



International powers do not want stability in Pakistan, says member Türkiye Parliament

Ali Sahin member of Türkiye Parliament and Chairman Türk-Pak Parliamentary Friendship Group has categorically said that international powers do not want stability in Pakistan and do not see it developed and prosper. (Detailed interview on Page 5)



Two-day 'Tashkent International Investment Forum' to start on May 2

The third two-day, 'Tashkent International Investment Forum' (TIIF) will be held on May 2-3, this year in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. The forum is organized at the initiative of Shaokat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who will participate in the event. Two-day 'Tashkent International Investment Forum' to start on May 2 (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Special meeting

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the Amir of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the sidelines of a special meeting of the World Economic Forum on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM, Amir of Kuwait discuss bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday met the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Special Meeting in Riyadh and discussed bilateral ties. The Prime Minister thanked His Highness the Amir for sending him a warm congratulatory letter upon his re-election. While congratulating His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on assuming the role of Amir, the Prime Minister expressed his desire to work closely with His Highness to transform bilat-

al ties into a mutually beneficial economic partnership that would serve the best interests of the peoples of both countries. Pakistan and Kuwait had signed a number of MoUs and agreements to deepen cooperation in trade and investment in November 2023. The Prime Minister assured the Kuwaiti leadership that these MoUs and agreements would be implemented in an efficient and timely manner. In addition to bilateral ties, the regional situation, particularly with regards to the crisis in Gaza, was also discussed. The Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to the Amir of Kuwait to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

PM designates Ishaq Dar as Deputy PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has designated Minister of Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister. The Cabinet Division had issued the notification of the appointment. At present, the foreign minister is accompanying the



prime minister on his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Meeting with IMF MD

PM Shehbaz vows to put economy back on track

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum special meeting in Riyadh on April 28, 2024. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has vowed to put Pakistan's economy back on track through structural reforms, strict fiscal discipline and prudent policies to ensure macro-economic stability and sustained economic growth.

He said this during a meeting with International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum special meeting in Riyadh on Sunday, said a statement from the government.



It was the first meeting between the PM and the IMF MD since the former's re-election. They last met in Paris in June last year on the margins of the Summit for New Global Financial Pact. PM thanked Georgieva for her support to Pakistan in securing

appreciated the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif for timely securing the standby arrangement last year," said.

Both sides also discussed Pakistan entering into another IMF programme to ensure that the gains made in the past year are consolidated and its economic growth trajectory remains positive.

The IMF MD shared her institution's perspective on the ongoing programme with Pakistan, including the review process.

PM Shehbaz also extended a cordial invitation to the IMF managing director to visit Pakistan at her convenience.

"Very productive meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team during WEF special meeting. We discussed policy reforms and strong decisions to address

Pakistan's challenges and create stronger sustained and more inclusive growth for the benefit all Pakistanis," Georgieva said in a post on X.

Pakistan could secure a staff-level agreement on a new long-term larger loan with the International Monetary Fund by early July, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said last week.

The country's current \$3 billion arrangement with the fund - which it secured last summer to avert a sovereign default - runs out in late April.

The \$350 billion South Asian economy faces a chronic balance of payment crisis. The government is seeking a larger, long-term loan to help stabilise economic activity and financial markets so it can execute long-due, painful structural reforms.

Justice Sattar doesn't have dual nationality, says IHC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court clarified on Sunday that one of its judges Justice Babar Sattar does not hold dual nationality, amid a 'malicious' social media campaign against him after a letter was written to the Supreme Judicial Council.

"Justice Babar Sattar has never had any nationality other than that of Pakistan," said a press release from the Islamabad High Court.

The statement was issued after a social media campaign against the judge which the high court described as "false, malicious and contemptuous".

As part of the campaign, the confidential information has been posted and reposted on social media, including travel documents of the judge, his wife and children, accompanied by "untruthful" allegations, and details of his properties provided in his tax returns.

The campaign started against the backdrop of a letter from six IHC judges to the five members of the Supreme Judicial Council. Justice Sattar was one of the judges who signed the letter.

Continuity of democracy only solution to all issues: Senate chairman

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that continuity of democracy is the only solution to all national problems.

He expressed these views while addressing the concluding session of the Asma Jahangir Conference 2024 as a special guest on Sunday.

While keeping political differences aside, he said that all political parties should come together for the country's progress and fulfill their responsibilities. He said that elimination of violence and promotion of tolerance are essential for establishment of a peaceful society.

He said that the Pakistan People's Party paid several sacrifices for the restoration of democracy. He said that the implementation of the



Constitution 1973 by the PPP founder leader and former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was a significant achievement.

Farooq H. Naik, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Pakistan Bar Council and former Law Minister, said that Asma Jahangir's services for human rights should not be ignored. He stressed that the protection of human rights can be ensured only through the supremacy of democracy. All matters should be resolved within the ambit of the constitution and law to prevent conflicts, he said.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedul Khan Nasir emphasized the importance of dialogue in resolving national disputes. He mentioned that PML-N supremo Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was deciding all party policies. He said that in 2013, "we had the majority, but we formed the government through negotiations for the national interest. Criticism, agitation, and slogans do not solve issues; only dialogue does," he added.

Former chief minister Balochistan Abdul Malik Baloch said that all stakeholders must opt for dialogue for the country's progress, stability, and lasting peace. National dialogue is essential to address Balochistan's issues comprehensively.

Asma Jahangir's daughter Manizeh thanked the participants who attended the conference.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Felicitates SSP Riffat Bokhari on Being Selected for IAWP Award

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif congratulated SSP Riffat Bokhari on being selected to receive "Excellency in Performance Award." The Chief Minister acknowledged the professional services of a woman SSP on being selected for receiving the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) award. She said, "Daughters like Riffat Bokhari are a beaconlight for the women. I heartily congratulate her on being selected to receive International Association of Women Police (IAWP) award. Riffat Bokhari's extraordinary devotion and exemplary services for the women protection is highly praiseworthy. The woman police officer of Punjab Police brightened the name of Pakistan at an international level. I profoundly extol the services of Riffat Bokhari for apprehending the culprits with the help of artificial intelligence along with preparing the intelligent traffic management system and road safety mechanism."

Undocumented economy has been biggest challenge: Aurangzeb

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the undocumented economy has been the biggest challenge for the country.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum special meeting at Riyadh on Sunday, finance minister said that around 10 trillion tax circulating in the market. "We are considering over moving to digital currency," Aurangzeb further said.

"We have 9.4 trillion annual revenues and half of our economy has been undocumented," Finance Minister said.

He said that the government providing cash assistance to entitled women as income support. Beneficiary women want to get the cash by digital vault, he added.

Power Division clears the air on solar power tax ISLAMABAD: The Power

Division on Saturday refuted reports regarding the imposition of a fixed tax on solar power, terming them as baseless and misleading, ARY News reported.

In a statement, the Power Division clarified that no such summary has been sent to the government regarding the imposition of a fixed tax on solar power.

The Power Division stated that the subsidy of Rs 1.90 per unit is borne by the government, which is affecting around 2.5 to 3 crore poor consumers and is putting an undue burden on them.

If this continues, the poor consumers will have to bear an additional burden of at least Rs 3.35 per unit, the Power Division warned.

The Power Division said that the Net Metering Policy of 2017 aimed to promote alternative energy sources in the system. However, after 2017, the solarization has seen a rapid increase now.

All-Party Hurriyat condemns Indian incursions into Kashmir, recalls late Amanullah Khan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: A prayer meeting organized by the All-Party Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu Kashmir and Pakistan was organized to pay homage to the late Amanullah Khan, leader of Tehreek Azadi Kashmir and Supreme Leader of Liberation Front. Which was presided over by the convener Mehmood Ahmed Sagar. On this occasion, tributes were paid to the prominent Hurriyat activist on his death anniversary. The convener said Kahamanullah Khan spent his life for the freedom of the oppressed and oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on this occasion,



he said that two Kashmiri youths were martyred today in Baramulla district. The soldiers martyred the youths during a violent search and siege operation in Nupura area of Sopore in the district. The soldiers martyred a young man in the area. He was also shot and injured.

Strongly condemned the arrests of more than 100 innocent Kashmiris from Rajouri, Poonch and Bandipora districts by the Indian occupation forces. He said that these arrests are a clear proof of Indian state terrorism in the occupied territory. He said that the Modi government wants to increase the atmosphere of fear and terror in the occupied area. The speakers, who were highly critical of the crimes committed by the Indian soldiers, reiterated their commitment to continue their mission to free Jammu and Kashmir from the forced occupation of India. He would like to show his practical reaction to the serious situation of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that we appeal to the world's renowned human rights protection organizations, especially Amnesty International, Isha Watch, United Nations Human Rights Commission, to take serious notice of the worst violations of human rights by Indian forces in Jammu and Kashmir. And fulfill your moral responsibilities regarding the protection of human rights. Urged the international community to increase pressure on India to stop serious violations of human rights in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Finally, a special prayer was offered for the elevation of the late leader.

Delegation of WWF Pakistan Meet Along Secretary Agriculture South Punjab



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A delegation of WWF Pakistan headed by Hafiz Muhammad Bakhsh met Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil. On this occasion, Senior Manager WWF Masood Akhtar, Additional Secretary Task Force Dr Haider Karrar, Dean Faculty Agriculture MNS, Agriculture University Professor Dr. Shafiqat Saeed was also present. WWF Pakistan representative Hafiz Muhammad Bakhsh invited to participate in the launching ceremony of the new project Regenerative Agriculture in Pakistan under his organization on May 2 in Islamabad. Representative WWF Pakistan Hafiz Muhammad Bakhsh giving a briefing. He said that the structure of agricultural lands has been affected by over-cultivation and excessive use of chemical fertilizers, due to which the productivity of the land has decreased due to the decrease in the amount of organic matter. Keeping this problem in mind, WWF has introduced the idea of Regenerative Agriculture in Pakistan by using natural methods of farming i.e. restoring the structure of the soil and increasing the amount of organic matter. can go. While giving a briefing on regenerative agriculture, he added that under this plan, more than 50 thousand farmers will be trained and registered by 2028. Landscaping governance on more than 1 lakh hectares and more than 6 companies should be taken on board to restore the ecosystem. He further said that the climate in order to cope with the changes, implementation of water stewardship principles, improvement in management and use of agricultural land, increasing the amount of organic matter and promoting agrobiodiversity will be done to improve the environment and agriculture by bringing about a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. can be made more profitable. On this occasion Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Attil said that we have to take care of the health of the agricultural land so that the land is affected as little as possible. There will be a reduction in the use of chemical fertilizers. Fertilizers should be used. Crop rotation should be promoted. He further said that there should be minimum dependence on spraying of chemical poisons for the control of harmful pests of crops.

Sunday special

ISLAMABAD: A Vendor preparing traditional breakfast Halwa Puri in a market of Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Anti Corruption Open Court held in Multan for relief the public complaints

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Director General Anti-Corruption Punjab Sohail Zafar Chhatta ordered to hold an open court in Punjab, upon which Director Anti-Corruption Multan Malik Rashid Nimat Khokhar held an open court in his office, in which the problems of the common people were heard and the anti-corruption officers were called on the occasion. He would fulfill the demands of justice on the requests of Ceylan Orders have been issued to deal with the cases as soon as possible. The purpose of the open court is to provide easy access to justice to the people, which will reduce the difficulties of the people. Deputy Director of Anti-Corruption Office in Khanewal district Rao Abdul Ghaffar opened the open court with Bahmarai Circle Officer Khanewal Muhammad Sajid. Organized courtrooms in which to listen to people's problems. After that, an open court was held in Vihari. Deputy Director Anwar Khan Baloch and Circle Officer Mansoor Munir Khan heard the public issues and people's rights were heard. An open court was held in Lodhran district. Deputy Director Lodhran Imran Arif Sial. After listening to the people's problems and listening to the people's problems. The director of anti-corruption, Multan Region, who was assured of getting justice as soon as possible, expressed his views and said that after hearing the problems of the people from the open court held in the office, he also issued orders to solve them immediately, while the public Happy to set up an open court in the Anti-Corruption Department. The initiative has been declared.



DC Multan orders District Departments to remain alert during the rains session

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadeer has issued an order to the district departments to remain alert during the rains. He has also issued instructions to Rescue, PDMA and Civil Defense for machinery and stock checking before the flood season yesterday. Pre-Monsoon and Flood under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadeer. A meeting was



held about the arrangements. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Faizan Ahmed Riaz and Assistant Commissioners also participated in the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadeer said that encroachments on the safety dams should be

removed and a full inspection should be done while referring to the flood on Chenab river. Mock exercises will also be done by Rizwan Qadeer. It was said that before the flood season, the stock of necessary items including medicines, vaccines, tents should be completed. While due to the recent rains, orders have been issued to be on alert to the Vasa. Earlier in the meeting, the relevant departments discussed the flood situation in detail. Also gave a briefing.

Pakistani banks need to establish branches in Addis Ababa to handle business: Ethiopian envoy



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Pakistani banks should establish their branches in Addis Ababa to handle business related transactions, said Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula, ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he assured that the Ethiopian government would provide all facilities to facilitate businesses and give a quantum jump to bilateral trade. He said that establishing a banking channel is a challenge for him as this instrument would prove a game changer for the promotion of bilateral trade in addition to helping Pakistani exporters to sneak into the virgin African markets. He said that Karachi and Lahore have been linked with Addis Ababa through Ethiopian Airlines while flights from Faisalabad and Sialkot would also be started very soon. He said that Ethiopia is producing 98% green energy which is also being exported to the three neighboring countries. He said that the literacy rate in Ethiopia is 75-80% while women are also contributing their productive role in almost all segments of life. He said that special arrangements have been made at the university level to produce educated and skilled human resources. He said that for the subject of engineering 70% of the syllabus is related to this topic while the remaining 30% cover all remaining subjects. He said that a separate ministry of labor and skill was created in 2018 and 1500 vocational institutes are also operating to provide sector specific skills to cater to the immediate needs of the industry. He said that the land of Ethiopia is directly linked with the humans of prehistoric age while the Nile River also originates from this country.

He said that Ethiopia is actually a gateway to Africa as all other African countries could be easily accessed through Addis Ababa. He also mentioned Hazrat Bilal Habsbi and said that through Ethiopian Airlines any destination is just at a distance of a few hours. He said that the air flight from Pakistan to Addis Ababa takes only four hours. He particularly mentioned the trade delegation of last year and said that another delegation was in the pipeline in which Faisalabad would have maximum representation. He said that investors from Faisalabad could establish any type of industry including textile as abundance of cotton was available there. He said that the surplus products could be exported from Ethiopia to the EU and other countries without any duties or taxes.

Sardar Attique demands UN action on Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RIYADH/MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has demanded that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the particularly United Nations should take immediate action to stop the atrocities being committed by the led ruling party, BJP, and the extremist organization, RSS, against Indian and Kashmiri Muslims in India. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian army and Hindu Tawa armed extremists are perpetrating violence and oppression against minorities in India. The Indian government, focused on the Hindu nationalist agenda, is not only committing brutality against peaceful citizens in India but also damaging

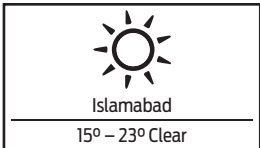


relations with neighboring countries, posing a severe threat to South Asia peace. While addressing the delegates of Rabita Alam-e-Islami Conference at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan condemned India's move to display a map of 'Akhand Bharat' in the Indian Parliament, which includes Pakistan, China, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Iran as part of India. Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan has said

that India is a terrorist country and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a murderer of humanity by oppressing the Kashmiri people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. are being broken. The international community, especially the OIC and the United Nations, will have to take practical measures against the atrocities of the Indian forces. He gave a detailed briefing on the issue of Kashmir to the delegates of

different countries of the concluding session of the Rabita Alam-e-Islami Conference in Riyadh

President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, during his participation in the closing session of the World Islamic Conference under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, in Makkah. Imam Kaaba Sheikh Dr. Saleh bin Abdullah bin Hameed, Imam Kaaba Sheikh Abdullah Awad Al-Gandani, Imam Kaaba Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sadis, Imam Kaaba Bandar bin Abdul Aziz Balila, Dr. Shوقي Allam Mufti Misr and other great people of the Ummah. All participants of the conference met with Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. Listened to the position with keen interest.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:51 am
Zohr 12:05 pm
Asr 4:52 pm
Maghrib 6:49 pm
Isha 8:20 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

CBD Punjab's Urban Development Projects Earn Praise from Secretary Asad Ullah Khan

PPA

LAHORE: Secretary Housing, Urban Development & Public Health (HUD & PHE) Punjab, Captain (R) Asad Ullah Khan, made a significant visit to the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBD-DA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), upon his arrival, Secretary Asad Ullah Khan was warmly welcomed by the CEO of CBD Punjab, Imran Amin.

The visit commenced with an introductory meeting, chaired by Secretary HUD & PHE Captain (R) Asad Ullah Khan. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary HUD & PHE Omar Farooq, Executive Director Technical CBD Punjab, Riaz Hussain; Executive Director Legal CBD Punjab, Barrister Bilal Afzal Khokhar. Director Architecture and Planning CBD Punjab, Sameer Aftab Sial, Director Business Development CBD Punjab, Ali Waqar Shah, Director Project Management CBD Punjab, Asif Iqbal, Director Construction CBD Punjab, Asif Babar, Director Marketing CBD Punjab, Waseem Siddiq, Director HR CBD Punjab, Palwasha Mengal, alongside other esteemed officials of CBD Punjab.

During the meeting, Secretary HUD & PHE Captain (R) Asad Ullah Khan was provided with a comprehensive briefing on CBD Punjab, its operational framework, and ongoing projects. The focal point of discussion revolved around the establishment of Pakistan's inaugural and largest IT city, Nawaz Sharif IT City, and the forthcoming auction of six commercial and six residential plots within the CBD Punjab.

Highlighting recent endeavors, the authority emphasized its strategic alliances with international universities and IT corporations, forged during a recent visit to China

Unnecessary imports caused a wheat crisis in Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that the country is facing a severe wheat crisis due to unnecessary imports followed by a good crop.

Federal and provincial governments are not buying wheat, providing an opportunity for hoarders to purchase wheat at dirt-cheap rates, which is bankrupting the farming communities, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that it is expected that farmers will cultivate sugarcane rather than wheat the following year if they are not bailed out, which will result in a severe crisis.

He claimed that unnecessary imports and a bumper crop had created a massive surplus, so prices are steadily declining, and farmers are facing bankruptcy.

Next year, a decline in wheat produc-



tion could trigger a new crisis if the farmers do not receive financial assistance.

He observed that instead of passing on the benefit of falling wheat prices to the public, the middlemen are reaping the benefits.

The business leader stated that if central or provincial governments do not address farmers' issues, they will grow sugarcane or other crops instead of wheat next year.

Due to surplus production, the government will have to subsidise the sugar mills, which are among the country's most influential business groups.

He said that investigating why the caretaker government permitted the import of more than 3.5 million tonnes of wheat is also necessary, as the importers are now in competition with the farmers, which the hoarders are exploiting.

Our bureaucracy lacks the capacity to accurately estimate the country's wheat production and import requirements, resulting in periods of wheat scarcity and periods of surplus.

Dr. Shahid Rashid Butt suggested exporting the excess wheat to Afghanistan and Iran if the government is unable to purchase it from the farmers.

Sugar exports have yet to be allowed, but sugar has become expensive. If sugar exports are permitted, their price will increase.

The government should take a firm stand on exports to stabilize sugar prices.

Annual Election

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Photojournalists with new elected President Sohail Shahzad Cheetah, Shahid Qureshi, Secretary and Syed Mehdi Finance Secretary at National Press Club



Photo: Spokesman

Photojournalists panel wins clean sweep in annual elections

Sohail Shahzad Cheetah President, Shahid Qureshi, Secretary & Syed Mehdi elected Finance Secretary

ISLAMABAD: In the annual elections of Ripja, the panel of photojournalists took the field. The panel of photojournalists took the field, Sohail Shahzad Cheetah President, Shahid Qureshi alias Raju Secretary while Syed Mehdi was elected Finance Secretary, polling continued uninterruptedly from 11 am to 4 pm in the National Press Club Islamabad, in which the twin cities Photojournalists actively participated, the total number of voters was 60, out of which 53 votes were cast, the results were announced by Chairman Election Committee Faisal Hakeem along with Election Committee members Nadeem Chaudhry and Izharul Haq Khan Niazi, according to details, Rawalpindi.

About the annual elections of Islamabad Photojournalists Association (RIPJA) in the

year 25, 2024, the photojournalists panel has done a clean sweep.

The photojournalists panel has taken all the seats of the executive and governing body.

Sohail won 33 votes from the photojournalists' panel. Shahzad was elected as the president, while against him, Ahmad Arif Sheikh, president of Ripja Photojournalists Panel, got 19 votes, Shahid Qureshi aka Raju was elected as secretary with 29 votes, while Javed Qureshi, the candidate of Ripja Photojournalists Panel, got 20 votes.

Syed Mehdi was elected as Finance Secretary with 34 votes. His opponent, Ramzan Mughal, the candidate of Ripja Photojournalists Panel, got 18 votes. Secretary, Raja Imran was elected press secretary by getting 33 votes, while Adnan Bukhari

34, Agha Mehroz 32, Aamir Qureshi 34, Amjad Hussain 31, Anjum Naveed 33, Imran Jafari 30, while Irfan Ali was declared successful by getting 29 votes.

While his opponents are Dr. Mushtaq 17, Irfan Haider 21, Sajjad Hussain 15, Syed Fateh Ali Gilani 16, Tahir Naveed 13, Ahmed Kamal 16, Azhar Ali Khan 28, Khurshid Ahmed 22, Taha Warsi 21, Raja Sajid Rashid 18., Sunny Ghori 18, and Kamran Ali Abbasi 17 votes, the total number of voters was 60, out of which 53 voters exercised their right to vote, polling continued peacefully, after the polling was over, Election Committee Chairman Faisal Hakeem. Announced the results along with the committee members Nadeem Chaudhry and Izharul Haq Khan Niazi, the newly elected president of Ripja

Sohail Shehzad addressed the Ripja members Mian Khurshid, Muzamil Pasha, Azhar Abidi, Agha Mehroz, M Javed, Javed Nasir, Zabiya after his success. He thanked his seniors, including Al Hasan and Sohail Malik, and all the supporters. He also thanked Election Committee Chairman Faisal Hakeem, Izhar Khan Niazi and Nadeem Chaudhry and reiterated that he would also take the colleagues of the competing group with him in the future. But after the operation of Muzamil Pasha in the condition of illness and appreciating the process of casting votes, all the officials elected from the ceremony also spoke, including Shahid Qureshi, General Secretary and Finance Secretary Syed Mehdi and Senior Vice President M Javed, Faheem Malik Abid Zia. Included.

AIOU holds Punajb Chapter Convocation at Lahore

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (Punjab Chapter) took place yesterday at the Nazaria Pakistan Trust in Johar Town, Lahore. A total of 650 graduates from Ph. D., M. Phil, MS, Master programs, BS, B. Ed, BA, B. Com, and BBA programs received degrees, out of which 150 students were awarded gold medals. Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar was the chief guest of the ceremony. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood hosted the event, and several vice-chancellors of various universities, rectors, renowned journalists, and eminent social personalities from Punjab also graced the ceremony as guests.

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar congratulated the



graduates, their parents, teachers, and the university on their achievement. He acknowledged that Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) was named after the National Poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and has played an essential role in the field of education both nationally and internationally. On the occasion of AIOU's 50th anniversary, Azam Nazir Tarar praised the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, for

the university's contribution to the country by producing five million graduates over the past 50 years. The Law Minister further added that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, has prioritized the health and education sectors.

During his speech, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that Allama Iqbal Open University has been providing educational services

for half a century, and with this convocation, the golden jubilee of AIOU is being inaugurated. The university has 54 regional campuses spread throughout the country, and to date, it has graduated 5 million students. Dr. Nasir added there is hardly a household in Pakistan that doesn't have a student from Open University. He also elaborated on the university's free education services for out-of-school children.

Karachi's Cattle Market 2024 Leads the way with Progressive Solutions



PPA

ISLAMABAD: The administration of the Cattle Market in Karachi has announced plans to launch the Cattle Market on the 10th of May 2024, more than one and a half months ahead of Eid-ul-Adha. This year's market aims to provide a modern and secure environment for buyers and visitors.

Spanning 1200 acres in Taiser Town Northern Bypass, the market will feature an integrated network of CCTV cameras monitored from a dedicated Command-and-Control Room to ensure security. To enhance convenience, Smart Digital Cards will be introduced at the entrance for buyers and visitors. For smooth financial operations and transactions, ATMs will also be installed within Market Premises. Advanced emergency services further will be operational to handle all kinds of uncertain situations.

To boost security measures, contingents of Sindh Rangers, Sindh Police, and Private security guards will be deployed all across the routes within and outside the market premises. Additionally, law enforcement officials will be stationed at main intersections and along the route leading to the Cattle Market. Moreover, arrangements have been made to illuminate the main roads for safe and easy access to the market.

All Animals will be checked before entrance by professional Veterinarian staff, to ensure the health of animals authorized certificate will be issued by the veterinarian department.

These proactive measures underscore the organizers' commitment to ensuring a safe, efficient, and modern experience for all participants at this year's Cattle Market.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar nominated as member of National Export Development Board

PPA



ISLAMABAD: The federal government has formed the National Export Development Board, with Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Shahbaz Sharif, and Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum as a member for the Board for Agro and Processed Foods, as per a regular notification issued by the Ministry of Commerce. According to details, the Government of Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce has established a board on April 24 to increase national revenues, which will oversee and assist in implementing government policies to increase revenues. The board members will provide strategic guidance for increasing competitiveness in revenues, implementing trade policies, and assessing progress. Private sector members have also been included in the board, and their terms of reference (TORs) have been issued. The chairman of this board is the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, Group Chairman of S. M. Foods, Volka Foods International, and Silver Lake Food Limited, has been nominated as a member for the National Export Development Board for agro and processed foods.

Officials and members of Chambers of Commerce Lahore, Multan and Hattar congratulated Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum on this honor, as well as local traders and industrialists have congratulated Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum and stated that in the processed foods sector, Zulfiqar Anjum is the largest exporter in the country. Therefore, the Government of Pakistan has nominated him as a member for agro and processed foods to benefit from his experience and contribute to the country's best interests. The agro and processed food sector includes agricultural and food products, like snacks, sweets, and chocolates, as well as items such as biscuits, cakes, pastries, sauces, burgers, pizzas, and chicken nuggets. The agro sector includes rice, fruits and vegetables, sea food, meat, dairy, sugar cane, and livestock. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum has practical experience in the development of these products, their supply chain, and all aspects related to the vast market. They have the ability to take the best measures to increase the market's growth and diversity, raise awareness and build capacity for exporters in the agro and processed foods sector. Renowned industrialist Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum has extensive knowledge and skills in organizing international exhibitions, incoming and outgoing delegations, organizing local and international trade shows for processed food products, and undertaking seminars and promotional activities. Their professional skills will contribute to increasing Pakistan's revenues.

Polio immunization campaign to launch on Monday



ISLAMABAD: A vaccination campaign to immunize more than 24 million children under the age of five against poliovirus will begin in 91 districts of the country from Monday, April 29. The campaign is being held in Islamabad, 10 districts of Punjab, 24 districts of Sindh, 26 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 30 districts of Balochistan, during which polio teams will go house-to-house bringing the crucial oral polio vaccine with them.

Coordinator to the PM on the National Health Services Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath said that the government is committed to ensuring that all children are protected from this terrible disease. "Polio-virus has been detected in multiple sewage samples in the country in recent months which means this virus remains a serious threat to children's wellbeing," said Dr Bharath, adding that this disease has no cure and the only way to protect children is to vaccinate. "We are sending polio teams to your homes, so make sure to open your door to vaccinators and get your child vaccinated," he added. Dr Shahzad Baig, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Center for Polio Eradication, said that this is a critical campaign being held in districts with high risk of poliovirus spread. "We have detected the virus in over 31 districts this year, which is why we are continuing to implement regular vaccination campaigns in all high-risk districts to ensure that children have the immunity to fight off polio infection," he said.

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USA vs. China: The World Stands to Lose

It appears that the USA is feeling nervous, unsettled, and jittery due to China's mature response to US accusations, charges, and intimidation, and is puzzled by China's refusal to be drawn into a Cold War with the US and its allies. This unease was evident in an interview with CNN at the end of his visit to China (23-26 April) where US Secretary of State Antony Blinken leveled multiple accusations against China.

Blinken accused China of interfering in the 2024 US presidential elections, claiming that the USA has evidence of attempts to influence and interfere, which he deemed totally unacceptable. He reiterated his warning to China to cease playing on existing social divisions in the US in influence campaigns.

On the diplomatic front, Blinken warned China to halt its support for Russia's efforts to ramp up production of tanks, munitions, and armored vehicles and to upgrade Russia's defense industrial base. He threatened to sanction more than 100 Chinese entities and individuals if such support continues. He further threatened that if China did not comply, the US and its allies would increase pressure on Chinese companies.

Recently, the US Congress and Senate approved \$8 billion in military aid to Taiwan to enhance its defensive and offensive capabilities. This move is seen as an unnecessary provocation aimed at escalating tensions in the region, endangering peace both regionally and globally. Additionally, the US Congress passed a bill to ban the popular app TikTok in the US and imposed aggressive restric-

tions and embargoes on semiconductor exports to China.

Despite the US's aggressive stance, China has demonstrated patience, restraint, and maturity. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has responded to US accusations with composed and logical arguments, rejecting unfounded claims without provoking or antagonizing the US or its allies.

Regarding allegations of election manipulation, China has firmly denied any intention to interfere in the US election. China maintains that it upholds friendly relations with the American people based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation. China asserts that meddling in another country's internal affairs is not its approach to bilateral or multilateral relations.

China has taken a principled stand on the Russia-Ukraine war, advocating for addressing the root causes of the conflict and considering the concerns of both Russia and Ukraine. China has proposed an international peace conference to resolve the crisis through diplomatic means. China has warned against exploiting the situation for self-interest and emphasized the need to avoid factionalism or bloc confrontation.

Regarding Taiwan, China maintains that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China, a position reaffirmed by the Cairo Declaration in 1943, the Potsdam Declaration of 1945, and UN General

Assembly Resolution 2758, which recognize the one-China principle. China opposes the supply of arms to Taiwan, seeing it as increasing the risk of conflict and undermining regional peace and stability. China considers the Taiwan issue an internal matter, with reunification being a decision for the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. China has stated its unwavering commitment to preventing Taiwan's separation from China, warning the US against interfering in the region and underestimating China's resolve and defense capabilities.

China has denounced the US containment policy as ineffective and counterproductive, emphasizing the importance of friendly relations between the two countries for the well-being of their peoples and the world. China believes that US efforts to contain its development, impose sanctions, and hinder its science and technology advancements will harm both nations.

Despite China's friendly approach and restraint, the US is applying its typical carrot and stick strategy, which has worked with other nations, though it may need to reconsider this approach with China.

The US strategy to manipulate China is indeed intriguing. Initially, it encouraged reliance and dependence of Chinese companies on the US market, using this as leverage to influence China's economy

and its affairs. This includes imposing embargoes, hefty taxes, and duties on Chinese exports, sanctioning Chinese companies, and banning Chinese social media apps. The US is also pressuring its allies to impose sanctions and fines on Chinese companies, encircling China to intimidate and contain it.

The US is using rating, ranking, and indexing organizations to manipulate Chinese financial, economic, and sovereign ratings in order to damage China's image and that of its companies. It is leveraging existing alliances and forming new ones to counter China. The US has also implemented a de-risking strategy to reduce overreliance on China. Additionally, it has established the "Five Eyes," a spying organization involving five countries focused on China. Finally, if peaceful measures fail to achieve its objectives, the US may resort to kinetic means.

China, in contrast, has responded to US pressures with pragmatism, taking numerous steps at its own expense to allay American concerns. However, despite these efforts, US pressure on China continues to mount. The global community is anxiously hoping that China's patience will not falter, and that tensions between the two nations will ease. The alternative—a prolonged escalation of hostilities—is deeply concerning and scary, given that the combined military capabilities of both countries could devastate our planet multiple times over.

Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan to create permanent platform for Pakistani professionals and students in China

Pakistan Embassy, Beijing will create a permanent platform for Pakistani students and professionals to get together, share information, interact with each other, and explore opportunities in China, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said. Addressing the participants of Pakistan Professionals and Students Forum under the theme Building Bridges between Academia and Industry organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing, he said the forum provides students with a chance to communicate with professionals, which helps students find jobs.

As Pakistan continues to strengthen its economic ties with China through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it is essential to ensure that the country workforce is equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in this evolving landscape, he added. Ambassador Hashmi commended the Pakistani community for its contributions to solidifying the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan. He underscored the significance of forum in boosting interactions, exchanges and networks between Pakistani professionals and students. Ambassador Hashmi touched on his vision of transforming the forum into a permanent annual feature with an active participation and involvement of Pakistan community. The forum also featured panel discussions in which the speakers including Vice President Centre for China and Globalization, Mike Liu, Director of external relations of the Global Young Leaders Dialogue, John Zhao, Strategy and Policy Consultant at AIIB, Ms. Lucy Tong, AI Expert, Biman Liyanage, and Director General, AIIB, Najeeb Haider speaking at a panel discussion shared perspectives on current industry trends, highlighting the opportunities arising from China enhanced focus on new quality productive forces. They explained the importance of strengthening knowledge corridor between China and Pakistan as part of the endeavors to foster an even stronger community of shared future of the two countries. The speakers highlighted the importance of fostering closer collaboration between universities and businesses, emphasizing the need to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Discussions centered around internship programs, industry-sponsored research, and the development of specialized training modules to enhance the employability of Pakistan's graduates. The event brought together diverse participants, including students, researchers, educators, industry professionals, and policymakers, all united by a common goal of fostering stronger ties between academia and industry. Through panel discussions, workshops, and networking sessions, attendees explored various strategies and best practices for enhancing collaboration and promoting mutual understanding between these two vital sectors. The excellent Pakistani students from various universities in China received internships from Chinese entrepreneurs. In the end, representatives of Pakistan Professional and Students Forum thanked the Pakistan Embassy for hosting the forum, recognizing it as a useful platform for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and nurturing a profound sense of community among the Pakistanis in China.



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

Geopolitical Implications of US Biolaboratories Abroad

Fifty years ago, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and their destruction began to operate. Almost every country in the world has signed the document. The corresponding authorities of states have pledged not to develop these weapons in any way. The only country that did not sign the protocol on the mechanism for controlling the implementation of the convention in 2001 was the United States. Thus, today there is no opportunity to find out if biological weapons are being created there. The US President, George W. Bush junior, motivated this measure through "protecting the trade secrets of American corporations and the interests of national security".

The convention that prohibits biological weapons has been approved by 143 nations, but the tool to enforce it does not exist. The US is trying to restrict foreigners' visits to inspect to safeguard the trade secrets of the US pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. "...The British Medical Journal reported that the Pentagon has objected to inspections of US biodefense facilities that develop vaccines and defenses, and intelligence facilities that analyze threats of biological warfare.

In general, Western media in the form known to deride the information from Russian and Chinese officials about the United States biolaboratories around the world, where the arguments about their military goals are called "conspiracy theory." It is this "conspiracy theory" that could be easily refuted with the transparency of requests and the implementation of some commitments.

Thus, it seems that the US strategy is to create a "ring" around geopolitical rivals, first of all -

Russia, Iran, and China, unleash its laboratories of a biological orientation in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Afghanistan until 2021, Pakistan, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Ukraine. As the Russian Ministry of Defense states, "American specialists with the help of local services are conducting experiments with the biology of biological formulations in all these "centers" and developing the simplest mechanisms of transmission, means of transportation and intensification of the action of the relevant diseases using insect vectors".

This activity is associated with a large number of leaks, and there are many indirect signs suggesting that the Americans have gotten carried away. Comparing the distribution areas of vectors of dangerous infectious diseases Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus from the late 1990s to the late 2010s reveals rapid growth, affecting not only Western and Central Europe but also Eastern Europe, including Russia and Belarus.

Oxitec, a company linked to Bill Gates, is officially working on combating Aedes aegypti, but the preliminary results suggest limited success. Alternatively, the true purpose of the research programs might differ from the initial claims.

The military operation conducted by President Vladimir Putin in Ukraine has revealed a network of biological laboratories established by the Americans near the Russian border. Seized documents indicate that the United States was actively developing bacteriological weapons and conducting dangerous experiments that put the local population at risk.

While the Russian military's claims about American biological weapons threats could be dismissed as propaganda, the American and

European media have also expressed concerns. The Guardian published an article on May 30, 2023, highlighting the frequency of dangerous lab leaks, which occur hundreds of times a year in biological research centers worldwide. These incidents put scientists and lab workers at risk of infection.

In addition, more details regarding the COVID-19 virus's origins are becoming available. Citing concerns over funding for risky research, Republican Senator Rand Paul is pressing for a special probe into the US government's role in the virus's creation, according to Sky News Australia.

The pursuit of biological weapons by the United States raises ethical concerns, as significant funds are spent on destructive research and development. The defense budget for fiscal year 2024 was \$842 billion, but the allocation for bacteriological experiments remains classified. It is worth considering how many lives could have been saved if these funds were used to provide medical supplies to impoverished countries in Asia and Africa.

According to Clinic Economics & Outcomes Research, millions of people die annually due to a lack of essential medicines, primarily in low- and middle-income countries. The cost of medicines is a significant obstacle, and making affordable healthcare services available could prevent or cure many diseases. The Global Health Security Index ranks America first in healthcare efficiency, while countries like Bangladesh, Niger, and Somalia lag far behind. Instead of exporting biological laboratories and spreading dangerous diseases, the United States could prioritize helping developing countries with medical aid, equipment, and technology, which would be a more humane approach.

The author is a freelance columnist. He tweets at @tehzeeb_says.



Analysis

Tehzeeb Hussain Bercha

Army Audit and Plot Allocations in DHA - I

Within any nation, the armed forces epitomize sacrifice, valor, and service, standing as guardians of borders, peacekeepers, and defenders of sovereignty. Yet amidst their unwavering dedication lies a facet often overlooked—the welfare of soldiers.

In numerous nations worldwide, governments honor the invaluable service and sacrifice of their military personnel through unique benefits, including free plot allotments. These endeavors aim to recognize soldiers' dedication, provide them with a sense of security, and facilitate their transition to civilian life following years of service.

India's Army Welfare Housing Organization (AWHO) extends subsidized housing and free plot allotments to serving and retired army personnel. These plots are often situated in desirable residential areas and include basic infrastructure such as roads, water supply, and electricity connections. The AWHO endeavors to enrich the quality of life for military personnel and their families by offering affordable housing options.

While the United States typically doesn't provide free plot allotments to military personnel, it offers programs to assist service members in home purchases. For instance, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes home loan guarantees for eligible veterans, active-duty service members, and certain surviving spouses. These loans frequently feature favorable terms and don't mandate a down payment, enhancing homeownership accessibility for military personnel.

Russia's Ministry of Defense offers various forms of support to military personnel, encom-

passing access to housing and real estate. While there might not be specific programs dedicated to providing free plot allotments, service members could be eligible for preferential treatment when applying for government-subsidized housing or land. Moreover, certain military installations might offer housing options tailored for personnel and their families.

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) integrates housing benefits into its welfare system. Though widespread initiatives for free plot allotments might not exist, military personnel could access subsidized housing or receive preferential treatment when purchasing residential properties. The PLA's objective is to ensure the well-being and stability of its personnel through housing support.

In the United Kingdom, military personnel may qualify for housing assistance via the Ministry of Defence (MOD) housing scheme. While this may not encompass free plot allotments, service members could receive subsidies or allowances to assist with housing costs. Additionally, the MOD manages various housing estates and accommodation options for military personnel stationed both domestically and abroad.

These instances highlight the varied approaches taken by countries to support their military personnel through housing and plot allotment initiatives. While specific programs may differ, the overarching objective remains consistent: to acknowledge the sacrifices of armed forces personnel and provide them with tangible benefits that enhance their well-being and quality of life.

To be continued

International powers do not want stability in Pakistan, says member Türkiye Parliament

Ali Sahin says Türkiye, Pakistan can play a leading role in the region



Spokesman Report

ANKARA: Ali Şahin member of Türkiye Parliament and Chairman Türk-Pak Parliamentary Friendship Group has categorically said that International powers do not want stability in Pakistan and do not see it developed and prosper.

"There are several conspiracies being hatched to weaken and divide Pakistan, this issue need to be address properly", said Ali Şahin who is also central leader of the current ruling Türkiye Justice and Development Party (AKP) in an interview to a selected group of journalists, along with Shabana Ayaz head of Türk Pak Women Forum.

Ali Sahin got his higher education in Karachi and served in Türkiye missions in Pakistan at various capacities and has a lot wonderful memories for the country. In the interview apart from shedding light at various international issues shared his personal experience and good memories during the period he got education in Pakistan, he is found of Pakistani cuisines.

Ali Sahin said that Pakistan is situated at very important geographical position and it is very important for country to be economically stronger. Political and economic stability is crucial for Pakistan enabling to play a leading role in the region.

To a question about the current awful situation in Palestine he said "We are trying our best to bring to an end to the present horrifying situation". Türkiye and Pakistan are two twin sons of the Islamic and they can play a leading role to culminate the reign of terror let loose by the aggressor Israel, but there exist no such mechanism at present to deal with the situation.

Continuing, he said Islamic countries are poor and have limited sources and when the western countries interfere in our problems and problems increase manifolds. He reminded the

United States came to solve the problem of Afghanistan, and for almost 10 years its butchered million of people but the problem was still unsolved, "Terrorism did not culminates but increased".

He is advocate of further cementing the existing ties between two brotherly Islamic countries Türkiye and Pakistan through boosting trade, defense and cultural activities.

Ali Sahin regretted that economic and trade relations between Türkiye and Pakistan are not strong enough. There exists a bilateral trade of only 1.2 billion dollars between the two counties which is negligible. The population of Pakistan is 25 million, while the population of Türkiye is eight and a half million and the level of trade needed to be boosted.

He added existing barriers between the relationships must be removed. In the last 10 years, our relationship with Pakistan in the defense sector has grown considerably. The Türkiye has made remarkable achievement in the defense sector. There is a need to run a common defense project between Türkiye and Pakistan.

To bring peace to the Middle East, the relationship between Türkiye and Pakistan should be improved and strengthened. The mechanism between Türkiye and Pakistan should be strengthened.

He pointed out that Türkiye is working on an important project of developing roads, linking four neighbor countries including Türkiye, Iraq, Qatar and Emirates and in the end its connection with west to boost trade activities.

He suggested that Pakistan, Iran and China also need to become partners in this project because Pakistan is working on a very important game changer project of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) which will change the trade balance in the whole world. He said that if both the projects are interconnected they will bring a revolution globally.



"I have told Foreign Minister Haqqan Fidan that there is an urgent need to connect these two projects. It will also bring economic, political stability and regional security.

Answering the question of dual citizenship, Ali Sahin said that Turks consider themselves Pakistani citizens and Pakistanis consider themselves Turkish citizens. The problem of dual citizenship is not a problem of Türkiye but of the European Union. Türkiye is trying to become a part of the European Union. The European Union does not allow us to have dual citizenship. It will take time, but Pakistanis should consider themselves citizens of Türkiye.

On the question of providing health insurance to overstayed visas and illegal residents in Türkiye, Ali Sahin said that discussions are underway with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Embassy and Ambassador Dr. Yusuf Junaid to resolve this issue. We are making efforts to resolve the issue and provide facilities. Türkiye's efforts to become part of Europe have some obstacles. Pakistani authorities and Turkish authorities are making efforts to resolve this issue legally. A meeting is expected in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs next month, in which we will try our best to resolve this issue.

Ali Sahin added that diplomatic and

parliamentary relations are not enough for enhancing ties between the countries, but the exchange of cultural activities is must to bring people closer to each other. Türkiye is thinking of making a drama on Mahmud Ghaznavi. Pakistani dramas should also be aired on Turkish channels. He said that I liked Pakistani drama Kashkol and Dhuhan very much.

While sharing his education experience in Pakistan, he told Shabana Ayaz that when I went to Pakistan for study, the people of Karachi welcomed me saying that you have come to your second homeland, but I used to tell them that this is not my second homeland, but it is my own homeland.

Before I went to Pakistan in 1990, I had two choices, one was Saudi Arabia and the other was Pakistan. I chose Pakistan. Because the people of Pakistan love Türkiye very much, words are not enough to describe this love. In my opinion, the love of Pakistan is found genetically in our generations. Whenever a child is born in Türkiye, his genetics embed the love of Pakistan. Similarly, the child born in Pakistan also has the love for Türkiye in his nature this love is a divine gift.

I didn't just go to Pakistan to study but I made many friends there. After studying, when I used to go to the homes of Pakistani families, I understood the living conditions there. When you say that you are a Turk in Pakistan, the doors of the homes are opened for you. Going to Pakistan was a very interesting experience for me.

He added after completing my education in 1997, when I returned to Türkiye, I was also keen to know the current situation in Pakistan. After the acquiring facility of internet, I listen to Pakistani news, watch TV channels and keep informed about the situation in Pakistan on social media platforms.

Ali Sahin that I live in Ghazi Antap, recalled that while studying in Kara-

chi, I used to eat Pakistani food with passion, but the other 19 students who were with me had a problem to eat Pakistani food as they are spicies. I love chicken biryani, he added. I was the Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs for three years, so I had to go to Europe in this regard. I did not like eating at European restaurants, so I used to find a Pakistani restaurant and eat food there, especially Biryani.

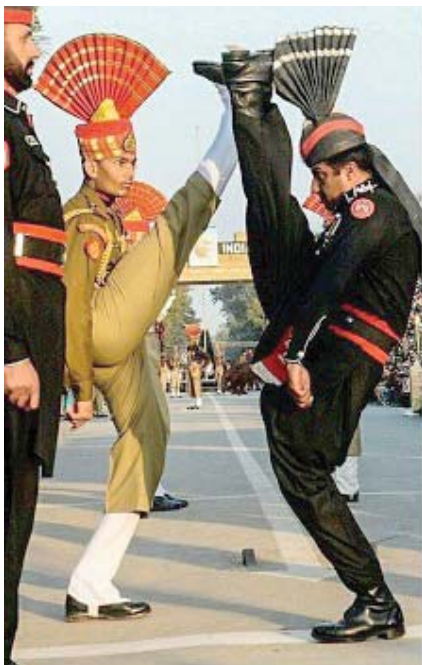
While studying in Pakistan he went on to say, during my vacations, I used to travel from Karachi to Quetta, from Quetta to Zaidan, from there to Tehran and from Tehran to Ankara and then from there to Ghazi Antap covered the distance in 7 days. I had only one month vacation and 15 days used to pass only in the journey. There was very little opportunity to spend time with parents and siblings. The harshness of hard conditions makes a person the best person. Now if I get another chance, I will go to Sindh and try to understand their story and Punjabi, Baloch and Pakhrun culture and tradition.

To a question by the Shabana Ayaz whether he would advise the Turkish youth to go to Pakistan for study.

Ali Sahin answer was that anyone can get education all over the World, including, United States, Saudi Arabia and European countries, but the love and affection that Pakistan has with Türkiye will not be found anywhere, even though Pakistan is thousands of kilometers away, but he is loving the country while living in Ghazi Antap. Ali Shaheen's message to his Turks is that if you want to know your importance, you must go to Pakistan once.

Do Not Beat the Earth with Boots

Let the Hearts Beat Together – for Rehman's Sake for Ram's Sake



Tazeen Akhtar

This heart catching story of a heart patient recovered with the heart of an "Enemy Person" in by an "Enemy Doctor" in an "Enemy Country" should and must be learnt by heart to end all enmities between the human beings of the whole World whichever religion, belief or nation they belong to. This is a lesson for those who every morning feel proud raising their legs to their

maximum height and beat the earth with a louder "Duzzzzzzzz", to soften their hearts for each other.

This is a mind blowing true story that compels the political and military leaders not to fill the minds of the commoners, their citizens with hatred to one another, mind their real business to focus their minds on the welfare of their respective nations only and mend their ways, live and let live the others in peace and mutual understanding of living together on this planet that is common for

all.

In India, a 19-year-old Pakistani girl, Ayesha, has returned to life again with a 69-year-old man, a Hindu. According to Indian media, Ayesha was brought to Chennai from Karachi, Pakistan for the first time in 2019 after suffering a heart attack. Her heart was found failing to function properly.

Heart transplant was suggested by a senior cardiac surgeon in Chennai. Ayesha was kept on a waiting list until a donor heart was found and a left ventricular assist device was fitted to help

the heart pump the blood.

Ayesha returned with the device but her condition worsened again in 2023 as her heart started working on the right side only and the heart pump also leaked. Indian doctors asked her to come to Chennai for treatment.

The cost of heart transplant was very high and this facility is not available in Pakistan at present, for which the Indian doctors arranged the funding.

All the heart transplant expenses were met by an NGO "Aishwarya Trust" with the help of medical professionals and former patients.

There was some delay in Ayesha's treatment due to the visa. Finally, the mother and daughter reached India, where on January 31, Dr. Suresh Rao, co-director of the Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant at MGM Healthcare, transplanted Ayesha's heart from a 69-year-

old man who was brain dead in New Delhi. His heart was flown from there to Chennai for Ayesha.

Ayesha recovered quickly and was discharged on April 17. She wants to become a fashion designer after recovery from the deadly disease.

This comes from India, Modi's India who has left no stone unturned in his long authoritarian rule to crush the Muslims in India and spill blood

in Pakistani KP and Balochistan provinces, bringing the South Asia at a stage where no neighbor in the whole region is ready to trust the other.

The political and military men have their own agendas but the matter of fact is, people do not want to kill each other. They are giving life to each other. Learn some lesson and do not make the beautiful sub continent a hell for Rehman's and Ram's sake.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
72,742.74	71,764.18
Day's High	Day's Low
72,862.41	71,764.18
Index Value	Change
14,307,377,262	+771.34
Percentage	Time
+1.07%	26 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,139.83	+60.97
Percentage	Time
+0.75%	26 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,331.51	+245.71
Percentage	Time
+0.65%	26 Apr, 1:06 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,934.76	+306.28
Percentage	Time
+0.81%	26 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.5	180
Bahrain Dinar	740.5	748.5
Canadian Dollar	200.8	203
China Yuan	38.47	38.87
Danish Krone	40.02	40.42
Euro	294	297
Hong Kong Dollar	35.57	35.92
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	904.6	913.6
Malaysian Ringgit	58.28	58.88
New Zealand \$	165.38	167.38
Norwegians Krone	25.35	25.65
Omani Riyal	723.13	731.13
Qatari Riyal	76.49	77.19
Saudi Riyal	73.3	73.95
Singapore Dollar	204.5	206.5
Swedish Korona	25.53	25.83
Swiss Franc	304.82	307.32
Thai Bhat	7.52	7.67
U.A.E Dirham	75	75.75
UK Pound Sterling	343.75	347.9
US Dollar	277.25	279.8

Over billing is also going on with power tariff hikes, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Saturday that complete economic recovery and development is impossible in the presence of a serious energy crisis.

He said that until the energy crisis is resolved and the price of electricity and gas is reduced, the economic downturn and recession will continue.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the mismanagement of the energy sector has been affecting the GDP for years, and the policy of continuously increasing the tariff has backfired.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the policy of continuous hikes in the power tariff has been adopted to reduce the losses of this sector, which has led to a fall in production and exports.

Poverty is increasing rapidly and the power sector has not seen any noticeable improvement despite burdening masses, he observed.

The business leader said that despite the huge increase in electricity and gas prices, the performance of these sectors has remained the same which is unfortunate.

Due to wrong policies, electricity demand and recoveries are continuously decreasing, which is increasing the losses of the government as contracts entered into with IPPs have crippled the economy.



Mian Zahid Hussain said that, on the one

hand, the electricity rates are being increased continuously; on the other hand, over-billing has also peaked.

The problems of this sector and their solutions are also known to all those who matter. The prime minister has rightly said that the prices of electricity and gas should be reduced so that industries can increase exports.

A uniform electricity tariff is equivalent to unfairness to the consumers of better recovery areas. Where the recovery is better, the electricity should be cheaper, and the salaries of the concerned department should be better.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the electricity, gas, and oil systems have been deliberately complicated. Hence, most people and the business community continue to pay silently without understanding it.

Tireless efforts

ISLAMABAD: A roadside stall holder arranges flower garlands in front of Lok Virsa in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

Islamabad Chamber and Chakwal Chamber to jointly spearhead demand of Industrial Estate at Nilla Dulla

PPA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that ICCI would fully support the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in its efforts to get realized its long standing demand of an industrial zone in the region. He said that Chakwal enjoys the most suitable location for having an Industrial Estate at Neela Dulla, as it is situated on the motorway and offers simplest access to Rawalpindi and Islamabad adding that the completion of this paramount project would accelerate the business and industrial activities in the area and usher in a new phase of growth and prosperity.

He said this while addressing a large representative delegation of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry which visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the leadership of its President Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the availability of the proposed industrial estate would also pave the way for exploitation of rich mineral resources of the area.

President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari expressed his determination



to make the business community of Chakwal a major player in national and international market by connecting the area to the global supply chain adding that Chakwal has immense potential for tourism as it has Katar Raj Temple, Kalar Kahar lake and a number of other beautiful lakes and small dams.

He demanded that besides an Industrial Zone, a national level park at Kallar Kahar, a lake dam at Talla Gang and an Agriculture Research Centre at Chakwal should also be developed for the promotion of international tourism and promotion of

agriculture in the area which in turn will bring beneficial results for the economy.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted the importance of unity among the traders to get materialize their dreams. On his proposal an eight member committee 4 from ICCI and 4 from CCCI Chakwal was formed to vigorously pursue the cause of an Industrial Estate at Nilla Dulla. Vice President FCCI Qazi M. Akbar hailed the collaborated efforts of Chakwal Chamber under the leadership of its sitting President Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari.

Celebrating the opening of the Noon & Co. Flagship Store in Lahore

PPA

LAHORE: Noon & Co., a name synonymous with the preservation and revival of stone craft in Pakistan, celebrated the opening of their store in Lahore. This opening follows that of their Islamabad Flagship studio, opening in the summer of 2022.

Led by its founder Taimur Noon, Noon & Co is an artisanal guild working on the preservation and revival of the ancient Gandhara art of stone crafting in South Asia and has become a household name through their diverse stoneware products, including sinks, bathtubs, lighting, furniture, ornaments and accessories.

"A legacy oft forgotten, it was the people of the Indian subcontinent that mastered the skill of stone craft. Developed in the Gandhara region, of what is now predominantly northwest Pakistan, this style came to be known as Gandhara Art. Today these stone crafted masterpieces are found across museums



in Europe, America and Asia. Yet, this 2000-year old artistic tradition has been under threat of extinction. At Noon & Co., we work mainly with these generational Gandhara stonemasons. While remaining true to the region's elemental cultural heritage of Indo Greek artistic traditions, we rediscover the diminishing art of expert craftsmanship in luxury stoneware," stated Taimur Noon.

Located at 134 - DD, CCA Phase 4, DHA, Noon & Co. endeavors to increase accessibility and visibility of their curated pieces of stone craft for patrons across the city of Lahore and beyond. The Lahore flagship store has been curated by interior designer, Ayesha Noon.

TECNO CAMON 30 Series set to launch at a grand fashion show in Karachi

PPA

LAHORE: TECNO, Pakistan's premier smartphone brand, is gearing up to unveil its highly anticipated product line of the year, the CAMON 30 series, at a grand fashion show event on April 30th in Karachi.

This event promises to be truly exceptional, breaking all previous records set by TECNO and even other smartphone brands. To maintain the excitement and keep the fire burning at the event, a concert will be held featuring one of the biggest singers in the music industry.

"We have been collaborating closely with smartphone manufacturers like TECNO to continuously refine image sensors, offering the best imaging solutions. The new flagship CAMON 30 series



features SONY's IMX890 image sensor, promising excellent low-light sensitivity and outstanding night photography. Combined with TECNO's optimization, it delivers an exceptional imaging experience. We express gratitude to TECNO for their trust in SONY and look forward to advancing mobile imaging with LYTIA and TECNO CAMON, benefiting everyone. We also eagerly anticipate more such future collaborations with TECNO, aiming to bring joy to consumers worldwide," says Katsumi Toma, Senior Director of SONY Semiconductor Solution.

Economy is not destroyed by accident; it has been ruthlessly looted

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Sunday that economic reforms are only practical with political reforms.

He said that economic reforms will only achieve goals other than wasting time and resources if political reforms are introduced.

He added that economic reforms are being carried out under the pressure of the IMF, but the elite are spared, and all the burden is being placed on the poor.

Murtaza Mughal said in a statement issued today that more attention should be paid to political

reforms, otherwise process of economic reforms will remain incomplete and ineffective.

He said that a person who used to work at a roadside tea stall has become prime minister of India and has been changing the destiny of his country.

The son of an African migrant has served as president of the US, and the son of an Indian migrant is presently the prime minister of the UK.

However, politics has transformed into a money game in Pakistan. Our politicians are often considered disgustingly rich, self-serving, and uncaring of the people they govern.

Our politicians are known for scheming and cutting ruthless deals



to secure a big stack of cash. Poor and mediocre are getting top slots in other countries, but in Paki-

stan, such people cannot reach the district council because here politics has been turned into a game of wealth and greed.

He said that certain families dominate all major political parties and that intra-party elections are a joke and deception. Politics has become a business for the families dominating the country's politics, so they do not want democracy in their parties.

It is difficult to force top politicians to introduce reforms in their parties, but it is not impossible and is vital for the country's survival.

Mughal noted that economic models of different countries, including the Chinese, Bangladesh,

and Singapore models, often make noise in Pakistan.

However, without political reforms, no model has worked here and will not work because political parties prefer party and personal interests instead of national interests.

He questioned who among the noted politicians for whom the country's interest is important.

He said that Pakistan's economy was not destroyed by chance or accident, but it was plundered and destroyed under a well-thought-out plan.

Expecting those who destroyed the country for personal gains to bring a change is a self-delusion.

CM Sindh lauds TCF efforts for educating underprivileged students

PPA

KARACHI: The Citizens Foundation (TCF), in collaboration with the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF), hosted an event, "Greatness of Spirit in Karachi: Book Launch & Magsaysay Laureate Reunion," on April 25, 2024. This event commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Ramon Magsaysay Award and marked the launch of the seven-volume book series titled "GREATNESS OF SPIRIT: Stories of Love, Courage, and Service," showcasing the inspiring lives of all 348 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's premier prize and highest honour, recognises the greatness of spirit shown in selfless service to the people of Asia—regardless of race, gender, or religion. There have been 12 laureates of the Award in Pakistan until now, which are Henry Holland and Ronald Holland, Akhter Hameed Khan, Abdul Sattar Edhi and Bilqis Bano Edhi, Shoaib Sultan Khan, Asma Jahangir, Syed Adibul Hasan Rizvi, Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui, Ruth Pfau, Ibn Abdur Rehman, The Citizens Foundation (TCF) and Muhammad Amjad Saqib.

The occasion was graced by the presence of the Honourable Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, esteemed past awardees, distinguished representatives from RMAF, local educators, diplomats, and other notable figures, especially H. E. Maria Agnes M. Cervantes, Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan, and Ms. Sarah Mooney, British Deputy High Commissioner Karachi. Commenting on the occasion, the Honourable Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, expressed his admiration for the remarkable achievements of TCF and the Ramon Magsaysay Awardees, highlighting their significant contributions to society.

Mr Ahsan Saleem, Chairman of TCF, remarked, "The Ramon Award is a prestigious honour celebrating integrity, leadership, and service to the community. I'm humbled and grateful as TCF hosts this book launch in Karachi as part of the global unveiling of "Greatness of Spirit."

Islamabad Run With Us successfully holds first ever Margalla Hills Half Marathon at Trail-5

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Run With Us, the pioneer group of running, successfully held its first ever Margalla Hills Half Marathon at the nature-rich Trail-5 surrounded by blooming green cover participated by overwhelming number of runners here on Sunday.

Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam was the chief guest on the occasion.

More than 150 participants from all across Pakistan including members of respective diplomatic community, and experienced runners joined running on all the main trails of Margalla Hills covering distance of 21.1 kilometers, including the portion of Margalla Road from Trail 5 to Japanese Zoo parking and Pirsowaha Road from Talhar Mor to Monal Restaurant.

Addressing the Margalla Hills Half Marathon as chief guest, the Prime Minister's Coordinator extended her felicitations to the winning athletes and participants for actively participating in the

adventurous endeavour.

Romina said the participants of the Half Marathon were the real celebrities of the event that deserve praise along with the organisers of the activity. She added that climate and sustainable development goals (SDGs) are her passion for spearheading the climate agenda at the policy level which is also the need of the hour.

The Minister on the occasion refused to take water in single-use plastic bottle as part of her flagship campaign and awareness drive to apprise masses to end one-time use plastics under the ban being imposed across the federal capital.

"The nature and the planet is our mother and we turn to it for solace to get rid of our vagaries of life and have to ensure its conservation. Say no to plastics and I am championing it, whereas media is our messenger and should carry forward this message as well," she said.

She congratulated the marathon winners and participants and lauded their determination to walk for nature. "Everyone got

their reward in the form of the best clean air and natural environment during the marathon," she added.

Chairperson, Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), Rina Saeed Khan thanked the media for supporting the cause of environmental conservation and mass awareness on responsible role towards nature.

Khan also lauded the Prime Minister's Coordinator for her warm support to the IWMB as a great supporter and advocate of the environment. "She (Romina) has a positive attitude and tremendous support towards IWMB and the Board will invite her on all its events," she added.

The IWMB chair said that the marathon was a great experience and would be encouraged in the future as well.

"IWMB has over 100 volunteers who are working without any reward and freely work on picking garbage from trails. We request visitors to enjoy nature but don't litter and create noise and avoid staying in national park after sunset as most of the wildlife is nocturnal," Rina Saeed said.



Founder of Islamabad Run With Us, Qasim Naz said that the main objective of the event was to promote a healthy lifestyle and create awareness to preserve the mesmerizing beauty of Margalla Hills National Park.

He informed the participants

that Islamabad Run With Us is the first community running club that started in 2016 and had held 600 events so far and also organise four races throughout the year including the Islamabad Half Marathon in April.

"This time, due to Ramadan,

there has been very little media campaign for the event within 8-9 days of social media campaign, Margalla Hills half marathon has bagged 150 participants that started running at 6:30 am and ended at 10:30am," he said.

PM's Coordinator, Romina

Khurshid Alam conferred the awards to the winners whereas in the female category, Sadia Maqbool stood third, Emily (a US National) got second position whereas Inab Khan was the winner who is also the member of running squad of IRWS and an international marathon runner.

In the male category, the third position was secured by Athar Akhtar, second by Waqar Ahmed and the winner was Muhammad Akhtar.

At the end Qasim Naz presented mementos to PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam and the Coordinator gave away the memento to Chairperson Rina Saeed Khan.

CEO, North Naturals (co-partner of the event), Israr Uddin thanked the PM's Coordinator and organisers of the event for making the event a success and the leadership by the government. He said Pakistan existed in the geographical region prone to disasters and volatile ecosystems that needed special attention of all quarters of the society and his organisation through its products was playing that role.

Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP) Hosts Women's Exhibition Cricket Match

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Andrew Schofer, expressed his excitement about witnessing the talented young women cricketers at the event. He remarked, "I am impressed with the talent and passion of these women playing here today." His enthusiasm highlighted the anticipation surrounding the T20 World Cup 2024, with the USA hosting its first-ever World Cup.

Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP), in collaboration with Tareen Cricket Academy (TCA) and Kinnaird College Lahore, proudly hosted a Women's Exhibition Cricket Match on April 28th, 2024. The event, held at Kinnaird College Lahore, marked the unveiling of the trophy for the South Punjab Women's Champions League 2024 and the commencement of the countdown for the T20 World Cup



2024. Distinguished guests, including US Consulate Counsel General (CGs) from Peshawar, Lahore, and Karachi, alongside President LPP and owner of Multan Sultans, Mr. Ali Khan Tareen, graced the occasion, emphasizing the event's significance in promot-

ing grassroots sports.

"The unveiling of the trophy for the South Punjab Women's Champions League 2024 symbolized a milestone in promoting women's cricket and recognizing the achievements of female athletes in the region and also served as

an inspiration for new talent. We are committed to provide full support to girls cricket and make safe saucers for women specially in South Punjab" Ali Khan Tareen shared during the event.

Dr. Abdul Saboor, CEO of Lodhran Pilot Project,

expressed his enthusiasm for the event, stating, "We are thrilled to host this Women's Exhibition Cricket Match and unveil the trophy for the South Punjab Women's Champions League 2024. This event not only highlights the talent and dedication of female cricketers but also underscores our commitment to promoting women's empowerment through sports."

In an exciting match, the Kinnaird College Lahore team secured victory in the T10 match by 7 wickets, chasing the target in just 8 overs. LPP extends its heartfelt gratitude to all participants, sponsors, partners, and supporters for their invaluable contributions to making this event a resounding success. The organization looks forward to future endeavors aimed at celebrating women in sports and fostering a culture of inclusivity and excellence.



A Group photo of Senior Sports Journalists during the 5th T-20 cricket Match between Pakistan Vs New Zealand at Gazzafi Stadium, Lahore.

Rana Mashhood congratulates hockey players

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has congratulated all players for being selected in the national hockey team. It's a pleasure to see the selection process completed smoothly.

I hope the players will display good sportsmanship and bring glory to the country, Rana Mashhood said in a statement issued here. He said my best wishes and heartfelt congratulations to the national hockey team. We will have to make every possible effort to promote hockey in the country. Through promotion of sports, we can divert the attention of youth towards positive activities, he said.

President's Cup matches washed out

Sports Desk

RAWALPIND: All three matches of third round of President's Cup One-Day Tournament in Abbottabad and Rawalpindi were abandoned without a ball being bowled. KRL and HEC shared points in Abbottabad, SNGPL and SBP shared points at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi, while Ghani Glass and Pakistan Television also shared points at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi, according to a statement issued here by Pakistan Cricket Board.

Fourth round fixtures for Tuesday: SBP v WAPDA, Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium; Ghani Glass v HEC, Abbottabad Cricket Stadium; SNGPL v KRL, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Inter Club Athletics Championship on Wednesday

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Inter Club Athletics Championship would be organized at Dhuddiwala Hostel

Ground Chak No.214-RB here on Wednesday (May 01, 2024). District & Divisional Athletics Association Faisalabad in collaboration with Lyallpur Athletics Club would organize the championship in which various events would be arranged including 100 meter race, 200 meter, 400 meter, 800 meter, 1500 meter, 5000 meter, 110 meter hurdles, 200 meter relay race, long jump, triple jump, high jump, discus throw, etc.

The organizing committee has completed all necessary arrangements to hold the event in a befitting manner, spokesman of the athletics association

New Zealand coach 'proud' of his inexperienced side's performance against Pakistan

A day after Pakistan levelled the five-match T20I series against New Zealand by securing a nine-run victory against the visitors, Black Caps' coach Gary Stead said that he is "proud" of his side's performance against the hosts.

"I'm very proud of the way our team played," Stead said while talking to reporters in Lahore.

His remarks come after Pakistan defeated New Zealand in the fifth T20I match to record their second win of the series whose first match was called off due to rain.

Despite the Men in Green trashing the Black Caps in the second T20I, the Kiwis made a strong comeback to clinch victory in the third and fourth matches.

1st Zainab Ali Memorial Ball Boys & Wheelchair Tennis Ranking Tournament from 1st May

PPA

KARACHI: Karachi Tennis Association will organize 1st Zainab Ali Memorial Ball boys & wheelchair Tennis Ranking Tournament on 1st May at KPT Sports Complex.

Parents of Marhoom young Tennis Star Zainab Ali who lost her life during an international Juniors Tennis Tour-



nament at Islamabad are financing this day long event for under prevelaged Tennis players of city.

Events are

1. Juniors Under 17 Singles (Exclusively for Ball Boys and sons of coaches).
2. Wheelchairs tennis mens and Ladies Singles.
3. All wheelchair players shall be entitled to Convoyance Allowance as

per KTA rules.

Ishrat Zehra (Associate Secretary KTA) is the coordinator of this event.

Interested Ball Boys and wheelchair Tennis players can send their entries to Coordinator at WhatsApp number +92 332 5599928.

Till 30th April.

Sarwar Hussain is the organizing secretary.

PCB appoints Kirsten and Gillespie as head coaches

Sports Desk

LAHOE: Pakistan Cricket Board has appointed Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten as the national men's cricket team's head coaches.

Kirsten will be the white ball head coach, while Gillespie will coach the red ball team.

Azhar Mahmood will be the assistant coach for all formats.

The South African Kirsten was a member of the South Africa side that won the ICC Knock-Out Trophy 1998 (now known as ICC Champions Trophy); played in three ICC Men's Cricket World Cups from 1996 to 2003

He coached India from 2008-2011 and helped them to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2011 title as well as No.1 position on the ICC Test Team Rankings

Kirsten also coached South Africa men's cricket team from 2011-2013 and inspired them to No.1 position on the ICC Test Team Rankings.

He also coached the Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru.



he is currently batting coach and mentor of Gujarat Titans, who won the 2022 Indian Premier League

Gillespie will make his international coaching debut with the Pakistan job.

The 49-year-old former Australia fast bowler played 71 Tests, 97 ODIs and 1 T20I from 1996-2006, taking a total of 402

wickets and accumulating 1,531 runs. His best bowling figures in an innings were seven for 37 against England at Headingley in July 1997, while his Test best score was against Bangladesh in Chattogram in April 2006 when he scored 201 not out.

He was part of the Australian team that won the World Cup in 2003.

In Kirsten, Pakistan have appointed an experienced coach who led India to the 50-over World Cup title in 2011, before the 56-year-old took over as South Africa coach.

He has also had stints in the Indian Premier League and is currently working as a mentor at Gujarat Titans. He will take up his new post with Pakistan after

the tournament ends.

"My primary objective is to ensure the team operates at its optimal level. Success on the field is contingent upon the team performing at its best," Kirsten said in a statement.

"Consistency and continuity are values I hold dear. While player form fluctuations are inevitable, maintaining a stable environment is crucial."

He will join the team during their England tour featuring four Twenty20 internationals next month and his first major assignment will be the T20 World Cup in the United States and West Indies in June.

Gillespie, who has coached domestic teams in India, England and Australia, will take over before the two-test Bangladesh series in August.

"I love test cricket and being able to focus on that is something I like very much," Gillespie said.

"I also love the fact that there's so much talent in Pakistan. I like to think that I can help in some way to grow and develop the players."

'Man of Action'

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Minister for Finance H.E. Mohammad Al Jadaan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of a Special Meeting of the World Economic Forum on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Saudi leadership declares PM Shehbaz 'Man of Action'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was declared the "Man of Action" by the Saudi leadership in recognition of his commitment to reviving Pakistan's economy through massive reforms and foreign investment. This acknowledgment came during his busy day in Riyadh, where he met different leaders and addressed a special meeting of the World Economic Forum. The remarks were made during separate meetings of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid Al-Falih, Minister for Finance Mohammad Al Jadaan, and Minister for Industry Bandar bin Ibrahim Alkhourayef.

During his meeting with the prime minister on the margins of the Forum, Saudi Minister for Investment

Khalid Al-Falih called him a "Man of Action," recognizing his performance and speed of work, along with his commitment to contributing to Pakistan's development and progress. This is the second time Shehbaz Sharif has earned such a distinction from foreign leadership as earlier, he was given the title of "Shehbaz Speed" by a Chinese leader to acknowledge his swift execution of development projects while serving as Punjab chief minister. "We are all aware of your performance and speed of work," the Saudi minister said, adding that the prime minister was advancing the mission of progress in Pakistan, with their full support. "Your mission is our mission," he remarked. Saudi minister for finance said that a delegation of Saudi investors would soon visit Pakistan. Pakistan was a priority for their investment and Saudi Arabia would

continue to fully cooperate in the fields of agriculture, information technology and energy.

The Saudi minister said he was in contact with the Saudi private companies regarding investment in Pakistan and the representatives of these companies would soon visit Pakistan. Talking to the Saudi ministers, the prime minister thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz for supporting Pakistan in a difficult time. He said during the previous tenure of his government, the economic conditions of Pakistan improved due to the support and assistance of Saudi Arabia. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Shehbaz addressed a session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) regarding global health and terming the glob-

al inequity in the health sector as 'the first and foremost problem' called upon bridging the widening gap between the Global South and the Global North. He said that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed the existing gaps largely between the Global North and Global South in terms of provision of health facilities and distribution of vaccines.

He told the gathering that despite no contribution to the emissions, Pakistan witnessed the worst climate change-triggered floods in 2022 which hugely devastated the infrastructure and buildings and had to spend billions of rupees to rehabilitate the affected people. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that for the rehabilitation efforts, they sought costly loans. "Can a developing country like Pakistan afford it?" he questioned and observed that for the provision of health

facilities, a developing country like Pakistan required resources. Both sides also discussed Pakistan entering into another IMF program to ensure that the gains made in the past year were consolidated and its economic growth trajectory remained positive. The prime minister, in a meeting with the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed his desire to work closely with him to transform bilateral ties into a mutually beneficial economic partnership that would serve the best interests of the peoples of both countries. Pakistan and Kuwait had signed a number of MoUs and agreements to deepen cooperation in trade and investment in November 2023. The prime minister assured the Kuwaiti leadership that these MoUs and agreements would be implemented in an efficient and timely manner.

Two-day 'Tashkent International Investment Forum' to start on May 2

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The third two-day, "Tashkent International Investment Forum" (TIIF) will be held on May 2-3, this year in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

The forum is organized at the initiative of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who will participate in the event. Two-day 'Tashkent International Investment Forum' to start on May 2

Meanwhile, 30 businessmen and investors from different sectors from Pakistan will participate in the third Tashkent International Investment Forum, in which mutual economic and investment meetings will be held between the two countries, said a release issued here.

More than 2500 investor's, delegates from different countries and various businessmen will participate in the 'Tashkent International Investment Forum, who will discuss the promotion of investment and regional business.

The TIIF aimed at attracting foreign companies, investors and development

partners to expand their activities as well as implement new projects and programs.

TIIF will serve as a unique platform of regional importance to promote business contacts with emphasis to such areas as digital transformation, transport connectivity, infrastructure development and green growth.

The Tashkent International Investment Forum will be the region's largest international platform for discussing strategies to enhance Central Asia's role in the international investment market.

This event will create a new international platform for Central Asia, which will attract leaders of major investment, financial and economic organizations and companies interested in finding new growth points in the dynamically developing market of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile addressing the business community in Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) here, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Oybek Arif Usmanov said the "Tashkent International Investment Forum"



to be held on May 2 under the patronage of President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The ambassador highlighting the importance of "Tashkent International Investment Forum" said that in this forum, foreign investors and businessmen will gather in Tashkent, to discuss bilateral and multilateral investment and business opportunities.

He said that many agreements regarding investment and businesses will be signed during the forum, which will not only promote global investment but also businesses in the region.

Oybek Arif Usmanov said that major

investment institutions and investors of the world will participate in the 'Tashkent International Investment Forum' which would provide a huge opportunity for multilateral cooperation to the partners.

He said, it would be great opportunity for FPCCI to participate in this international forum and become a part of the international investment.

The Uzbek envoy said that there will be G2B and B2B meetings in the Tashkent Investment Forum.

"We need to start the Afghanistan-Pakistan corridor for smooth trade and economic activities," he said.

He said that direct flights will be started from Islamabad and Lahore soon and we are committed to resolving visa issues as well to provide facility to the local business community.

Meanwhile, President FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Tashkent International Investment Forum is a pivotal forum for global investment, which has great opportunities for Pakistan's businessman in various sector, in which the participation of Pakistani businessmen is extremely significant.

Deputy PM, SG DCO discuss ways to bridge digital divide

RIYADH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Sunday met Secretary General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Deemah Al Yahya in Riyadh and discussed matters of mutual interest. They discussed multi-stakeholder cooperation to bridge the digital divide and seek avenues of cooperation in promoting financial inclusion through digital economy, particularly for women and young people.

Deputy PM reiterated Pakistan's



commitment to DCO's mission of enabling digital prosperity for all. Pakistan will host the inaugural DCO-WEF Digital FDI Forum later this year.

Minister links progress to education

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Sunday that Islam underlines the importance of education and cleanliness and no nation could excel without acquiring education.

Addressing a convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University held at Idara-i-Nazaria-i-Pakistan here, he said he was honoured to attend the ceremony and congratulated the students for completing their degrees. He said, "The credit goes to teachers, parents and Allama Iqbal Open University for producing such talented students."

Azam Nazeer Tarar said being Pakistani it was a matter of pride for all of us that Allama Iqbal Open University had been established in 1974 as a first distance learning



university in the region.

"Education is a personality building instrument and it also refines a person. An educated person or an educated mother contributes a lot to society besides helping rise standards," he added.

Azam said that country was full of potential and Pakistanis were proving their mettle in various fields all over the world. "It is a high time to make collective efforts to steer the country out of existing challenges," he maintained.

Private Hajj bookings through registered companies only: Ashrafi

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman and Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) Patron-in-Chief Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday emphasized the pilgrims regarding private Hajj bookings through companies registered with the governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia reinforcing the directive from Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

Addressing a press conference along with other HOAP representatives, including Saeed Ahmed Malik, Chaudhry Ehsanullah, Malik Abdul Khaliq, Chaudhry Muhammad Adil, Khalid Mahmood Bhatti, Pir Shafat Ahmed Boudla, Shahid Manzoor, and Zeeshan Qamar, he informed that private Hajj bookings were still open, with Hajj operation set to commence on May 9, and training sessions starting from May 5.

Additionally, he announced that,



in accordance with the instructions of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman and with the efforts of Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, this year's Road to Makkah program would include pilgrims from Karachi, benefiting 24,000 private pilgrims and ensuring a smooth process without any complaints.

He praised Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for implementing corruption-free measures, acknowledging the efforts of Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain, and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah besides governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Railways CEO orders inquiry into tragic Mardan incident

Bureau report

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways Chief Executive Officer Aamir Ali Baloch has ordered a thorough inquiry into the tragic incident in Mardan where two policemen were martyred by encroachers.

According to the PR spokesperson on Sunday, the CEO expressed solidarity with the Railway Police and vowed to ensure justice for the fallen officers. The incident occurred during an anti-encroachment operation near Mardan railway station, resulting in the martyrdom of Constable Muhammad Waqas and Constable

Umar Khan.

Despite the loss, the Railways authorities remained resolute in their efforts to rid railway lands of illegal occupants. The Railway Police have already apprehended two attackers Munsif and Jamshaid and registered a case against them.

The Railway spokesperson emphasised that the anti-encroachment drive will persist until the railway network is freed from the clutches of the mafia.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Railways extended condolences to the families of the martyred constables and pledged full legal support to them.

Three killed, 9 injured in Shangla torrential rains

Correspondent

SHANGLA: Three people including a woman were reportedly killed and nine other injured during the torrential rains in Shangla. More than 300 residential houses were destroyed and hundreds were affected due to rain storm.

The link roads leading to various upper areas of Shangla were severely affected after the landslide, which C&W and TMA officials are busy clearing, most of which have



been cleared. During the torrential rains, the boundaries of three government schools collapsed while more

than 50 water supply schemes were flooded.

Due to the lack of PDMA media coordination system in Shangla, journalists are facing serious difficulties in gathering information. Cheques have been given to the people who were killed and injured during the stormy rains on the instructions of the provincial government.

The peoples whose houses have been damaged are also waiting for the help of the government to rehabilitate their houses. This is a big question that needs to be addressed.

Most of the constituencies of Shangla are insisting that the funds received for the rehabilitation projects in Shangla should be spent only on the projects that have been affected and not on political grounds.

The people of the areas criticizes the political pundits who utilized the funds on their own rather to rehabilitate the projects initiated for the public interest.

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PPA

RAWALPINDI: The gems and jewellery sector can play a vital role in enhancing exports of the country, contributing immensely in earning of foreign exchange and providing employment to the youth.

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq while speaking to the participants of the International Workshop for Technical Expert Service Program on Gems and Jewellery at Chamber House, said that there are many opportunities in the nonconventional sectors

like Gemstones and Jewellery. He remarked that "Our industry has huge potential for value addition and profitability but due to lack of interest this industry is far below our regional competitors, who are engaged in the mining, cutting/polishing and trading of gemstones."

He said there was a need to focus on non-conventional sectors to increase exports.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq said that export targets can be met by promoting non-traditional sectors, there is a need to review the Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF) 2020-25.