



## Jammu Kashmir PM says Punjab, Frontier Constabulary' deployment for 'foolproof security'

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the main purpose behind the deployment of Punjab and Frontier Constabulary was to provide foolproof security to foreign engineers working on different hydro-power projects in Azad Kashmir. (Details on Page 2)



## Shaza says steps being taken to promote entrepreneurship, facilitate youth

Foreign citizens residing illegally in Pakistan now have only 0 days to leave the country or face deportation. Foreigners living illegally must leave Pakistan by October 31 or law enforcement agencies will ensure their arrest and deportation. In the recent meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Action Plan, it had been decided to take strict action against the illegal immigrants living in Pakistan and the trade and properties of illegal immigrants

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Investment Forum 2024

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Federal Ministers, Saudi Assistant Minister, Ambassadors and Pak-Saudi business dignitaries standing while hearing National anthem of both countries on Saudi-Arabia Pakistan Investment Forum 2024 on Monday.



Photo: PID

# Saudi Arabia considers Pakistan 'high priority' economic opportunity

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia Deputy Investment Minister Ibrahim Almubarak addresses the Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Investment Conference in Islamabad on May 06, 2024. Screenshot via Aaj News

Saudi government and companies consider Pakistan a "high priority" economic, investment and business opportunity, Ibrahim Almubarak, the kingdom's Deputy Investment Minister, said on Monday.

The Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Investment Conference began

on Monday in Islamabad as the host country aims for massive investment from the kingdom in different sectors to boost the economy.

While addressing the two-day moot, he said that his country "believes in the economic potential of Pakistan" including its demography, location and natural resources.

"Pakistan is a major strategic partner for Saudi Arabia," he said, "we want to see Pakistan as one of our leading international partners."

The Saudi minister was quoted by Radio Pakistan as saying

that "the gathering provides an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the great opportunity available for investment in Pakistan."

He was hopeful that the public and private sectors of both countries could take their partnership to the next level.

Saudi Arabia is home to about two million Pakistanis who have contributed significantly to the Kingdom's Vision 2030, Almubarak added.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed the government's commitment to facilitating the private sector to

take the country towards export-led growth.

He said the government was focusing on bringing foreign direct investment to uplift various sectors.

While giving an overview of the country's economic situation, the finance minister said it was on a positive trajectory. "The agriculture GDP is growing at five per cent on the back of bumper crops including that of sugarcane, rice, and wheat."

He was confident that the country's current account deficit would be less than a billion dollar during this fiscal year.

"Our foreign exchange reserves have risen to \$9 billion," he said and added that the local currency was stable over the last 10 months.

The finance minister said: "Pakistan is seeking a larger and longer program with the IMF for permanence in the macro-economic stability and structural reforms." He shared that the IMF mission was expected in Pakistan in the next seven to 10 days to discuss the contours of the new programme.

"The government will also accelerate the privatisation process."

## Pakistan highly values its multifaceted ties with Italy: PM



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan deeply valued its multifaceted relations with Italy spanning over many decades, which had always been marked by goodwill and trust. The prime minister expressed the views during a meeting with Ambassador of Italy Marilina Armellini who paid a courtesy call on him at the Prime Minister's House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Pakistan highly values its multifaceted ties with Italy: PM The prime minister said that the two sides also shared similar views on a number of important regional and global issues. Expressing satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Italy bilateral relations, the prime minister urged the two sides to enhance cooperation in the fields of education, trade and investment, legal migration, as well as cultural exchanges. Thanking

the Italian leadership for the congratulatory message that he received on his re-election, the prime minister conveyed his sincere commitment to work closely with Italy to further cement bilateral ties in the days ahead. Emphasizing the importance of high-level exchanges, the prime minister extended a cordial invitation to Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni to undertake an official visit to Pakistan. He conveyed his appreciation for Prime Minister Meloni's policies at home and abroad that had made Italy an important member of the EU. He thanked Italy for hosting a large population of Pakistani diaspora who were acting as a bridge between both countries while also contributing to their economic growth. The ambassador thanked the prime minister for receiving her and assured him that Italy was keen to further enhance its ties with Pakistan. She said she would strive to promote stronger relations between the two countries.

## Bilawal forms committee to engage with govt over privatisation issues

Bureau Report



KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has constituted a three-member committee to engage with the government over privatisation issues.

"The members of the committee included Sherry Rehman, Syed Naveed Qamar and Saleem Mandivilla," said a notification issued by the chairman's Secretariat.

## Faizabad sit-in commission report does not attend terms of references: SC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The report submitted by an inquiry commission formed to investigate the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan's (TLP) 2017 Faizabad sit-in does not attend to the terms of references, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

"In our opinion, the report does not attend to the said terms of reference. Moreover, the commission has ventured into areas which were not part of its TORs," Chief Justice Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa said while dictating the order of the hearing.

A three-member Supreme Court bench took up a set of review petitions filed against the SC's 2019 judgement in the Faizabad sit-in case.

The bench headed by Justice Isa,

and also including Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Awan presided over the hearing, which was broadcast live on the Supreme Court website and YouTube channel.

The report was formed by a three-member commission comprising IGP (ret'd) Tahir Alam Khan, Additional Secretary Khushal Khan, and IGP (ret'd) Dr Syed Akhtar Ali Shah. It submitted a report on March 06, 2024, comprising 140 pages.

"We also note that all were not treated similarly and statements of some were recorded or note others sent questioners. Surprisingly, no member of TLP was called for and statements recorded," the order said.

It added that the commission "somehow assumed and did so

incorrectly" that the right to protest or travelling to Islamabad to protest was prohibited by the Constitution even though, the judgement had stated the opposite.

"The commission also did not consider many of the aspects of the judgement and order subsequently passed by this court. The judgement had noted that the right to assemble and protest, provided it is peaceful and complies with the law imposing reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order cannot be proscribed."

The apex court also noted that it was disappointing to note the "element of provincialism" which has crept into the report and the castigating of those at the political helm of the affairs at the relevant

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## It's appropriate if larger bench has issued interim order: Law Minister

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar Monday said that it would have been appropriate if the larger bench of the Supreme Court had issued an interim order. Under the Supreme Court Practice and Procedures Act, a five-member larger bench would have been appropriate to hear the appeal as it was a matter of interpretation of Articles 51 and 106 of the Constitution, the minister said in a statement issued by the SC order of suspending the Peshawar High Court's verdict about

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## Peace vital for sustainable development: Ahsan Iqbal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday said peace was the basic fundamental for achieving sustainable economic growth and social prosperity in the country. It was the duty of every individual, especially the youth to fight against miscreants who spread intolerance and disinformation in the society, he

said while addressing 'Peace, Education and Development Conference', organized by the University of Narawal.

The minister said that without peace there would be no sustainable progress and development, adding that the foundation basis of Islam was 'peace and peace' only. He said that the biggest challenge faced by the country was disinformation, adding that in the

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## PTI announces country-wide protest on May 9

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced a nationwide protest on May 9 after a key huddle by party members.

Addressing the parliamentary party meeting at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad, PTI General Secretary Omar Ayub said that the party will hold a peaceful

and full-fledged protest across Pakistan on May 9.

The parliamentary party meeting was attended by members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, senators, and party leaders from across the country.

Opposition Leader Omar Ayub said in his address to the meeting that after a long time, the PTI party meeting is being held here again. He said that the party leaders and work-

ers have endured a lot to reach this point and that their workers and leaders have been put behind bars.

Ayub said that PTI founder Imran Khan had said that they would not lose heart until the last ball. He added that in a meeting with Khan, he had given a message to his brave workers and praised their courage and courage, saying that they should continue to stand firm.

## Private sectors of both countries should work together: Malik



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Minister Musadik Masood Malik emphasised that the private sector of both Paki-

stan and Saudi Arabia should work together to move towards diversification of the economy and value addition.

"Our history, our relationship, our brotherhood goes back 1,400 years and today we are here to celebrate our brotherhood," Malik, who is also the focal person for Saudi-Pak bilateral collaboration, said while addressing the participants of the conference.

He emphasised that collaboration between the two countries in various sectors including mines and minerals, tourism and agriculture.



# Jammu Kashmir PM says Punjab, Frontier Constabulary' deployment for 'foolproof security'

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the main purpose behind the deployment of Punjab and Frontier Constabulary was to provide foolproof security to foreign engineers working on different hydropower projects in Azad Kashmir. Speaking to the media representatives here today Prime Minister Haq said that a strong, stable and Roshan Pakistan was the greatest eyesore for India.

"India does not want the benefits of cheap electricity generated from the AJK to reach the people of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan", he said. He said that when it comes to law and order situation in the region the AJK police was fully capable to handle it on its own and there was no need to drag the Punjab or FC into it. "Azad Kashmir Police is sufficient to maintain law and order under any circumstances", he added. "Holding peaceful protest is indeed a democratic and fundamental right of every citizen but the government cannot



allow anyone to take the law into his or her hands under its guise", the PM said, adding that maintaining law and order in the state was the government's responsibility. "Who is responsible if any external agent intrudes into the protest of the Public Action Committee

and causes damage?", he asked. "It is the government's duty to protect the life and property of ordinary citizens including the protesters", the PM said. The government, he said, cannot compromise on the protection of life, honor and dignity of the citizens of the state. The PM said that the government wants to resolve all issues through negotiations there by engaging with representatives of the Action Committee.

Referring to the Action Committee leader Shaukat Nawaz Mir's statement, he said that Mr. Mir had admitted that ninety-nine percent of the issues between the government and Committee have been settled. The Prime Minister Haq reiterated that his government wanted to find a permanent solution to the problems being faced by the people of Azad Kashmir. "We can use our hydel potential to generate 300 to 400 MW electricity and provide relief to the public", he said, adding that rule of law and justice were key to real development.

The Prime Minister, while stressing the need for responsible journalism, said that the journalist fraternity must strictly adhere to the principles of journalism to counter the spread of disinformation. Irresponsible reporting should end. He said that half truth is even more dangerous than a lie.

## Press Conference

ISLAMABAD: Leader of Opposition in Senate Syed Shibli Faraz talking to media persons at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# Mothers and Children Need the Best Food and a Healthy Environment: Farah Mukhtar

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Patron-in-chief of Women's Chamber of Commerce Multan Mrs Farrukh Mukhtar said. Fadia Kashif was awarded the Medal Of Imtiaz Award for her outstanding social services, Mrs Farah Mukhtar Further said which we pay tribute to her that for the formation of a healthy society, mothers and children need the best food and a healthy environment. for which we



express our gratitude to him She spoke during the Mother's Day ceremony which was presided over by President Mahnaz Amir Sheikh, while the country's leading actress Bushra Ansari performed her art and on this occasion Bushra Ansari said that women should be made housewives. In addition to work, attention should be paid to sightseeing and the husband in this regard Gentlemen must pay attention, entertainment is essential in this atmosphere of suffocation, Fatima Fazl, Farrukh Faisal, Fadia

Kashif, Qulza Mumtaz, Masooma Sabatin, Naseem Akhtar, Sadia Ali, Samina Waqar, Marsa Batool, Tahar Najam Secretary General Saeed Agha were present at the event. A large number of women participated including Mrs Farrukh Mukhtar added that increasing Due to inflation and economic depression, the middle class is facing serious problems and they are not getting the healthy environment that should be given to them.

# Kashmir minister to address OIC summit on human rights in occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Bureau Report

BENJUL\_GAMBIA/MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Minister Small Industries Trade and Travel Authority Professor Taqdees Geelani's speech at the 15th Islamic Summit Conference of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan Ishaq Dar and ministers of OIC member countries participated in this conference, which was held in Benjul, the capital of the Republic of Gambia. Professor Taqdees Geelani is the first Kashmiri woman to address the OIC conference. The theme of the summit is 'Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for

Sustainable Development'. Addressing the concluding session of the conference, Prof. Taqdees Geelani has said that India's expansionist actions have left the region in a difficult situation. India is committing worst violations of human rights in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In response to the demand for the right to self-determination, India is subjecting the citizens of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to the worst atrocities. Human and democratic rights are missing. She said that in order to systematically crush the basic rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people, India is following a Muslim-killing policy in the state. Incidents like enforced disappearances, extrajudicial kill-

ings are making life difficult for Kashmiris on a daily basis in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Professor Taqdees Geelani said that the government of India has divided the Kashmiris on the basis of race and caste. India has tried to benefit the Hindus by changing electoral constituencies. By empowering the Lieutenant Governor to appoint three Hindu MLAs in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian government has laid the foundation for future planned electoral rigging on religious grounds. He said that India has restricted the Hurriyat leadership of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019. The religious and democratic freedom of Kashmiris has been destroyed.

Women's rights are denied. Addressing the fortnightly Islamic Summit of the Islamic Summit on the situation of Occupied Kashmir and Palestine, the Government Minister said that after the termination of the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, India has heated up the market of cruelty in the occupied territory she added. Human rights have disappeared. India has imposed a complete ban on gatherings on important religious occasions like Friday prayers, Eid-ul-Fitr and Lailat-ul-Qadr at the historic Jama Masjid in Srinagar. Kashmiri leaders Yasin Malik, Shabir Shah, Musrat Alam Bhat, Asia. Andrabi and thousands of other leaders and workers have been imprisoned in baseless cases.

## Health Minister Punjab visits the Hospitals of Multan and reviewed the ongoing development projects in detail

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Provincial Health Minister Punjab Khawaja Salman Rafique visited the hospitals of Multan and reviewed the ongoing development projects in detail and directed them to complete the development works on time. Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique inspected various departments of Nishtar Hospital 2. Went to the wards and examined the treatment of patients and the provision of medical facilities. The patients also inquired about the medical facilities. The patients expressed their satisfaction on the provision of medical facilities.



On this occasion, Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique said that Nishtar 2 Hospital is an excellent treatment center for the people of South Punjab and Other Provinces.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr Mahnaz Khakwani, MS Nishtar 2 Hospital Dr. Saima Batool Soomro, Additional MS Dr. Abdul Rehman were also present. Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique Inspected the cardiology wards and departments and reviewed the ongoing development works and treated the patients. He said on this occasion that the Institute of Cardiology is the best treatment center for the people of this region.

Secretary Specialized Healthcare South Punjab Department Afzal Nasir, MS Institute of Cardiology Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, Director Technical Dr. Farkhan and SE Building Dr. Qazi Asif Nawaz were also present on this occasion.

Provincial Health Minister Punjab also took a detailed briefing regarding the construction works of Nishtar Hospital and Institute of Child Health. Secretary Specialized Healthcare Department Afzal Nasir, Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani, M. Nishtar Hospital Dr. Kazim Hussain, MS Institute of Child Dr. Kamran Asif, and SE Building Dr. Qazi Asif Nawaz were also present on this occasion.

## Pakistani Students Club continues to provide services to students who have gone abroad

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Multan branch of the Students Club For Abroad Study was inaugurated. UK-based Director Dr. Amar Sohail and Operations Manager Miss Samira Ali inaugurated Students Club Multan. Operations Manager Hijab Fatima, Branch Manager Tahrim Saif,



Marketing Manager Mehwish Younis and Student Counselors also participated in this event. A cake was also cut in the ceremony. Director Dr. Ammar Sohail has said in his speech that the services of the Students Club are continuing successfully for the students who have gone abroad for higher education. In which all the officials and the teams of different departments have worked very diligently and enthusiastically. This is the reason that thousands of students in Europe, Australia, Canada and China including other countries through the dedication and struggle of the students club during one year. Engaged in pursuit of higher education. Hijab, Operation Manager of Students Club Fatimah said that the achievements achieved during the last year are exemplary and the series of services will continue to be good. Will serve the country and nation well.

## Faisalabad traffic police cracks down on underage drivers: CTO

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Under the direction of City Police Officer, DIG Kamran Adil, the city traffic police is cracking down on underage drivers. In the last four days, legal action was taken against 27 hundred and 70 underage drivers. Underage driving is not only a crime under the law but also leads to accidents. These views were expressed by Chief Traffic Officer Maqsood Ahmed Lone while reviewing the action.



On this occasion, he further informed that action was taken against more than 100 vehicles for violating the urban limits on behalf of heavy traffic. 48 cases were also registered in this regard. The CTO appealed to the citizens not to let their young children drive vehicles and respect the traffic rules.

## Lyallpur Museum after inauguration of additional gallery

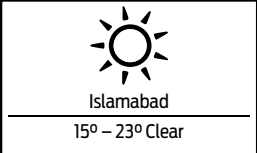
Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A sub-committee meeting of Lyallpur Museum was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Faisalabad Silwat Saeed. Member Board of Governors/Chairperson Sub-Committee Nighat Shah was also present. Curator Museum Khurshid Jilani informed about the agenda items. Assign duties accordingly and their progress should be reviewed continuously. He said to make adequate arrangement of benches for the visitors to sit on the study tour of the museum. Improve the condition of the washrooms while taking steps to establish additional washrooms. In this regard, the philanthropists should be contacted. The Commissioner said that an additional gallery was established in the Lyallpur Museum.



The Indian government is adopting enforced disappearances, unilateral undemocratic and inhuman behavior with the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The use of pellet guns, acts on linguistic basis, anarchist and barbaric measures have become the norm of the Indian government.





**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:41 am
Zohr	12:04 pm
Asr	4:55 pm
Maghrib	6:55 pm
Isha	8:29 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
DHO	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

**TCL Joins Hands With Ghurki Hospital To Brighten The Childrens Ward With Gifts**

PPA

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No.1 LED TV brand, in a heartwarming gesture of compassion, is thrilled to announce its partnership with Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital. In a heartfelt display of its unwavering dedication to community enrichment, TCL Pakistan has donated two LED TVs to the Children's Ward at Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital, sparking joy amongst the young patients.

The LED TVs will not only serve as a source of entertainment but also as a tool for educational programs, helping to create a more comfortable and positive experience for young patients and their families.

"We are delighted to partner with Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital in this meaningful initiative," said Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing, TCL Middle East and Africa.

"At TCL, we believe in giving back to the communities where we operate. By providing these LED TVs to the Children's Ward, we hope to bring joy and comfort to the young patients during their time at the hospital."

The management at Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital expressed their gratitude for TCL's generous donation, highlighting the positive impact it will have on the children under their care. This gesture reaffirms TCL's commitment to making a difference in society and reflects its core values of empathy and compassion.

# Minister of State for IT urges Saudi tech companies to explore opportunities in Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja met with the visiting delegation of Saudi IT companies here on Monday.

While talking to Saudi tech companies delegation, the Minister of State for IT commended the initiative aimed at nurturing a cooperative and welcoming environment for Saudi businesses entering the Pakistani market.

"We are dedicated to offering a stable and supportive framework. We encourage all Saudi companies to explore opportunities for partnerships and joint ventures (JVs)," stated Shaza Fatima.

State Minister for IT Shaza Fatima urged Saudi delegation to capitalize on



the synergies between Pakistani technical proficiency and the access to the Saudi market, accompanied by the potential for valuable investments.

Ms. Tania Aidirus, Convener Digital

Pakistan Committee, Additional Secretary MoITT, Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani and Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim were also present in the meeting.

## Mureed O Murshad

ISLAMABAD: Children listening Radio during a Art Exhibition titled "Mureed o Murshad" by Muhammad Sajjad Akram at Pakistan National Council of the Arts in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Renowned Paediatrics Salman Ali inaugurates new branch of Excel Lab

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Paediatrics Major General (Retd) Prof. Dr. Salman Ali (Hilal Imtiaz Military) said that creating medical reports with the best and latest medical research is the guarantee of success of any laboratory. Excel Lab is considered as one of the best laboratories in Pakistan. I pray for their success.

He said this on the occasion of the inauguration of the new branch of Excel Lab located on Rawalpindi Mall Road. On this occasion, Member Provincial Assembly and Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Rawalpindi City, Begum Tahseen Fawad, CEO Excel Lab Dr. Naseer Ahmed, Khalid Mirza, Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami and Vice President Chaklala Cantt, Rizwan Ahmed Head of Al Khidmat Foundation,



Dr Saima Mehreen Registrar Surgery Department Cantonment Hospital, Malik Haq Nawaz CEO Moon Galaxy, Miss Fareeda Nisar Interior Designer, Sajid OD Cell, National Cell Manager Nasir and others were present with him. Azfar Abbasi performed the hosting duties. On the occasion of the inauguration, a collective prayer was offered for the development and success of the Excel Lab. During this, a detailed briefing was also presented to the participants on the facilities provided in the laboratory.

Renowned Paediatrics Major General (Retd) Prof. Dr. Salman Ali (Hilal Imtiaz Military) said that i congratulates the CEO Dr. Naseer Ahmed and all the staff on the inauguration of the new branch of Excel Lab. Reliable laboratories are very important in any country. Public service should be the first priority. Any patient's physician relies on the laboratory report after which formal treatment begins.

Member Provincial Assembly and Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Rawalpindi City Begum Tahseen Fawad said that relief to poor people is the first priority of Pakistan Muslim League-N. Excel Lab holds a respectable position across the country due to its quality. We hope that Excel Lab will be helpful for the poor people. I sincerely pray for your progress and success. Excel Lab CEO Dr. Naseer Ahmed said that Excel Lab was founded in 1991. Today I am proud of the journey I started 33 years ago. Excel Lab specializes in providing reports to the public after medical research with the help of expert staff. Due to the best quality, there are branches of Excel Lab in every major city of the country, which are providing their services to the people according to high quality. We have maintained the quality we created.

## HSY, Redefines Fashion Excellence Once Again with 30-Year Celebration



PNP

LAHORE: Esteemed fashion designer and cultural icon, Hassan Sheheryar Yasin, widely known as HSY, marked a significant milestone on Friday, April 26th, 2024, commemorating three decades of unparalleled contribution to the fashion industry. The grand celebration, held in Lahore, Pakistan, underscored HSY's steadfast dedication to innovation and sartorial distinction.

In recognition of his profound influence and eminence within the fashion fraternity, HSY extended invitations to an illustrious cadre of international fashion luminaries, each distinguished in their respective domains. Noteworthy attendees included Shoa Caan, Head of BURBERRY Middle East; Ayman Ahmed Fakousa, Co-founder of The Qode, LVMH; Daniel Lee, a revered Creative Director who has done shows with mega icons like Beyonce, Nicki Minaj and Mariah Carey; Sufeena Khan, Vice President at IAM Entertainment representing the likes of AP Dillon and Mariah Carey; Kunwal Safdar, Celebrity Chef and founder of Moreish by K; Enrique Hormingo, Founder of MONTROI; UAE Celebrity Nina Zandnia; Haseeb Ahmed Shah and Khaled Sharan, Co-Founders of Creative Clinic; and Adhrita Nowrin, entrepreneur & investor with expertise spanning DeepTech, Fintech, Startups, Investments, Fashion, and Real Estate. Their esteemed presence underscored HSY's pivotal role in elevating Pakistani fashion onto the global stage, solidifying its status as an epitome of creativity and refinement.

The event also featured prominent Pakistani luminaries, including Vaneza Ahmed, Sunita Marshall, Hasnain Lehri, Fouzia Aman, and Mehreen Saeed, who graced the runway alongside their international counterparts, culminating in an unforgettable spectacle of grace and sophistication.

## HomeNet Pakistan Women Workers Helpline Number Inaugurated

PNP

KARACHI: HomeNet Pakistan Women Workers Helpline No. 111-467-111 (042) was inaugurated by the Vice Chairperson of Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA) Ms. Jahan Ara Wattoo Sahib under the leadership of Ume Laila Azhar, Executive Director, HNP. Treating women factory workers, domestic workers and home-based workers with kindness is a moral and social responsibility of all of us. Access to justice and law, elimination of all forms of violence in the workplace is a fundamental right of women workers.

We are all obliged to raise our voice against violence and exploitation of home-based, factory and domestic workers at home, office or any public place. In case of any kind of violence and exploitation of human rights, Homenet Pakistan Women Workers Help. Contact the line number 042 (111-467-111). Homenet Pakistan strives for the protection of women workers.

## Industry-academia collaboration indispensable for development: Dr Khalid Maqbool

PPA

KARACHI: The collaboration between industries and academic institutions is indispensable under the emergent educational policy for developing human capital and industries of different sectors across the country, said Federal Minister for Science and Technology Dr Khaliq Maqbool Siddiqui.

Speaking as a chief guest at the 4th PEC International Deans Conference held at Muhammad Ali Jinnah University on Monday, Khalid Maqbool said that the government is constating a task force with the Pakistan Engineering Council to address the issues of engineers' fraternity and train the new engineers by latest technological trends in their fields.

We must empower our young generation with technological education and skills so that they can serve the institution of the country and abroad after acquiring in-demand skillsets, he remarked.

Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Engr Najeeb Haroon said the council is endeavouring to create opportunities for experienced and new engineers in various public and private sector projects.

The association is also working to establish relations with engineering universities to improve professional education in engineering.

Dr Zubair Shaikh, President of Muhammad Ali Jinnah University, said the PEC international conference is a testament to efforts to foster relations among local and international academia and engineering professionals, which will result in positive and sustainable outcomes in the future.

## Sajjad Hussain took charge of PAC Rawalpindi

PPA



RAWALPINDI: Sajjad Hussain, took charge of his post Director of Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi in response to the notification of Information & Culture Department. Earlier he was serving as Director Punjab Arts Council Bahawalpur. On reaching the office, Deputy Director Muhammad Shakur and Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman welcomed Director Sajjad Hussain. In the meeting, the determination to protect our civilization and cultural heritage was reiterated. The future plan of Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi was also discussed in the meeting. Director Sajjad Hussain said that it is my mission and responsibility to serve culture and literature. Arts and cultural events as a source of wholesome entertainment are the hallmark of any nation and region. Nations who forget their identity are doomed to destruction. Punjab is a land of beautiful cultural colors, the changing nights here share love. Rawalpindi Arts Council has been cultivating literature and culture for decades. I will devote all my energies to promote art and culture in Potohar.

## Barrister Naseem Bajwa's Book "Europe Ki Diary" rekindles passion for national building

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Monday organized the third edition of Renowned Columnist and Lawyer, Barrister Naseem Bajwa's book "Europe Ki Diary" based on his columns published in various newspapers here in the presence of renowned historians and members of the civil society and lawyers' fraternity.

In his opening remarks, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI eulogized the author's contributions to



Urdu journalism through his services at the BCC London Urdu Chapter and also as an educationist at the Atchison College.

The SDPI Executive Direc-

tor wished the author good luck for the fourth edition of his book and recommended the youth to read the book online especially the tributes paid to Parveen Rehman and

Asma Jehangir. He termed the book as a guiding document for generation building.

Barrister Naseem Bajwa, the author on the occasion shared his personal accounts, experiences and lessons learnt through out his lifetime from Pakistan Movement to shifting to a foreign country that motivated him to write articles for the betterment of the country and consequently writing a book out of them to propose recommendations for improvement in the system of the country. He extended special grat-

itude to SDPI and Dr Abid Suleri and others.

Dr Farooq Adil, renowned historian and author said the Book would serve as a resource loaded with subject matter for historians to explore undiscovered aspects hidden in various chapters of the book.

Muzaffar Mahmood Qureshi, former senior bureaucrat, said the books by Barrister Bajwa are a great source of understanding the politics of the country and the international level.

However, the author has unique and convincing writing style, he added.



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# ‘PTI’s Dilemma: Formulating the Narrative’

The PTI, despite its unique circumstances, is facing numerous dilemmas. Its incarcerated leader has emerged as one of Pakistan’s most popular and powerful figures, a testament to the overwhelming support the party received in the February 8, 2024 elections. This victory, however, sparked fear among undemocratic forces, both political and non-political, which allegedly stripped the party of its rightfully won seats, denying the party governments at the center and in the province of Punjab. Yet, this act only served to further empower PTI’s charismatic leader, solidifying his position in the hearts of the nation.

At this critical juncture, PTI needs absolute clarity in its narratives to capitalize on its political gains and to stop disillusionment of its supporters. However, PTI’s newly emerged leaders have been injecting divergent viewpoints lacking coherence on key issues raising many questions which need sensitive and delicate handling to steer the PTI ship out of troubled water.

The current narrative of PTI declares all politicians, especially those belonging to PML(N) and PPP as thieves who have looted the national wealth, kept it in foreign countries, and once they are out of power, they would flee abroad. They have willfully kept the country and people poor and uneducated. They consider ruling over Pakistan as their birthright, therefore PTI will not talk to these politicians on any matter of national importance.

The pros of this narrative are that PTI as a party stands against corruption and aims to hold accountable those who have

allegedly looted national wealth. Anti-establishment sentiments resonate with people who are disillusioned with traditional political parties and their perceived dynastic politics and corruption. It calls for change in the status quo and presents PTI as a party that represents a departure from traditional politics.

The cones are equally compelling. It is seen as a divisive rhetoric that is polarizing and may deepen divisions within Pakistani society, especially among supporters of other political parties who may feel unfairly targeted. By refusing to engage with other political parties, PTI may be limiting its ability to build consensus and work towards national development through political cooperation. The narrative focuses heavily on personal attacks and allegations against specific politicians, which may distract from addressing substantive policy issues.

Though choices with PTI leadership are very limited, it has to choose very carefully the right narrative aligned with the people’s inspiration and hopes, and move towards national reconciliation to fast track growth and development of the country.

Therefore, the PTI should engage all political parties in constructive and meaningful dialogue, with the goal of uniting political and democratic forces to regain their space in managing the national affairs, restore civilian supremacy and build firewalls against any outside interference whether political or non-political.

This can only be achieved, if the PTI agrees to enter into negotiations with all political parties, and sign a charter for “Civilian Supremacy”.

The key to ending PTI’s woes lies in the independence and empowerment of the judiciary from top to bottom. The six high court judges’ letter has provided PTI with a unique opportunity to liberate the judiciary from the shackles of the executive.

Once the judiciary will become free, most of the cases against PTI leaders will be quashed in no time. Therefore it should support this momentum and include judicial reforms in the Charter of Civilian Supremacy to shield the judiciary from all kinds of outside international development through political cooperation.

It should include parliamentary reforms to ensure that all bills, amendments and other business presented before the parliament are purely on merit and do not serve the vested interests. It includes reforms in the executive to ensure that all organs of the executive strictly follow the law of the land.

It should do away with the caretaker governments, and instead empower the Election Commission to conduct the election fairly, transparently and judicially.

It should ensure that elected representatives, who are accountable to the people, have the ultimate authority in decision-making.

Internally, PTI should articulate clear guidelines for its spokespersons on civil-

ian-military relations to prevent conflicts and crises that may arise from ambiguous or contested authority.

Moreover, PTI should be extremely careful while injecting its opinion on all past, current and emerging matters. Instead of discussing the merits and demerits of the government’s policies and initiatives, it should adopt a common narrative that since the current governments do not enjoy the mandate of the people therefore all its actions both positive and negative lack legitimacy, credibility and therefore are illegal, unconstitutional and unlawful.

Interestingly, the second tier leadership, on the average 30 years old, is a double-edged sword of sorts. Where they bring a youthful spirit in the party, they lack the political experience needed to navigate Pakistan’s complex political landscape. However, the coming back in action by former President Dr. Arif Alvi, Mr. Fawad Hussain and Mr. Shibli Faraz and other such experienced and seasoned politicians, will provide a much needed maturity and acumen needed to create enabling conditions for the signing of the Charter of Civilian Supremacy.

The political and civilian supremacy can be established only and only when the peoples mandate is respected in both letter and spirit, politicians start trusting the people more than the establishment and in no manners or ways accept any help from the establishment to gain power.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## University convocations in U. S. are flashpoints

After pro-Palestinian demonstrations disrupted convocation ceremonies at least two U. S. major universities, college administrators across the country were bracing for more protests as anger over the relentless Israeli attacks in Gaza spill into the start of graduation season, according to American media reports. Northeastern University and Ohio State University are two campuses where dozens of protesters have been arrested in recent days.

The ceremonies, after weeks of campus demonstrations that have prompted police sweeps and more than 2,300 arrests, offer pro-Palestinian students another high-profile opportunity to Israel’s war in Gaza and to renew calls on their universities to divest from Israel, according to The New York Times. On Saturday, dozens of students draped in flags, kaffiyeh and graduation caps disrupted a graduation ceremony at the University of Michigan, and dozens of graduates walked out of commencement at Indiana University in Bloomington. “Administrators are focusing on minimizing disruptions as they grapple with the students’ demands, and have been relying on existing security protocols to keep order on campuses,” the Times said. Some have indicated that they will add security features for graduation ceremonies, or set up designated areas for protests. On Sunday, Police removed a pro-Palestinian encampment from the University of Southern California’s campus for a second time. The university has been in turmoil for weeks following its decision not to allow its Muslim valedictorian to speak at graduation, citing security concerns. Hundreds of pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered at Kent State University in Ohio on Saturday, exactly 54 years after National Guard troops opened fire on students demonstrating against the Vietnam War, killing four of them. Dozens were arrested on Saturday at the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Virginia, after the schools asked police to force demonstrators from campus property. At Vassar College, Pro-Palestinian protesters dismantled their encampment after reaching an agreement with the institution that requires administrators to review a divestment proposal. Students at Brown and Northwestern, among other places, have struck similar deals with administrators. The University of Mississippi said it was investigating the conduct of at least one student after counter protesters directed racist taunts at pro-Palestinian protesters. Meanwhile, the father of a pro-Palestine American activist, who was mercilessly killed by the Israeli forces in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah in 2003, has praised a move by his late daughter’s college to agree to the academic demonstrators’ demands regarding divestment from Israel in support of Palestinians. Evergreen State College administrators in Olympia, Washington, and pro-Palestine student protesters reached an agreement on Thursday with the former vowing to publicly call for a ceasefire in Gaza and work toward divesting from “companies that profit from gross human rights violations and/or the occupation of Palestinian territories.” The move made the university the first across the United States to completely divest from Israel following widespread rallies by students and academics over the past couple of weeks in solidarity with Palestinians and in condemnation of Israel’s months-long genocidal war on Gaza. Evergreen State College is the alma mater of US activist Rachel Corrie, who lost his life in 2003 when an Israeli armored bulldozer crushed her as she tried to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian family’s home in Rafah.



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

## Stoking Hate for Political Advantage: Modi’s Tactics-II

Central to this endeavor was the Supreme Court’s controversial verdict in November 2019, which sanctioned the construction of a Ram temple while also mandating the allocation of an alternate site for the mosque’s reconstruction. While celebrated as a landmark decision by temple proponents, detractors voiced concerns about its implications for secularism and the integrity of the legal process, questioning the government’s influence over judicial proceedings. Additionally, the Modi government’s active participation in the foundation-laying ceremony of the Ram temple in August 2020 elicited criticism from opposition factions and secular activists, who perceived it as a departure from the principle of state neutrality in religious affairs. The government’s overt endorsement of the temple project compromised the secular fabric of Indian democracy and conveyed a troubling message about the prioritization of Hindu nationalist agendas over the rights of religious minorities.

Moreover, the financing of the Ram temple initiative through public donations and governmental funds has raised inquiries regarding resource allocation and national priorities in a country confronting pressing socio-economic issues. The substantial funds directed towards the project could arguably be allocated more effectively to address challenges such as poverty, healthcare, and education, which impact the lives

of millions of Indians irrespective of their religious beliefs. The controversy surrounding the Modi government’s Ram temple initiative intersects with broader debates concerning secularism, nationalism, and the rights of religious minorities in India. The elevation of Hindu religious symbols and narratives in public discourse and governmental initiatives has marginalized religious minorities and compromised the foundational principles of equality and pluralism enshrined in the Constitution.

India, often touted as the world’s largest democracy, carries a troubling legacy of human rights transgressions. Various segments of society, including minorities, particularly Muslims, journalists, political dissidents, women, and individuals from diverse backgrounds, suffer under the weight of government-sponsored oppression. The administration led by Prime Minister Modi has been particularly criticized for its heavy-handed tactics, including imposing restrictions on human rights organizations and the media to suppress dissent. Amnesty International’s 2024 Report sheds light on the egregious human rights violations perpetrated during Modi’s tenure. Actions such as the raids and closure of BBC offices in Delhi and Mumbai for producing critical documentaries in February 2023, and the passing of the “Digital Media Ethics Code” to quash anti-Modi content on social media in April 2023, underscore the government’s concerted efforts to

silence opposition voices and curb freedom of expression. Instances of targeted harassment and false accusations against journalists, exemplified by the mistreatment of Sabrina Siddiqui from The Wall Street Journal and the defamation of 46 journalists from News Click in 2023, further highlight the precarious state of press freedom in the country. Moreover, the plight of Indian Muslims, who faced violent persecution and discriminatory policies under Modi’s regime, with over 255 reported cases of violence and the imposition of restrictions on religious attire, serves as a grim reminder of the government’s failure to protect minority rights. The Modi administration’s enactment of controversial legislation, such as the amended Citizenship Amendment Act, which disenfranchised Muslims and triggered unrest, along with the brutal suppression of dissent in regions like Manipur and Delhi, reveals a pattern of authoritarian governance. In Kashmir, the government’s heavy-handed tactics, including the censorship of online platforms and the demolition of homes, further exacerbate tensions in the region. The sealing of Article 370 by the Supreme Court of India in December 2023, a move that has faced widespread condemnation, further underscores the erosion of democratic norms under the guise of national security. These egregious violations of human rights demonstrate that the Modi government’s claims to uphold democratic principles ring hollow. It is imperative for international bodies to hold such governments accountable for their actions and safeguard the rights of all individuals, irrespective of their beliefs or background.

To be continued

## Using Institutions as Political Weapons

The letter written by six judges of the Islamabad High Court to the Supreme Judicial Council alleging interference of the executive, including operatives of intelligence agencies, in judicial affairs has evoked heated debate.

Irked by the meddling the judges wrote that we are writing to seek guidance from the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) about the duty of a judge to report and respond to actions on the part of members of the executive, including other custodians. Those who seek to interfere with the discharge of his/her official functions as well as the duty to report any such actions that come to his/her attention concerning colleagues and/or members of the courts that the High Court supervises.

The fundamental principle of our political system that assures the fulfillment of fundamental rights employing judicial review of the executive orders is the independence of the judiciary. Therefore, many have confidence the interference must stop to protect the entire political system.

The nation awaits as to how the Pakistan Bar Council, Provincial Bar Councils, the Supreme Court Bar Association, and High Court Bar Associations are going to act as bulwark against the undue interference in the judiciary.

The letter should not be taken in isolation nor considered personal acts of the judges but in the broader perspective of fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. If we are to ensure the fundamental rights in the true sense, such brazen acts of interference must stop.

The higher judiciary cannot perform the role of being the guardian of the Constitution and democracy without being independent. That is why its independence is an essential ingredient of the jurisprudence evolved so far. The concept is also mentioned in the preamble to the Constitution of Pakistan through the proclamation that the independence of the judiciary “shall be

fully secured”.

A judge agrees to: “I will abide by the code of conduct issued by the Supreme Judicial Council; that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; and that, in all circumstances, I will do right to all manner of people, according to law, without fear or favor, affection or ill-will.”

Article 4 of the Constitution in combination with others further protects the rights of the individuals. It says that to enjoy the protection of law is the inalienable

right of every citizen, wherever he may be. Moreover, avoid actions detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation, or property of any person. It must be following the law. No person should do what the law prohibits and that which the law does not require him to do.

The fulfillment of the aforementioned rights is not possible by a mere mention in the Constitution. This rather requires an environment free from coercion and interference and a political setup providing an atmosphere to establish the independence of the judiciary.

Civil society, in particular, will have to realize that democratic institutions including the judiciary are made unstable by such acts. The Constitution must not become a weapon in the hands of its custodians. Without shared understandings and a community of trust and accommodation, civilian rule is not synonymous with democracy. Without these, the institutions, which ought to create checks and balances, become devices of control. Courts are no exceptions.

Political parties, organized citizens, and democratic norms must defend the Constitution. Without healthy rules, constitutional checks and balances cannot serve as the safety device of democracy we conceive them to be. Institutions must not become political weapons to tilt the playing field against rivals. This is also a check of each political party as to which side of the political field it stands.

Writer is senior analyst based at USA



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi



Analysis

Farooq Mirza



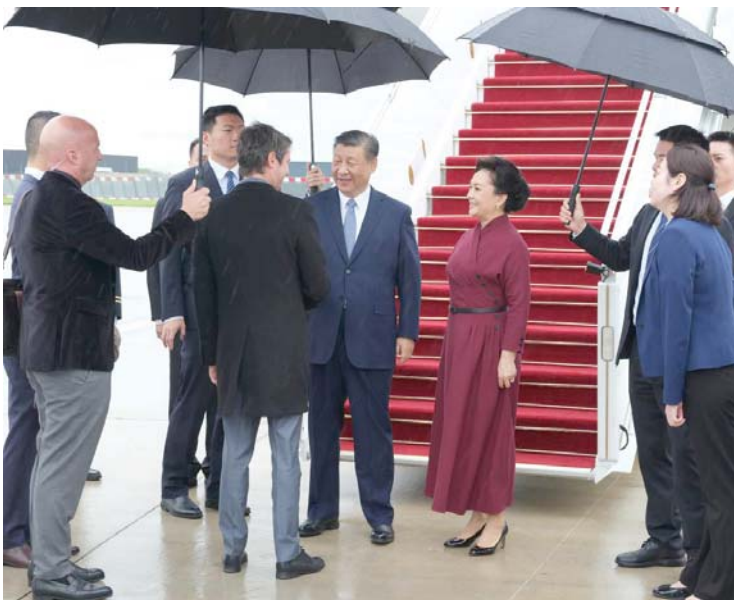
# French PM greets Xi with Chinese 'Nihao'

Xinhua

PARIS: As Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Paris on Sunday for a state visit to France, French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal greeted him at the airport with "Nihao," hello in Chinese.

Chinese and French national flags flutter in the wind at the airport as the French side rolled out red carpet for the Chinese leader. A team of high-level French government representatives headed by Attal were waiting for Xi's arrival. This diplomatic protocol arrangement shows that the French side attaches great importance to the visit.

It is Xi's third state visit to France, and his first trip to Europe in nearly five years. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of China-France diplomatic relations.



When Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, stepped out of the cabin, they waved to the welcoming crowds.

As Xi walked down the gangway, Attal stepped forward, and said "Nihao" to the Chinese leader.

Attal and Xi walked and chatted as he accompanied the Chinese leader to the limousine.

He told Xi that he once visited China when he was a lawmaker. "I studied Chinese for one year," he said.

"You speak very well, very standard. Welcome to China for a visit," Xi said with a smile.

The Chinese leader is also an enthusiast of French culture, who developed a keen interest in French history, philosophy, literature and art in his youth.

"France holds a special fascination for us Chinese," Xi said in a signed article published Sunday in French media Le Figaro.

# Operations Coordinator, ICRC Asia Pacific Region calls on Chairman PRCS

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The esteemed Mr. Yoann Davison, Operations Coordinator of ICRC Asia Pacific Region, engaged in a significant courtesy meeting with Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari at the PRCS National Headquarters. The primary objective of the meeting was to strengthen cooperation between PRCS and ICRC on various humanitarian programs and initiatives. Accompanying Mr. Davison were Mr. Nicolas Lambert, Head of ICRC Delegation in Pakistan and Mr. Wasif Jan, ICRC Movement Coordinator in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari provided a comprehensive overview of the various PRCS programs supported by ICRC, highlighting the Red Crescent's crucial role in providing assistance during natural disasters and emergencies. Chairman Laghari shared insights



into the 2022 monsoon flood response and the ongoing recovery efforts in affected areas, while also outlining PRCS's plans aimed at strengthening its humanitarian outreach.

Chairman Laghari emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration between PRCS and ICRC to advance ICRC-supported programs such as National Society Development, Emergency Prepared-

ness and Response, Restoring Family Links, First Aid, Media and Communication, as well as Risk Awareness and Safer Behavior initiatives.

Mr. Yoann Davison commended the exemplar-

ry services provided by the Red Crescent, acknowledging Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari's leadership in driving humanitarian initiatives forward. He reiterated ICRC's commitment to continued collaboration with PRCS, expressing readiness to further enhance programs for the benefit of humanity.

Mr. Nicolas Lambert said "Our partnership with the PRCS is a cornerstone of our mission in Pakistan. Together, we're stronger in our commitment to serve communities, providing vital aid and support in times of need."

In recognition of the long-standing partnership, Chairman Laghari presented a memento to Mr. Yoann Davison, Operations Coordinator of ICRC Asia Pacific Region, along with a souvenir symbolizing the spirit of humanitarian collaboration.

Mr. Yoann Davison concluded his visit by touring the PRCS library and leaving his impressions in the visitor's book.

# MYTM and AlHuda CIBE Partner to Drive Global Expansion of Islamic FinTech

PPA

DUBAI-UAE: In a momentous step for the future of Islamic FinTech, MYTM, a leading Islamic FinTech company, and AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE), a globally recognized service provider in Islamic finance, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today. The signing ceremony was graced by Dr. Sohail Zafar Cheema, Chairman of MYTM and former Minister of Commerce & Investment, and Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda CIBE, while Dr. Zain Farooq-CEO of MYTM Pakistan and Jawad Mahmood- CEO of MYTM KSA also present at this occasion.

This strategic partnership signifies a significant advancement in both organizations'



commitment to fostering innovation and accessibility within the Islamic finance landscape. Through this collaboration, AlHuda CIBE will leverage its extensive global network and expertise to spearhead the marketing and distribution of FINOVA; MYTM's innovative Islamic FinTech suite.

AlHuda CIBE, a beacon of excellence for 19 years, has

established itself as a cornerstone of Islamic finance. Renowned for its comprehensive solutions, the organization offers a wide range of services, including advisory, consultancy, capacity building, and research and development initiatives. By a team of dedicated professionals, AlHuda CIBE has demonstrably extended its reach across the globe, serving

clients across the Americas, Africa, Central Asia, Asia, and the Middle East.

Recognizing the transformative power of technology, AlHuda CIBE has embarked on a forward-thinking journey by integrating cutting-edge FinTech solutions into its service portfolio. From the transformative power of Blockchain to the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI), AlHuda CIBE is actively exploring InsurTech, Blockchain applications, cryptocurrencies, NFTs, CBDCs, RegTech, Metaverse, AR, VR, Robo advisory, and Neo banking solutions. This MoU is a cornerstone will allow them to consistently deliver the most advanced tools for Islamic banking and finance.

Technology has undeniably reshaped almost every industry, and financial services are no exception. FinTech advancements have revolu-

tionized financial transactions, making them more convenient, efficient, and cost-effective for consumers and institutions alike. This collaboration between MYTM and AlHuda CIBE recognizes the pivotal role FinTech plays in the future of Islamic finance. By combining MYTM's innovative solutions with AlHuda CIBE's established network and expertise, the partnership aims to drive the industry towards a more sustainable and accessible future.

This strategic alliance between MYTM and AlHuda CIBE signifies a significant leap forward in the development and global accessibility of cutting-edge Islamic FinTech solutions. With both organizations sharing a commitment to innovation and advancement, this collaboration is poised to revolutionize the future of Islamic financial services.

# Nestlé Pakistan's 'Creating Shared Value' report highlights sustainability efforts



PPA

LAHORE: Building on its strong foundation, Nestlé Pakistan published its 2023 Creating Shared Value (CSV) Report, 'Powering a Sustainable Tomorrow' highlighting its commitments on climate action, sustainable plastics, regenerative agriculture, renewable energy and water regeneration, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Highlighting Nestlé's efforts, Jason Avanceña, CEO, Nestlé Pakistan, said, "We are committed to be a force for good throughout our value chain by creating shared value and delivering on our sustainability agenda. From reducing our carbon footprint to taking another step closer to a waste-free future by creating awareness, enlightening the younger generations about nutrition, enabling rural women to become financially empowered - our efforts on ground have made a positive impact in many ways."

"As part of our renewable energy strategy, we powered our 2.5MW and 2.6MW solar power plants at our factories in Kabirwala and Sheikhpura," he added.

Highlighting some of Nestlé's other initiatives, Sheikh Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability said, "Nestlé, under the Clean Gilgit-Baltistan Project (CGBP), has donated compressing and baling machines in Gilgit, Hunza and Skardu, and installed benches and waste bins made of recycled plastic at popular tourist hotspots. In 2023, the project facilitated waste management of 2600 tons of plastic packaging in the region."

Through the Nestlé BISP Rural Women Sales Program, in collaboration with Akhuwat Foundation, the company is supporting rural women to achieve financial empowerment. This year, the program increased the number of enrolled BISP beneficiaries as sales agents to nearly 3000, across 28 districts in Pakistan.

Nestlé is dedicated to taking collective action with stakeholders to accelerate efforts to protect, renew, and restore the planet and ensure that food systems continue to nourish people for generations to come.

# Glowing Tributes Paid to Ashraf Sehrai on His Third Martyrdom Anniversary

PPA



ISLAMABAD: Senior leader All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), Altaf Ahmed Bhat, today led heartfelt tributes to the esteemed Kashmiri leader, Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai, on the occasion of his third martyrdom anniversary. In a solemn statement, he recognized Sehrai's unwavering dedication and the sacrifices he made for the freedom and dignity of the Kashmiri people.

Ashraf Sehrai's tragic death in Indian police custody in Jammu on May 5, 2021, is a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggle and the high cost of Kashmir's fight for self-determination.

Senior leader APHC and Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat strongly condemned the circumstances surrounding Sehrai's death, highlighting the need for justice and accountability for those responsible for this injustice.

Senior leader APHC and Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat emphasized the importance of continuing Sehrai's mission and honoring his legacy. He stated, "Ashraf Sehrai's sacrifice will never be forgotten. It is our duty to ensure that his dreams of a free and just Kashmir are realized. The fight for justice and liberty will persist until the Kashmiri people attain their rightful freedom."

Furthermore, he added that the Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement underscores the urgent need for a credible investigation into Ashraf Sehrai's custodial death, seeking transparency and accountability. The ongoing struggle for justice will not rest until the truth is unveiled, and the perpetrators are held accountable.

Senior leader APHC and Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat acknowledged the loss of Ashraf Sehrai's son, Junaid Sehrai, who also laid down his life fighting against Indian occupation in May 2020. He noted, "The sacrifices made by the Sehrai family and all other Kashmiris will forever be etched in the golden pages of Kashmir's history. Their courage inspires us to continue the struggle with greater determination."

"The Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement and its leadership express solidarity with all those who have suffered in the pursuit of freedom," he added.

He also called on the international community United Nations, P5 to recognize the injustices committed in Jammu and Kashmir and to support the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

# Synergy Group wins big at the Effie Awards 2024

PPA

KARACHI: Synergy Group, the biggest integrated marketing communication conglomerate in the country, claims another victory in a string of wins at the prestigious Effie Awards Pakistan. The group's agencies, Synergy Advertising and Synite Digital, have bagged multiple accolades, reaffirming their commitment to excellence and creativity in the marketing, communication and advertising landscape.

Synergy Advertising, renowned for its strategic acumen and creativity, emerged as a dominant force yet again at the Effie Awards Pakistan, securing four wins. It took home one silver for the campaign Asaan Mobile Account - Apka Account, Apka Ikhtiyar for State Bank of Pakistan in cate-



gory 'New Product or Service' and three bronze for campaigns: Polio Outbreak for Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme in category 'Non Profit'; Asaan Mobile Account for State Bank of Pakistan in category 'Finance'; and Asaan Mobile Account - Apka

Account, Apka Ikhtiyar for State Bank of Pakistan in category 'Marketing Innovative Solutions'. The agency's campaigns exemplify a keen understanding of client objectives and consumer insights, driving tangible results and setting new benchmarks for

marketing effectiveness. Meanwhile, Synite Digital, one of the industry leaders in digital marketing and innovation, showcased its prowess with two impressive silver wins for its campaigns: SC-Women In Tech for Standard Chartered Bank in

category 'Sustained Success' and Who Fried It Best for KFC in category 'Restaurants'. Synite Digital is renowned for its imaginative campaigns that resonate well with audiences and drive meaningful engagement. The agency's ability to leverage

digital platforms for social impact and brand-building garnered widespread acclaim and appreciation at the Effie Awards Pakistan. Commenting on the Effie Awards wins, Ahmed Kapadia, Chairman & CEO of Synergy Group, stated: "We are commit-

ted to pushing the boundaries of creativity, innovation, and effectiveness in marketing. The success of Synergy Advertising and Synite Digital at the Effie Awards 2024 is a testament to our dedication to delivering results-driven solutions for our clients. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to driving impactful outcomes and to thank all the partners who put their trust in us, allowing us to create award-winning campaigns."

Winning Effies this year again are a reflection of Synergy Group's robust growth culture and the winning mindset which has made it stand out among its competitors. It has also reinforced its position as a thought-leader in the marketing and digital realm, setting new standards of excellence and innovation.



## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
72,764.24	71,902.09
Day's High	Day's Low
73,060.74	72,462.49
Index Value	Change
16,715,349,106	+862.15
Percentage	Time
+1.2%	6 May, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,213.49	+41.34
Percentage	Time
+0.51%	3 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
38,751.16	+75.48
Percentage	Time
+0.20%	6 May, 2:10 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,236.07	-37.98
Percentage	Time
-0.099%	2 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

## Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180	182
Bahrain Dinar	739.99	747.99
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.43	38.83
Danish Krone	40.16	40.56
Euro	295.7	298.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.96
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.3	914.3
Malaysian Ringgit	58.71	59.31
New Zealand \$	167.23	169.23
Norwegians Krone	25.57	25.87
Omani Riyal	722.7	730.7
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.25	74
Singapore Dollar	204.65	206.65
Swedish Korona	25.79	26.09
Swiss Franc	307.34	309.84
Thai Bhat	7.56	7.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.05	75.8
UK Pound Sterling	345	348.5
US Dollar	277.5	280.35

# Wheat scandal, protests at this juncture disappointing: Mian Zahid Hussain

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that a high-level delegation of investors led by the Deputy Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia has arrived for negotiations regarding investment in Pakistan which is a positive development.

The 50-member delegation from more than 30 companies has arrived on the instructions of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He said it would explore agriculture, mining, human resources, energy, chemicals and maritime opportunities.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the visit of the Saudi delegation will promote trade rela-

tions and investment and Pakistani companies can connect with the companies of the friendly country.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that leading companies from both countries will seek investment opportunities, which are expected to increase investment, exports and employment.

He said that agreements and memorandums of understanding will also be signed in this context.

After Shahbaz Sharif became the prime minister, Saudi Arabia's relations with China and other countries are improving and their focus is on increasing trade and investment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has visited Saudi Arabia twice, while the Saudi Foreign Minister has also visited Pakistan, and now Pakistan is looking forward to the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince.



Mian Zahid Hussain said it is sad that the wheat scandal has come to light when there is a possibility of massive investment from Saudi

Arabia. This is sending a negative message to the whole world.

The economic system of the country is poor and dominated by the mafia. For this reason, the country is always under some scandal that exploits the people, increases poverty, and gives investors a negative message.

It is commonly perceived that nothing is done on merit, but there is a collusion everywhere. In such circumstances, foreign investment in the country's agricultural sector will become problematic.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that on the one hand, Saudi investors will be evaluating the Pakistani market. On the other hand, farmers will be running a nationwide movement because every time, the mafia succeeds in defeating the farmers. He said that the central and provincial governments should try to solve this issue of farmers as soon as possible.

# Serious efforts needed to pull country out of economic quagmire: S. M. Tanveer

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Former Provincial Minister and Patron-in-Chief United Business Group S. M. Tanveer has said that country is passing through the challenging time and industries are being closed whereas the neighboring country Afghanistan is strengthening its economy by promoting its industrial and textile sectors. He said that we have to vigorously pursue Quaid's saying 'work, work, and work' if we really want to come out of the existing economic quagmire. He said that Hazara is blessed with natural resources but badly overlooked.

Addressing a ceremony in Abbottabad held by Abbottabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Industrialists Association of Abbottabad S. M. Tanveer went on to say that we have to enhance our exports by focusing attention on quality production through industrial development.

On this occasion ban on leasing of mines and the issue of joint ventures also come under discussion and President FPCCI Atif Ikram Shaikh was apprised of community's difficulties at length.

In his address Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Abbottabad is an important trade and cultural hub of KPK and that UBG is determined to provide every possible cooperation for its development as well as



for the resolution of the problems of the community.

The Ceremony was also addressed by President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh, Chairman National Business Group Mian Zahid, Central Vice President FPCCI Haji Iftikhar Ahmed, Abdur Rasheed Khan and other.

Speakers were of the view that the inflated electricity bills are one of the main causes

of the closure of the industries. They said that country cannot attain prosperity by selling its valuable assets and obtaining heavy loans instead the only viable way is to reduce the burden of heavy taxes on the industry and incentives for small traders. ICCI senior leaders Jawaid Kazmi and Haider Raza were also present on the occasion.

At the end shields were also presented to the visiting guests.

# ICCI President announces computers, filtration plants & first aid boxes for two Colleges



PPA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has drawn the attention of Federal Education Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui towards the dilapidated condition of the Islamabad Model College for Girls G-13. He said that the College is short of each and every necessity like security staff, boundary wall, furniture, Laboratory, play ground, buses, drinking water etc.

ICCI President said this during his visit to the College on Monday during which he got acquaintance of the problems the College is facing.

On this occasion Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari announced the provision of five computers, installation of a filtration plant and a full-fledged first aid box for the College. He also demanded appointment of permanent teaching staff in the college and announced to pay the salary of the computer teacher from his own pocket.

ICCI members Khalid Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza, Waseem Chaudhry and Faizan Shahzad were also accompanying the President.



Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima urges Saudi tech companies to explore opportunities in Pakistan

# Alternative Energy Exhibition will open its doors in Islamabad

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd., country's leading exhibitions organizing company will be organizing a flagship event Pakistan Sustainability Week (PSW) alongside Solar Pakistan - 15th International Renewable Energy Exhibition & Confer-

ence from 9th - 11th May 2024 at Pak-China Friendship Centre.

Pakistan Sustainability Week will be the biggest gathering of key industry leaders, policymakers, investors, manufacturers, suppliers, traders and distributors. The event aims to create a platform for networking, collaboration, and knowl-

edge exchange that will elevate the alternative energy industry in Pakistan.

Mr. Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. stated that "Pakistan Sustainability Week has played a pivotal role in the development of alternative energy industry by introducing efficient technologies and solutions for manufac-

# Descon Engineering Partners with SAS to Level Up Data Analytics and Business Decisioning

PPA

ISLAMABAD: SAS, the leader in analytics, has announced a new partnership with the multinational engineering company Descon Engineering Limited. Descon has chosen SAS as its trusted partner to develop an innovative and highly customized solution that enables qualified analysis and decision-making based on reliable data.

Recognized globally for its quality, safety and on-time delivery of projects and products, Descon provides comprehensive solutions ranging from project conception to the establishment of fully operational facilities in industries such as oil

and gas, petrochemicals, and power, among others. In accordance with worldwide standards and regulatory requirements, the company has implemented sustainability related frameworks, such as Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), Lessons Learnt, and Health Safety Environment (HSE). For Descon to evaluate the effectiveness of these frameworks and to continue progress towards its sustainability and operational goals, accurate and transparent reporting was essential.

"Since multiple business management and monitoring activities were mostly carried out using semi-automated spreadsheets that required a significant amount of manual effort,



human mistakes and delayed reporting were unavoidable," said Tahir Mehmood, Head of Digitalization at Descon. "Through the implementation of SAS Governance and Compliance Manager (GCM), we

were able to create a tailored solution that precisely met our unique needs, ensuring interoperability with our proprietary business processes developed over many decades of operation. This allowed us to make quali-

fied analyses and decisions based on reliable data."

Salem AboutFakhr, Senior Customer Success Manager at SAS Middle East stated: "As organizations strive to digitally transform with agility and speed while maintaining regulatory compliance, analytically driven decision making is becoming a critical differentiator. SAS brings the best-in-class analytics and AI to nearly every industry, building solutions to fit specific organizational needs, regardless of company size. Due to the innovative nature of this project, the Descon team's tireless efforts and the assistance of local SAS partner TRA, played an instrumental role in the successful outcome."

# Telecommunications merger could reduce choice for consumers: CCP

PPA

ISLAMABAD: An investigation by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has provisionally concluded that M/s. Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited's (PTCL) proposed acquisition of M/s. Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited (TP) and Orion Towers Private Limited (OT) could lead to a substantial lessening of competition in the telecommunication industry.

PTCL is a public-listed company and specializes in providing various telecommunication services such as cellular mobile telephony service, Wireless Local Loop service, Direct-to-Home television service and financial services through its subsidiaries across Pakistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited and Orion Towers Private Limited are wholly-owned subsidiaries of M/s. Telenor Pakistan BV (TPBV) and are engaged in providing cellular mobile and allied services in Pakistan, AJK and GB.

PTCL, which was founded in 1995, has already been declared as a Significant Market Power (SMP) Operator in Wholesale Domestic Leased Lines, Wholesale IP Bandwidth and Retail LDI Fixed-Line Telecommunication market by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). With existing overlaps, the CCP found that, should the deal go ahead, the merger is likely to reduce choice, options, and competition in markets where there are only very few competitors and could lead to worse outcomes for the customers.

M/s. Pakistan Mobile Telecommunications Limited acquisition of M/s. Wariid Telecom (Private) Limited reduced the number of network operators in 2016. Through the proposed merger, one out of remaining four players would also be eliminated from the industry. The CCP is concerned that this lessening of competition may result in higher prices or a reduction in choice or quality for customers hence, the transaction will be referred for an in-depth Phase 2 analysis.

The CCP aims to provide better services and product to the consumers of Pakistan by increasing competition in the telecommunication industry.



# Embassy of Vietnam in Pakistan Hosts Golf Tournament to Mark Dien Bien Phu Victory's 70th Anniversary

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To honor the remarkable 70th anniversary of the renowned Dien Bien Phu Victory, His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Tien Phong, the Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, hosted a Golf Tournament at the Garden City Golf Club, Bahria Town, Islamabad.

The tournament, meticulously divided into various groups of teams, witnessed enthusiastic participation from golfers and diplomats.

The event was graced by Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Atadjan Moalamov, High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Ruhul Alam Siddique, Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Carmoune, Ambassador of Cuba, former Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Salahuddin Choudhry, Founding

Chairman of Centre for Public-Cultural Diplomacy, and Ambassador Zaigham, as well as Pakistan's newly designated Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr. Kohi Marri, and several other diplomats adding to its esteemed ambiance.

In his address, Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, including Ambassadors, Charges d'Affaires, dignitaries, and esteemed guests, for their participation in this significant event.

Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong expressed sincere gratitude to all attendees for their participation in the event. He emphasized the profound historical significance of the Dien Bien Phu Victory, highlighting its pivotal role in the defense of national independence, sovereignty, and unification for the Vietnamese people.

Reflecting on Viet Nam's rich history of resilience against foreign invasion, Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong underscored the indomitable spirit of the Vietnamese people throughout the centuries. He praised the leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam in guiding the nation to successive victories against aggressors, culminating in the historic triumph at Dien Bien Phu.

Nguyen Tien Phong further emphasized the enduring legacy of the Dien Bien Phu Victory in shaping Viet Nam's socio-economic and political landscape. He credited the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and the unwavering commitment of past leaders, heroes, and fallen soldiers for laying the foundation of independence, freedom, and socialism in Viet Nam. As Viet Nam marks over three decades of transformative

reforms through?? i M? i, Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong highlighted the nation's remarkable progress from an underdeveloped country to a middle-income developing nation. He commended the achievements in Party-building, socio-economic development, national defense, and international diplomacy under the steadfast leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam.

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong expressed profound gratitude to the fraternal socialist countries, progressive forces, and friends worldwide for their unwavering support during Viet Nam's struggle for liberation and in its ongoing efforts for national construction and defense.

Ms. Ami Qin emerged as the winner of the ladies' side, with Ms. Shamshad Ara Reema as the 1st Runner-up and Ms.



Maliha Ellahi as the 2nd Runner-up, receiving their prizes from the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Atadjan Moalamov. Additionally, in the Invitational Category, Mr. Samir Khan clinched the top spot in the net category, with Air Marshal Amir Masood as the 1st Runner-up, while Brigadier Rtd Muhammad Jahanzeb Iftikhar secured victory in the Gross category, with Admiral Rtd Muhammad Asif Sandila as the 1st Runner-up. The Ambassador, Mr. Nguyen Tien Phong, also presented survivors to distinguished guests including Dean of Diplomatic Corps Atadjan Moalamov, Ex Chief of the Naval Staff Muhammad Asif Sandila, and Chairman of Crown Group Mubashir Nazir.

In addition to the sporting fervor, visitors had the opportunity to engage with a captivating photo wall exhibition.

This exhibition meticulously chronicled the arduous journey of the Dien Bien Phu campaign and the enduring struggles of Vietnamese soldiers from 1954 until the momentous celebration of victory and national reunification at the Independence Palace on May 7, 1975. Through compelling imagery and narrative, participants were able to reflect on pivotal moments in Vietnamese history, honoring the sacrifices made and celebrating the triumphs achieved on the path to unity and independence.

After the closing ceremony, guests and participants were treated to a traditional Vietnamese soup along with lavish and delicious Pho, the essence of Vietnamese cuisine, which has become a national pride. Pho, with its variations, is emblematic of the Thang Long - Ha Noi culinary culture.

## LCWU secures first position with 477 points in CM Pink Games

### Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The first Chief Minister Pink Games 2024 concluded with a closing ceremony at Gymnasium Hall Nishtar Park Sports Complex here on Sunday.

Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) secured first position with 477 points while Punjab University is second with 459 points. Lahore College for Women University has won 8 gold, 3 silver and one bronze medal in the event.

Lahore College for Women University scored 117 points in athletics, 80 points in cricket tape ball, 100 points in hockey, 150 points in basketball and 30 points in table tennis.

Punjab University has won 5 gold, 2 silver and one bronze medal in the 4-day games. Punjab University has got 79 points in athletics, 40 in archery, 80 in badminton, 100 in cricket tape ball, 80 in hockey and 80 in table tennis.

On this occasion, Punjab Minister for Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the First Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games is not just an event but a beginning to create a pool of highly



talented athletes. We are going to engage one million youth in healthy sports activities to prepare a pool of potential players.

Senator Pervaiz Rasheed, Provincial Information Minister Azma Zahid Bokhari, MNA Afzal Khokhar, MPA Sania Ashiq, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Faisal Ayub Khokhar,

Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Sports Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial and Director General Sports Punjab Pervez Iqbal and other top officials were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the mega ceremony, Faisal Ayub Khokhar announced that Punjab Sports Department is taking all essential

measures for the development of sports as per vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. "Punjab Sports Department is establishing a top level sports infrastructure across the province. A top standard baseball ground, football stadium, boxing arena and rowing club will be established in near future".

The overall winners' trophy of First Chief Minister Punjab Pink Games was won by Lahore College for Women University (LCWU).

Overall a hefty prize money of Rs one crore was distributed among all the position holders teams. The winning and runners up teams of hockey event were awarded cash prize of Rs16 lakh and Rs10 lakh respectively. The winning team in athletics event was awarded a cash prize of Rs8 lakh while runners up side was given cash prize of Rs4 lakh.

In basketball and cricket, the winning and runners up teams were given cash prize of Rs10 lakh and Rs6 lakh each respectively. In archery, badminton and table tennis, the winning and runners up teams were given cash prize of Rs6 lakh and Rs4 lakh each respectively.

## Pakistan women's team kicks off training for England white-ball series

### Sports Desk

LEICESTER: Pakistan women's team kicked off training at Uptonsteel County Cricket Ground here on Monday for the white-ball series against England, scheduled to run from May 11 to 29.

According to the details, the national team participated in a three-hour-long training session under the supervision of the coaches.

The national women's cricket team touched down at Heathrow Airport, London on Sunday via Dubai.

Pakistan's women's team and management were welcomed by Dr. Muhammad Faisal, the High Commissioner of Pakistan in England.

The team then reached Leicester, London where they will play a warm-up match against England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Development XI on May 9. The first T20I will be played on 11 May in Birmingham.

Notably, the ODIs in the series are part of ICC Women's Championship 2022-25



and this will be Pakistan's eighth and final series in the current event cycle.

Pakistan are currently sitting in fifth position with 16 points in the 10-team ICC Women Championship 2022-25 standings.

The top five teams from this championship, along with hosts India, will directly qualify for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.

Pakistan women squad for England

tour  
Nida Dar (captain), Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Zafar, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Gull Feroza, Muneeba Ali (wk), Najiha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Tuba Hassan, Ummehani and Waheeda Akhtar

Player support personnel: Nahida Khan (manager), Mauhatah Rashheed (interim head coach), Saleem Jaffar

(bowling coach), Taufeeq Umar (batting coach), Hanif Malik (fielding coach), Syed Nazir Ahmed (media manager), Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist), Zubair Ahmed (analyst) and Hina Munawar (chief security officer)

### Tour Schedule

9 May - T20 warm-up game v ECB Development XI, Uptonsteel County Ground (11.00 am local time)

11 May - 1st T20I, Birmingham (2.30 pm local time)

17 May - 2nd T20I, Northampton (6.30 pm local time)

19 May - 3rd T20I, Leeds (1.00 pm local time)

21 May - One-Day warm-up game v ECB Development XI, Northampton (11.00 am local time)

23 May - 1st ODI, Derby (1.00 pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

26 May - 2nd ODI, Taunton (11.00 am local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

29 May - 3rd ODI, Chelmsford (1.00 pm local time) (ICC Women's Championship)

## Naqvi, Babar unveil Pakistan Matrix jersey for T20 World Cup 2024



### Naeem Niazi

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday night unveiled the Matrix jersey to be donned by the Pakistan Men's cricket team at the ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and USA during a ceremony at the Gaddafi stadium.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup is to be played in the West Indies and USA next month between June 2 and June 29 which will be participated by 20 teams.

At the ceremony, Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi and COO Salman Naseer are seen flanked by Captain Babar Azam, fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan and speedster Naseem Shah wearing the Matrix jersey 2024 - a symbol of unity. The green jersey has a star on the left while the ICC T20I World Cup 2024 logo is on the right of the chest.

In a video released by the PCB on the social media platform TikTok, these players besides Saim Ayub and Shadab Khan are seen putting in the hard yards with an inspiring Urdu World Cup anthem in the background calling out to these players to 'make victory a certainty'.

"Show your passion to the world. Shake the field. Desire for success burns in your hearts. Don country's colors, Beat the drum and create a stir," say the verses.

The Babar Azam-led Men in Green are due to depart for Ireland on May 7 (Tuesday) for a three-match T20I series. The team will move to England for a four-match T20I series and fly to New York, USA after May 30 to start their campaign in the ICC mega event.

## T20I World Cup 2024: 'Cricket was once a popular sport in US'

KARACHI: US Consul General in Karachi, Conrad Tribble, is hopeful of cricket becoming more popular in the United States as the country is set to host the ICC T20I World Cup for the first time this year. Speaking to Geo News Sunday, Tribble highlighted the immense enthusiasm among Americans for the upcoming cricket extravaganza.

"This is the first time we're hosting an international cricket event like this. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase cricket in the United States, to showcase the US and sports to a huge audience overseas, including here in Pakistan. We're really excited about it, and I think it will help cricket grow in the US."

Emphasising the unifying power of sports and its ability to bring nations together, Tribble said: "Sports can always play a role in bringing people together. It is one of the easiest and best tools for bringing people together for people-to-people contacts. Everybody's passionate about sport, whether you're Indian, or Pakistani, or West Indian, or American, and you are watching a cricket match for your country, you get excited about it."

## McLaren's Lando Norris wins Miami Grand Prix for maiden F1 win

### Sports Desk

McLaren's Lando Norris won the first Formula One race of his career with a shock victory over world champion Max Verstappen in the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday.

Breathing life into an F1 season that risked becoming a one-man story again, Norris, in his 110th race for McLaren, beat Verstappen by over seven seconds with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finishing third.

Verstappen, who began on pole, had won four of the opening five races of the season and leads the world championship standings.

It looked like business as usual with the Dutchman, who had won the previous two Miami

races, leading until lap 24 when he pitted and Norris's McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri took over the lead.

Australian Piastri himself went into the pits four laps later, allowing Norris to grab the lead and the British driver never looked back.

Crucially, Norris was able to pit during a safety car on lap 30, earning him a valuable time advantage which he never relinquished.

The safety car came after Kevin Magnussen clipped Logan Sargeant, sending the American Williams driver into the wall, bringing a yellow flag.

Lando Norris, who had 15 podiums before his first win, took full advantage of the safety car and with Verstappen struggling to catch up, he secured his

maiden victory.

It was the first time Verstappen has been beaten on track, when he finished the race, since Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won in Singapore in September last year.

Norris was hoisted in the air by the McLaren mechanics as his long wait for a victory in the sport came to an end.

"About time huh?" said Norris, "I knew on Friday that we had the pace...today we managed to put it together. We had the perfect strategy, it all paid off," he added.

"I guess a lot of people doubted me along the way. I've made a lot of mistakes over the last five years, my short career, but today we pulled it all together, so this is all for the team.

"I stuck with McLaren because I could believe in them and I did

believe in them and today proved exactly that," he added.

The nearest Norris had come previously to winning a Grand Prix was in Sochi, Russia in 2021 when he led in the latter stages before failing to make a tyre change early in rain, costing him dearly.

Verstappen, who had complained about lack of grip in qualification and during Sunday's race, said his Red Bull had been unable to keep up with Lando Norris once the McLaren driver switched to hard tyres.

"They just had more pace, Lando was flying. It was incredibly difficult for us, but on the bad days P2, I'll take it right?"

"I'm very happy for Lando, it's been a long time coming and it's not going to be his last one. He



definitely deserves it," said the Dutchman. Leclerc echoed those sentiments.

"Very often he ran very close it but for one reason or another he didn't make it. But today he did

an incredible job and the whole weekend he has been on it," said the Ferrari driver.

Sainz finished fourth with Verstappen's Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez in fifth place but the

pair swapped places after stewards imposed a post-race penalty of five seconds on the Spaniard for his collision with Piastri.

Mercedes pair Lewis Hamilton and George Russell finished sixth and eighth with RB's Japanese driver Yuki Tsunoda ending seventh.

As in the first two years of the Miami Grand Prix, held around Hard Rock Stadium, the home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, the race attracted plenty of celebrities.

Former France international footballer and coach Zinedine Zidane, singer Ed Sheeran, Super Bowl winning quarterback Patrick Mahomes and former US President Donald Trump were among those spotted at the race. Trump visited the McLaren garage before the race.



## Visit

QUETTA: President Asif Ali Zardari was received by the Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarafraz Ahmed Bagti during his first official visit on Monday.



Photo: PID

## PM assures all out support to Saudi investment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured his government's blanket support to the Saudi investment, enabling the investors and businessmen to accomplish their future projects in Pakistan expeditiously with joint ventures and replicate them within short time for the mutual benefits of the people of both countries. Addressing a dinner gathering hosted in the honour of visiting delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said that time waited for none and stressed that they should overcome the challenges if they really wanted to make use of this opportunity as the Saudi leadership and their leading investors and business people wanted to help Pakistan.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, federal ministers, Saudi ambassador in Pakistan, members of the



delegation and senior officials were present during the event. PM assures all out support to Saudi investment. The prime minister said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was the very robust and all encompassing vehicle to attain all those projects in the interest of people of Pakistan and the Saudi investors, leading to further strengthening of mutual cooperation and partnership. The SIFC was a model

acceptable to the Saudi delegation and they were fully satisfied over the existing opportunities, he observed. The prime minister said that from diverse projects, the Saudi investors could earn profits and if they provided them a mechanism free of troubles, bureaucratic hurdles and red tape, then the sky would be the limit. PM assures all out support to Saudi investment. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction

over the solid and tangible progress achieved during the delegation's interaction with the Pakistani counterparts. He said that shortly, they would witness solid agreements worth billions of dollars investment. Recollecting his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during Ramzan ul Mubarak, the prime minister termed his meeting with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman as 'a wonderful interaction and he was extremely encouraged and deeply impressed with his forward looking vision that transformed KSA in many ways to come, whether it was in agriculture, education, IT, communication and infrastructure, youth empowerment and all inclusive policies'. Crown Prince's dynamic and visionary leadership had placed KSA among the most progressive societies in the world, the fastest growing economy with the latest infrastructure, transport facilities, provision of jobs and progress in every sphere of life which was phenomenal, he added. He said that some thirty years back, Pakistan was able to offer their Saudi brothers training in different walks of life, but today, KSA was far more experienced and had immense potential to train Pakistanis. Saudi Assistant Minister for Investment Ibrahim Al Mubarak, on the occasion, thanked the prime minister for warmly hosting them. He said that their visit was a testimony to their deep friendship and strategic partnership which was very important, adding under their leadership's directives, they moved swiftly to explore partnership with Pakistan. He also lauded response of the private sector that interacted with them, adding that the relationship between the two brotherly countries was very strong and the both countries could achieve shared economic objectives together.

## Balochistan CM, ministers call on President

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and provincial ministers on Monday called on President Asif Ali Zardari at the CM House. The provincial ministers included Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ali

Madad Jattak, Mir Zahoor Buledi, Sardar Abdul Rehman Kethran, Mir Saleem Khosa, Faisal Jamali, Gazala Gola and Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, a member of the provincial assembly and senior PPP leader, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

## French Ambassador lauds Pakistan's role in regional stability



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of France, Nicolas Galey called on Minister for Defence and Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif and appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability here on Monday. On the occasion, the Defence Minister highlighted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with France, a news release said. He emphasized enhanced collaboration

between the Armed Forces of the two countries. The Defence Minister expressed that Pak-France bilateral relations are based on principles of mutual respect. He stated that Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to address global challenges of terrorism and extremism. The visiting dignitary ensured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

## Steps being taken to promote entrepreneurship, facilitate youth: Shaza Fatima



PPA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that the Ministry of IT & Telecom is playing important role for the promotion of youth entrepreneurship and innovation in the country.

Our youth have great potential and the Ministry of IT is taking number of initiatives to facilitate and support youth, she said while addressing the launching ceremony of the Report on "The State of Youth Entrepreneur-

ship in Pakistan" here on Monday. She said that Ministry of IT is committed for the development of youth, adding that IT sector has number of opportunities for youth.

Shaza Fatima said that it is vital to equip our youth with digital skills. Under the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, skills training is being promoted in IT sector of the country. We recognise the potential of our young people and are committed to providing them with the necessary support and resources to succeed, she maintained.

## Reserved seats decision will affect the entire parliamentary system: Ratty

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Salman Akram Raja has said that all political parties should admit that a major blunder was committed on the day of the elections and that the only way to rectify this mistake is for all parties, stakeholders, and the establishment to sit down and acknowledge that a mistake has been made.

Speaking on the Aaj News program "Roobaro," Raja said that rigging is not carried out by invisible forces. He added that it is known which forces played a role and who took out the ROs.

He said that the Election Commission can say whatever it wants, but all

of these things are in front of everyone.

When asked if the entire Senate election process would have to be redone if the decision on reserved seats goes in favor of the PTI, Raja replied that this is a matter of constitutional interpretation.

ECP bench member says reserved seats shall not be allocated to other political parties

PHC rules in favour of PPP, PMLN on reserved seats

He said that if the Senate seats are awarded to the JUI-F according to the constitution, the situation in the National Assembly will change, and the Senate election will also be affected.

He added that this is a key issue that will reshape our entire parliamentary system.

## Aleem Khan reviews Skardu-Gilgit highway situation after landslide

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization & Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday reached Skardu and inspected the damage caused by landslides on the main highway connecting Gilgit and Skardu. He reviewed the current situation along with Director General of Frontier Works Organization Major General Abdul Sami and Federal Secretary Communications Ali Sher Mehsud.

He directed that more attention should be given to the main highway connecting Gilgit and Skardu. Aleem Khan further said that all possible measures should be taken to prevent the fall of rocks and mud and to protect

lives and properties. He asked Frontier Works Organization (FWO) to ensure an extensive survey of these highways with heavy machinery to take immediate steps. He said that in case of any untoward incident, maximum relief may be given in the minimum possible time with adequate measures. Abdul Aleem Khan was briefed by FWO Director General Maj. General Abdul Sami and Federal Secretary Communications Ali Sher Mehsud and assured that they will continue efforts for the restoration of highways in the shortest possible time in the Northern Areas. Similarly, maximum machinery and manpower will be deployed in typical areas of land sliding so that masses should not face any kind of difficulty.

## SECP approves PIA's Scheme of Arrangement

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has approved the Scheme of Arrangement between Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIA) and PIA Holding Company Limited (HoldCo).

Earlier this year, the Federal Cabinet approved the legal segregation plan of PIA and the Scheme and, inter alia, directed the Aviation Division, PIA, and HoldCo to undertake the required corporate and

regulatory actions to implement the Scheme. Last month, the scheme was also approved by the shareholders and creditors of PIA.

The restructuring entails legal separation of PIA's core aviation business from its non-core activities and the transfer of its non-aviation-related business from PIA into HoldCo. The approval of the scheme paves the way for Holdco to own 100% shareholding in PIA and simultaneous issuance and allotment of shares by Holdco to the qualifying shareholders of PIA.

## UNIDO inaugurates JICA funded meat testing lab in KP

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on Monday organized an event to inaugurate the newly equipped Meat Testing Lab of the Livestock & Dairy Development Department (L&DD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province under the Project for Agri-Food and Agro-industry Development Assistance funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). UNIDO Country Representative Nadia Aftab

in her remarks extended gratitude to the department for its commitment and support, which had been instrumental in successfully implementing the project, according to a UNIDO press release.

She also appreciated JICA and the Government of Japan's generous support without which the achievements would not have been possible. Nadia also highlighted the common goal of improving food safety and public health, and vowed to continue UNIDO's support to the KP Government towards Inclusive and Sustainable

Industrial Development. KP's Secretary Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperative Department Dr Amber Ali Khan appreciated the support of UNIDO and JICA and stressed that the cutting-edge technology would enhance the lab's testing capacity, ensuring international standards for food safety. UNIDO inaugurates JICA funded meat testing lab in KP Dr Amber acknowledged UNIDO's efforts in improving the meat and livestock sector, marking a significant stride towards a safer and more sustainable future for the KP.

*It's appropriate...*

*Continued from Page 1*

the reserved seats. Azam Tarar said that a stay order should have been avoided in the matter of legislative power of the Parliament. It was hoped that the decision of the PHC would be upheld in the final decision, he added. The minister said that Article 67 was clear that legislation passed by a member of the Parliament remained valid despite his disqualification.

*Peace vital for ...*

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past, unfortunately national politics had become a victim of intolerance and bigotry and even some have used religion to victimize their opponents. The people who reject such elements with the power of their vote are highly commendable. The disinformation had become a big challenge for peace in the world at this time and it is the responsibility of every individual to protect themselves from disinformation, he said adding that we have to make our country one of the 10 best economic powers in the world by 2045 through peace-building, continuity of policies and continuous reforms like other successful countries.

## Faizabad sit-in...

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time "disregarding the perpetrators of violence". Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan informed the court that whether the government endorsed the said report and or does so imparted. The AGP stated that he would be filing a formal statement in this regard. He sought two weeks time from the court to submit the reply that was granted.

He however expressed his opinion as the AGP that the report "lacked

substance and that by and large the TORs referred to the commission were not attended to."

AGP Awan would submit the reply on behalf of the government.

"The federal government should also state whether it wants to make public the report or not," the order said, "let the copy of this order be sent to the commission members through the government of Pakistan who may respond to the initial observations made in a writing and or may also be present if they elect to do so."