to open new avenues for cooperation: Mian Zahid

🍃 PPA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that the visit of the high-powered Saudi delegation will open new avenues for cooperation between the two countries.

The Spokesman

The credit for this visit and KSA's huge investment goes to the efforts of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the Army Chief, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that SIFC has removed the obstacles to investment. Still, the ment, which will not go down well with enemy enemies of the CPEC will make every effort to nations and rejected political parties. stop Saudi investment in Pakistan, which the security agencies should foil.

veteran business leader said that a contro-

versial political leader's attempt to make false accusations against Saudi Arabia and damage the ties between the two nations is highly condemnable.

Pakistan has neither divided nor bankrupted, contrary to the wishes of some people; rather, the economy is becoming stable, which

has confused them. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the Saudi Foreign Minister's two-day visit would benefit both countries. We expect Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's visit shortly which will further strengthen bilateral relations.

However, he underlined that political and economic stability are essential for invest-

He said that Saudi Arabia is considering investing in agriculture, IT, mining, PIA, and Speaking to the business community, the government companies, and in this regard, encouraging progress is possible during the



visit of the Saudi Crown Prince.

For the past few years, Saudi Arabia has aid, which is good for Pakistan and needs to agricultural commodities.

take advantage of their thinking.

Saudi Arabia wants to invest five to seven billion dollars, but if given a suitable business environment and security, the volume of investment could increase, he added.

India has become the second-largest trading partner of Saudi Arabia as the government has been working on the business environment and politicians and bureaucrats are not allowed to spoil economic matters.

He observed that Indian policymakers are not prioritising politics over the economy, but it is the other way around in Pakistan, which has damaged its economy a lot and resulted in an exodus of investors.

Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in the agricultural sector of many countries, and if it is invested in Pakistan's agricultural sector, the situation of this sector can not only change, but given more importance to investment than Pakistan can also become a major exporter of

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Amassador of UAE Hamad Obaid AlZaabi called on Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik on Friday



Section 2017 Supports Innovation

Pakistan Customs Implements LIVE System to Control Mis-invoicing:

MOL Pakistan promotes education by donating academic books to QAU



😹 ΡΡΔ

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to bolster educational resources and foster a culture of learning, MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company B. V. donated academic books to the School of Politics and International Relations at Quaide-Azam University (QAU).

The formal handover ceremony, held at QAU, was attended by Mr. Zsolt Adam Laszlo, CEO of MOL remarked, "Today, we reaf-Pakistan, and Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of QAU, along with senior officials from both organizations

With a firm commitment to advancing education in University through the Pakistan and nurturing donation of books. Educayoung talents, MOL Paki- tion is the cornerstone of stan underscores its Corpo- progress, and by providing rate Giving Initiatives by these resources donating a substantial cultivate a culture of learnnumber of academic books ing and innovation.

to enrich the educational experience at QAU. This initiative seeks to elevate educational standards within communities by enhancing access to a diverse range of academic literature across various subjects, empowering students with knowledge and insights vital for their academic journey.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Zsolt Adam Laszlo, CEO of MOL Pakistan, firm our commitment to fostering educational growth and empowering the leaders of tomorrow. I am proud to announce our continued support to Quaid-e-Azam we aim to



PSO and Pakistan Railways(PR) inaugurate Fuel Management System (FMS) 🐞 PPA

KARACHI: Marking a momentous occasion in the nation's transportation infrastructure, the country's leading energy company, Pakistan State Oil (PSO) and Pakistan Railways (PR) inaugurated two Upgraded Railways Filling and Storage Facilities in Karachi and Lahore. The ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Mr. Mazhar Ali Shah, Chairman/Secretary PR, Syed Taha, Managing Director & CEO PSO, Mr. Amir Baloch, CEO/Senior GM PR, alongside senior management representatives from both organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mazhar Ali Shah, Chairman/Secretary of Pakistan Railways said "The introduction of these upgraded facilities represents a pivotal step forward in our mission to fortify the nation's transportation infrastructure. With these developments, we are strategically positioned to seamlessly optimize logistics and catalyze economic growth which aligns with our vision for a more prosperous Pakistan."

Syed Taĥa, Managing Director & CEO PSO expressed his views, stating "The successful launch of the Upgraded Railways Filling & Storage Facilities marks a significant milestone in our longstanding partnership with Pakistan Railways. Together, we're dedicated to driving innovation and setting new benchmarks for excellence in transportation, with plans to extend these enhancements to more cities in the near future, ensuring unmatched service quality and economic progress.

This landmark accomplishment reflects the steadfast commitment of the national flag bearers in leveraging emerging technologies to bolster the transportation infrastructure for the betterment of the nation. As both organizations look towards the future, they remain committed in their mission to deliver unmatched transportation solutions that propel Pakistan towards prosperity.





腾 PPA

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Pakistan Customs held a high-profile and interactive orientation session on "Implementation of Linking International Value (LIVE) System under Innovation Framework to Control Mis-invoicing" on Friday. The session was hosted by FPCCI at its head office at the Federation House and was attended by prominent trade and industry personalities, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh appreciated the efforts of customs; and, especially Directorate of Valuation, Karachi for creating a conducive environment for trade and industry under the leadership of Member Customs Operations, Dr. Fareed Iqbal Qureshi.

Member Customs Operations addressed

LIVE System. He said that since its launch, LIVE System has been acting as a safeguard against mis-invoicing in the form of under-invoicing and over-invoicing.

Mr. Fayaz Rasool Maken, the Director of the Directorate General of Customs Valuation, Karachi conducted the orientation session on the LIVE system; which was developed and deployed in December 2022 under the Prime Minister's Strategic Road Map.

On the directions of Member Customs (Ops) to diversify the international publications to control Mis-invoicing / Under-invoicing, the Directorate of Valuation has so far linked over 150 commodities involving an import value of PKR. 2,280 billion (including HRC/CRC/GP, Food Items, Paper, Yarn, Crude Oil & LPG, Polymers and Chemicals the audience over zoom in detail regard- etc) with international publications (LME,

ing the main features and benefits of the Public Ledger, Asian Pulp and paper, Yarn and Fibre database, Platts, ICIS, Argus Media, Reuters and CCFEI etc).

Mr. Fayyaz Rasool Maken informed the audience that by September 2024, PKR. 3,030 billion worth of Pakistan's imports shall be covered by VRs and PVRs. In order to effectively fulfil this objective, Customs is exploring more robust databases including QY Research, Statista, and Factiva to arrive at actual values of goods as envisioned by WTO Valuation Agreement.

Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, hoped that, as a result of the aforementioned rigorous exercise, VRs shall be replaced with PVRs in case of imports worth Rs. 850 Billion. This will not only optimize realization of revenues; but, will also minimize trade/valuation disputes and ensure regulatory benefits by expeditious clearances and trade facilitation.

Khushhali Microfinance Bank takes charge against climate change

😂 PPA

KARACHI: Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited conducted a plantation drive in various sectors of Sindh. KMBL branches in Larkana, Mehar, Mehrabpur, Ratodero, Shahdad, and Wagankambar participated in the event.

The participants planted numerous trees across different locations to contribute towards a greener and healthier environment and combat climate change that is on the rise.

The plantation drive saw indigenous plants including Neem, Conocarpus Eugenia, and Eucalyptus being planted at various locations. These plant species inherit characteristics that enable them to

survive longer than other species and are also highly compatible with the native areas. Improving air quality, soil concentration, and carbon capture; they act as life savors in tough weather conditions, provide shade, and help to tackle rising temperatures.

On this occasion, Muhammad Aftab Alam/Chief Business Officer of Khushhali Microfinance Bank, added " I commend my team for their active involvement and enthusiasm during the tree plantation drive. We must all realize that environmental degradation is a great cause of concern and it is imperative for us, as a society, to pay off this debt for the sake of not just us but our future generations as well."

Business community is indebted to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his unprecedented services: Yousuf Rajput

腾 PPA

ISLAMABAD: Business community of Islamabad is indebted to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry for his unprecedented support for the flourishment of its businesses. He has been spending millions of rupees from his personal account not only on the welfare of traders and civil society but for the promotion of education in the like Savor, Tehzeeb and Monal to shape of Water filtration plants and check cultural influx of outside world. computers.

Malik while addressing a simple but impressive ceremony held here at the Chamber House in honour of

the office bearers of different Traders Welfare Associations who have recently proceeded back after the performance of Umra.

Secretary General United Business Group and former President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari said that the sitting ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bkhtawari is extremely determined to serve the business community without any prejudice. He said that we are duty bound to promote the local brands

Yousuf Rajput, Group leader Blue This has been stated by Chairman Area while recounting the achieve-Founder Group, ICCI Khalid Iqbal ments of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, pledged his and his colleagues unwavering support to the ICCI President.

Blue Area said that Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's leadership qualities are unappalled and the traders community is obliged to him for his sacrifices for it.

Assad Aziz, President Jinnah Super market said that traders community and the civil society pray to Allah Almighty for the long life and health of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari because of his kind hearted support to them.

Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi, President Super Market said that the business community is standing shoulder to shoulder with Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari owing to his visionary leadership which led to the resolution of most of its problems.

Âbdur Rehman Siddiqui, Gener-Raja Hassan Akhtar, President al Secretary, Jinnah Super, Nasir Ch.



President, Abdul Ghafaar General Seretary, G-8/markaz, Walid Khalid, General Secretary, I-9 markaz, Irfan Ch. President Steel market I-9, Khalid Ch, Waseem Chaudhry and other also paid rich tributes to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his tireless services with regard to the reso-

lution of their problems and connecting the business community under the umbrella of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They described Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as their mentor and motivation and pledged their whole hearted support to him through thick and thin.

Sports Saturday, April 20, 2024

The Spokesman

Sports events vital to save youth from unhealthy activities: Minister

腾 🛛 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that sports events could play a vital role in saving the youth from unhealthy activities. He said this while talking to media at Chief Minister Punjab Baseball League at the FC College Baseball Ground on Friday.

Faisal Ayub Khokhar further said that holding Chief Minister Punjab Baseball League is definitely a big success and the first step towards more sports leagues which are planned under the banner of Chief Minister Punjab Sports Leagues. "The participation of teams from all parts of the country reflected true unity among the people of the country," he added.

Faisal Ayub Khokhar also met with seven international baseball coaches-Steve Devoss (CEO GSP), Mickey Weston (Pitching Coach), Justin Rhodes (Fielding Coach), Brian Furches (Fielding Coach), Rebecca Pack (GSP Coach), Shannon Furches and Allie Furches-on



this occasion.

He informed that 150 players including 70 females from far flung areas of the country are participating in the Chief Minister Punjab Baseball League being organized with the collaboration of Sports Board Punjab (SBP). Hindu player Tulsi from Sindh province is also participating in the baseball league.

He said that the game of baseball is

quite popular among the youth and we will establish baseball grounds in different cities of the province. "The participation of 150 players from all over the country including 70 women is a good omen for the future of the baseball game. I am sure that these players will win gold medals in international events in future. Development of sports across the province is the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz"

DG Youth Affairs Punjab Pervez Iqbal on this occasion said that Sports Board Punjab is extending every kind of cooperation for the smooth holding of CM Punjab Baseball League as per vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz. "The development of sports across the province is our motto and we will provide a suitable platform to young talented athletes so that they can express their sporting skills in a competitive environment".

Secretary Pakistan Federation Baseball Fakhar Shah thanked Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik and DG Sports Punjab for extending best facilities for the holding of Chief Minister Punjab Baseball League.

DG Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal, Director Sports Yasmeen Akhtar, Divisional Sports Officer Multan Manzar Farid Shah, Secretary Pakistan Federation Baseball, Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Blind Cricket Trophy from April 20



😂 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The one-day format National Tournament 'A. S. Ali Blind Cricket Trophy (Season 2023-24)' was set to take place in Peshawar from April 20 to 25. The tournament was being organized by the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Sports Department, said a press release.

The said event serves as a platform to celebrate the remarkable talent of the visually impaired cricketers from all corners of the nation. A total of five provincial teams including Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Islamabad would compete for the coveted title, showcasing their exceptional skills and determination on the cricket field. The teams would be led by captains, each bringing their leadership and expertise to the tournament. Nisar Ali would captain Islamabad Team, Mohsin Khan will lead Punjab, Badar Munir will skipper Sindh, Naimat Ullah will lead Balochistan, while Sanauallah Marwat will captain Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The tournament would kick off with two matches on the opening day. The first match would see KP facing off against Islamabad at the Hayatabad Sports Complex, while Punjab will take on Sindh at the Peshawar Gymkhana Cricket Ground. The opening ceremony of the Cricket Trophy National Tournament was scheduled to take place on April 20, at the Hayatabad Sports Complex Cricket Ground in Peshawar. PBCC extends its gratitude to KP Sports Department and Peshawar Cricket Club of the Blind, for their invaluable support in making this event possible and looks forward to an exciting display of cricketing excellence.

Pakistan, New Zealand teams not to train on Friday



😂 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and New Zealand would not take part in any practice and training sessions on Friday at the Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi. Pakistan team had already announced on Thursday that they would rest on Friday while the Blackcaps cancelled their training due to rain.

The Pindi Stadium will host two matches on Saturday and Sunday, respectively, while Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium will stage remaining two matches on Thursday and Saturday next week. This would be the third five-match series between both sides inside a 12-month period. Last year, Pakistan and New Zealand drew the series at two-all in Pakistan, while New Zealand clinched the series 4-1 earlier this year in their backyard. Squads- Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Saim Ayub, Mohammad Rizwan, Usman Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Mohammad Amir, Abrar Ahmed. New Zealand: Michael Bracewell (c), Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson, Jacob Duffy, Dean Foxcroft, Ben Lister, James Neesham, Tim Robinson, Ben Sears, Tim Seifert (wk), Ish Sodhi.

Manchester City suffer Erling Haaland injury scare before FA Cup semi-final

😂 Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pep Guardiola has revealed Erling Haaland could miss Manchester City's FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea at Wembley on Saturday.

Haaland was substituted before the start of extra time in City's Champions League quarter-final second leg defeat against Real Madrid on Wednesday.

Guardiola said after the penalty shoot-out loss that the Norway striker asked to be withdrawn but did not give a reason why.

The City boss has now confirmed Erling Haaland suffered an injury against Real and suggested it was not certain his leading scorer would recover in time for the FA Cup holders' clash with Chelsea.

"We will see. It was a tough game, a lot of action, high intensity for both sides," Guardiola told reporters on Friday.

"Erling felt something, a



told me he could not continue. er Kevin De Bruyne should be 'The doctor said he had a involved against Chelsea after little bit of niggles, a little problem, we will see how his evolution is in the next hours."

muscular issue. That's why he Haaland's fitness, City midfield- standable that players are tired he said.

being taken off during extra time against Real due to fatigue.

Given City's hectic schedule. and not much recovery, and While Guardiola sweats on Guardiola conceded it is under- extra time and high intensity,"

at this stage of the season. "It's normal with the amount

of games we are playing this season and the previous seasons

"We put a lot of pressure in our game and that's why the fatigue is there. They are human beings. They are not a machine. We are used to it." The agonising shoot-out defeat by Real ended City's hopes of winning a Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup treble for a second consecutive season.

But they remain on course to repeat the domestic double and Guardiola is determined to ensure the Premier League leaders bounce back from their European frustration.

"We don't have another option. I don't want us to feel sorry for ourselves," he said.

"In football, you lose games. We performed at our best and we were not able to win. You have to accept it.

"We did everything. We know it, they know it, all the world know it, but it was not enough. When it's not enough, it's a bad night. So congratulations (to Real) and, tomorrow, FA Cup."

Aleem Dar sets major umpiring record

😂 Shahid Hashmi

Renowned Pakistan-based umpire Aleem Dar added another feather to his cap as he became the first umpire to officiate international cricket matches for 25 years

Gujranwala-hailed Dar made his umpiring career debut in February 2000 when he officiated a One-Day International (ODI) fixture between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

His precision and pinpoint decisions soon brought him on the radar of the International Cricket Council (ICC), and the apex body, soon inducted him into the international panel of umpires.

He continued to flourish in the role and became a part of the ICC Elite Panel

inception.

Aleem Dar, who won the ICC Umpire of the Year Award thrice in his decorated career, has officiated in 231 ODI matches, 145 Test matches and 70 T20 Internationals.

Notably, his tally of international matches is the highest by any umpire.

Dar also holds the record of umpiring in the most number of T20 World Cups (five).

He also supervised the finals of the ICC Champions Trophy in 2006 and 2009, Men's ODI World Cup finals in 2007 and 2001. He was also one of the on-field umpires in the 2009 Women's World Cup.

Furthermore, he is the youngest umpire to officiate in 100 Test matches of Umpires in 2002, the same year of its and is also among the top three umpires



who have umpired more than 100 Test matches

He remained a part of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires for a staggering 19 Board (PCB) and my colleagues on the years before relinquishing his role in March 2023.

"It has been a long journey, but I have enjoyed every bit of it. I have had the pleasure and honour of umpiring the world over and what I have achieved is

something I did not even dream of when I started in the profession," Aleem Dar was quoted saying by the ICC.

Though I am still keen to continue as an international umpire, I felt it was now the right time, after 19 years on the road to step away from the Elite panel and provide an opportunity to someone from the International Panel. My message to umpires the world over is to work hard, maintain discipline and never stop learning.

"I thank the ICC, the Pakistan Cricket panel for their support over the years. I would also like to thank my family; without whose support I could not have gone on for so long. I look forward to continuing to serve the game as an umpire."

Shaheen Shah Afridi breaks Bhuvneshwar Kumar's T20 record

😂 A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's leftarm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on Thursday, broke India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar's record of most first-over wickets in T20 cricket.

Afridi achieved the milestone in the first T20I of the five-match series between Pakistan and New Zealand when he cleaned up Tim Robinson with a perfectly crafted in-swinger.

The dismissal pushed Afridi's tally of first-over wickets to 47, leaving behind the top bowlers in the world. He is now closely followed by India's Kumar (46), compatriot Mohammad Amir (43) and England's David Willey, who has 42 wickets.

For the unversed, the highly-anticipated first T20I between Pakistan and New Shah Afridi's early wicket. Zealand was called off due to persistent rain here.

Pindi Cricket Stadium as the match. rain returned after Shaheen



Bracewell then won the coin

Soon after, players from both

toss and elected to bat first.

As soon as it started raining again, the on-field umpires Only a two-ball action was shook hands with the playpossible at the picturesque ers and decided to call off the

The toss of the anticipated

fixture between Pakistan and teams gathered for the national New Zealand was also delayed anthems but the rain returned, for about half an hour. New causing the action to be delayed Zealand's captain Michael further.

The second spell of rain was heavier and it seemed likely that the match would be abandoned

without a ball bowled. A tireless effort from the ground staff went in vain as the rain returned again to sweep the possibility of a five-over match between Pakistan and New Zealand.

Pakistan squad

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

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.

MohammadAmir reveals his goal after international return



腾 🛛 A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Left-arm Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir revealed his "short-term goal" of making his return to international cricket after a gap of almost four years.

In a video released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the pacer talked about his feelings about representing his country again, stating it feels like a debut series.

"I'm coming back after almost four years and whenever you play for your country, it gives a totally different. I'm feeling as if it is my debut series," stated Amir.

He then credited the PCB and Shaheen Shah Afridi for putting faith in his abilities and convincing him out of international retirement. He further acknowledged that he would be under pressure to fulfil their trust.

'The credit goes to PCB, team management and Shaheen. So, they brought me back with such trust, that I would be under pressure to fulfil it," stated Amir.

Mohammad Amir then went on to reveal that winning this year's T20 World Cup is his ultimate goal and also that he is upbeat to help Pakistan cross the finish line, having come up short in the last two editions.

"I debuted in 2009 when Pakistan became the world champion and after that, we played the 2017 Champions Trophy final and became the champions.

"So, the PCB and team management brought me back for a short-term goal, the World Cup and that is the biggest goal at the moment.

"Because Pakistan team has played the semi-final in 2021 and in 2022, played the final. There's one missing [clement], which is to cross the line so if that happens, that would be a very big achievement for me that I'm part of that team," he concluded.

Mohammad Amir then went on to comment about his fitness level and asserted he feels himself better than he was in 2019.



The Spokesman

Called on

Rawalpindi: Major General (Engineer) Talal Bin Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Assistant Minister of Defence, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at GHQ.



Pakistan Army chief, Saudi minister discuss military cooperation in wake of regional challenges

😂 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: H. E Major General (Engineer) Talal Bin Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Assistant Minister of Defence, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at GHQ.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and measures to further enhance bilateral defence collaboration including defence production and military training were discussed. COAS affirmed Pakistan Army's continuing support towards capacity building of Royal Saudi Land Forces.

The visiting dignitary acknowledged Pakistan Army's achievements and sacrifices in war against terrortions towards regional peace and specific timelines.

stability

The visiting dignitary also participated in the 5th Meeting of Pakistan-KSA Defence Collaboration at GHQ, which he co-chaired by CGS Pakistan Army.

The forum discussed challenges to global and regional security and their implications on Defence Forces. Forum noted that rapid advancements in modern technologies necessitated defence industrial cooperation in critical capabilities between the two brotherly countries.

Both sides reiterated their resolve to solidify the efforts in defence collaboration with focused approach to target specific capabilities in land, air and sea domains.

In this context, concrete proposals were deliberated by the forum ism and Army's valuable contribu- to meet tangible objectives within

Pakistan 'deeply disappointed' by UNSC dissensus on Palestine's full UN membership; regrets US veto

腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday expressed its disappointment on the United Nations Security Council's inability to reach a consensus on Palestine's full membership of the United Nations, also regretting the US decision to veto the draft resolution. "Pakistan is deeply disappointed by the result of last night's debate at UNSC and its inability to reach a consensus and recommend Palestine's membership to UNGA. We regret the US decision to veto the draft resolution granting full membership of the UN to Palestine," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

The Security Council blocked Palestine's bid to become a full United States - to pass. "We believe, member of the United Nations due the time has come for admission of to a United States veto on a wide- Palestine to the UN. This will be a ly-supported resolution that would such status. The proposal, submitted over 75 years. in the 15-member Council by Algeria, received 12 votes in favour, with the United States casting a negative vote and Switzerland and the United Kingdom abstaining.



no vetoes from its five permanent members - China, France, the Russia, the United Kingdom and the step towards correcting the historic

President for enhancing road & railway connectivity with Turkiye

腾 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday called for enhancing road and railway connectivity between Pakistan and Turkiye to further promote people-to-people contacts between the two brotherly countries. He said that overland transport was cost-effective, which would not only lead to increased interactions between the two nations but would also enhance bilateral economic ties.

The president expressed these views while talking to the Turkish Chief of General Staff, General Metin Gurak, who along with his delegation, called on him, at Aiwan-



e-Sadr. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, and Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci. also attended the meeting. Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan was committed to further deepening mutually beneficial cooperation with Turkiye in all areas of common interest. He urged the need to increase bilateral cultural exchanges, particularly in the areas of literature and poetry, to bring the people of two brotherly countries further closer. The president highlighted that Turkiye was a sincere friend ye, at a special investiture cereof Pakistan and both coun- mony, held, at Aiwan-e-Sadr tries had enjoyed deep frater-

nal ties, which needed to be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of the two sides. He expressed satisfaction over the existing level of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, adding that Pak-Turkiye relations were on an upward trajectory marked by increased high-level exchanges. Earlier, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) on the Turkish Chief of General Staff, General Metin Gurak, in recognition of his outstanding services in strengthening and promoting defence ties between Pakistan and Turkion Friday

British army chief lauds Pakistan Army's professionalism, expertise

😂 News Desk

LONDON: Several decorated British military officers paid glowing tributes to the allure of Pakistan while referring to the hospitality of Pakistanis as being unparalleled. They appreciated the professionalism and versatility of the Pakistan Army, calling it one of the best and most disciplined military organisations in the world, according to a press release received here.

Around 50 senior British military men of the Quetta Association who studied and served in Pakistan Army's elite Command and Staff College in the last 50 years shared their views after attending a luncheon in their honour hosted at the Army and Navy Club in London. UK Army Chief

sion. The event was organised to cherish the indelible imprints of the British officer's stay at Quetta. The veteran British officers paid rich tributes, unbounded homage and reverence to the great institution at Quetta. Notable British military officers who attended the event included Lieutenant General Sir Alistar Irwin (1980 graduate), Lieutenant General Anthony Palmer (1981 graduate), Brigadier Nick Thompson (1971 graduate), Brigadier Tony Berry (1970 graduate) and Major General Seumas

Kerr (1985 graduate). They were accompanied by their wives who were equally delighted in reminiscing the good old memories of the past. The event was conducted by Colonel Taimur Rahat, Army and Air Adviser at Pakistan General Patrick Sanders was High Commission London. fought by the British Army Arms / Services in their counthe chief guest on the occa- He spoke on the achieve- from 1900s to 1950s were try's armed forces. Countless



ments of the Staff College and informed the audience of the value that Staff College beholds for the training and grooming of officers from 1905 onwards. Col Taimur gave various exam- and Field Marshals. Some ples of how command and staff echelons in all major battles

groomed at Quetta. He stated that students who studied from this prestigious institution have gone on to become Viceroys, Governor Generals, Presidents are even credited with being founding fathers of various

have laid the supreme sacrifices of their lives in almost every theatre and battlefield of the world. The message of Commandant Command and Staff College Major General Nassem Anwer was also read out in the gathering to the applause of everyone.

Souvenirs were presented on the occasion to the chief guest and other notables by spouse of the High Commissioner, Pakistan High Commission. Commenting about the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces, the British

Army Chief said there was no comparison to the Pakistan military's professional finesse and expertise. General Patrick Sanders termed Pakistan as UK Army's foremost priority in various avenues of Defence Association and Defence Collaboration during his tenure.

Centre, Punjab's failure...

Continued from Page

they disagreed on the resignation of then Law Minister Zahid Hamid.

The report revealed that Sharif had pushed for the resignation of Hamid while Shahid Khaqan Abbasi opposed the decision.

The commission termed it one of the few reasons, both Punjab and Centre failed to counter the Faizabad sit-in on time.

The probe commission said that the Islamabad and Punjab police's November 25, 2017, operation was a complete failure as the move resulted in creating further chaos.

According to the report, both the government were trading blames as the protesters continued to put them under pressure.

Interior ministry decides to launch joint operation in Kacha area of Sindh 腾 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, after consultation with all stakeholders in the interior ministry decided to conduct a joint operation in Kacha area of Sindh province, with full force to clear the area from dacoits.

An important meeting of the National Action Plan Implementation Review Committee was held at NACTA headquarters here on Friday under the chairmanship of the Interior Minister which was attended by Federal Interior Secretary, Head NACTA, DG FIA, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

IGs and provincial secretaries Interior besides National Coordinator NACTA, all teams of National Action Plan and Intelligence agencies and Chief Commissioners also attended the meeting.

The top brass after detailed brainstorming, decided to conduct a joint operation in the Kacha area with full force and close



coordination between the provinces and all stake holders to clear the area from dacoits. measures taken regarding the security of tion was made to provide new modern detailed briefing on security and safety

The meeting also carefully reviewed the Detailed consultation and considera- Chinese citizens while All the IGs gave a technology to the police across Pakistan. measures for Chinese citizens in Pakistan.

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at least nine votes in favour and Al-Sharif as its capital.

have recommended the granting of injustice suffered by Palestinians for

It will affirm their right to self-determination," she remarked. The spokesperson said that the people of Palestine had their inherent right to live in a sovereign Palestinian state A Council resolution requires with the pre-1967 borders and Quds

Ambassador Hashmi visits Huawei exhibition center in Beijing

😂 Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi visited Huawei exhibition center in Beijing and discussed its projects and partnership with Pakistan. Upon arrival, Ambassador Hashmi was warmly welcomed and informed that Pakistanis are the largest group of foreign nationals employed by Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices.

Commercial Counsellor, Ghulam Qadir, Science and Technology Counsellor, Khan Muhammad Wazir and other officials from the embassy were present. Pleased to visit @Huawei exhibition center in Beijing and man of China Great Wall Industry discuss its projects and partnership with Pakistan. Happy to note Pakistanis are largest group of foreign



nationals employed by Huawei. Amb. Zhangs company was an added bonus, the ambassador posted on social media platform X after the visit. Meanwhile, Ambassador Hashmi held a meeting with Chairman of China Great Wall Industry Corporation, Hu Zhongmin and discussed matters of mutual interest. Had a pleasant and productive interaction with Hu Zhongmin, Chair-Corporation. Look forward to further building on existing collaboration, the ambassador shared on X.

Pakistan aims to agree...

Continued from Page 1

permanence to macroeconomic stability as well as an umbrella under which the country can execute much needed structural reforms, the minister said.

"We expect the IMF mission to be in Islamabad around the middle of May-and that is when some of these contours will start developing," said Aurangzeb, who met with the Fund's Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Wednesday during the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings.

He declined to outline what size programme the government hoped to secure, though Pakistan is expected to seek at least \$6 billion. Aurangzeb added that once the IMF loan was agreed. Pakistan would also request additional financing from the Fund under the Resilience and Sustainabilitv Trust.

The struggling South Asian nation had managed to accumulate foreign exchange reserves in recent months and was on track for its war chest to hit \$10 billion-or roughly two months import cover-by end-June.