

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول  
ہم سے علی بن سلمہ نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے  
عبدالرحمن نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ان کے  
غلام عبدالرحمن بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا  
کہ ان سے ان کے والد نے اور ان سے ان  
عزیز نے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے  
فرمایا ہے کہ جو کچھ میں نے کہا ہے وہ سب  
خواب میں کسی چیز کو دیکھنے کا وہی ہے جو  
اس کی آنکھوں نے نہ دیکھی ہو۔  
(بخاری ص ۱۴۳ نمبر ۷۱۴۳)  
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## Malala reaffirms support for Palestinians after backlash

Pakistan's Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai Thursday reaffirmed her support for the Palestinians after facing backlash from netizens around the world for collaborating with former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton. "I want there to be no confusion about my support for the people of Gaza [...] I have and will continue to condemn the Israeli government for its violations of international law and war crimes," Malala wrote in a social media post.



## Govt's economic agenda will help attract investments in Pakistan

Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed the confidence that the government's economic reforms agenda will lead to improved trust of businesses and attract more investments to Pakistan. He was talking to Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf and a delegation of Danish company Moller-Maersk (APM) Terminals led by its CEO Keith Svendsen in Islamabad on Thursday. (Details on Page 8)

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## Empowering Women

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the high achiever women and girls in the field of IT on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## PM vows to eradicate smuggling, strengthen economy

Shehbaz says nation's billions of dollars will be saved and spent on the progress and prosperity of the country

Staff Reporter

ABBOTTABAD/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has vowed to eradicate menace of smuggling and strengthen national economy.

He expressed these views during his visit to the residence of martyred Customs Inspector Syed Hasnain Ali Tirmizi in Abbottabad on Thursday.

Shehbaz Sharif said the nation's billions of dollars will be saved and spent on the progress and prosperity of the country.

He said interior ministry has been asked to coordinate closely with the provincial governments to eliminate the smuggling.

The Prime Minister also

reaffirmed his commitment to make the country abode of peace.

He said the security forces and law enforcement agencies are rendering unprecedented sacrifices for the better future of coming generations.

The Prime Minister said the nation greatly values the sacrifices of these brave personnel and officers.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister accompanied by Federal Ministers Attaullah Tarar and Amir Muqam offered fataha for the martyr and presented a cheque to the father of the martyr under Shuhada package.

He was appreciative of Chief of Army Staff General Asim

Continued on Page 8

## Pakistan rejects US human rights report as 'biased and politicised'

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically rejected the 2023 Country Report on Human Rights by the US State Department.

In a statement today, the Foreign Office said contents of the report are unfair, based on inaccurate information and are completely divorced from ground

reality.

It said the report lacks objectivity and politicizes the international human rights agenda, clearly demonstrating double standards.

The Foreign expressed concern that the US State Department's report has highlighted human rights situations around the world but ignored the gross human rights violations in Gaza

and Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

It said the US State Department's annual exercises of preparing such unsolicited reports remains inherently flawed in their methodology as they use a domestic social lens to judge human rights in a politically

biased manner.

The statement said if the US

must engage in this exercise, then we expect the US State Department to at least demonstrate objectivity, impartiality and responsibility in conducting assessment of complex issues.

It also emphasized that the state department report should demonstrate requisite moral courage to speak truth about all situations and play a constructive

role for bringing an end to atrocities in the most urgent hotspots of gross human rights violations.

The Foreign Office reiterated Pakistan's commitment to strengthen its own human rights framework, promote international human rights agenda and uphold fairness and objectivity in the international human rights discourse.

## Govt to address concerns of farmers regarding wheat prices: Law Minister

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar says the government will fully address the concerns raised by farmers regarding wheat prices.

In response to queries raised in the Senate on Thursday, he expressed confidence that wheat prices will stabilize soon.

He highlighted ongoing consultations between the federal government and the Punjab Government, emphasizing agriculture's pivotal role in Pakistan's economy.



Tarar mentioned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's establishment of a daily-operating special committee to tackle the issue. Additionally, he informed the House about the cabinet-level discussion on the matter, with the Prime Minister ordering an inquiry into the unnecessary wheat import despite sufficient domestic stock.

## Center supports provinces in anti-terrorism efforts: Info Minister

Says government is taking all possible measures to eliminate terrorism from country

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said the government is taking all possible measures to eliminate terrorism from the country.

Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Nikhat Shakeel Khan and others, he said the National Action Plan is being reviewed, while maximum facilitation is being extended to the provincial governments to combat terrorism.

He said the government is also focusing on Intelligence Based Operations to eliminate the scourge of terrorism from the soil of Pakistan.

The Minister said the federal

government is also extending full cooperation to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government for the capacity building of the provincial Counter-Terrorism Department.

He informed the House that Sindh Chief Minister has assured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to install a safe city network in Karachi to fight crimes and terrorism.

Attaullah Tarar said maintaining law and order is the sole responsibility of provinces under the constitution and everyone should join hands to eliminate the menace of terrorism from Pakistan.

Responding to another calling attention notice moved by Omar Ayub Khan, Information Minister said the name of an individual

is placed on the Exit Control List, Provisional National Identification List or Black List on the request of the investigation agencies after following due procedure.

Attaullah Tarar said no one is placed on these lists for being a member of the parliament.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly also unanimously adopted a resolution calling for taking notice of inappropriate and obscene language by some members of the House against women political leaders.

The resolution, moved by Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, urged the House to ensure the dignity of all women political leaders and workers.

## Security forces kill 3 terrorists during IBO in KP's Khyber



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Intensifying actions to eliminate the menace of terrorism in the country, security forces killed three terrorists including two ringleaders Sohail aka Azmato and Haji Gul alias Zarkavi in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khyber district, the military's media wing said on Thursday.

The operation was conducted by the security forces on April 24-25 on the reported presence of terrorists in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tribal district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

Security forces eliminated three terrorists after intense exchange of fire, as well as busted their hideout during the operation, it added.

The ISPR further said that weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

"Locals of the area appreciated the operation. A sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country," it included.

## Asif hopeful about Iran-Pak gas pipeline completion despite US warning

Defence Minister terms President Raisi's Pakistan visit "great development"

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has expressed hope that the obstacles in the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project will be removed and it will be completed.

The minister, talking to a private TV channel, maintained that regional stakeholders must gather on a common platform to protect their interests in light of the turmoil and unrest being faced by countries in the region, and an increased intervention of

big powers such as the European and western nations through proxies, particularly in the context of Israel.

Asif, in this regard, termed the "successful visit" of Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi a "great development".

The Iranian president's visit was a landmark moment, especially with regard to the pipeline project, which has remained stalled in the wake of geopolitical

issues and international sanctions.

The minister's statement comes at a significant time when the United States has, on multiple occasions over this week, hinted towards the "potential risk of sanctions" in light of the business deals — particularly the execution of the gas pipeline project — between Iran and Pakistan following President Raisi's crucial visit.

The senior cabinet member lamented the hypocritical and discriminatory attitude as well as the lack of principles of Western nations with respect to the acts committed by Israel in comparison to other countries around the world.

Asif underscored that terrorism is a common problem for Iran and Pakistan, and needs to be controlled.

The federal minister said both

the brotherly countries will fight terrorism together. It does not matter if anyone is hurt by the visit of the Iranian president, he added.

He maintained that Pakistan and Iran have a long history of relations and while the Iranian president wanted to conduct a large meeting during his visit, the government could not make arrangements due to security concerns.

## No complaint of interference in judicial affairs: CJP

KARACHI: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday said he did not receive any note of grievance from any high court judge claiming the meddling of other intuitions in the judicial process.

"Since I have been chief justice [of Supreme Court of Pakistan], I have not received a single complaint from any high court judge that there has been any interference in their work," Justice Isa said while speaking at Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA).

"Now, if there has been any interference in their work it has not been reported to me and all the incidents that were mentioned were before my watch... before I took the



oath as the CJP.

"So, this is a thing to bear in mind that interference is not acceptable but at the same time nothing has been reported to me during ... my watch."

He said mention was made of the support that the SHCBA extended to the six judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), who had written to me as well. "I thank them on their behalf," the CJP added.

Continued on Page 8

# Azma Bokhari giving a befitting reply to those criticizing Chief Minister Punjab

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Provincial Information and Culture Minister Azma Bokhari while giving a befitting reply to those criticizing Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz for wearing a police uniform said that a specific group is criticizing CM Maryam Nawaz for wearing police uniform whose leader is even unwilling to accept his own daughter. All over the world, the Heads of States enhance the respect and prestige of their armed forces by wearing uniforms.

This is a tradition as Mian Nawaz Sharif followed suit during his tenure of government which Maryam Nawaz Sharif maintained. She said that may Allah Almighty bestow patience to those who unduly criticize. There is no



need to show malice over CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's gesture. Maryam Nawaz is a source of pride for the Pakistani women. Azma Bokhari ca-

gorically remarked that they ran the business of stealing diamond rings, transfer postings and valuable jewelry under the garb of veil (burqa).

Maryam Nawaz has enhanced the honour and prestige of Punjab Police by wearing a police uniform while the leader of the propaganda brigade used to go barefooted to perform Umrah. He also used to boast by stealing a watch and brazenly selling it afterwards. Wherever Maryam Nawaz Sharif goes in Punjab, she is accorded a warm reception by the people of Punjab especially women.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif has attained the status of a role model for the women of Punjab. Maryam Nawaz is least concerned about the character assassination campaign launched by the propaganda brigade. Maryam Nawaz has come to serve the people of Punjab and will InshaAllah succeed in her mission, concluded Azma Bokhari.

## PMLN won by-elections, says Hamza Shehbaz

**Khalid Chaudhry**

MULTAN: Former Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz has said that as a result of the people-friendly policies of the PML-N, it won a big victory in the by-elections and no one has put any grass on Imran Khan. PMLN Former Member Punjab Assembly Mrs Sultana Shaheen's political services for the party are commendable cannot be forgotten that she will soon be entrusted with important responsibilities. Hamza Shehbaz expressed these thoughts in a meeting held with the former member of the provincial assembly Mrs Sultana Shaheen at the Model Town Secretariat Lahore regarding the success of the Muslim League in the by-election. He said that the PML-N is promoting the politics of values and not of power. But Imran Khan and her followers have done nothing except the politics of caste interests, due to which the people have rejected them even in the by-elections after the general elections.



## Commissioner Multan Division to provide free education to underprivileged children

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Commissioner of Multan Division, Maryam Khan, has implemented the slogan 'Read to Progress' practically. To fulfill the dream of educating underprivileged children in standard private schools, an agreement has been reached between the District Education Authority Vehari and the Private School Authority. Addressing the dignified ceremony, Commissioner of Multan Division, Maryam Khan, stated that children not attending school have been enrolled for free in private schools. Over 27 children in the district of Vehari will receive free education in 9 private schools.



Education is the guarantee of a bright future for the nation. Children from deserving families will be provided free education in private schools. President of the Private Schools Association, Mian Jehanzaib, stated that over 1400 private schools in the district will actively participate in this noble cause. Private schools in Vehari are collaborating with the administration for the success of free education initiative. Parents appreciated the efforts of Commissioner Maryam Khan, DC Vehari Syed Asif Hussain Shah, while the sight of children receiving bags, books, uniforms brought joy to everyone present at the ceremony.

## Rotary Clubs Pakistan Seminar Held in Multan

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: The learning session and graduation of the newly elected presidents of Rotary Clubs 2024-25 Seminar ceremony was held in which the members of Rotary Clubs of all South Zone District 63 of Pakistan participated in the training seminar. District Governor Pabodi Zoisai took special part in the seminar. Muhammad Salim Nasir, Regional Coordinator of Rotary International for South, had a special meeting with former District Governor Pabodi Zoisaya, Special Adviser to the President of Rotary International from Sri Lanka and presented him Multani Ajrak. Salim Nasir said in the meeting that strong social ties Relations between nations are established. Such training seminars should continue to be organized which gives an opportunity to work better and learn more and the members learn from each other's experiences and experiences to improve social welfare projects. Zoisai said that trained people can better serve the society. The process of development is complete when people learn from each other. Training reflects the correct growth in the society. The social work in Pakistan is very good and the people here are sociable and loving people who came here and got a sense of belonging. At the end of the ceremony, certificates were also distributed to the presidents and members who participated in the seminar.

## Police in two days crackdown on drug smugglers, 10 drug smugglers arrested: DPO

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Attock police in two days crackdown on drug smugglers, 10 inter-provincial drug smuggler arrested, drugs worth millions of rupees 36 kg of hashish 500 grams ice, and 10 ltr liquor recovered. On the occasion DPO Attock Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan said Attock Police is continuing its jihad to protect the young generation from destruction and against the elements involved in the heinous drug trade. According to the details, vision of Chief Minister Punjab and IG Punjab, on the special instructions of District Police Officer Attock, Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, a strict crackdown is on against drug smugglers. The process is ongoing. Search Park Picket Attock Khurd under the supervision of SHO Attock Khurd Sub-Inspector Khanzada Shahrukh Khan Assistant Sub-Inspector Ghulam Raza along with his team stopped the loader rickshaw coming from KPK which was loaded with junk which was driven by Shamail Khan son of Hashim. Khan Sukna was driving Afghanistan, now Peshawar, knowing that he was suspicious, after carrying out the inspection of the goods loaded in the rickshaw, in two days more than 36 kg of hashish and 500 grams of ice and 10 ltr liquor were recovered and a case was registered under the Narcotics Act. Khan was put behind the bars. The accused Shamail Khan was supposed to supply the recovered drugs in different areas of Punjab.

## Wana police crackdown accelerated, tinted glasses of around 50 vehicles cleaned

**Adam Khan Wazir**

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: In the light of the instructions of District Police Officer (DPO) Farman Ullah Khan, the police have intensified its crackdown against vehicles with black glasses for two days. Azamwarsak Police Station SHO Zabih Ullah Wazir removed black cloths from the windows of some Fielder cars and set its on fire on the main road. According to reports, so far black glasses of around 50 vehicles have been cleaned at various check posts and checkpoints. DPO Farman Ullah told Dawn that orders have been issued to all SHO, s and In-charges to clean black glasses on public complaints. He said in which the police have started checking in a proper manner at different places of Check posts are cleaning the black glasses. DPO said that the police have continued the crackdown in the limits of Wana City Police Station, Azamwarsak Police Station and Spin Dam Police Station. District Police Officer Farman Ullah added that the action against black glass vehicles will continue until this scourge is eradicated.

## Press Conference

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party leader Akhzada Chatan and others are holding a press conference.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Important meeting on labor rights of laborers in Multan

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The important meeting of National Labor Federation Multan was held at Jamaat-e-Islami office under the chairmanship of National Labor Federation Pakistan President Shamasur Rahman Swati. President Epikfa Guardian High Guardian Union, MDA Ishaq Saqi President Guardian Union MDA, Mujahid Hussain Pasha, General Secretary NLF Multan Aqil Qureshi President Baghban Union PHA Malik Basheer Vice President NLF South Punjab, Khalid Shabbir General Secretary Insaf Union Amri, Syed Rafi Shah General Secretary Naghban Union MDA, Shah Wali Rajput, Rakhi Ram, Waqas, Ghulam Yasin and other officials participated. In which various leaders presented their demands in the meeting. In which the rights of the fourth class employees were demanded that the living of today's laborers has become haram due to inflation and unemployment. Therefore, an increase in the salaries of small employees in proportion to inflation is inevitable. On this occasion, the problems of the workers of the industrial state were also



discussed. Most of the workers do not get social security facilities regarding health. Khawaja Farid Social Security Hospital is the only social security institution in Multan where doctors are not performing their duties properly. And cheap Chinese medicines are given to the workers. Similarly, small employees should be given quarters or government houses. The house rent is being given

1500 rupees which is very low. Suggestions were also made to increase it. In proportion to the inflation, a substantial increase in the salaries of the employees and laborers is necessary, while billions of rupees are being spent on the luxurious expenses of the officers. Shamsur Rahman Swati National Labor Federation Pakistan directed District President Hafiz Abdul Rahman Qureshi to visit the institutions, listen to the problems of the workers and use all his abilities to solve them. Because NLF is a resistance movement and not reconciliation. We will fight for the rights of workers to the last extent. He said that May 1st is celebrated as labor rights day all over the world. NLF Multan announces a major labor protest in Industrial State Multan on this day.

## Murder suspect arrested in Attock

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Attock Khurd police arrested a man who killed his friend over some pity despite and later dumped his body under cattle fodder in some cattle shed in the city. According to Police spokesman, a furniture dealer identified as Amir Shahzad went missing under mysterious circumstances on April 3 from his native village Haji Shah. Police registered a missing case on the complaint of his father Umer Hayat. The spokesman said that a team of Attock Khurd police led by Sub Inspector Khanzada Sheroze through human and digital intelligence picked his friend Shahfat Akhter - a resident of Attock city who during interrogation has confessed that he killed Amir after exchange of heated arguments and dumped his body under cattle fodder in his cattle shed. Later Police recovered the body on his identification and shifted to district headquarters hospital Attock. Police registered a murder case and launched further investigation.

## WAWA distributed 10,000 olive trees to 100 farmers in Wana

**Adam Khan Wazir**

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A private organization Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) on Thursday with the support of the Agriculture Department distributed 10000 ten thousand high quality olive plants for 100 orchards to 100 farmers of different areas of Wana in Lower South Waziristan District. It should be noted that every year Wana Welfare Association distributes thousands of trees to farmers for olive groves and also Grafting wild olives in the mountains.

General Secretary Jalal Wazir said, WAWA's mission is to become the example for the world in Wana olive oil production in the near future.

Jalal Wazir further said I am very grateful to the District Administration and Agriculture Department who have always supported the Wana Welfare Association organization.



Additional Deputy Commissioner-

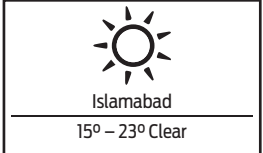
er District South Waziristan Finance and Planning (F&P) Kashmir Khan distributed olive trees among the farmers with his own hands.

General Secarty said, Apart from this, WAWA also distributed thousands of pistachio plants this year.

On this occasion, the farmers, Agriculture Department and District Administration appreciated the role of WAWA in the development of agriculture.

On the other hand, tribal elders told media that the services of Wana Welfare Association are evident as light is the backbone of the welfare organization in the area's development.

Tribal elders announced their full support and cooperation with the Wana Welfare Association.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Table with 2 columns: Prayer Name and Time. Rows include Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha.

EMERGENCY

Table with 2 columns: Service Name and Contact Number. Rows include Rescue (Police), Bomb Disposal, Fire Services, etc.

Women Police Stations

Table with 2 columns: Location and Contact Number. Rows include Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

ENQUIRY

Table with 2 columns: Service Name and Contact Number. Rows include Edhi Ambulance, PIA Flight Info, PIA Cargo, and Railway Inquiry.

High-profile UK delegation explores collaborative opportunities at NUST

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Marking a significant milestone in bilateral higher education relations between the UK and Pakistan, a high-powered British delegation is currently on an official visit to Pakistan. The delegation, accompanied by senior officials from the British Council and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, visited the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST). Led by Sir Steve Smith, UK Government International Education Champion, the delegation comprised eminent personalities from the government and academia, seeking to explore opportunities for academic collaboration and research partnerships.

Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, greeted the guests upon arrival at the university. Ensnuing was a comprehensive discussion, encompassing the university's national and global accomplishments, R&D initiatives and efforts towards building a sustainable knowledge economy through a robust ecosystem of research, innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialisation.

Rector NUST emphasised that the visit not only signifies strengthening of educational ties between the two nations but also underpins the shared commitment to fostering cross-cultural understanding and nurturing the next generation of global leaders.

Facilitated by the HEC-Pakistan and the British Council (BC), the UK delegation's visit will support the objectives of the flagship initiative "Pakistan UK Education Gateway" launched in 2018, which aims to enhance partnership between the higher education sectors of Pakistan and the UK under a structured programme jointly funded by the Government of Pakistan and BC.

Team Europe's New Programme for Green Jobs Creation in Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The inauguration ceremony of the EUR 64 million Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Support Programme-Phase IV- took place at the Center of Excellence in Modern Technologies. The event marked a significant milestone under the European Union's Team Europe Initiative on building back better, aimed for the creation of green jobs in Pakistan and bringing together the EU, France, Germany and Italy. Through this programme, the European Union and the Government of Germany will support Pakistan's efforts towards improving technical education and employment prospects for its youth.

The Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, speaking as chief guest reiterated the Government of Pakistan's steadfast

commitment to fostering job opportunities, emphasising, "We are making all out efforts to create job opportunities, which is only possible with the economic growth of the country."

In her address, EU Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Riina Kionkaha highlighted the importance of reforming the TVET sector to meet the needs of young people, particularly women. She remarked, "Youth represents the future of Pakistan. Harnessing their potential, especially that of women, and creating an enabling environment is critical for Pakistan's prosperity. The EU is committed to working with Pakistan on TVET to create green jobs for more inclusive and sustained economic growth. We have witnessed tremendous improvements in making this sector sustainable."

Dr. Angelika Fleddermann, Country Director of GIZ Pakistan elaborated on the objectives of the programme, stating, "The

current phase of the TVET Programme focuses on technological upgrading in remote regions, private sector engagement, and national-level systems strengthening. W

Chairperson NAVTTC, Gulmina Bilal, emphasised the pivotal role of TVET in economic development and job creation, saying, "The TVET programme is significant for ensuring better job prospects for the youth, especially women, in the job market. It is a crucial step towards economic development and prosperity."

Ms. Wendy Alexander, Scottish Champion for Higher Education and Member of British Council Board of Trustees, said "We are pleased that the British Council will be delivering this programme in collaboration with GIZ. Romina Kochius, Coordinator Sustainable Economic Development, Training and Employment-gave detailed overview of the TVET Sector Support Programme (TVET SSP).

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: A group photo of Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Husain, the Chief Guest and participants on the occasion of Closing Ceremony of International Workshop on Value Addition of Gemstone Products organized by National Productivity Organization (NPO) in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Pakistan Commits to Controlling Malaria on World Malaria Day 2024

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Today, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (M/o NHSR&C), alongside the Common Management Unit (CMU) for AIDS, TB, and Malaria, in partnership with World Health Organization-WHO, marked World Malaria Day 2024 with steadfast dedication to the global theme, "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world": Gender, Health Equity, and Human Rights

Stressing the need to scale up malaria control and elimination interventions and raise awareness, Mr. Syed Waqar Ul Hassan, Special Secretary of the M/o NHSR&C, addressed the lingering public health challenge posed by malaria, exacerbated by the 2022 floods.

Dr. Razia Kaniz Fatima, National Coordination for



Coordination Management Unit, AIDS, TB, and Malaria, shared that CMU in collaboration with the Provincial Programs and with the support of the Global Fund and partnership with the Indus Hospital.

Dr. Luo Dapeng, WHO Representative Pakistan, reaffirmed WHO's commitment to combat malaria and support initiatives for a malaria-free Pakistan.

Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor Health Services Academy emphasized the profound impact of malaria on individuals, families, and communities, urging heightened political and social commitment to alleviate its burden.

As Pakistan commemorates World Malaria Day 2024, the nation reaffirms its determination and collaboration in the fight against malaria, striving closer towards the goal of a Malaria-free Pakistan.

Cecil Hotel Murree by Pearl-Continental

PPA

ISLAMABAD: For heritage enthusiasts and cultural connoisseurs, Pakistan offers an exhilarating array of landscapes, languages, cuisines, and cultural experiences. Each region presents unique and unforgettable exploration opportunities. The country's vibrant history is brimming with significant events and civilizations that have shaped modern Pakistan.



The breathtaking Murree Hills, just a couple of hours from Islamabad, exemplify this rich heritage. Murree, the historic hill station, has long attracted visitors from around the world. In 2023, Pearl-Continental Hotels & Resorts, the country's premier 5-star hospitality brand, proudly introduced the Cecil Hotel by Pearl-Continental, elevating the luxurious experience of this storied location.

The hotel, established in 1851 as the Grand Hotel Cecil and originally owned by Rivett Carnac, was acquired in 1916 by John Faletti from Italy, who transformed it into one of the most sought-after addresses in Murree. The hotel has served as a prestigious retreat for the elite, including Lord Mountbatten and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who held several notable meetings here.

Cecil Hotel Murree by Pearl-Continental is an ideal spot for family vacations, unique celebrations, corporate retreats, or simply a relaxing staycation. It offers not only stunning surroundings and vibrant experiences but also an opportunity to immerse yourself in history.

Reserve your stay at the Cecil Hotel Murree by Pearl-Continental and prepare for an exhilarating vacation like no other.

Al Baraka Bank delegation explores collaboration with IIUI



PPA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Global Board Members of Al Baraka Bank recently visited the Faisal Masjid campus of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

The delegation, led by, Dr. Jehad El Nakla Chairman Board Al Baraka Bank was received by Incharge Protocol & Public Relations Nasir Farid. He provided a briefing on IIUI's services, profile, and its role in the promotion of higher education. The delegation also included Muhammad Atif Hanif CEO & President Al Baraka Bank and Muhammad Umar Pasha Group Head Service Quality/ EVP.

During their visit, the delegation engaged in various activities aimed at fostering collaboration and environmental sustainability. One notable event was the planting of a sapling under "one tree, one staff, every year" plantation drive symbolizing the commitment of both parties to environmental conservation efforts and reparative environment. Discussions ensued regarding ongoing and future collaborative projects between Al Baraka Bank and IIUI, with a focus on initiatives to make the campus greener.

Significance of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace highlighted

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Multilateralism embodies inherent ideals that harbor the potential to resolve contemporary issues, challenges, and conflicts. Through dialogue, diplomacy, and collaborative efforts, traditional and non-traditional humanitarian, economic, social, political, and security challenges can be tackled effectively. The importance of multilateralism and diplomacy cannot be overstated in a world brimming with complexities and adversities. No single country can address today's challenges alone, underscoring the necessity of collective approaches to problem-solving. These were the remarks by the speakers during a thought-provoking seminar today to commemorate the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS) and Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP), Riphah International University.



In her opening remarks, Dr. Farhat Asif, President of the IPDS, underscored the significance of peacebuilding efforts within the framework of multilateral cooperation. She has also shared the message of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on this important international day.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Spokesperson & Additional Foreign Secretary, Strategic Communications Division & Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, stated that Pakistan firmly believes in multilateralism and shared the unique message of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on occasion. She said that in today's interconnected world, Pakistan supports a multilateral diplomatic approach to resolving conflicts and continues its efforts to strive by building bridges and finding common ground.



PPA

QUETTA: In a collaborative effort to combat the pervasive issue of gender-based violence (GBV), Balochistan Police has been implementing a pioneering awareness and advocacy campaign. The initiative is funded by the U.S. Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and implemented

with the technical support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

As part of awareness raising activities, Balochistan Police in conjunction with the U. S. Embassy's Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) and UNODC organized a flagship seminar on Wednesday, 24th of April 2024 at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's Univer-

U. S. Embassy funds an awareness campaign on gender based violence in Balochistan

sity in Quetta that successfully concluded the campaign. The seminar brought together experts from law enforcement, academia, and civil society to speak to a large gathering of young and enthusiastic female students with the purpose to inspire them to champion social change to combat gender-based violence in Balochistan.

The event was presided over by the Minister for Education, Government of Balochistan, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durani who emphasized the importance of proactive measures to combat gender-based violence, highlighting the need for universities to play a crucial role in empowering young women. Other key stakeholders included Deputy Inspector General of Police Balochistan, Mr. Qamar-ul-Hassan, Vice Chancellor

SBK, Prof. Dr. Sajida Noreen, Chairperson Provincial Commission on Status of Women, Balochistan, Ms. Fozia Shaheen, and SP, Quetta Police and In-Charge Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre, Ms. Pari Gul Tareen.

The main focus was on empowering youth, particularly adolescent girls, by sensitizing them to identify and confront gender stereotypes to address causes of gender-based violence in their daily lives, and motivate them to pursue careers as women police officers in Balochistan. Partnering with the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University and Government Girls Postgraduate College in Quetta, Balochistan Police and UNODC had also conducted two interactive awareness sessions on March 27 and 28, 2024, respectively. These sessions successfully

brought together accomplished women police officers, psychologists, academics, and gender experts to engage and encourage female students to come forward and support GBV survivors through empathy and respect. The objective was to empower young girls through knowledge of cultural and structural prejudices to address the causes of GBV. Dissemination through social media and printed materials further helped to amplify key messages among wider audience.

The campaign also highlighted the importance of immediate assistance for survivors of gender-based violence and the services available at the Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre (WJFC) in Quetta. Ms. Pari Gul Tareen, SP, Quetta, said, "Gender-based violence thrives in silence and ignorance. Our aim is to

create awareness and a supportive environment for GBV survivors to ensure reporting of GBV to relevant authorities and the delivery of necessary assistance."

UNODC reassures its continued commitment towards preventing gender-based violence within communities through awareness raising, establishing reporting mechanisms especially for women and increasing the capacity of first responders. Nonetheless, women's rights and freedoms are essential to building strong, resilient societies which can only be achieved through a whole-of-society approach. This initiative represents a significant step towards fostering a culture of understanding, respect and empathy towards addressing the issue of gender-based violence in Balochistan.



# President Tokayev addresses Assistance for Flood Victims at Assembly of People of Kazakhstan

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ASTANA: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev addressed the government's efforts to aid flood victims at the 33rd session of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan (APK) on April 25 in Astana.

It has been almost a month since Kazakhstan's eastern, northern, and western regions were affected by massive floods.

Despite the catastrophic nature of these floods, they have united the people of Kazakhstan, said Tokayev. He highlighted the role of the assembly in providing assistance to those affected.

"From the first days of the floods, everyone witnessed the active and well-coordinated work of the assembly. The APK's central and regional headquarters were deployed as soon as possible to provide comprehensive support to the victims," said Tokayev.

He mentioned a large-scale initiative undertaken by the assembly, called Zhurekten Zhurekke (from heart to heart), with over 1,500 tons of food and essential goods worth around 770 million tenge (\$1.7 million) sent to the devastated areas so far.

"The assembly has once again

shown in practice that it is not a merely symbolic organization, as some people try to claim, but an effective promoter of the values of unity and solidarity of our nation, an important public body with constitutional status," he added.

Tokayev reiterated that the government will reimburse damages to all affected.

"No one will be left without support. Budget expenditures will be reduced to prioritize urgent tasks in addressing the aftermath of the floods. The country will introduce a regime of austerity of public funds," he said.

Preventive efforts Speaking of preventive measures, Tokayev highlighted the need to create an effective system of combating natural disasters.

"It is necessary to practically rebuild the interaction between the state and science to take preventive measures against natural disasters. Upon my instruction, the Kazakh Hydrometeorology and Civil Engineering Institute in Taraz is being re-established and the Institute of Seismology in Almaty will be strengthened," said the President.

Another area of work will focus on the study and containment of climate change.



"It is necessary to reorganize the whole water management system, including such companies as Kazvodkhoz [a state-owned company in charge of water supply and irrigation water conveyance services] and Nura group water supply," said Tokayev.

The majority of dams, reservoirs, and water management

infrastructure in Kazakhstan, constructed in the 1950-70s, have not been upgraded to withstand the effects of floods. This has exacerbated the consequences, resulting in the worst floods the country has seen in the past 80 years.

"Therefore, 20 new reservoirs will be built in 11 regions of Kazakhstan and 15 existing reservoirs

will be reconstructed, which will significantly reduce the risk of flooding in 134 settlements," said President Tokayev.

"We will renovate the technical base of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, strengthen its provision with special equipment, helicopters, and airplanes. The national hydrogeological service will also be reconstructed,

which will deal with the exploration and protection of underground water resources," he added.

strengthening the ethnic accord in the country and ensuring all rights and freedoms of citizens are observed regardless of one's ethnic affiliation.

Setting tasks for the assembly, Tokayev reiterated its role as a tool designed to address five social vices. These include drug addiction, gambling, family and societal violence, vandalism, and prodigality, as discussed during the National Kurultai meeting in Atyrau in March.

"The focus of the assembly should always be on practical activities to identify and preventively address possible hotbeds of ethno-social tension," he added.

Next year also marks the assembly's 30th anniversary. "The assembly has proved to be an effective instrument of our calibrated policy of inter-ethnic harmony and national unity. As a unique civic institution, the assembly has made a useful contribution to preserving an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust in society. We will use the forthcoming milestone anniversary to explain and popularize the APK's activities and to involve citizens in the painstaking work of strengthening the unity of our people," stated Tokayev.

Relief measures include the allocation of one-time payment to each affected family, compensation for damaged or destroyed property following damage assessment, and repair or replacement of the damaged housing. Citizens will have the opportunity to relocate to places with better economic potential and environmental conditions.

The assembly's objectives Founded in 1995, the assembly is a constitutional body aimed at

## Kazakhstan launches transition to new economic model: President Tokayev

ASTANA. KAZAKHSTAN: Kazakhstan has launched the transition to a new economic model that is based on the principles of fairness, inclusiveness, and pragmatism, the country's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said at the XXXI-II session of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan with the agenda 'Unity. Creation. Progress. Trend reports.

According to him, the model is laying a solid foundation for improving the well-being of the entire nation.

"We are building a country of equal opportunities where everyone will have a decent standard of living," he emphasized.

The head of state mentioned that these reforms are unprecedented in scale, but it's necessary to continue their qualitative implementation.



"To make a leap in development, we must solve many problems that have accumulated over decades. Only through joint efforts can we lay a reliable foundation for future achievements and

implement fundamental changes in politics, economics, culture, and society. That's why the agenda of the current session of the assembly is designated as 'Unity. Creation. Progress.' These

three words accurately and vividly reflect not only the purpose of the assembly but also the essence of our strategic course. Our main mission is to create, build, and innovate," added Tokayev.

## Kazakh President praises people's contribution to battle against floods: Kazakh President



Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev expressed gratitude to Kazakhstanis for their contribution to battling floods, Kazinform News Agency reports.

Addressing the XXXIII session of the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan, the Head of State said Kazakhstan faced a devastating natural disaster that hit almost half of the country. But these hard days revealed the unity of the people bringing together rescuers, volunteers, civil servants,

ants, military, law enforcement agencies, civic activists, businesses, and youth.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said the spirit of unity and solidarity swept the country.

The Head of State noted thanks to orchestrated efforts

of the Government, state bodies, specialized services, and volunteers over 119,000 people, including 45,000 children, were timely evacuated from flood-hit areas to safer places.

Photo credit: akorda.kz

## Kazakh language to become language of interethnic communication: President Tokayev



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called the nation for unity at today's 33rd session of the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan. He also expressed confidence, that the Kazakh language will turn into the language of inter-ethnic communication in future, Kazinform News Agency reports.

The Head of State called the nation for unity saying that "amid disturbing events taking place in the world, we, as a nation, should be as united as never before in our intentions and aspirations."

The President emphasized the importance of cultivating zero tolerance towards any manifestations of ethnic exceptionality and separation, towards provocations and attempts of discrimination against citizens based on cultural, language, ethnic or religious grounds.

"Language-related issue still remains relevant for many countries. Historical experience shows that its successful solution considerably determines stability of the socio-political situation in a country," the President said addressing the session participants.

The President highlighted that Kazakhstan is no exception.

"We must show strategic restraint and tolerance in an extremely sensitive area with the consideration of external and internal factors. This does not exclude increased attention to comprehensive development of the state language, which, over time, I am confident, will become the language of interethnic communication," he stressed.

Photo credit: Akorda

## President to personally monitor all-out efforts to restore housing, infrastructure affected by floods



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev vowed he will personally monitor all-out efforts to help restore housing and infrastructure in the regions of Kazakhstan affected by colossal floods this spring, Kazinform News Agency correspondent reports.

In his address to an April 25 meeting of the People's Assembly of Kazakhstan, President Tokayev announced mass reconstructions planned in the flood-affected regions in the upcoming months.

The Government, according to the Head of State, is bending every effort to make sure everyone affected by the floods will get compensated.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev pointed out that those affected by floods will be given a chance to relocate to more

economically attractive areas.

He also reminded that well-known

Kazakhstani billionaires and entrepreneurs who had made generous donations to help restore flood-hit regions will monitor how their funds are spent and distributed.

The Government will also lend a helping hand to small and medium-sized enterprises and agrarians in the regions hit by the natural disaster in order to ensure smooth sowing campaign.

"I would like to reiterate that no one will be left without the support in such difficult moment. The Government will fulfill all obligations," emphasized the Kazakh leader.

Ensuring wellbeing of all citizens is the key goal of the Government, he stressed.

Photo credit: Akorda



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

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
71,971.40	72,051.89
Day's High	Day's Low
72,593.25	71,700.53
Index Value	Change
16,729,754,250	-80.49
Percentage	Time
-0.11%	25 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
8,078.86	+38.48
Percentage	Time
+0.48%	25 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
38,011.95	-448.97
Percentage	Time
-1.17%	25 Apr, 1:06 pm GMT-4

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
37,628.48	-831.60
Percentage	Time
-2.16%	25 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.5	180
Bahrain Dinar	740.57	748.57
Canadian Dollar	200.8	203
China Yuan	38.45	38.85
Danish Krone	39.93	40.33
Euro	294	297
Hong Kong Dollar	35.55	35.9
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.61	912.61
Malaysian Ringgit	58.28	58.88
NewZealand \$	164.22	166.22
Norwegians Krone	25.46	25.76
Omani Riyal	723.48	731.48
Qatari Riyal	76.52	77.22
Saudi Riyal	73.3	74
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.5
Swedish Korona	25.72	26.02
Swiss Franc	305.43	307.93
Thai Bhat	7.51	7.66
U.A.E Dirham	74.95	75.75
UK Pound Sterling	342.55	346
US Dollar	277.7	280

# US should reconsider policy as Iran thrived under 45 years of sanctions

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Thursday that natural gas from Iran has the potential to revive Pakistan's flagging economy.

The opposition from the United States to the project is a setback to Pakistani interests, which Washington should reconsider, he said.

The United States need to reconsider its strategy as Iran has flourished despite 45 years of sanctions, and its influence has increased on a global level, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that Pakistan should establish high-level political and diplomatic contact with the US to appease its stance on the gas

pipeline. The help of friendly countries should also be sought in this regard.

US policymakers should be apprised that forty-five years have passed since the American sanctions on Iran, but it has not gone bankrupt, nor has there been a popular revolution. Iran has developed despite sanctions, and its influence is increasing instead of decreasing.

Shahid Rashid Butt continued that the US authorities need to be convinced that the economic sanctions have failed, so another way should be adopted in which Pakistan can fully help America.

He noted that the United States needs better relations with Iran to advance its regional interests. The sooner this fact is recognized, the better.

If Pakistan buys a few billion dollars worth



of gas from Iran, it will not matter to Iran, but Pakistan's economy will recover. The business leader said Pakistan is facing

a severe energy crisis, and Iranian gas is the cheapest solution. In contrast, the United States has advised Pakistan to import gas from Central Asia, but it would have been done by now if it was feasible.

Iran has already built a nine-hundred-kilometre pipeline, but Pakistan is afraid of American sanctions; therefore, it is reluctant to start building the pipeline.

Reluctance on the part of Pakistan can result in a fine of up to twenty billion dollars. He said that the US has imposed sanctions on three Chinese and one Belarusian company for helping Pakistan in the production of ballistic missiles. In 2003, the US also took a similar action against three companies.

These restrictions have been imposed without evidence and verification, which is unfortunate and against the norms of justice.

## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Danish Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Jakob Linulf and CEO APM Terminals Keith Svendsen along with his team called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday.



Photo: PID

# CCP Cautions Consumers about Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) And Pyramid Schemes

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has noticed with great concern that some businesses and individuals are making false and misleading offers of easy money and earning enormously quick returns in their advertisements about multi-level marketing (MLM)/ pyramid schemes with several levels of compensation.

Applicants are required to pay money upfront in order to enrol. Participants in the scheme may make money from enrolment fees paid by the new recruits enrolled by them and sale of products. Commission is paid on sale of the products as well as for sales by the recruits of a participant. Investors in a pyramid scheme, however, make money primarily from enrolment fees paid by the new recruits enrolled by them rather than by selling any product.

Participants who join these schemes at the initial stages may earn the promised

benefits and receive the anticipated income for a limited period. However, the majority of them who join later on stand to lose their entire investment without realizing any returns. These schemes are structured in a way that requires new members to continuously enrol more recruits in order to generate profits for existing members. Once the schemes reach a certain size leaving no room for significant new recruitment, which serves as the primary source of profits, the entire system collapses. Eventually, only a select few individuals positioned at the top of the pyramid seize financial gains and huge majority of the participants bear the loss of all their investments.

Such schemes are often advertised through print, electronic and social media platforms. The people are advised to exercise extreme caution when confronted with advertisements or promotions for investment or employment opportunities that offer unrealistically high returns, particu-

larly those requiring upfront payments. However attractive, these offers often prove false, as the schemes are designed to attract innocent investors and job seekers, collect heavy amounts from the unguarded general public, destroy their footprints and vanish in the thin air.

The CCP emphasizes the need for exercising due diligence before investing in any such scheme or joining a similar employment promising unprecedented returns. Consumers should verify the legitimacy of the company, scrutinize the sustainability of their business model, conduct net surfing to gather open-source intelligence and seek advice from the market or financial experts, if needed.

It is crucial for the consumers to be vigilant and cautious to protect themselves from falling victim to deceptive investment or employment schemes. If you encounter any suspicious advertisements or promotions, please report them to the CCP to prevent any harm to the public at large.

# SECP proposes amendments to General Takaful Accounting Regulations, 2019

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has proposed amendments to the General Takaful Accounting Regulations, 2019, allowing non-life insurers to present their complete takaful results in their financial statements. The amendments, proposed under SRO 569(I)/2024, have been placed on SECP's website to solicit public opinion and suggestions thereon.

The complete disclosure of revenues from takaful operations will facilitate the insurance companies, as under the aforementioned Regulations, currently non-life insurers are required to present their takaful result as a single line

item in their financial statements, irrespective of the size of their takaful operations. To ensure complete disclosure of conventional and takaful results, the draft amendments suggest that supporting notes to the financial statements provide a complete breakdown of conventional and window takaful operations.

Stakeholders or any interested parties can send their comments and suggestions to the Director Insurance Division, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, NTC Building, 63 Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad. Public comments received within thirty days of the date of SRO shall be taken into consideration.

The notification is available at SECP's website.

# ENGRO announces strong results for 1st Quarter 2024

**PPA**

KARACHI: Engro Corporation's revenue from continued operations grew by 45% to PKR 104.3 bn versus PKR 72.1 bn in 2023, as per Q1 results announced on PSX.

Consolidated PAT of Q1 stood at PKR 10.4 bn (EPS 10.66) versus PKR 8.8 bn in 2023. Higher profitability on account of higher fertilizer sales, improved margins, efficient plant operations, higher earnings from dollar-denominated businesses, and efficiencies



derived through cost optimization. Alongside the results, the Company announced the first interim cash dividend of PKR 11/- per share.

# ICCI: Plaque unveiling ceremony of S. M. Muneer Auditorium held

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: S. M. Tanveer Patron-in-Chief United Business Group has said that the life of late SM Munir is a beacon light for the business community of the country and he would continue to serve the community with the same spirit from the platform of United Business Group in pursuance of the mission of his late father. He said this while addressing as chief guest the plaque unveiling ceremony of S. M. Munir auditorium at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It merits to mention here that late S. M. Munir was a renowned industrialist, former President FPCCI, former Chief Executive TDAP and the founder Patron-in-Chief of the United Business Group.

S. M. Tanvir said that the business community all over the world is considered as the backbone of the economy of each and every country and the United Business Group will continue to serve it without any discrimination for its success and prosperity.

President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh said that late S. M. Munir was his mentor and role

model and that he holds Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in high esteem especially its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. He added that FPCCI is working day and night to incorporate some very important suggestions in the coming budget for the benefit of the country as well as the business community.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari while recounting the achievements of S. M. Munir vowed to follow his footprints for the cause of the business community. He narrated some of the success of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry under his leadership like signing of an MoU with Gulberg Greens for the construction of a state of the art expo center, Acceptance of a proposal for the construction of an Industrial Estate, Inking of an agreement with CDA for the up gradation of the washrooms of different markets, Establishment of the Mediation Council at ICCI for settling rent matters between tenants and owners, holding of a successful Business Opportunities Conference in Dubai, Establishment of NADRA facilitation Centre at ICCI, installation of filtration plants in commercial as



well as residential areas of Islamabad. Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari while terming S. M. Munir as pride of the business community said that the business community will not let the black sheep create rift in its ranks. He also demanded that important roads throughout the country should be named after different business role models in recognition of their services, like S. M. Munir, Ifikhar Ali Malik, Shaikh Riaz ud Din, Khalid Turab, Zubair Tufail, Munawar Mughal and other. Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik said that due to the hard

work of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, today the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry enjoys the top most position among 54 chambers in the country.

Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Women University Dr. Anila Kamal sounded praise for Islamabad Chamber of Commerce especially its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for extending full cooperation to the University for the Startups and entrepreneurship.

Chairman National Business Group Mian Zahid Hussain, Senior leader UBG Sindh, Ahmed, Choiny, Group leader Sialkot, Shaikh Riaz ud Din, President FPCCI Lahore, Zaki Ejaz, Group leader Small Chambers and Small Industries, Shahid Ghaffoor Pracha, Group leader Chakwal Chamber, Qazi Akbar, Group leader KPK Syed Jawaad Hussain Kazmi, former President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce Samina Fazil and other paid rich tributes to late S. M. Munir and said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the leadership of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has created a unique example of service to the community.

Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Faad Waheed extended his sincere gratitude to everyone for their support to arrange the ceremony in a successful manner.

At the end momentous shields were presented to S. M. Tanveer, Atif Ikram Shaikh, Shaikh Riaz ud Din, Mian Zahid Hussain, Ahmed Choiny, Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Syed Jawaad Hussain Kazmi, Babar Chaudhry, Saeed Khan, zaki Ejaz, Shaikh Abdur Razaq and Shahid Ghaffoor Paracha in recognition of their remarkable achievements in the field.



## Economy top agenda

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the US convened an intersessional meeting under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## Pak-US officials engage to enhance trade, investment ties

ISLAMABAD: Officials of the United States and Pakistan held an intersessional meeting under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) on Thursday. According to the acting US Mission spokesperson Thomas Montgomery, a broad range of areas to improve bilateral trade and investment relationship came under discussion in the meeting.

The dialogue focused on good regulatory practices, digital trade, protection of intellectual property, women's economic empowerment, labour, textiles, investment, and agriculture, which include progress on access for the US biotechnology products and beef. Pak-US officials engage to enhance trade, investment ties Spokesperson Thomas Montgomery said coming on the heels of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's recent visit to the

United States, engagements like the TIFA were key to moving forward on the shared goals of deepening the economic bilateral relationship and furthering the prosperity of working people in both countries.

He said the US had long been Pakistan's largest export market, with potential for further growth. Pak-US officials engage to enhance trade, investment ties In 2023, the United States imported Pakistani goods worth \$5 billion, while overall US-Pakistan goods trade measured \$7 billion. "The United States has also been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years and more than 80 US companies currently operate in Pakistan, supplying high quality goods to the Pakistani market and employing hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis," the spokesperson added. APP

## Military pays tribute to martyred Customs officials

Army commanders visit homes of martyred Customs' officials



## Spokesman Report

DI KHAN: The senior army commanders visited the families of eight martyred Customs' officials who laid their lives in the line of duty in Dera Ismail Khan in two separate incidents that took place earlier this month.

In due recognition of this selfless sacrifice in fight against illegal spectrum and as an expression of solidarity, the commanders met the families of the martyred officials at their homes to express condolences, pay tribute and pledge unflinching support

on behalf of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir.

The families expressed their gratitude to the Pakistan Army for the support and respect.

The military's media wing said: "Shuhadas and Ghazis are our pride and their respect and honour is binding on each Pakistani. We must never forget that the peace and freedom we enjoy today is due to the ultimate sacrifices rendered by these brave sons of soil."

"We as nation salute Shuhada families for sacrificing their loved ones for Pakistan," it concluded.

## Dar urges opposition to bury past

Join hands to steer country out of challenges

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday urged the opposition to join hands and bury the past to steer the country out of challenges.

Replying to various points raised by leader of the Opposition in Senate Syed Shibli Faraz, the FM said that let be realistic, and shun blame game for working together to bringing this country out of the challenges.

Election process had been completed and now, we should utilize our energies to address the issues being faced by the people and the country like energy, inflation, and debt, he said.

He further stated that the country was at verge of default in 2013 when Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz came into power. However, he said with collective efforts of

all stakeholders, Pakistan has not only completed International Monetary Fund (IMF) programmes but also made the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) record at 4 percent besides maintaining food inflation at 2 percent.

Pakistan would have been among the top G 20 countries if there was no political instability in the country, he said.

The minister while welcoming the opposition leader suggestion to maintain sanctity of this house, urged the opposition members to come forward and play due role to achieve the objectives in this regard.

Regarding allocation of funds in the budget for fiscal year 2023-24, he said that government had provided funds for holding elections. An amount of over Rs 44 billion had been released by the last government



for completion of election process, he said.

He said, it was the responsibility of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold elections in a transparent manner and after this process, the caretaker government was bound to discharge the duties to next elected government.

Regarding Senate elections in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, he said, the central government has a role in the Senate elections. The provincial government should complete the process in light of the court orders and the ECP directives,

he added.

Regarding PTI election symbol, he said, Section 215 was included in the Election (Amendment) Act 2017 on the recommendation of PTI lawmakers. Every political party has representation in the committee set up for Election (Amendment) Act 2017, he added.

He said that under the insertion of Section 215, election symbol would not be allotted to the party which did not hold intra party elections. He, however said that It was internal matter of PTI and the ECP only acted upon on Section 215.

Ishaq Dar said, he was against the political victimization and had sympathies with the opposition but in the past our leadership and their family members were implicated in false cases and even Senator Irfan Siddiqui was hand-

cuffed on false rental case. He said, he always made efforts for political reconciliation and played key role during PTI's 126 days long sit-in that held in 2014.

However, he said that PTI committed blunders on May 9, by attacking GHQ, Corp Commander House and other military installations.

Earlier, leader of the opposition Syed Shibli Faraz while speaking in the Senate said that PTI Founder and other workers were behind the bars for the last nine months. His party was deprived of election symbol before the general elections and PTI was not allowed to contest election as a party, he said.

He said that this house was completed without the election of senators from KPK. He urged the chairman to issue production order for senator Ijaz Chaudhry. APP

## Govt's economic agenda will help attract investments in Pakistan

Finance Minister says Pakistan is keen to explore future projects and investments with Danish company APM especially in maritime sector

## Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed the confidence that the government's economic reforms agenda will lead to improved trust of businesses and attract more investments to Pakistan.

He was talking to Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf and a delegation of Danish company Moller-Maersk (APM) Terminals led by its CEO Keith Svendsen in Islamabad on Thursday.

The Finance Minister said Pakistan is keen to explore future projects and investments with the APM especially in the maritime sector.

He emphasized the need to



further enhance economic ties between the two countries.

The Finance Minister said

the government is fully committed to facilitate an environment conducive to business

and investments. On the occasion, the delegation head Keith Svendsen said APM Terminals

is pleased to engage with Pakistan and sees great potential in the Pakistani market.

Affirming confidence in the country's growth prospects and development agenda, he expressed commitment to enhance its investment and operations to support the country's trade,

Matter related to improvisation in customs rules and regulations for efficient execution of the maritime was also discussed and the Finance Minister assured his support to delegation in this regard.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of continuous dialogue and collaboration between public and private sectors to further boost the economic ties.

## SC orders removal of barricades outside Sindh Rangers HQ, CM House

KARACHI: The Supreme Court (SC) has directed the authorities to remove the barriers placed outside various buildings including Sindh Rangers headquarters, Chief Minister House and Governor House and present the report within three days.

"No one is allowed to obstruct the free movement of people [...] Blocking roads and creating obstacles is illegal," Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa said on Thursday.

CJP Isa's remarks came as he led a three-member bench, comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, during the hearing of multiple cases including those relating to encroachment and Nasla Tower at the SC Karachi Registry.

At the onset of the hearing today, the chief justice underscored that the federal and provincial governments themselves are encroaching on the lands and directed the authorities to "clear" the roads.

Ordering the attorney general to inform the federal government, the apex court directed the authorities to send a copy of the court order to

all concerned institutions, including those relating to security.

"The expenses related to the removal of encroachments should also be collected from the encroachers," CJP Isa said.

Responding to the argument that barricades are raised due to security concerns, the top judge said: "The public continues to be attacked [but] you get to remain safe? What kind of law is this?"

"If you feel too scared, go and sit in a remote area," he added while directing the authorities to abstain from blocking

the roads under the pretext of security.

"Why don't you remove encroachments in front of [Sindh] Rangers headquarters?" the CJP said while questioning the law under which Jinnah Court premises were handed over to the Rangers.

"Place the [security] containers inside the Governor House. Why do you put it outside?" the top judge said while stressing that encroachments should be removed even if they are within the premises of the SC itself.

The case was then adjourned till Friday. Agencies

## No complaint of ...

## Continued from Page 1

Last month, six judges of the IHC — comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz — wrote a letter to the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), seeking its guidance on "interference" of the intelligence agencies in the courts' affairs.

"We are writing to seek guidance

from the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) with regard to the duty of a judge to report and respond to actions on [the] part of members of the executive, including operatives of intelligence agencies, that seek to interfere with [the] discharge of his/her official functions and qualify as intimidation, as well as the duty to report any such actions that come to his/her attention in relation to colleagues and/or members of the courts that the high court supervises," read the latter. Agencies

## PM vows to eradicate ...

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Munir for the support extended by Pakistan Army to deal with this menace. The Prime Minister paid tributes to Shaheed Customs Inspector Syed Hasnain Ali Tirmizi saying his sacrifice will not go in waste.

He said Syed Hasnain Ali Tirmizi is hero of the nation and his sacrifice will always be remembered. Announcing the Shuhada pack-

age, Shehbaz Sharif said under this package, those in the rank of sepoy will be provided with a cash prize of ten million rupees along with 13.5 million rupees for home.

For the rank of Inspector, he said that cash grant of 15 million rupees will be provided to the bereaved family while 25 million rupees for home.

He said free education and health services will also be provided to the family of the martyrs.