

# Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

A Leading National Daily



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### China, France should uphold independence, jointly fend off 'new Cold War' or bloc confrontation: Xi

As the world goes through transformation and turbulence not seen in a century, China and France should uphold independence and jointly prevent a "new Cold War" or bloc confrontation, Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Monday. (Details on Page 5)



### Saudi Arabia to build region's largest water theme park

Pacing up to achieve milestones in light of the Kingdom's ambitious 'Vision 2030', Saudi Arabia has announced the construction of a one-of-a-kind water theme park — the largest across the region — in Qiddiya City which is in the transformation phase to become one of the global tourist attractions. The water theme park project 'Aqurabia' would be a cornerstone of its Six Flags Qiddiya City venture eyeing global visitors.

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## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

# Saudi investment delegation's visit significant headway in bilateral ties: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the visit of Saudi investment delegation to Islamabad was a significant headway in the relationship between Pakistan and

Saudi Arabia. The prime minister, chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet, appreciated the federal ministers, government officers and staffers for their efforts to ensure the success of the Saudi delegation's visit, a PM Office press release said. The federal cabinet, on the

recommendation of the Ministry of Aviation, accorded approval to Air Sial to launch its flight operations for China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkiye, the UK and Kuwait. The approval was granted under the National Aviation Policy 2023 and Air

Services Agreement. The cabinet gave a nod to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding for formation of Joint Trade Committee between Pakistan and Kingdom of Columbia. The cabinet approved to transfer the control of Directorate General

of Special Education from the Human Rights Ministry to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. The body also endorsed the decisions of Cabinet committee on Chinese investment projects taken in its meeting held on April 30, 2024.

Reforms being introduced in multiple sectors to transform Pakistan: Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said on Tuesday that the country standing at the crossroads was going through transformation and various reforms were being introduced in multiple sectors.

Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb and Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar here he said that the country's economy was on the right track and all the indicators were positive.

The minister said that international organizations including financial journals had confirmed that the figures about the economic stability were correct.

He said after coming into power, steps were taken by the government to reduce its expenses and privatization of loss-making public sector entities was part of that plan.

"Reforms in pension structure are being mulled in the government institutions across the board", he remarked.

He said that pensions were a big hurdle in the government plan of curbing expenditure. He said that life expectancy has increased in the world and various countries had increased the retirement age. He said there was a proposal to increase the age of retirement across the board.

# May 9 perpetrators will have to be punished as per Constitution: DG ISPR

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry Tuesday said the planners of the May 9 riots should be punished as per the constitution and the law of the land.

Addressing a press conference in Rawalpindi, the army's spokesperson said unavoidable evidence of the May 9 riots is available. The attacks on the army's installations that took place within hours on May 9 were recorded on the CCTV cameras.

Videos of political leaders directing the rioters on May 9 are also available.

May 9 riots were used to create a rift between the masses and the Pakistan Armed Forces. A group tried to deviate masses under the name of False Flag Operation, he said.

Responding to a question regarding the judicial commission, the DG ISPR said the commission is formed to probe a matter when there is doubt. Everything is crystal clear about the May 9 riots, he added.

Commenting on the prospects of dialogue with any faction, Maj Gen Chaudhry said: "No talks will be held with any political leader, or group which attacks its own army and indulges in propaganda [against them]."

"There can be no dialogue with



an anarchist group," he noted adding that the "only way forward for the anarchists [group] is to apologise sincerely, abandon the politics of hate and indulge in constructive politics [instead]."

"Talks are for political parties, not institutions," the army's spokesperson

Responding to another question, DG ISPR said the party only gained 31 per cent of votes in the February 8 elections. He also rejected the impression those who voted for the party in general elections endorsed the May 9 attacks.

"TTP using Afghan soil for attacks in Pakistan" The DG ISPR said Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is using Afghan soil for unrest in Pakistan.

"There is irrefutable evidence of Afghan soil being used by the TTP [...] recent terrorist incidents can be traced back to Afghanistan".

# Xi elaborates on China's position on Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Ukraine crisis

Xinhua

PARIS: Chinese President Xi Jinping outlined China's principled position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the Ukraine crisis when he jointly met the press with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron here on Monday.

The prolonged tragedy of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a test for human conscience, and the international community must act, Xi said.

China calls on all parties to work for an immediate, comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza, he said, adding China supports the full membership of Palestine in the United Nations, and supports restoring to Palestine its legitimate national rights and restarting the two-State solution, so as to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.



Xi stressed that China has stated its position on the Ukraine crisis on many occasions.

China did not start the Ukraine crisis, nor is it a party to or a participant in it, Xi said, noting that instead of being an onlooker, China has been playing an important role for peace.

# Uzbekistan foreign minister to arrive in Pakistan today

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Bakhtiyor Saidov will undertake an official visit to Islamabad on 8-9 May 2024, said Foreign Affairs ministry on Tuesday.

During the visit, Foreign Minister Saidov will meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and hold in-depth talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on a wide range of bilateral issues of mutual interest, with special focus on trade



and connectivity.

The visit of the Uzbekistan FM is expected to provide fresh impetus to the friendly relations between the two countries.

# Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum highlights fruitful business ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Commerce hosted a Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Forum at Serena Hotel. A fifty-member delegation led by H. E. Ibrahim Al-Mubarak, Assistant Minister for Investment of KSA participated with thirty leading companies from KSA, representing the sectors

of Agriculture, Information Technology, Energy, Minerals, Construction, Chemicals, Aviation, Maritime and Human Resource Development. The Plenary Session was attended by the Saudi delegates, the Cabinet Ministers, High-ranking Government officials and prominent business persons. After

Continued on Page 8

# Govt. to take decisions in national interests to meet energy needs: Deputy PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that Pakistan was a sovereign country and the present government would take decisions in the best national interests to meet its energy requirements and fulfill international obligations. Addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to a query regarding Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, said that the government would take the decisions in the national interests and would not allow interference into its international obligations.

He also termed the Iranian

President's visit to Pakistan as very productive. To another query, he replied that Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman would undertake a bilateral visit to Pakistan soon and they would receive a date in this regard, in the current month. Earlier, initial and business to business meetings had taken place which helped in finalizing the groundwork for the top Saudi leadership's visit to Pakistan, he added.

The recent Saudi delegation comprising private sector companies had termed their meetings with the Pakistani counterparts as very productive and they were very impressed with the progress made in this regard, he said, adding that

the present government would facilitate such like processes in the economic sector.

The deputy PM and foreign minister further said that Pakistan wanted stability and peace in the region and was desirous to have good friendly relations with all including the neighbouring country Afghanistan. He said that in recent terrorism incidents including an attack on Chinese nationals, reports confirmed that the 'masterminding, planning and triggering took place from the Afghan soil.'

To another question regarding restrictions on social media platform X, he said that Article 19 of the Constitution guaranteed freedom of expression and speech

but subjected to relevant laws and boundaries. It did not give blanket freedom to anyone to taint and raise slur with baseless allegations against the national interests and state institutions, he added. The minister also noted that in Pakistan there were defamation laws but he had seldom witnessed any proceedings on the relevant legal provisions.

Earlier, briefing the media-men about his participation in the World Economic Forum along with the Prime Minister and 15th OIC Summit in The Gambia, the deputy foreign minister said that Pakistan played a very active and leading role over the key issues confronting the Muslim Ummah including immediate ceasefire in



Gaza, Islamophobia, IIOJK and other economic related subjects. At the OIC summit, Pakistan's viewpoint with regard to condemnation of ongoing Israeli brutal and indiscriminate use of force against Palestinians, calls for immediate ceasefire and opening of humanitarian corridor, besides two-state solution with June 1967 pre-borders was overwhelming-

ly supported by all the members. These assertions were made a part of the communiqué adopted at the conclusion of the OIC summit, he added. About Islamophobia, Dar said that Pakistan underlined the need that 57-member body of OIC should adopt an effective approach towards this global issue with

Continued on Page 8

# Chairman Senate advocates for separate province status for South Punjab

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has emphasized the significance of South Punjab and has said that it has a crucial role in ensuring the nation's food security. Expressing support for a separate province, Chairman Senate underscored the importance of establishing dedicated institutions such as a High Court and Public Service Commission for the region. He expressed these views on his visit to South Punjab Secretariat, while talking to Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Fawad Hashim Rabbani. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani recalled his efforts during his tenure as Prime Minister, mentioning the allocation of federal land for the construction of Chief



Minister House at Multan, which is now the Commissioner House. He assured his full support for the development of the region. Additional Chief Secretary, Fawad Hashim Rabbani, while briefing the

Chairman Senate, highlighted the successful implementation of various initiative and said that South Punjab Secretariat has achieved many milestones since its inception. He informed that due to ring fencing of annual budget, the region has been put on new highway of progress and development and many mega projects have been completed since the establishment of secretariat. Fawad Hashim Rabbani brief that all the Administrative Departments of South Punjab have the honour for their unique initiatives including boating competitions, scholympics games and hockey leagues, as well as the establishment of Transgender and Subhe Nau schools. He emphasized ongoing efforts to enhance good governance and public service delivery in the region.

## OIC to play its full role in Kashmir, Palestine: Taqdees Geelani

**Bureau Repor**

BENJUL/GAMBIA/MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir's Minister of Small Industries, Trade and Travel Professor Taqdees Geelani met with Assistant Secretary OIC Yusuf Al Dubei. Discussion on the latest situation of Occupied Kashmir and Palestine. On this occasion, Professor Taqdees Geelani said that OIC has always supported Kashmiris to their right of self-determination determination Kashmiris and Palestinians are currently looking towards the OIC. All Muslim countries should play their active role in this regard. She said that during a long time the situation of Occupied Kashmir has been discussed in the OIC's content group and the resolution has also been passed which is welcome for the Kashmiris. He said that OIC has to take notice of atrocities against Muslims and play its effective role to stop Israel and India from their nefarious purposes. On this occasion, Assistant Secretary OIC Yusuf Al Dubei assured her to play his full role for the solution of the Kashmir problem and expressed the expectation that the solution of the Kashmir problem will be in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations.



## PML-N Azad Kashmir demands restraint on Kashmir protest: Ghulam Qadir

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**



MUZAFFARABAD: President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that Azad Kashmir cannot afford chaos, it is the fundamental right of the people to protest peacefully. Do not create so that no tragedy occurs. Peaceful Azad Kashmir is the guarantor of the development and the freedom of Kashmir's freedom movement. The protestors should record their protest through peaceful protest and keep an eye on the miscreants so that they do not try to disturb the peaceful atmosphere by entering their ranks. There should be coordinated talks on electricity, flour and all issues in Azad Kashmir so that maximum relief can be provided to the people while staying within the resources. The administration should exercise maximum restraint so that no untoward incident takes place.

Meanwhile: President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has also said that Kashmir issue is going through a critical period now, Azad Kashmir is the base camp of Azad Kashmir and the peace and order issues in this region directly affect Azad Kashmir. The need of the hour is that the government should move forward and remove the concerns of the action committee. The solution to everything is only in negotiations. After a big loss, negotiations also lose their usefulness. The leaders of the government and the action committee should sit together and find a solution to the problems. Commenting on the current situation of Azad Kashmir, he said that the use of force does not solve the problems, but increases the problems and at this time the region cannot afford such a situation, he said that both sides Don't make it an issue and move forward, he said that Pakistan People's Party is against taking away the right to protest, but there is a need for the action committee to ensure that their movement is limited to the legitimate rights of the people.

## Famous Painter Liaquat Khan works put on display at PAC

**PNP**

RAWALPINDI: An exhibition of works of world-renowned painter and calligrapher Liaquat Ali Khan was organized at the Punjab Arts Council. The exhibition was inaugurated by Member Punjab Assembly Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate. Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoore and Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman presented a bouquet to the chief guest. More than 60 artworks of Liaquat Ali Khan were displayed in the exhibition. The chief guest of the inauguration ceremony, Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate, said that creation is the attribute of Allah Almighty, everything that exists between the earth and the sky has been created by Allah Almighty. The artworks on display are like giving true color to nature. Artists have captured the beautiful sights of nature in colors. Colors do not need language. Colors speak their own language. Artists always play a positive role in society. We should attract the younger generation towards narrative education as well as art. Naheed Manzoor said that Liaquat Ali Khan was given the title of painter with golden hands by Sheikh Zayed of United Arab Emirates. An 8,000 square feet tall portrait of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah has also been made by Liaquat Ali Khan. The artworks on display are testament to the talent and hard work of Liaquat Ali Khan. She pays tribute to Liaquat Ali Khan for devoting his life to the promotion of art. Arts Council's platform is always there for the youth, she added. Liaquat Ali Khan said that I have spent my life for the promotion of art and culture. I am working day and night to pass my art to the younger generation.

## World Peace Jirga Program Swearing-in ceremony held in Islamabad

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: The swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held at the National Press Club, Islamabad. Among the officials are Provincial President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shakrullah, Vice President Sohail Rizwan, Senior Vice President Anwar Shah Bangish, Secretary Salman Ayub, Rizwan Shah General Secretary, Shamsul Rahman Giant Secretary, Sajid Niaz Finance Secretary, Hameed Sultan Project Manager, Ahmed Nawaz Coordinator, Sana A. Rahman Media Coordinator, Naem Rahman Coordinator Education, Adil Khan Coordinator Health, Shafiqullah Coordinator Agriculture, Fahad Rehan Coordinator Mining and Abdul Rauf Khan Coordinator Developing and Planning while at Peshawar Divisional level Jameel Ahmed, President, Asad Shah Vice President, Muhammad Iqbal Senior Vice President, Sanaullah Secretary and Finance Secretary Nisar Ahmed was present.

## Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: Youngster taking respite during scorching heat in the Angoori Waterfall, a tourist site in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# 55000 Palestinian Muslims have Been Martyred: Allama Saeed Kazmi

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Central Ameer of Jamaat Ahlesunnat Pakistan Allama Syed Mazhar Saeed Kazmi has said that if the Qadiyanism and those who slander against Companions and Ahl al-Bayt on social media in the country are not reined in, Jamaat Ahlesunnat will be forced to conduct movement. Revision appeals filed in the Supreme Court regarding the end of Prophethood should be heard on a daily basis and immediate decisions should be taken. He expressed these views while talking to the media at his residence. Member of the Supreme Council of Jamaat Ahlesunnat Wasim Mumtaz Advocate, Provincial Nazim-e-Ala Punjab Allama Muhammad Farooq Khan Saeedi and Central Director of Broadcasting Dr. Muhammad Siddique Khan Qadri were also present on this occasion.



Allama Mazhar Saeed Kazmi further said that appeals have been filed in the Supreme Court against the unconstitutional interpretations of the Constitution of Pakistan regarding the Qadianis as the decision given in this regard was in conflict with the Constitution of Pakistan which hurt the sentiments of the entire nation. In this regard, petitions for review have been filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, but they should be heard on a daily basis because the delaying tactics are increasing the anxiety in the nation. Allama Mazhar Saeed Kazmi further said that the Muslims of Pakistan are ready to make the biggest sacrifice to

protect the honorable Prophethood (SAW). He expressed deep sorrow that some elements are talking about the Companions and especially Hazrat Syedna Usman Ghani (RA) by pretending to be Sunnis and the constitutional institutions should fulfill their responsibility in this regard. He said that we support the complete boycott of Zionist products in the Islamic world. Pakistan is a nuclear power, but our rulers cannot get out of the cycle of IMF and begging them, but they consider begging as an honor. 55 thousand martyrdoms have become uncontrollable. It is such a big tragedy in Islamic history that the heart cries tears of blood. We expect that the rulers will pay attention to our voice. Otherwise, the final plan of action will be announced in the main meeting of Jamaat Ahl-Sunnat to be held in Multan on May 22.



Additional Chief Secretary General AJK Ms. Midhat Shahzad chairing a meeting of Selection Board in Muzaffarabad.

# PMA demands immediate action on Nishtar 2 Hospital's shortage of doctors, equipment

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: In Nishtar 2 Hospital, various departments could not get functional, lack of doctors and equipment and machinery in many departments, PMA Multan met with the Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University regarding the problems faced by the doctors, the

problems should be solved immediately. According to the details, the delegation of Pakistan Medical Association along with the faculty of Nishtar 2 Hospital under the leadership of President PMA Multan Prof. Dr. Masood Al Rauf Haraj met Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani yesterday.

Meanwhile, she was told that the departments of Nephrology, Urology, Cardiology, Gastroenterology and Dental could not be activated in Nishtar 2, while the vacancies of doctors for these departments in SNE should be created and re-sent, while the already active departments are Orthopedic. Along with severe lack of equipment

and machinery in neurosurgery and others, there is a severe shortage of doctors in the anesthesia department, while the hospital's affiliation with PMDC, doctors' experience certificate, joining Nishtar Academic Council including other issues was informed to the Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khak-



wani, on which VC Nishtar assured that attention of the higher authorities and all the problems will be brought to the resolved immediately.











