Barkat Rice Mills

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

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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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



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

Staff Reporter

try Report on Human Rights by the US State Department.

Foreign Office said contents of the report are unfair, based on inaccurate information and are

It said the report lacks objectiv- Kashmir. rically rejected the 2023 Coun- al human rights agenda, clearly

The Foreign expressed concern In a statement today, the that the US State Department's report has highlighted human rights situations around the world but ignored the gross completely divorced from ground human rights violations in Gaza

remains inherently flawed in their methodology as they use human rights in a politically

biased manner. The statement said if the US situations and play a constructive discourse.

and Indian Occupied Jammu & must engage in this exercise, role for bringing an end to atrocment's annual exercises of preparatrate objectivity impartiality demonstrating double standards. ing such unsolicited reports and responsibility in conduct- ed Pakistan's commitment to

ing assessment of complex issues. a domestic social lens to judge state department report should tional human rights agenda and demonstrate requisite moral courage to speak truth about all

then we expect the US State ities in the most urgent hotpots ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has cate- ity and politicizes the internation- It said the US State Department to at least demon- of gross human rights violations. The Foreign Office reiterat-

> strengthen its own human rights It also emphasized that the framework, promote internauphold fairness and objectivity in the international human rights

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

Thursday, he expressed confidence that wheat prices will stabilize soon.

pivotal role in Pakistan's



In response to queries Minister Shehbaz Sharif's raised in the Senate on establishment of a daily-operating special committee to tackle the issue. Additionally, he informed the House He highlighted ongoing about the cabinet-level consultations between the discussion on the matter, federal government and with the Prime Minister the Punjab Government, ordering an inquiry into the emphasizing agriculture's unnecessary wheat import despite sufficient domestic

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

Center supports provinces in anti-

terrorism efforts: Info Minister

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 Paki-

government is also extending full is placed on the Exit Control List, 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 Minis-The Minister said the federal ter said the name of an individual

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 work-

interference in 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 J, 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



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

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

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

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister big powers such as the Europe-cal issues and international sanc-Khawaia 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

an and western nations through tions. 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 faced by countries in the region, project, which has remained following President Raisi's crucial and an increased intervention of stalled in the wake of geopoliti-

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

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

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 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

will be saved and spent on the progress and prosperity of the country **Staff Reporter** to make the country abode of ABBOTTABAD/ISLAMA-BAD: Prime Minister Muham-He said the security forces mad Shehbaz Sharif has vowed

eradicate smuggling,

strengthen economy

Shehbaz says nation's billions of dollars

to eradicate menace of smuggling and strengthen national

PM vows to

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

nation's billions of dollars

economy.

will be saved and spent on the progress and prosperity of the He said interior ministry has been asked to coordinate closely with the provincial govern-

ments to eliminate the smug-The Prime Minister also reaffirmed his commitment

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 fateha 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

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 concluded.

No complaint of judicial affairs: 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

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 need to show malice over CM Maryam gorically remarked that they ran the Sharif maintained. She said that may



Nawaz Sharif's gesture. Maryam business of stealing diamond rings, Allah Almighty bestow patience to Nawaz is a source of pride for the transfer postings and valuable jewelthose who unduly criticize. There is no Pakistani women. Azma Bokhari catellery 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

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 commendableIt 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 agree-



ment 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. Zoisa 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 Nagvi

ATTOCK: Attock police in two days crackdown on drug smugglers, 10 inter-provincial drug smuggler arrested, drugs worth millions of rupeers 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 Shahruz 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

Police Station.

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

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 glasse DPO said that the police have continued the crackdown in the limits

District Police Officer Farman Ullah added that the action against black glass vehicles will continue until this scourge is eradicated.

of Wana City Police Station, Azamwarsak Police Station and Spin Dam

Press Conference

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



Important meeting on labor rights of laborers in Multan

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 Shamas ur Rahman Swati. President Epikfa Guardian High GuardianUnion, 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 an increase in the salaries of Union Amri, Syed Rafi Shah General Secretary Naghban Union MDA, Shah Wali Rajput, RakhiRam, Waqas,



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, small employees in proportion to inflation is inevitable.

On this occasion, the problems of the workers of Ghulam Yasin and other offithe industrial state were also The house rent is being given

cials participated. In which 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

> Similarly, small employees should be given quarters or government houses.

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 Indus-

trial State Multan on this day.

Murder suspect arrested in Attock

👺 Raza Nagvi

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 compliant 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

跨 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 Secarty 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 and Agriculture Department who have Association organization. grateful to the District Administration always supported the Wana Welfare Additional Deputy Commission-

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 agri-

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 develop-

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





Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 1	5
Bomb Disposal 1	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 1	6
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8	8
& Rescue Services 445112	2
Motorway Police926604	4
Motorway Police 9270601-20	0

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596		
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20		
ENGLUDY			

ENQUIRY PIA Flight Info

Railway Inquiry .

High-profile UK delegation explores collaborative opportunities at NUST

₽NP

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. Ensuing was a comprehensive discussion, end passing 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 lead-

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

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 guestreiterated the Government of Pakistan's steadfast

ties, 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 Kionkahighlighted 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

commitment to fostering job opportuni- 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 Employmentgave 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 Hussain, 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 Raia 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 ia, exacerbated by the 2022

Dr. Razia Kaniz Fatima, National Coordination for Representative Pakistan, reaf- communities, urging height-



Unit, AIDS, TB, and Malaria, shared that CMU in collaboration with the Provincial Pakistan. Programs and with the support challenge posed by malar- of the Global Fund and part- Chancellor Health Servicnership with the Indus Hospi-

Coordination Management firmed WHO's commitment to combat malaria and support initiatives for a malaria-free

Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice es Academy emphasized the profound impact of malaria Dr. Luo Dapeng, WHO on individuals, families, and

ened 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

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



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

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.

QUETTA: In a collaborative effort to combat the pervasive issue of genderbased 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 enthusias-

tic 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 genderbased 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

son Provincial Commission on Status of Women, Balochistan, Ms. Fozia Shaheen, and SP, Quetta Police and In-Charge Women and Juvenile Faciliation 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

SBK, Prof. Dr. Sajida Noreen, Chairperbrought together accomplished women create awareness and a supportive envipolice 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 ronment 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.

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Islamic Summit Conference in Gambia

¬ he Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will hold the 15th session of the Islamic Summit Conference on May 4-5 in the Gambian capital of Banjul to discuss variety of regional and global issues, including Palestine, Islamophobia, climate change and minorities. The session will be held under the slogan "Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development," according to a press release issued by the OIC General Secretariat.

"Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development,"

The Islamic Summit Conference will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of senior officials on April 30 and May 1, which will discuss the documents of the session



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

and submit its report to the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) preparatory for the Summit. The preparatory CFM meeting will be held on May 1-2 to consider the results of the senior officials meeting and in turn, submit its report to the Summit. OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha will travel to Banjul, accompanied by a high-level delegation from the OIC General Secretariat to participate in the proceedings of

The leaders of the member states will discuss the political issues of the Islamic world, most notably the Palestinian cause, and the economic, humanitarian, social and cultural issues, in addition to the issues of youth, women, family, science and technology, information, Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC member states, and legal matters.

The Summit will also discuss issues related to the rejection of hate speech and Islamophobia, the promotion of dialogue, and issues of climate change and food security. During the Summit, the secretary-general will present a report reviewing the most prominent activities, programmes, and projects undertaken by the OIC since the previous session of the Islamic Summit Conference. The 15th session will issue a final communique that includes the OIC positions on the issues submitted to the Summit, a resolution on Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the Banjul Declaration.

\$ 90 billions to stoke wars

approval of a \$90 billion aid package to fuel wars in three conflict-ridden regions underscores a significant shift in U. S. foreign policy, signaling a departure from the isolationist stance of the former Trump administration. Unlike the "America First" policy and the withdrawal of U. S. forces from conflict zones advocated by Donald Trump, the Biden administration, in collaboration with Congress and the Senate, is reaffirming America's role as a global hegemon.

In contrast to redirecting funds away from global engagements to prioritize domestic needs and elevate living standards for American citizens, the current administration is asserting U.S. dominance on the world stage.

This approval of massive aid is not for the love of these recipient countries, but to keep the US defense industry afloat, as divulged by Senator Mullin, who said in an interview with Newsmax, "Seventy-five percent total funding would stay within the United States. That's what a lot of people don't realize. This goes to our defense industry; this goes to replenishing our munitions." While fifteen hard-right Republican senators who oppose aid to Ukraine voted against the legislation, stating that Congress was "rushing to further bankroll the waging of a war that has zero

chance of a positive outcome." The US while announcing the aid package of \$ 26.4 billion to Israel has effectively endorsed the Israel's annihilation of entire population of Gaza which was equated by Mr. Josep Borrell, EU foreign policy chief with the destruction caused by allied forces to the German cities in world war-II. He added that an assessment by the World

recent US bipartisan of rebuilding Gaza's infrastructure at \$90 billion (€84 billion).

The allocation of massive aid and its propensity to purchase additional destructive, lethal, and precise weapons systems, has emboldened Israel to expand the covert and overt war theater into Southern Lebanon against Hezbollah, a Shiite movement exercising influence in Yemen, Syria, and Iraq. In Yemen, against Houthi rebels in Yemen, in Syria against the Zaynabiyoun Brigade and the Fatemiyoun Division. In

Iraq against the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), including groups like Asaib Ahl al Haq, the Badr Organization, and Harakat Hezbollah al Nujaba. In Bahrain and Saudi Arabia against militant groups such as the Al Ashtar Brigades and Hezbollah al Hejaz,

respectively. This aid has equipped Israel militarily and has given it a go ahead to spread the flame of war in the entire middle east and other countries connected to and linked with the middle east.

Qamar Bashir

The massive aid and support provided by the US, UK, and the European Union to Ukraine is likely to escalate the war theater across Europe. Unlike in the Middle East, where US and allied forces face adversaries with limited capabilities, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine poses a significant challenge. Russia's response to recent developments, such as the UK's increase in defense spending by £75 billion and the European Union's allocation of 2.5% of GDP to bolster defense, is expected to be robust. Moreover, the formation of a united front by the UK and Germany against Russia and China and Bank and the United Nations put the cost the European Union's decision to cease

Russian Assets in Europe to compensate viewed as a bold move, potentially provok-Ukraine against war damages initially to the extent of Euro 30,000 million are

adding to the geopolitical tensions. A notable development is the joint training exercise named "Cold Response," which involves over 20,000 soldiers from 13 countries, including the UK, US, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Canada, conducted across northern Norway, Sweden, and Finland. While ostensibly

aimed at supporting Ukraine, there are covert intentions to weaken Russia economically and militarily. However, such maneuvers are anticipated to come at a considerable cost to Europe as a whole.

The congressmen and Senator who opposed the

bill have strong conviction that if USA and Europe had not pumped in money to Ukraine the conflict could have minimal damage, and be resolved at the earlier stage. They believe that pumping in money and weapons had only exacerbated the conflict and was counterproductive for Ukraine, its people and Europe as a whole. They suggested that instead of facilitating a resolution, this support has only fueled the conflict, leading to further destruction and loss of life and has contributed to instability in the region and strained diplomatic relations.

They argued that external intervention in conflicts only prolongs suffering and hindered the prospect of peaceful resolution adding complexities of the conflict and the potential for unintended consequences resulting from external involvement.

The approval of \$8 billion for Taiwan is

ing China and challenging it to engage in a direct conflict with the US and its allies. This aid is explicitly intended to serve as a deterrent against China's growing influence, with investments in submarine infrastructure aimed at bolstering Taiwan's defenses against its powerful neighbor.

Critics argue that the US's decision to arm Taiwan is a deliberate attempt to intimidate China, which advocates for a "One China" policy and seeks to peacefully integrate Taiwan into mainland China to benefit from its economic prosperity and growth. However, supplying Taiwan with significant military hardware is perceived by some as counterproductive, as it risks escalating tensions and increasing the likelihood of a conflict similar to the situation in Ukraine. Such a scenario could potentially ignite a broader conflict in the Indo-Pacific and Asia-Pacific regions, leading to a dangerous standoff.

In essence, the aid package for Taiwan is viewed as a strategic maneuver by the US to maintain its influence in the region and check China's expansionist ambitions, but it also carries the risk of exacerbating tensions and destabilizing the region.

The approval of military aid by the US serves a singular purpose: to maintain the strength of its defense industry, safeguard American jobs, and ensure prosperity, safety, and security within the nation. This objective is often achieved through the proliferation of conflicts in various regions, where the demand for US-made lethal weapons and ammunition, despite their high price tags, creates lucrative markets worldwide.

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



Reality of Mahrang Baloch's Missing Persons - II

ne of the deadliest inci- elements causing harm in various ways. aimed to disrupt the democratic process and sow chaos ahead of general elections, its institutions. Dr. Mahrang Baloch, the serving as a grim reminder of the group's leader of the Baloch Solidarity Commitwillingness to inflict mass casualties to tee, and her fellow journalists, who are

achieve political goals. The BLA has also targeted critical infrastructure, such as gas pipelines and power installations, as part of its campaign to disrupt economic activity and undermine the Pakistani state. These attacks not only incur

financial losses but also worsen the prov- offer condolences to the families of these ince's energy crisis, intensifying the feeling of deprivation and alienation among the local populace.

Abdul Basit Alvi

In recent weeks, there has been an uptick in actions in Balochistan by purported supporters of the Baloch people aiming to instill fear. Having failed to disrupt security and infrastructure, the Baloch Liberation Army has reverted to its original tactics. In a recent act of cowardice, they stopped and killed nine innocent laborers. These terrorists are not involved in any legitare criminals, thieves, and anti-national ures. Dealing strictly with terrorists is

dents attributed to They receive substantial rewards from the BLA occurred in enemy intelligence agencies for perpe-Mastung district in trating such terrorist acts. Not only do 2018, where a suicide these unscrupulous individuals rob bomber targeted a political rally, result- laborers seeking employment opporing in the deaths of over a hundred tunities, but they also resort to violence people, including political figures and against them. Their aim is to spread fear civilians. Claimed by the BLA, this attack and panic in society while conducting terrorist activities against the state and

purported human rights advocates but are accused of defaming the state and its institutions under the guise of advocating for missing persons, are unable to justify the killing of these nine innocent citizens. They fail to express solidarity and

victims of violence. They lack the moral courage to condemn terrorist acts and terrorism. Indeed, those who support terrorism and terrorists or speak in their favor cannot be considered patriotic or loyal to the people of Balochistan and the state of Pakistan.

In an era marked by global uncertainties, terrorism emerges as a prominent threat to peace, stability, and human security. As nations contend with the Makka coach from Quetta to Taftan the multifaceted challenges posed by on National Highway N-40 at Nushki extremist ideologies and violent actions, it becomes the duty of governments to confront these threats with steadimate struggle for rights; instead, they fast determination and robust meas-

not merely an option but a fundamental obligation in safeguarding societies and upholding the rule of law.

The Pakistani Government and the Pakistan Army are taking robust and decisive actions to eradicate terrorism from the country. Recently, General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), presided over the 264th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ. The forum paid tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas, including officers and personnel of the Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives for peace and stability in the country. COAS commended the tireless efforts of the Pakistan Army and law enforcement agencies in successfully thwarting numerous terrorist attacks and neutralizing key terrorist commanders during ongoing counterterrorism operations. COAS instructed commanders to actively prevent terrorists from gaining any foothold. COAS stated, "The Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) of Pakistan, with full support from the resilient nation, are resolute in permanently eradicating this threat from Pakistan, by the grace of God." The conference condemned the heartless terrorist attack targeting Chinese nationals in Besham, as well as the cruel killings of innocent civilians in Baluchistan. The participants were briefed on how terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan pose a threat to regional and global security, while also serving as proxies against Pakistan and its economic interests, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

To be continued

Cattle farming vital to alleviate poverty in rural areas

Tanveer Ahmed Shah Qureshi

ivestock is considered a precious asset not only to run the kitchen smoothly on a daily basis but also help meet expenditures in emergency situations. About 67 percent of the rural population in the culturally rich region of Sargodha division is directly linked to the livestock sector. The presence of animals is like a cheque which can be encashed at any time.

Livestock has over a 14pc share in gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. It has immense potential not to alleviate poverty in rural areas but can also revolutionize the living standards of the people. Pakistan is ranked fifth in milk producing country. The production of milk and meat could be enhanced significantly by working on animal genetics. The best semen quality could play a vital role in improving animal health, milk and meat production. Similarly, it could also help generate maximum income for the farmers as well as the country's economy.

At the national level, about 10 million people are rearing cattle. According to the animal census and Economic Survey Report, there are 58.7million big animals in the country. Similarly, the country has 83.3 million small animals (goats). As per the last Economic Survey Report, the production of milk increased from 63,698million tonnes to 69,784 million

In rural communities, the role of women farmers in cattle rearing is highly important. Without women farmers' participation, the livestock sector could not be managed properly, said Deputy Director Livestock Dr Wajid Ali here on Sunday while talking to APP.

He said that livestock was performing an important role in poverty alleviation in rural areas. He recalled that the government had launched a special initiative to provide buffaloes and cows to widows, especially hailing from rural areas. The government had a very unique idea to provide animals to widows whose children were availing school education. The Livestock Department provided a good number of small and big animals to widows after thorough verification from schools concerned. The widows are now successfully running

Kosar Noureen, a widow and a resident of Shah Nikdur in Sillanwali, who got a big animal in 2020, "I own one buffalo and one calf and it is a good source of my regular income".

She said that she had also earned Rs180,000 by selling three calves. She expressed pleasure and thanked the government for the provision of the buffalo which helped her overcome economic woes.

fice an animal on Eid ul Azha. He said that he had purchased a small animal against Rs20,000 and nurtured it for the whole year. He expressed pleasure that he had sacrificed the animal for first time in his life. Similarly, Nadia Bibi and Rukhsana Bibi, who are widows

Rauf, a resident of Farooqa, said that he was eager to sacri-

and farmers, and live in Sobhaga, also shared their success stories and praised the government for creation of economic opportunities on a regular basis for their families. Naila Bibi, another female farmer from Noorpur, said that

she got animals on a sharing basis from an investor a few years ago. Rimsha recalled that she was a poor maid before starting the profession of cattle rearing and now she owned 26 animals.

Muhammad Usman from Eeeni, another cattle farmer, who completed a six-month diploma for cattle farm manager from Sargodha Institute of Cattle Farming, said that he had 16 animals. He said that his son was also a student at the institution. Usman recounted that he used to sell an animal for payment of a semester fee. "Animals are a good asset in an emergency situation. I also managed expenditures on marriages of my two younger brothers by rearing

Dr Wajid said that the Livestock Department had launched various programmes including calf fattening, save buffalo calf, advisory service, provision of free of cost animals, poultry units at subsidised prices. He stated that production of meat and milk could be enhanced by following certain steps including sileage, promotion of Rhodes grass etc. "High genetics animals should also be promoted. In case, there is no price capping on milk and meat, there can be more growth because people will invest in the sector. Although, there will be competition but it will surely enhance profitability and ultimately lead to immense productivity," he added.

He maintained that the Livestock Department was also vaccinating animals as it had imported vaccinations recently.

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 Tokavev.

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. on the study and containment of

"The assembly has once again climate change.

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 Hydromelioration and Civil Engineering Institute in Taraz is being re-established and the Institute of Seismology in Almaty will be strengthened," said the

Another area of work will focus



"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

The majority of dams, reser-

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

Therefore, 20 new reservoirs will be built in 11 regions of The national hydrogeologivoirs, and water management Kazakhstan and 15 existing reser- cal service will also be reconsti-

voirs 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.

underground water resources,"

Reconstruction efforts

The government will provide sufficient relief and repair amid widespread destruction, said Tokavev.

"After the big waters recede, reconstruction of the affected regions will begin. Firstly, citizens will be compensated for the damage, [then] construction of houses, allocation of apartments and restoration of destroyed infrastructure will begin. This extensive work must be completed within a short timeframe of five months, spanning the summer and fall seasons. I am assembly's 30th anniversary. sure we will manage this togeth-

Relief measures include the allocation of one-time payment to each affected family, compensation for damaged or destroyed property following contribution to preserving an damage assessment, and repair atmosphere of mutual respect 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

uted, which will deal with the strengthening the ethnic accord exploration and protection of 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

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 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 is a constitutional body aimed at Tokayev.

Kazakhstan launches transition to new economic model: President Tokayev

STAN: 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

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

to continue their qualitative implementation.



The head of state opment, we must solve many changes in politics, econommentioned that these problems that have accureforms are unprecedent- mulated over decades. Only ed in scale, but it's necessary through joint efforts can we current session of the assemlay a reliable foundation for bly is designated as 'Unity.

"To make a leap in devel- implement fundamental ics, culture, and society. That's why the agenda of the future achievements and 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 Tokavev.

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 Assem-

bly 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 serv-

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

said the spirit of unity and solidarity swept the country. The Head of State noted thanks to orchestrated efforts

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

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

Photo credit: akorda.kz

Kazakh language to become language of interethnic communication: President Tokayev



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called the cy reports. nation for unity at today's 33rd session of the People's Assembly of Kazakhlanguage of inter-ethnic communica-

The Head of State called the nation for unity saying that "amid disturbing stan. He also expressed confidence, that events taking place in the world, we, as the Kazakh language will turn into the a nation, should be as united as never before in our intentions and aspira-

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

Photo credit: Akorda



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



vowed he will personally monitor all-out efforts to help restore hous-

ing 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

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

"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: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
8,078.86	+38.48			
Percentage	Time			
+0.48%	25 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
38,011.95	-448.97			
Percentage	Time			
1 170/	25 Apr, 1:06 pm			

-1.17%	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
Curion France	205.42	207.02

Bank Alfalah posted Rs. 9.912 billion PAT IN 21 OF 2024

U.A.E Dirham

US Dollar

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Bank Alfalah Limited (BAFL), in its meeting held on April 24, 2024, approved the Bank's financial results for the quarter ended March 31, 2024.

The Bank reported profit after tax of Rs. 9.912 billion, representing Earning Per Share (EPS)of Rs. 6.28. The Board has declared an interim cash dividend of Rs. 2.00 per share.

The Bank's deposit base closed at Rs. 2.043 trillion as at March 31, 2024; the 31.5% year-on-year (YoY) increase represents one of the strongest growths across the banking sector. Our focus remains on strengthening our customer franchise by emphasising on our strategic pillars of expansion and innovation.

The Bank is committed to becoming a leading transactional bank. The bank's ongoing success is underscored by a significant increase in market share across key metrics, including trade business, remittances, consumer products and deposit

The Bank reported its advances at Rs. 754.298 billion while upholding robust credit discipline amid challenging market conditions, and has sufficient provision against non-performing loans with a coverage of 124.5%, including general provision.

The Bank remains adequately capitalised with CAR at 17.00% as at March 31, 2024, staying comfortably above the regulatory requirement.

The Bank is solidifying its reputation as the best digital bank by continually introducing innovative products and channels. Its Digital Sales and Service Center model, first of its kind Digital Lifestyle branch, coupled with enhancements to its mobile application, has significantly increased transaction throughput. The Bank remains dedicated to advancing digitisation and enhancing the efficiency of its offerings, ensuring it meets the evolving needs of its customers. As a socially responsible institution, the Bank continues to demonstrate its commitment to the community by partnering with trusted and reliable partners from the developmental sectors to engage in impactful outreach programs. By focusing on strategic giving, the Bank supports various initiatives aimed at enhancing social, economic and environmental capital.

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

55 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 econ-

The opposition from the United States to ing. 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 decreas-

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,

If Pakistan buys a few billion dollars worth



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 Martime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday.



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

№ PPA

75.75

342.55

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 invest-

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. Howsoever 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 netsurfing 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 Secuand 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 vide 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

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, NIC 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 availatakaful result as a single line ble at SECP's website.

ENGRO announces strong results for 1st Quarter 2024

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



derived through cost opti-

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

ISLAMABAD: S. M. Tanveer Patronin-Chief United Business Group has said that the life of late SM Munir is a nity 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 of different markets, Establishment Business Group will continue to serve of the Mediation Council at ICCI for it without any discrimination for its success and prosperity.

Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh said that late facilitation Centre at ICCI, installation S. M. Munir was his mentor and role of filtration plants in commercial as

Chamber of Commerce and Industry in high esteem especially its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. He added that FPCCI is working day and night beacon light for the business commuto 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 headship 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 settling rent matters between tenants and owners, holding of a successful President Federation of Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference in Dubai, Establishment of NADRA



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, Iftikhar Ali Malik, Shaikh Riaz ud Din, Khalid Turab, Zubair Tufail, Munawar Mughal and other.

Chairman Founder Group Khalid Igbal 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 entrepreneurships.

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 Ghafoor 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

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 Yasar Ilyas, Syed Jawaad Hussain Kazmi, Babar Chaudhry, Saeed Khan, zaki Ejaz, Shaikh Abdur Razzaq and Shahid Ghafoor Paracha in recognition of their remarkable achievements

New Zealand beat Pakistan by 4 runs

To lead T20 series with 2-1

LAHORE: New Zealand on Thursday stunned Pakistan by 4 runs in the fourth Twenty20 international, taking a 2-0 lead in five-match series.

Pakistan's performance was not up to the mark in chase. Opener Saim Ayub returned on mere 20 off 15 while skipper Babar Azam could only manage 5 runs before falling to O'Rourke as well.

Newbie Usman Khan contributed 16 runs before being caught by Jacob Duffy off Ben Sears. The highlight of Pakistan's innings was Fakhar Zaman's aggressive knock of 61 runs off 45 balls, including four fours and three sixes.

However, despite some contributions from Iftikhar Ahmed (23 off 20) and Imad Wasim (22 not out off 11), Pakistan fell short of the target. They finished on 170/8, with New Zealand winning the match by 8 runs.

 $New \, Zeal and \, set \, a \, competitive \, total \, of \,$ 178/7 in the fourth T20I against Pakistan at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium. Opting to bat first, the Kiwi openers, Tim Robinson and Tom Blundell, got off to a strong start, putting on 56 runs before Blundell was dismissed for a brisk 28 off 15 balls. Robinson continued to score well, reach-



ing his maiden T20I fifty, but wickets fell at regular intervals for New Zealand.

Despite a late flourish from captain Michael Bracewell (27 off 20), Pakistan's bowlers, particularly Abbas Afridi who took 3/20, kept the Kiwi batsmen in check. Mohammad Amir removed Ish Sodhi on the last ball of the innings as New Zealand finished on 178/7.

Pakistan on Thursday won the toss and opted to bowl first in the fourth T20I against New Zealand at the Gaddafi Stadi-

um Lahore

Men in Green made four changes as Naseem Shah, Irfan Niazi, Rizwan and Shaheen Afridi were given break.

Team Pakistan is set to roar back against New Zealand today as both sides lock horns in fourth T20I showdown at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

and Black Caps is at 1-1, with both sides of remaining two matches in Lahore mance. Agencies

on April 25 and 27 will determine the winner of the New Zealand Tour of Paki-

The first game of the 5-match series was washed off amid rain. However, in the second T20I, Asian side defeated New Zealand in a low-scoring game. Kiwis then responded strongly in the third T20I, securing a comfortable seven-wicket win at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday night.

Pakistan will be without star batter and wicketkeeper Muhammad Rizwan in Thursday's game against New Zealand due to discomfort in his right hamstring.

New Zealand, on the other hand, is

missing key players, who are playing IPL. On Wednesday, Pakistan captain Babar Azam emphasized that the team lost as a collective unit, not due to individual performances.

Babar acknowledged that their batting, bowling, and fielding had shortcomings in the last match. Azam expressed confidence in his fast bowlers Naseem Shah The series between Men in Green and Shaheen Shah Afridi, calling them Pakistan's best bowlers, and backed them looking for second victory. The outcome to bounce back from their recent perfor-

T20 World Cup 2024 trophy kicks off Pakistan tour

Trophy Tour began last month in the US, where the first match of the mega event will be played

RAWALPINDI: The ICC T20 World Cup 2024 trophy, unveiled in Islamabad on Thursday, will tour two more major cities in Pakistan.

The Trophy Tour began last month in the US, where the first match of the mega event will be played.

The trophy reached Pakistan on Wednesday night and currently is on display in front of the National Assembly in the federal capital.

In the three-day tour, the trophy, which is termed by legendary cricketers in "Out of this World", will visit Lahore and Abbottabad as the world.

National Cricket Academy will also visit emerging counfive, from which the top two the West Indies. in Lahore on Saturday. On tries like Brazil, Argentina, teams of every group will play New Zealand in the last people can connect with the 8 round. match of the five-match T20I series. The trophy would be est in it. on display at the Gaddafi Stadium during the match.



anticipated matches of the

World Cup on June 9 at the

Nassau County International

Cricket Stadium, New York.

In that stage, qualifying

teams will once again be

countries across four continents where it will be graced some of the best stadiums in

Apart from renowned that 20 qualifying teams are The trophy will reach the cricketing nations, the trophy divided into four groups of the same day. Pakistan will—Canada and others so that—make their way to the Supersport and raise their inter-

with arch-rivals India and four, from which the top two Remember, the elusive the two sides will take on one teams will make their way to in Australia, beating Pakistan trophy will visit a total of 15 another in one of the most the semi-final and then the in the final. Agencies

Groups for T20 World Cup 2024

GROUP A: India, Pakistan, Ireland, Canada, United States **GROUP B:** England, Australia, Namibia, Scotland, Oman **GROUP C:** New Zealand, West Indies, Afghanistan, Uganda, Papua New Guinea **GROUP D:** South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Netherlands, Nepal

winners will play the final.

This will be the first time It is worth mentioning since 2010 that a T20 World Cup, which was won by England, will be hosted in

On the other hand, this the first time an event as big as the World Cup will be hosted by the US.

England are the defend-Pakistan is in Group A divided into two groups of ing champions after clinching the 2022 T20 World Cup

PCB reconstitutes women's selection committee

After West Indies whitewash

➢ Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi Thursday reconstituted the national women's team's selection committee increasing its members to

The development comes after the national side suffered a whitewash against the West Indies women's team in the recently concluded three-match one-day international (ODI) series, the board said in a statement.

The home series, which commenced on April 18, saw the visitors thumping the Green Shirts in the first ODI as they were handed a 113-run defeat by the West Indies after being bowled out for 156 runs while chasing a 270-run target.

In the second ODI, the hosts suffered a two-wicket defeat followed by an 88-run triumph in the third and last match of the ODI series on April 23.

However, despite the 3-0 loss, Pakistan currently holds fifth position in the 10-team ICC Women Championship 2022-25.

It is to be noted that the top five teams from this championship, along with hosts India, will directly qualify for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. The remaining teams will participate in a Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier tour-

Former Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof retires from cricket

The left-handed batter represented Pakistan in 276 international matches, the most by any Pakistan women cricketer

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof has announced her retirement from all cricket with immediate effect after the team's humiliating performance in the ODI series against

Bismah made her ODI debut against India in 2006 and her T20I debut against Ireland in 2009.

The left-handed batter represented Pakistan in 276 international matches, the most by any Pakistan women cricketer. She has scored 6,262 international runs, including 33 half-centuries, and has taken 80 international wickets with

her right-arm leg-spin.

During her illustrious career, Bismah was part of the women's team that won the Gold Medal twice in the Asian Games, in the 2010 and 2014 editions. The southpaw also captained the side in 96 international matches.

She represented Pakistan in four editions of the ICC Women's 50-over World Cup (2009, 2013, 2017, and 2022), captaining the team in the 2022 edition held in New Zealand.

In T20Is, Bismah featured for Pakistan in eight editions of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup (2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2023) and led the side in the 2020 and 2023

ca, respectively.

Commenting on her decision, Bismah Maroof said: "I have decided to retire being a mother." from the game I love the most. It has been an incredible journey, filled with ick said: "As Bismah Maroof bids farechallenges, victories, and unforgettable

for supporting her throughout her cricketing journey, from the very beginning until now.

"I also want to extend my thanks to the team and the country. the Pakistan Cricket Board for believthe PCB has been invaluable, particularly as her cricketing career has been."

editions held in Australia and South Afri- in implementing the first-ever parental policy for me, which enabled me to represent my country at the highest level while

Head of Women's Cricket, Tania Mallwell to international cricket, we are all indebted to her immense contributions She expressed gratitude to the family to Pakistan women's cricket. On behalf of the Pakistan Cricket Board, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Bismah for her commitment and invaluable services to

"I wish Bismah all the best in her ing in me and providing the platform to future endeavours, and may her jourshowcase my talent. The support from ney ahead be as rewarding and fulfilling



Nadal unsure over Roland Garros appearance

The 22-time Grand Slam champion says he will likely not be 100 percent fit for Paris

MADRID: Spain's Rafael Nadal said on Wednesday that he is not sure if he will be able to play at next month's French Open after pushing through the pain barri-

er in his comeback from injury. The 37-year-old, a 22-time Grand Slam champion, said that he is far from being in top form and that he is only playing against American Darwin Blanch in the first round of the Madrid Open on Thursday as a personal sacrifice.

ence to Roland Garros. "I don't think I'll be able to play at 100% but it's important to be able to up on anything in the next few



"If I was in Paris today, I play for the last time in Madrid, wouldn't go out to play," Nadal it means a lot to me to play on this told a press conference, in refer- court where I've had some great moments.

"This doesn't mean I'm giving

weeks, I don't know what might happen..

Tm going to do the things I have to do to be able to play in Paris. And if I can, I can and if I can't, I can't. I'm going to Paris if

I feel like I'm good enough... if I feel capable enough to compete."

Nadal, who has said he expects to retire after the 2024 season, returned to competition in Brisbane in January, after almost a year sidelined with a hip flexor injury. However, after winning his first two matches in the tournament, Nadal lost in three sets to Australian Jordan Thompson in the quarter-finals.

The gruelling contest appeared to take its toll on the Spaniard who, trailing 1-4 in the final set, took a medical timeout to get treatment on his upper-left leg.

He did not play an ATP event until making a winning return last week in Barcelona, with a first

round victory over Flavio Cobolli, only to fall a day later in a 7-5 6-1 second round defeat by Australian fourth seed Alex de Minaur.

"I am a competitive person and it is difficult to play without being able to give my best. If you ask me if I was happy in Barcelona, I say 'no, I wasn't happy'. What happens is that if I had tried to be happy in Barcelona today I probably wouldn't be here, that's the reality," Nadal said.

"That's why I want to try to go out and play in Paris feeling capable enough to compete well. I'm going to do my best to try to make it happen, and if it doesn't I'll have the personal satisfaction and the gratitude for having tried.

NZ Cricket's CEO, PCB chief discuss upcoming cricket series



LAHORE: New Zealand Cricket's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Scott Weenink called on Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board, Mohsin Naqvi here on Thursday and discussed the upcoming Pakistan-New Zealand cricket series and the next year's cricket series in New Zealand.

The Pakistan cricket team will visit New Zealand next year after the Champions Trophy. The team will play 5 T20s and 3 ODIs. Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi thanked the CEO of New Zealand Cricket for the cricket series, saying that the security of Kiwi players is of utmost importance and we have made foolproof arrangements for the security of the players. The Kiwi players are our esteemed guests, and it is our responsibility to take care $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$ of them. Mohsin Naqvi said that he is personally monitoring all the arrangements and security plans.

Scott Weenink, CEO of New Zealand Cricket, praised the excellent arrangements made in Pakistan and thanked Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi. He said that the best arrangements have been made for the New Zealand cricket team in Rawalpindi and Lahore. The CEO of New Zealand Cricket was delighted to see the excellent arrangements in Rawalpindi and Lahore. The New Zealand cricket team will come to Pakistan to play a three-nation series before the Champions Trophy. Salman Naseer, Chief Operating Officer PCB, and Usman Wahla, Director International Cricket were also present on this occasion.

Zone-VI Whites in Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket final



KARACHI: A Group Photograph of Zone-VI Whites and Zone-VI Greens Cricket Teams with Chief Guest Zia Ahmed Siddiqui President Zone-VI at the KCCA Stadium. Azam Khan Coordinator RCAK and M. Touseef Siddigui. Tournament Secretary also present on the occasion of 2nd Semi Final of Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament.

Solution Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Zone-VI Whites Qualify for the Final of Khansortium Karachi Region Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament after easily defeated their Junior Zone-VI Greens by 7 Wickets in the 2nd Semi Final played at KCCA Stadium.

Before the start of the Match the two teams was introduced to Zia Ahmed Siddiqui President Zone-VI. Azam Khan, Coordinator RCAK and M. Touseef Siddiqui, Tournament Secretary also present on the occasion. Scores in Brief:

Zone-VI Whites beat Zone-VI Greens by 7 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI Greens 144 all out in 39.2 overs. Kashif Iqbal 48, Zohaib Idrees 25, Irbaz Khan and M. Hamza 17 each. Muaz

Khurram (rmf) 2/21. Zone-VI Whites scored 147/3 in 23.2 overs. Habib ullah 50 5x4 2x6, Usman Raheem 50 1x4 5x6, M. Farhan 20 not out. Waleed Azeem 2/33.

Bin Salman (rls) 3/36, Hammad Kareem (rob) 2/14, Maaz

The Final will be played between Zone-VI Whites vs Zone-VI Blues. The date and venue announced latter on.

Former Zimbabwean cricketer Guy Whittall injured in leopard attack

HARARE: Former Zimbabwe all-rounder Guy Whittall sustained injuries in a deadly leopard attack after which he underwent an emergency surgery at Milton Park Hospital,

Whittall, who represented Zimbabwe in 46 Tests and 147 ODIs between 1993 and 2003, was attacked by the wild beast while he was trekking in the conservancy that he owns in the Humani region, as per reports from the local media.

It was further added in the reports that the 51-year-old was accompanied by his loyal dog named Chikara, who also got a bit injured while trying to save him.

The incident took place after almost 11 years when Whittall woke up with an eight-foot and 165kg Nile crocodile sleeping Hannah Stooks-Whittall, the wife of the former cricketer,

confirmed the incident in a Facebook post which contained the pictures of the 51-year-old covered in blood after the attack. We are very fortunate that he was stabilised at Hippo Clinic by wonderful staff. He was then Airlifted from Buffalo Range

by Ace Ambulance to Harare, then transferred to Milton Park Hospital for treatment," she wrote. We are very fortunate that he was stabilised at Hippo Clinic by wonderful staff. He was then airlifted from Buffalo Range

by Ace Ambulance to Harare, then transferred to Milton Park Hospital for treatment," she wrote. She also added that he lost a lot of blood but it could've been far

worse if it wasn't for his faithful who tried to save him to his best. "Chikara [is] coming up tomorrow to the vet after being mauled by the leopard and getting the cat off Guy!" she wrote.

well-wishers after Guy's run-in with a wounded leopard earlier today," she added. Whittall's most memorable moment as a cricketer came in 1995 when he scored a century to help Zimbabwe register their

Guy and I are overwhelmed by the hundreds of messages of

first-ever victory against Pakistan at Harare. However, in the same Test, his remarkable innings were overshadowed by the heroics of Grant Flower, unbeaten 201 runs, and Andy Flower, 156 runs, as the home side went on to win the match by an innings and 64 runs. Agencies

The Spokesman

Economy top agenda ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the US convened an intersessional meeting under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement on Thursday. **Ministry of Commerce** Government of Pakistan

Dar urges opposition to bury past

Join hands to steer country out of challenges

House in Senate and Foreign not only completed Interna-Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday urged the opposition to join hands and burry 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

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

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the all stakeholders, Pakistan has tional 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 said with collective efforts of by the last government orders and the ECP directives, tor Irfan Saddiqui was hand- Ijaz Chaudhry. APP



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

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 funds in the budget for fiscal in Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa, he against the political victimiza-He further stated that year 2023-24, he said that said, the central government tion and had sympathies with he country was at verge of government had provid- has a role in the Senate elect the opposition but in the past

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 incomplete without the elecdefault in 2013 when Paki- ed funds for holding elections. The provincial governour leadership and their famition of senators from KPK. He stan Muslim League-Nawaz tions. An amount of over Rs ment should complete the ly members were implicated urged the chairman to issue came into power. However, he 44 billion had been released process in light of the court in false cases and even Sena- production order for senator

Pak-US officials engage to enhance trade, investment ties

States and Pakistan held an inter-ses-(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 son added. APP

ISLAMABAD: Officials of the United United States, engagements like the TIFA were key to moving forward sional meeting under the Trade and on the shared goals of deepening the Investment Framework Agreement 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 spokesper-

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

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

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

The familes 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 tribute and pledge unfliching support ones for Pakistan," it concluded.

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 the government is fully commit- and investments. On the occabetween the two countries.

ted to facilitate an environ- sion, the delegation head Keith

The Finance Minister said ment conducive to business 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.

IMF executive board to discuss 'approval of \$1.1bn funding for Pakistan on April 29' The executive board of the Interna- Islamabad could secure a staff-lev-

April 29 to discuss the approval of by early July. \$1.1 billion funding for Pakistan, the fund said on Wednesday.

The funding is the second and last tranche of a \$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF, which it secured last summer to avert a sovereign default and which runs out this month.

The South Asian nation is seeking a new long-term, larger IMF loan. Pakistan's Finance Minister, Muhammad Aurangzeb, has said IMF bailout for Pakistan.

tional Monetary Fund will meet on el agreement on the new program

Islamabad says it is seeking a loan over at least three years to help macroeconomic stability and execute a long-due and painful structural reforms, though Aurangzeb has declined to detail what seize of programme the country seeks.

Islamabad is yet to make a formal request, but the Fund and the government are already in discussions.

If secured, it would be the 24th

No complaint of ...

- 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 to his/her attention in relation to on "interference" of the intelligence agencies in the courts' affairs.

"We are writing to seek guidance es," read the latter. Agencies

PM vows to eradicate ...

Continued from Page 1 from the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) with regard to the duty of Last month, six judges of the IHC 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 colleagues and/or members of the courts that the high court supervis-

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

the barriers placed outside various headquarters, Chief Minister House chi Registry. and Governor House and present the report within three days.

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

has directed the authorities to remove during the hearing of multiple cases including those relating to encroachbuildings including Sindh Rangers ment and Nasla Tower at the SC Kara-

At the onset of the hearing today, the chief justice underscored that the federal and provincial governments free movement of people $\c \Box$. Blocking $\$ themselves are encroaching on the lands and directed the authorities to "clear" the roads.

Ordering the attorney general to CJP Isa's remarks came as he led inform the federal government, the a three-member bench, comprising apex court directed the authorities Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and to send a copy of the court order to

KARACHI: The Supreme Court (SC) Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, all concerned institutions, including those relating to security.

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

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 Friday. Agencies

the roads under the pretext of security. "Why don't you remove encroach-

ments 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 will always be remembered.

is hero of the nation and his sacrifice Announcing the Shuhuda pack-

menace. The Prime Minister paid

tributes to Shaheed Customs Inspec-

tor Syed Hasnain Ali Tirmizi saying

his sacrifice will not go in waste.

Continued from Page 1 age, Shehbaz Sharif said under this package, those in the rank of sepov Munir for the support extended will be provided with a cash prize of by Pakistan Army to deal with this 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 Syed Hasnain Ali Tirmizi He said free education and health services will also be provided to the family of the martyrs.

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