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

وصحيخارى: مديث نمر<sub>6928</sub>) **Barkat Rice Mills** 

Saudi Arabia to build region's largest water theme park

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawaal-ul-Mukarram 29, Wednesday, May 8, 2024

here Monday. (Details on Page 5)

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#### Meeting

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



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

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMARAD: Prime Minister that the visit of Saudi investment significant headway in the rela-visit, a PM Office press release said. was granted under the Nation-cabinet approved to transfer the investment projects taken in its tionship between Pakistan and

al cabinet, appreciated the federal al to Air Sial to launch its flight Memorandum of Understand- Ministry of Federal Education Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said ministers, government officers and operations for China, Malaysia, ing for formation of Joint Trade and Professional Training. The staffers for their efforts to ensure Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkiye, the Committee between Pakistan body also endorsed the decisions delegation to Islamabad was a the success of the Saudi delegation's UK and Kuwait. The approval and Kingdom of Columbia. The of Cabinet committee on Chinese

The federal cabinet, on the al Aviation Policy 2023 and Air control of Directorate General meeting held on April 30, 2024.

Saudi Arabia. The prime minis- recommendation of the Minis- Services Agreement. The cabi- of Special Education from the ter, chairing a meeting of the feder- try of Aviation, accorded approv- net gave a nod to the signing of Human Rights Ministry to the

#### Reforms being introduced in multiple sectors to transform Pakistan: Tarar

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the country standing at the crossroads was going through transformation and various reforms were being intro-

duced 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 curtailing 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

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

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

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

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 constructive politics [instead]".



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

"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'

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

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 occa-

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

### Uzbekistan foreign minister to arrive in Pakistan today

**Spokesman Report** 

ter 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



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

#### Saudi Arabia-Pakistan **Investment Forum highlights** fruitful business ties

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Commerce hosted a Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment fifty-member delegation led by H. E. Ibrahim Al-Mubarak, ment 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 Develop-Forum at Serena Hotel. A ment. The Plenary Session was attended by the Saudi delegates, the Cabinet Minis-Assistant Minister for Invest- ters, 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

跨 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

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

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

President's visit to Pakistan as the present government would 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

Earlier, briefing the mediamen 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 a

Continued on Page 8

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

# 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. Expressig 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 his full support for the development of Hashim Rabbani, while briefing the



Minister House at Multan, which is now the Commissioner House. He assured

the region. Additional Chief Secretary, Fawad

Chairman Senate, highlighted the successful implementation of various initiative and said that South Punjab Secretariat has achieved many mile stones 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. Faud 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.

#### 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

Saim 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 Allaand Central Director of Broadcasting Dr. Muhammad Siddique Khan Qadri were also present on this occasion.



further said that appeals have been filed in the Supreme Court against the unconstitutional interpretations of the Constitution of Pakistan regardma Muhammad Farooq Khan Saeedi ing the Qadianis as the decision given in this regard was in conflict with the

Allama Mazhar Saeed Kazmi 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 Constitution of Pakistan which hurt said that the Muslims of Pakistan are of Jamaat Ahl-Sunnat to be held in the sentiments of the entire nation. ready to make the biggest sacrifice to Multan on May 22.

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



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 function-Multan met with the Vice Chancellor of the problems faced by the doctors, the yesterday.

problems should be solved immediately. According to the details, the delegation of Pakistan Medical Association along with the faculty of Nishtar 2 Hospital al, lack of doctors and equipment and under the leadership of President PMA machinery in many departments, PMA Multan Prof. Dr. Masood Al Rauf Haraj met Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical Nishtar Medical University regarding University Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani

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.

Meanwhile, she was told that the 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 Along with severe lack of equipment University Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khak-

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

👺 Bureau Repor

BENJUL/GAMBIA/MUZAFFARA-BAD: Azad Kashmir's Minister of Small Industries, Trade and Travel Professor Taqdees Geelani met with Assistant Secretary OIC Yusuf Al Dubey. Discussion on the latest situation of Occupied Kashmir and Palestine. On this occasion, Professor Taqdis Gilani 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 after 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 Dubey 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-NAzad Kashmir demands restraint on Kashmir protest: Ghulam Qadir

跨 🛮 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 awaythe 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 Liaqat khan works put on display at PAC

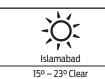
RAWALPINDI: An exhibition of works of world-renowned painter and calligrapher Liaquat Ali Khan was organized at the Punjab Arts Council. The exhibition was inaugurated by Member Punjab Assembly Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate. Deputy Director Muhammad Shakoor and Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman presented 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

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, Naeem Rahman Coordinator Education, Adil Khan Coordinator Health, Shafiullah 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.



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



#### **Namaz Timings** .. 6:56 pm ...8:30 pm

#### **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) 15	1
Bomb Disposal15	
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 16	
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &	
& Rescue Services 4451122	
Motorway Police9266044	<i>'</i>
Motorway Police 9270601-20	
344 B 11	١,

#### **Women Police Stations**

- 144 (1411)			
Islamabad	9222596		
Rawalpindi	9270601-20		
ENO	UIRY		

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

#### HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09

CBD Punjab's upcoming auction event to take center stage in Punjab's economic landscape

**№** PPA

LAHORE: The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also recognized as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), is set to mark a significant milestone in the region's real estate landscape with the auction of six exclusive plots, comprising three mix-used commercial and three residential plots, scheduled for

May 9, 2024. As the premium development authority of Punjab, CBD Puniab is at the fore front of transforming the urban landscape, and this auction represents a pivotal moment in Punjab's economic evolution. The auction event will showcase the immense potential for investment and development within the CBD

Punjab precinct. With this auction, CBD Punjab is proud to introduce its latest ventures: CBD Business Bay and CBD Residencia. These ventures epitomize CBD Punjab's commitment to innovation and excellence in urban development, offering prime real estate opportunities for both commercial and resi-

dential purposes. CBD Business Bay presents a unique opportunity for businesses to thrive in a dynamic environment. With mixed-use commercial plots available, CBD Business Bay caters to the diverse needs of enterprises seeking a strategic location for their operations.

# ISSI holds second round of Dialogue with ASEAN Committee in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held the second round of dialogue with ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) comprising heads of missions of ASEAN member states in Islamabad. The ASEAN delegation was led by the current ACI Chair, Ambassador Maria Agnes M. Cervantes, Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, led the ISSI side.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the special significance Pakistan attaches to ASEAN as part of its "Vision East Asia." While noting ASEAN's Centre ISSI, stated that Paki-

standing as a global economic powerhouse and a successful model of regional cooperation, he underlined Pakistan's growing engagement with ASEAN member states, both bilaterally and on the institutional plane. Among other things, he noted that the two-way trade volume between Pakistan and ASEAN had reached \$11.8 billion, highlighting the potential for further growth with the \$3 trillion economy of the region. Tracing the history of Pakistan's Sectoral Dialogue with ASEAN he emphasized the efforts being made for its elevation to Full Dialogue Partnership status.

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir. Director, China Pakistan Study

stan and ASEAN share a longstanding and robust relationship. Pakistan's strategic location as a bridge between South Asia and the Middle East complements ASEAN's focus on trade and connectivity.

Ambassador Maria Cervantes emphasized that the cooperation between Pakistan and ASEAN is important. She acknowledged the importance Pakistan attaches to Full Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN and assured support in Pakistan's efforts as well as those of the ISSI in this regard.

The other members of the ASEAN delegation includ-Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam; Mr. Aung Kyaw Thuya, Charge d' Affaires of Myanmar; Charge d' Affaires of Malaysia; Affaires of Thailand.



ed Ambassador Nguyen Tien Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Mr. Khairurrijal Hazim, Charge Charge d' Affaires of Indonesia; Mr. Mohd Syafik Hassbullah, and Ms. Gob Kamola, Charge d'

d'Affaires of Brunei Darrusalam;

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI, delivered concluding remarks at the dialogue.

#### Preparation of Summer

ISLAMABAD: A worker busy in preparing room coolers at his workplace as demands increased dur-



## PRCS organizes Blood Donation Camp at FAST University

ISLAMABAD: The Regional Blood Donor Center (RBDC) of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Pakistan organized a Blood Donation Drive at the FAST National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences on Tuesday. Held on the lawns of the FAST University, this initiative was part of the ongoing Red Cross Red Crescent Week celebrations themed "Keeping Humanity Alive."

The event drew an enthusiastic response, with students and faculty members uniting to support this noble cause. Guided by the directives of Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Red Crescent staff and volunteers actively participated in blood donation, with a total of is estimated that this generous



FAST, PRCS, and TRC.

In his message on this occa-

sion, Chairman PRCS, Sard-

emphasized the significance

of saving lives through blood

donation and highlighted the

crucial role regular blood dona-

act will benefit approximately faculty, and volunteers from 411 people through the donation of red blood cells, plasma,

An inaugural ceremony ar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, took place at the FAST University meeting hall, attended by PRCS Member Managing Body Dr. Irshad Muhammad, Rector FAST University Prof. Dr. Aftab tions play in assisting patients Ahmad Maroof, PRCS Joint in need. He underscored Director Operations Ms. Asima the importance of this year's Naseem, Head of Turkish Dele-RCRC theme, emphasizing 137 individuals contributing. It gation in Pakistan Mr. Ergest PRCS's resolute commitment LIMKA, along with students, to upholding the principles of

challenging times. Rector FAST Universi-

humanity, particularly during

ty Dr. Aftab Ahmed Maroof commended the collective effort that made the event a success. highlighting the longstanding partnership between FAST University and the Red Crescent in organizing blood dona-

Nicolas Lambert, the Head of Delegation for Pakistan at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said, "I commend the joint efforts of the PRCS and FAST University in organizing this blood donation drive.

Mr. Ergest LIMKA, Head of Delegation of TRC, extended gratitude to all donors, emphasizing the powerful impact of blood donation in saving lives and serving humanity.

During the event, the PRCS RBDC shed light on the importance of voluntary blood donations and advancements in blood separation technology.

#### E-domicile in Lower South Waziristan 'has added to difficulties'

Mazir Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Issuance of e-domicile has become a headache for youth and women in Wana, Lower South Waziristan District. Citizens have demanded the provincial government of Kkyber Pakh-

tunkhowa to cancel and remove the condition of B Form for e-domicile. On March 21, 2024 the district administration South Waziristan Lower had started creating e-domicile for the convenience of the people on the instructions of the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhowa and home department KP, However, unfortunately, instead of facilitating the people, e-domicile has added to the difficulties

According to the report, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhowa has made B Form mandatory for creating e-domicile online, while at the same time, domicile has been declared mandatory for making an identity card. Said in the report, that at this time domicile cannot be issued without

B Form, and B Form cannot be made for people above 18 years of age. However, due to this, obtaining domicile, B Form and identity card has become a headache for common people.

On the other hand, e-faciliteis in-charge Farid Wazir told media that the Khyber Pakhtunkhowa government had announced on March 21 to provide the facility of creating e-domicile online for the convenience of the people. He said now, becoming a reverse domicile has become a nightmare for the citizens of Waziristan. Assistant Commissioner Wana Faisal Ismail said in this regard that the district administration has received many complaints about e-domicile and with this issue, the administration has informed the Home Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that people are facing these difficulties in e-domicile.

## Pakistan Should Capitalize on \$13 Trillion Commonwealth Economy: Atif Ikram Sheikh

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has emphasized that Pakistan should look at 56-country commonwealth's global grouping with a combined GDP of \$13 trillion as an economic alliance and capitalize on the advantages it offers for investment and economic cooperation in general and exports in particular. He observed that countries in commonwealth are adding the middle-class quicker than any other global grouping; and, the middle-class is the real driver of consumption and import demand.

It is pertinent to note that Ms. Rosie Glazebrook, Chief Executive of Commonwealth Heads of Government trial base to increase its exports and Commonwealth Enterprise & Investment Council (CWEIC), visited FPCCI Head Office in Karachi to discuss the business, investment and trade opportunities among the commonwealth nations and its relevance to Pakistan. CWEIC has a mandate from the



to promote trade and investments in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, stressed that what Pakistan needs is trade & investment; technology transfer; industrial collaborations and strengthening of the indus-

achieve import substitution – rather than aid or grants. He also expressed his strong desire that FPCCI wants to work with CWEIC to make Pakistan as one of its hubs to establish Pakistan as the next big trade and investment destinations for the commonwealth.

Mr. Imran Khalil Naseer, Chairman of the Pakistan – UK Business Council (PUKBC), maintained that CWEIC and Pakistan's corporate sector should work together to enable Pakistani corporations to become corporate strategic partners of CWEIC.

There are over 150 corporate strategic partners of CWEIC at the moment and Pakistani companies have the potential to be added to that august ensemble of market players in diverse sectors and industries, he added.

Ms. Rosie Glazebrook, Chief Executive of Commonwealth Enterprise & Investment Council (CWEIC), invited Pakistani companies to be part of the upcoming Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) 2024 to be held in October this year for business-to-business and business-to-government linkages. She added that commonwealth has a total population of 2.5 billion; 40 percent of the world's workforce and half of the world's emerging cities.

## LUMS Hosts 2nd Symposium on Battery Electric Vehicles in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: LUMS hosted the 2nd Symposium on Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) in Pakistan in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Focused on 'Accelerating the Electric Mobility Transition in Pakistan' this year, the symposium brought together senior leaders, policymakers, academics, and industry experts. The event featured distinguished speaker sessions and panel discussions on progress, challenges, and ways for electrification of transportation in the country in line with global trends.

Dr. Shakeel Sadiq Jajja, Chair of the Symposium and Associate Professor, Suleman Dawood School of Business, LUMS, speaking on the scope of BEVs in Pakistan, shared that, "The electrification of transportation is rising in the last few years much more rapidly all over the world.

Ms. Jen Jungeun Oh, Practice Manager, Transport, South Asia, at the World Bank shared that, "The EV symposium has brought together key stakeholders in the EV ecosystem in Pakistan and generated several useful takeaways. Stakeholders agreed that concerted action is needed to catalyse EV adoption in the country, focused first on electric two and three wheelers and electric buses, given their prevalence and socio-economic importance.

Mr. Zeeshan Sheikh, IFC's Country Manager for Pakistan and Afghanistan added that, "Globally, in recent years, IFC has invested over USD 3 billion in e-mobility related initiatives, and we are committed to drawing on our experiences to support the private sector and the Government of Pakistan in fostering an enabling environment for enhanced adoption and investment in BEVs in Pakistan."

#### NCHD, Chaudhary Muhammad Natt Trust hospital to offer free eye screenings



ISLAMABAD: The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) conducted screenings for 549 students as part of its School Health Program. Of these, 115 students were identified as having vision or eye-related issues impacting their learning, confidence, and attendance. Recognizing the importance of addressing this issue to improve the performance of NCHD Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) Centers, senior management decided to take action.

On May 7, 2024, NCHD entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chaudhary Muhammad Hussain Natt Trust Hospital. Under this agreement, the hospital will conduct free eye screening camps at 208 NCHD ALP centers, screening a total of 5876 students. Services provided will include on-site provision of necessary medical care, glasses, medication, and minor/major corrective surgeries for conditions such as squint and cataracts.

Chaudhary Muhammad Hussain Natt Trust Hospital & Research Center (CMHNTH & RC) acts solely as a donor in executing this agreement, leveraging its powers and authority to support this initiative.

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

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#### **Ceasefire deal**

mid reports that 100,000 Palestinians have been told by Israel to leave Rafah ahead of an anticipated military operation there and that Hamas has accepted the latest Israeli ceasefire proposal, UN humanitarian officials Monday insisted that they had no intention of quitting the vital aid hub. Israel has yet to respond to multiple news reports that Hamas's supreme leader, Ismail Haniyeh, had confirmed the acceptance of ceasefire terms, in a phone call with Qatar's Prime Minister and a senior Egyptian minister.

Earlier, in the morning following news of the Israeli evacuation order, the UN agency for Palestine refugees UNRWA said in a post on X that "an Israeli offensive in Rafah would mean more civilian suffering and deaths. The consequences would be devastating for 1.4 million people". "UNRWA is not evacuating: the agency will maintain a presence in Rafah as long as possible and will continue providing lifesaving aid to people." Echoing that alert, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) warned that "a military besiegement and ground incursion in Rafah would pose catastrophic risks to the 600,000 children" sheltering there. Many "are highly vulnerable and at the edge of survival", the UN agency said in a statement, highlighting increased violence in Rafah and the fact that potential evacuation corridors were "likely mined or littered with unexploded ordnance". Any military move on Rafah would likely result in very high civilian casualties while also destroying "the few remaining basic services and infrastructure" that people needed to survive, UNICEF insisted. "Hundreds of thousands of children who are now cramped into Rafah are injured, sick, malnourished, traumatized, or living with disabilities," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Many have been displaced multiple times, and have lost homes, parents and loved ones. They need to be protected along with the remaining services that they rely on, including medical facilities and shelter." In a related development, the head of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Cindy McCain, said that northern Gaza was now experiencing "full-blown famine...and it's moving its way south". Ms. McCain's remarks on Sunday echoed serious and repeated concerns from other senior UN officials and the international community about aid restrictions and delays imposed by Israeli authorities. "The Israeli authorities continue to deny humanitarian access to the United Nations," insisted UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini. "Only in the past two weeks, we have recorded 10 incidents involving shooting at convoys, arrests of UN staff including bullying, stripping them naked, threats with arms and long delays at checkpoints forcing convoys to move during the dark or abort," he said in a post on X on Sunday. The UNRWA Commissioner-General also condemned rocket attacks on Kerem Shalom crossing which reportedly killed three Israeli soldiers, leading to its closure. The crossing is a key humanitarian relief entry point. According to media reports, leaflet drops by the Israeli military above eastern Rafah advised communities to move to the so-called safe zone of Al Mawasi, to the west of Rafah, by the Mediterranean Sea. UN humanitarians have previously rejected similar evacuation initiatives by the Israeli military on the grounds that they represent forced displacement. "In Al Mawasi, there is a severe lack of sufficient infrastructure including water available and it is not feasible to support tens of thousands of displaced people there," UNRWA spokesperson in Gaza Louise Wateridge told UN News. More than 400,000 people already shelter in the coastal location, according to the UN agency's latest assessment, which reported an influx of displaced persons from nearby city of Khan Younis. To help them, UNR-WA has two temporary health centres in Al Mawasi, along with other newly established medical points in the area.

## SC verdict revives PTI's hopes

Analysi

**Qamar Bashir** 

against oppressions of the courts by the six courageous judges had given the courage and strength to the Supreme Court's three-member bench to admit the appeal preferred by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), suspended the the decision of the Peshawar High Court, and declared that those elected against the reserve seats claimed by SIC will not be able cast their votes in any matter being taken by the assemblies both at the national and provincial level.

During the hearing the bench raised many pertinent and consequential questions which they might not have dared raised prior to the six Judges letter. "The most consequential question, Would a political party get reserved seats according to the seats it has won, or can it also get more [than its share]?' The answer was, 'Any political party, under any circumstances, cannot get more than its share of reserved seats.'

The second question was, 'Where is it written in the law that the remaining [reserved] seats should be distributed among the same political parties?' Next question was, 'Where is it written in the law that a political party cannot contest elections upon not receiving an electoral symbol?' 'How is it possible that someone's mandate is handed over to someone else?' 'Can seats belonging to independent candidates be distributed among other parties?' 'Can other remaining reserved seats also be distributed to them? Is there anything like that in the law?'. 'If there is nothing as such in the law, then isn't doing so against the Constitutional scheme?' Whether the ECP had not given the unallocated reserved seats to other political parties under its suo motu powers. What cannot be done directly cannot be done indirectly either, 'Is it right to ignore a political party's mandate almost all judges of the bench expressed

quential observation was: 'One thing is decided — a party would only get reserved seats according to the representation it has [in the assemblies].

"Both the Attorney General and the ECP representative could not reply to any of the questions to the satisfaction of the three-member bench. Conse-

hearing, suspended the earlier ECP and PHC decisions limited to the allocation of the remaining reserved seats, which had been distributed among three other political parties.

"The current government perhaps did not anticipate that the

Supreme Court Procedure and Practices now and fast, to create a foolproof fire-Act 2023, which deprived the chief justice of the sole power to constitute benches, would work against them. Recognizing that this bench did not include any judges perceived to be favorable to them, the Attorney General at the outset raised an objection against the formation of the bench and demanded the formation of a larger bench.

The objection was promptly rejected, with the argument that the appeal was filed under Article 185 of the Constitution and not Article 184/3. Therefore, the question before the bench was whether the appeals were admissible or not, and if found maintainable, a larger bench could also be constituted to hear the case.

The newfound strength and courage, and the demonstration of their commitment to not only deliver justice but also ensure that justice is seen to be delivered, was a consequence of the six judges' letter to the Supreme Judicial Council.

During the hearing on April 30th,

campaign against the six judges, noting that personal and sensitive data had been retrieved from NADRA, PTI, immigration records, and travel history, which no member of the public could have accessed. They observed with great pain and anguish that the same executive branch, which is supposed to protect the quently, the bench accepted the case for judiciary, seemed to have turned against

> "They insisted, without succumbing to any argument, that the interference of the executive in the judiciary is a matter of paramount importance, therefore, the Supreme Court has the unavoidable responsibility to act, and act

wall around the judiciary at all levels to shield it from outside interference.

During the hearing on April-30, the Peshawar High Court's response, among others, was read out. The PHC stated that, in order to receive a favorable decision in politically consequential matters, the court was threatened by the non-state actors. The PHC's admission explained the level of fear, intimidation, and threat it faced. Knowing that upholding the decision of the EC would be unconstitutional and unlawful, the PHC did so to protect themselves and the lives of their loved

"If the Supreme Court had not intervened to suspend the allocation of 78 reserved seats, this would have brought the total strength of PML(N) and its allies in the National Assembly close to achieving a two-thirds majority and would have given them unmandated power to amend the constitution as they see fit, whenever required.

This verdict of the Supreme Court has

merit of other consequential and linked cases awaiting hearing by the Supreme Court, such as the matter of compiling the Elections-2024 results based on Form 45, illegal arrest and incarceration of PTI founder, PTI's leaders, and workers, among others.

Let's consider a hypothetical scenario where the Supreme Court fixes the case of election irregularities and announces that election results should be compiled based on Form 45. According to PTI and independent election observers, this could mean that PTI would secure 180 seats in the National Assembly. When combined with reserved seats, PTI would have a comfortable majority to form the government both at the center and in Punjab. Consequently, the incumbent governments would have to step down.

Let us assume further that the cases against the PTI leader are heard by the Supreme Court purely on merit. This could mean that the founder chairman of PTI would soon be released from jail. He would then contest the election on any seat or seats and most likely, after winning the elections, will become the country's next legitimate and credible prime minister, opening new vistas of either confrontation or reconciliation, instability or stability depending upon how the establishment, political parties, and foreign powers react to this scenario."

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

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



## Stoking Hate for Political Advantage: Modi's Tactics - III

style, characterized ization of authority and dictatorship, has contributed to an atmosphere of intolerance and polarization. His reluchas faced scrutiny from human rights ers. Critics argue that Modi's failure and sparked concerns regarding the

to outright condemn such actions sends a dangerous message, empowering perpetrators and corroding trust in democratic institutions. The proliferation of hate speeches and misinformation, particularly on social media platforms, has exacerbated

tensions and normalized bigotry and intolerance. His government's policies and rhetoric have fostered an environment was the enactment of the Citiment conducive to the proliferation of hate speech. The repercussions of such rhetoric are severe, as marginalized communities are exposed to heightened risks of violence, discrimination, and exclusion. As India contends with escalating communal tensions, assaults on religious minorities, and the erosion of democratic principles, the pursuit of racy and conveys a message of intolpolitical gains at the expense of social harmony raises profound apprehensions regarding the future of Indian democracy. In a nation as diverse and pluralistic as India, leadership that expansion have instilled fears of wideprioritizes inclusivity, dialogue, and spread disenfranchisement and state-

**Abdul Basit Alvi** 

leadership the safeguarding of minority rights is imperative for nurturing unity and upholding democratic ideals. However, Modi's political approach has been starkly contradictory to these values.

Within India's rich tapestry, the preservation of minority rights has tance or muted response to incidents of long stood as a challenge for democommunal violence and hate speech cratic ethos. Nevertheless, the policies and actions of the Modi adminadvocates and international observ- istration have ignited heated debates

treatment of minorities, particularly those belonging to religious and ethnic groups. legislative reforms to enforcement strategies, the government's stance has encountered criticism and scrutiny both domestically and

internationally. One of the most contentious measures undertaken by the Modi governzenship Amendment Act (CAA) in December 2019. Widely denounced as discriminatory and exclusionary, the CAA expedites citizenship for migrants from neighboring countries, excluding Muslims from its provisions. This deliberate exclusion undermines the secular foundation of Indian democerance to religious minorities. Additionally, the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam and its proposed nationwide

lessness, particularly among marginalized groups. Coupled with the CAA, the NRC has been interpreted as a targeted assault on the rights of Muslims and other vulnerable segments of society, exacerbating communal tensions and eroding confidence in the government's so-called commitment to pluralism and inclusivity.

In addition to legislative actions, the Modi government's policies have manifested in heightened surveillance and scrutiny of minority communities The targeting of civil society organizations, human rights activists, and critical journalists has raised alarms regarding freedom of expression and the right to dissent. Religious minorities, particularly Muslims, have experienced increased surveillance and scrutiny, with reports emerging of discriminatory profiling and harassment by law enforcement agencies. The government's handling of instances of communal violence and hate speech has also faced scrutiny, with critics alleging a lack of meaningful response to atrocities committed against minority communities. The delayed and partial dispensation of justice for victims of communal violence exacerbates feelings of injustice and alienation among marginalized groups. Additionally, the diminishment of autonomy and self-governance in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, subsequent to the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, has sparked concerns regarding the rights of Kashmiri Muslims and other indigenous populations.

To be continued

### A New Chapter in Space: Pakistan's Launch of iCube Qamar

destinations, Pakistan has solidified its presence in the cosmos with the successful deployment of two satellites prior to its latest venture. The Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS), an earth observation optical satellite, was launched from China's Jiuquan Satellite Centre on 9 July 2018. Alongside it, the Pakistan Technology Evaluation Satellite (PakTES-1A) marked Pakistan's earnest beginnings

in space technology. Building on this foundation, Pakistan has now made a monumental stride into the final frontier with the launch of its first satellite, iCube Qamar. This landmark event, in collaboration with China's Chang'E6 mission from Hainan, China, signifies not only a technical achievement but also a bright new chapter in Pakistan's space exploration narrative.

As the rocket soared into the azure sky from Hainan, carrying iCube Qamar, it

symbolized an example of innovation and international cooperation. This satellite, a product of profound collaboration between the Institute of Space Technology (IST) in Islamabad, China's Shanghai University, and Pakistan's national space agency, SUPARCO, indicates the technological prowess and scientific ambition of Pakistan in the field of space technology. The design and development of iCube Qamar by IST, underline the importance of international partnerships in achieving technological milestones. As noted in Tariq Malik's The Stars Beckon, "The partnership between nations in space endeavors is not merely about sharing resources; it's about bridging humanity." This collaborative spirit is vividly captured in the joint mission, illustrating how teamwork on a global scale can lead to breakthroughs that benefit multiple nations.

Renowned astrophysicist Carl Sagan, in his book Cosmos, reflects on the power of human imagination in propelling us to the stars. iCube Qamar is a testament to the endless potential of concerted human creativity and technical skill. It stands as a beacon, guiding the way towards a future where Pakistan not only participates in space exploration but also contributes significantly to our collective understanding of the universe. The capabilities of the satellite extend into critical areas such as environmental monitoring and disaster management.

n an age where the stars are not just points of light but Echoing the sentiments of Rachel Carson from her work, Silent Spring, "The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but of ourselves." iCube Qamar, in this regard, serves as a pivotal tool for sustainable development and responsible environmental stewardship in Pakistan.

Furthermore, iCube Qamar's mission parameters include advanced Earth imaging technologies, which are crucial for

precise and efficient natural resource management. By providing vital data on water resources, forest cover, and urban expansion, the satellite will play a significant role in shaping Pakistan's policies on environmental conservation and urban planning. The satellite is equipped with experimental payloads designed to test new technologies in communication and navigation. These tests are aimed

at improving data transmission rates and reli-**Muhammad Awais** ability, which are essential for enhancing Pakistan's capabilities in satellite communication infrastructure.

The launch of iCube Qamar is a landmark step in Pakistan's journey through space, signifying both progress and the bright promise of future achievements. This landmark episode is not merely about showcasing technological capabilities but is also an evidence to the dreams and aspirations of a nation eager to explore new horizons. Reflecting on our guest to understand the cosmos, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson in Astrophysics for People in a Hurry reminds us of our responsibility to pursue knowledge of the universe. Pakistan, through initiatives like iCube Qamar and its collaboration with global partners, holds this challenge, poised to uncover new knowledge and inspire generations.

In sum, the successful launch of iCube Qamar with China's Chang'E6 marks a significant advance in Pakistan's space capabilities and underscores its commitment to contributing valuably to the international space community. It personifies the spirit of innovation and discovery that will undoubtedly propel Pakistan to new heights in the dominion of space exploration. Pakistan Zindabad!

The writer is an engineer by vocation and has a deep, research-based knowledge of Pakistan's polity. He can be reached at awais.army96@gmail.com

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

PARIS: 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.

Xi made the remarks during talks with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, at Elysee Palace.

The Chinese president expressed his delight in making the third state visit to France on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-France diplomatic relations.

The two sides should stay committed to the spirit that guided the establishment of their diplomatic ties, namely, independence, mutual understanding, long-term vision and mutual benefit, and enrich it with new features of the new era, Xi said.

The two sides should continue to understand each other, jointly promote harmonious coexistence in a colorful world, stick to taking a long view and work together for an equal and orderly multipolar world, he said.

They should pursue win-win cooperation and jointly oppose decoupling, cutting off supply chains, he said.

maintain strategic communication France should speed up people-to-peowith France, respect each other's core interests, and consolidate the strategic stability of bilateral relations, tap the France Year of Culture and Tourism,

cooperation and facilitate growth and balance in bilateral trade.

China is willing to import more quality products from France, push for more practical results from the "French farm to Chinese dining table" mechanism, and hope that France will export more high-tech and high value-added products to China, Xi said.

The two sides should enhance the docking of development strategies, deepen cooperation in traditional areas such as aerospace and aviation, strengthen cooperation in nuclear energy, innovation and finance, and expand cooperation in emerging areas such as green energy, smart manufacturing, biomedicine and artificial intelligence,

China has fully liberalized access to its manufacturing sector and will speed up market access in telecommunications, medical and other services, Xi

We welcome more French companies to invest in China, he said, adding that China hopes that France will provide a sound business environment and stable development expectations for Chinese companies to invest and cooperate in France.

Xi stressed that both as major coun-Xi stressed that China is willing to tries with a rich culture, China and ple and cultural exchanges, continue to hold various activities of the China-

vast potential of mutually beneficial and actively promote cooperation in the joint protection and restoration of cultural relics and pairing between world heritage sites.

Welcoming more French friends to visit China, Xi said that China will extend the visa-free policy for shortterm visits to China by 12 countries, including France, until the end of 2025.

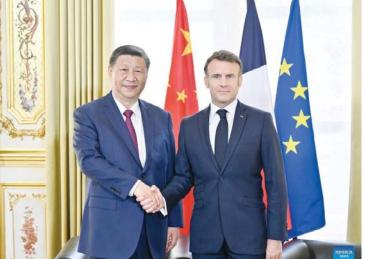
China also looks forward to hosting more than 10,000 French students in the next three years and doubling the number of European youth exchanges in China, Xi said.

China supports France in hosting a successful Paris Olympic Games and will send a high-level delegation to France, said the Chinese president.

China is willing to deepen cooperation with France in climate change, biodiversity and other fields, support France in hosting a successful UN Ocean Conference, and encourage the pairing of relevant national parks and nature reserves of the two countries, Xi said.

China is also willing to strengthen dialogue and communication with France in such areas as artificial intelligence governance and reform of the international financial system.

For his part, Macron said that France and China will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations this year, noting that the two countries enjoy a friendly relationship and productive cooperation regarding not just cutting-edge technologies but also



global issues such as climate change logic of bloc confrontation, Macron and marine biodiversity. During Xi's visit, the two sides signed many cooperation agreements, which again showcased the potential and prospects of France-China cooperation.

The world now faces many pressing challenges, and the profound and rich France-China relationship is at a critical juncture of building on the past and looking to the future, he said.

The two sides, through mutual respect, a long-term perspective and strengthened cooperation, will play an important and positive role in addressing global challenges and opposing any

France would like to have closer economic ties and multilateral communication and collaboration with China, and work for more outcomes in the France-China strategic partnership,

France hopes to export more agricultural products to China, and at the same time, it will continue to open its market to China, and will not adopt discriminatory policies against Chinese companies, said Macron, welcoming investment and cooperation by more Chinese companies, including high-

France is ready to step up cooperation with China in such areas as aerospace and aviation, and nuclear energy for civilian use, and jointly hold the France-China Year of Culture and Tourism activities, he said, adding that France welcomes the Chinese delegation to the Paris Olympic Games.

Xi pointed out that today's world is far from being tranquil. China and France, as permanent members of the UN Security Council, should speak out for peaceful settlement of hotspot issues and contribute to a world of lasting peace and common security. China is willing to work with France to advocate, on the occasion of the Paris Olympic Games, a cessation of hostilities around the world during the Games.

The two sides issued four joint statements on the situation in the Middle East, on AI and global governance, on biodiversity and oceans, and on agricultural exchanges and cooperation. Close to 20 bilateral cooperation documents were signed in such areas as green development, aviation, agrifood, commerce and people-to-people exchanges.

After the talks, Xi and Macron held a joint meeting with the press.

In the evening, Macron and Madame Brigitte Macron held a welcoming banquet for Xi and Madame Peng Livuan at Elysee Palace.

Cai Qi and Wang Yi, among others, were present at the events.

## China, France to enhance global governance cooperation on artificial intelligence

👺 Xinhua

PARIS: China and France pledged Monday to take effective measures to address the potential and actual risks associated with artificial intelligence (AI) technology, and to strengthen global governance of AI to promote development and use for the common good.

During Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to France at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron, the two heads of stat on bilateral and multilateral account the range of chal- of AI and promoting appro- a comprehensive and inclucooperation to properly utilize lenges that may arise from priate international govern- sive dialogue, and through and regulate the technology. the development and use of ance to achieve this goal, said promoting international coop-



Recognizing the key role AI, China and France agree on a joint statement on AI and eration and interoperability

of AI in development and the importance of promoting global governance issued by among AI governance frame-

the two countries. France and China agree

that global governance of AI should allow for flexibility to of a constantly and rapidly evolving technology, with the necessary protection of personal data and the rights of users mobilizing AI or whose productions are mobi-

secure, and reliable AI systems mental rights. based on the principle of AI for

works and initiatives, building on work done at the UN level.

Both countries recognize that the opportunities, risks facilitate the development and challenges associated with AI are global in nature, said the joint statement, underlining the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the context of rapid technological development to ensure international The two countries are fully security, stability, and respect committed to promoting safe, for sovereignty and funda-

France and China reached a series of consensus innovation, while taking into the development and security the common good, through to contribute to the strengthening of the cyber capabilities of states, particularly developing countries, to deal with all types of cyber threats, including those related to AI.

#### TM Introduces the Sullis Hajj Card-Pioneering a Cashless Pilgrimage Experience



Zindigi, and Mastercard to unveil the Sullis Hajj Card, a revolutionary financial product designed to provide pilgrims with a seamless and cashless experience during their spiritual journey in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This innovative card will officially launch on May 15, 2024, with applications opening through the MyTM App.

The launch event, held on May 6, 2024, was attended by dignitaries from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Additional Secretary for the Middle East region at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, graced the occasion. Mr. Adel Almomin, CEO of Finmal and Board Member of Tanmeya Capital, served as the esteemed Guest of Honour.

Key figures from the partnering organizations were also present, including Dr. Zain Farooq, CEO of MyTM Pakistan; Jawad Mahmood, CEO of MyTM Saudi Arabia; Abdullah Saeed, Director of Corporate Sales and Partnerships; Saad Sarwar Mirza, Director of Digital Payments and Card Systems; Usman Khan, CEO of MyTM Travels, among others. From Js Bank/Zindigi, notable attendees included Noman Azhar, CEO Zindigi; Rao Umer Farooq, Chief Business Officer; and Adeel, Chief Marketing Officer. Representing Mastercard was Mr. Ali Saqib, Head of Public sector Pakistan and Afghanistan; Mr. Arsalan khan, Vice President and Country manager Pakistan; and Mr, Amer Akram, Senior consultant

"We are proud to launch the Sullis Hajj Card, which marks a significant milestone in our journey to facilitate a fully integrated digital experience for pilgrims," said Dr. Zain Farooq. "This collaboration underscores our commitment to innovation and our vision to support the spiritual needs of Muslims worldwide with state-of-the-art technological solutions," added Jawad Mahmood.

The Sullis Hajj Card is a proprietary product of MyTM, tailored to address the unique needs of the pilgrimage environment, promoting a safer and more convenient way to handle financial transactions without detracting from the spiritual aspects of Hajj and Umrah.

## Pakistan envoy, EU HERA's unit head discuss health security collaboration

**Spokesman Report** 

BRUSSELS: Ambassador of Paki-Baloch on Tuesday met with Daphne

ment landscape of the HERA direc-

They also deliberated over the stan to the European Union, opportunities for collaboration Belgium and Luxembourg Amna between Pakistan and the European Union in the field of health security. von Buxhoeveden, the Unit Head of The EU HERA works to strengthen European Health Emergency Europe's ability to prevent, detect, Response Authority (HERA). In the and rapidly respond to cross-bor-



meeting, they discussed the engage- der health emergencies, by ensuring procurement and equitable distri-

the development, manufacturing, bution of key medical countermeas-

## Pakistan's Dairy and Beef Sector need to transform through Precision Farming!

 $Pakistan, Dutch, and Australian\ Companies\ Announce\ Partnership\ to\ introduce\ superior\ livestock\ and\ nutrition\ solutions!$ 

**Spokesman Report** 

LAHORE: Despite being 4th largest milk producer in the world and major sub-sectors of agriculture, contributing, along with livestock, over 60% of value-added agriculture and 11.7% of the total GDP contribution, the dairy sector faces persistent challenges that hinders its optimal potential.

With a population of 240 million people to meet their protein and dairy needs, Pakistan's dairy and beef industry is largely underperforming, which requires huge efforts to improve it.

These views were expressed by industry experts while speaking at an event that marked the partnership between Australian livestock company, one of the leading exporters in live animals, and Denkavit Nederland, the Dutch global leader in feed for young animals with over 90 years of knowledge and experience in the field of young animals' feed solutions.

Cloud Agri Pakistan & Global Business Director of Cloud Agri Group said, by joining forces with NASNA and Denkavit, we are not only facilitating the introduction of superior livestock and nutrition solutions but also fostering a platform for knowledge exchange and the implementation of international best practices to Pakistan dairy and beef The collaboration is poised to bring

unprecedented benefits to the Pakistani dairy and beef sector. NASNA will serve as the exclusive provider of high-quality Australian dairy and beef animals, while Denkavit will supply state-of-the-art calf rearing solutions Cloud Agri Pakistan, with NASNA, an to meet the diverse needs of Pakistani livestock farmers.

Ms. Henny Fokel de Vries, Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan, hoped that partnership between Dutch and Pakistani company Cloud Agri will lead to developing Pakistani livestock sector on modern lines. She said over 50 Dutch

Dr. Rana Shaukat Hussain, CEO of companies are operating in Pakistan, including in Dairy and Agriculture sectors.

She assured her full support for Pakistani and Dutch companies operating in the Dairy Sector.

She said pakistan and the Netherlands have been engaged in what she calls historic cooperation in the dairy and livestock sector.

Dr. Sajjad Hussain Sanghi (DG Research L&DD Punjab) said that the vestock sector in Pakistan has historically been dominated by small-scale producers, with traditional methods prevailing across the country. However, with the advent of modern technologies and increased awareness, industry is undergoing a transformation. The Govt. department on an ad-hoc basis working seamlessly to develop FMD free programs as well as facilitating the global companies for Private Public Partnerships to welcome advanced vaccine technologies in the country. Smallholder farmers are gradually



adopting innovative practices such as improved breeding techniques, better feed management, and advanced healthcare for livestock.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mazhar Ayaz (Vice Chancellor, CUVAS Bahawalpur) said such events provide a platform for key stakeholders, industry experts, academia, and Govt. livestock department, agricultural professionals and dairy and beef farmers across Pakistan to converge, share insights, and chart a collective pathway toward a more dynamic and sustainable future to meet the food and feed requirements for increasing population and CUVAS will always welcome to join hands with private sectors to meet the country needs and knowledge.

Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha-Ex VC UVAS/ UED said this tripartite collaboration's vision should extend beyond immediate commercial interests and foster enduring partnerships that benefit Pakistani dairy and livestock farmers. The influx of high-quality dairy advanced nutrition solutions and live cattle will invigorate Pakistan's trade relations with Netherlands and Australia, strengthening the bond between the nations and reinforcing their shared commitment to agricultural excellence and growth in livestock sector.

Wednesday, May 8, 2024



Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
72,761.19	72,764.24		
Day's High	Day's Low		
73,260.08	72,707.95		
Index Value	Change		
14,389,774,530	-3.05		
Percentage	Time		
-0%	7 May, 2024		
	5:00 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
8,313.67	+100.18		
Percentage	Time		
+1.22%	7 May, 4:35 pm		
	GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		

Index Value	Change		
38,907.47	+55.20		
Percentage	Time		
+0.14%	7 May, 2:10 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag			
Index Value	Change		
38,835.10	+599.03		
Percentage	Time		

+1.57%

7 May, 3:15 pm

GMT + 9

<u> </u>		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180	182
Bahrain Dinar	740.04	748.04
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.43	38.83
Danish Krone	40.16	40.56
Euro	294.5	297
Hong Kong Dollar	35.6	35.95
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.16	914.16
Malaysian Ringgit	58.71	59.31
NewZealand \$	167.23	169.23
Norwegians Krone	25.57	25.87
Omani Riyal	722.7	730.7
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.2	73.95
Singapore Dollar	204.65	206.65
Swedish Korona	25.79	26.09
Swiss Franc	307.37	309.87
Thai Bhat	7.56	7.71
U.A.E Dirham	75	75.75
UK Pound Sterling	345	348.5
US Dollar	277.5	280.25

Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited Joins *International Finance* Corporation



ISLAMABAD: Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited (DIBPL) has signed an Issuing Bank Agreement (IBA) with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to support international trade in Pakistan.

Under the agreement, IFC will guarantee payment of DIBPL obligations to support their trade finance transactions with tenors of up to one year. This will strengthen DIBPL's strategic plan to grow its international trade business and enhance correspondent banking relationships focused on international trade within the country.

"This agreement will further streamline and ease the process for trade finance in Pakistan. Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan remains committed to supporting businesses focused on international trade and we believe this partnership with IFC will be instrumental in achieving this goal," said Mr. Junaid Ahmed, CEO of DIPBL.

"Trade is essential for economic growth and a key driver of opportunities for local enterprises. We are pleased to support Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited in its efforts to boost international trade and we believe this partnership will help foster a trade ecosystem in the country that strengthens supply chains, spurs productivity, and creates jobs," said Momina Aijazuddin, Regional Head for the Finan-

cial Institutions Group at IFC. IFC's GTFP has been operating in Pakistan since 2005. Pakistan is now one of the top markets for the program with a total GTFP commitments of US\$6.6 billion since inception and US\$1.4 billion for FY23. With the recent joining of DIPBL, IFC has now 10 partner issuing banks in Pakistan who will benefit from the program.

## ICCI delegation calls on designate Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider

ISLAMABAD:: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry headed by its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtwari called on Governor-designate Punjab Sardar Salim Haider.

On this occasion the designate Governor while hailing the services of Islamabad Cham-

ber of Commerce and Industry for the welfare of the business community assured that he will play his fullest role for the resolution of problems confronting the business community of Islamabad and adjacent areas.

He also assured that he will comprehensively take forward the ICCI's demand for the establishment of an Industrial zone in Islamabad for the promotion of businesses and investments.



It is noteworthy that earlier the President government to do the needful. The designate ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the Governor-designate that the existing industrial zones of Islamabad located in I-9, I-10 and Kahutta have saturated and there is no room at all to expand them, therefore it will be appropriate to allocate a reasonable piece of land for the purpose in the jurisdiction of Punjab

Governor promised to passionately consider the proposal.

The ICCI delegation comprised Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, Executive members Maqsood Tabish, Rizwan Chheena, Shabbir Malik and other.

#### Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, co-chaired a meeting with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, His Excellency Jiang Zaidong, on Tuesday. Secretary Planning, Awais Manzoor Sumra, and other senior officials from the Ministry accompanied the Minister.



## onic Announces Strategic Partnership with foodpanda to Expand Digital Lifestyle Ecosystem

ISLAMABAD: onic, Pakistan's first digital telecommunication brand, dedicated to enhancing the lives of its consumers, is thrilled to announce a strategic partnership with foodpanda, the country's premier online delivery platform. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in onic's journey to enhance its digital offerings and create a comprehensive digital lifestyle ecosystem for

Through this partnership, onic aims to integrate foodpanda's robust delivery services into its existing digital platform, providing customers with seamless access to a diverse range of culinary options at their fingertips at greater prices. By leveraging foodpanda's extensive network of restaurants and delivery capabilities, onic will empower users to order food and groceries conveniently with the vouchers provided. The partnership was solidified between Omer Bin Tariq,



Muntaqa Peracha, CEO, foodpanda.

Commenting on the partnership, Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, stated, "We are excited to join hands with foodpanda to elevate the digi-

customers. Pakistan's market is rich with space to grow in and provide unparalleled services to our consumers. With this partnership, we are only delivering on the promise

of a truly digital brand. Muntaqa Peracha, CEO,

siasm on the collaboration and stated, "We are thrilled to partner with onic to enhance our customers' digital experience.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in the growth of digital services in

Pakistan.

#### Yango and travel portal Discover Pakistan forge strategic partnership

international tech company, is thrilled to announce a transformative partnership with Discover Pakistan, a prominent organization dedicated to promoting the country's cultural and natural heritage. This strategic collaboration aims to foster tourism growth and showcase Pakistan's richness and diversity to a global audi-

Commenting on the partnership, Miral Sharif, Country Manager of Yango Pakistan, expressed enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled to partner with Discover Pakistan to unlock the full potential of travel and tourism in Pakistan. By combining Yango's technology-driven solutions with Discover Pakistan's deep-rooted expertise, we aim to show the world the beauty and wonders of Pakistan."

Similarly, Bilal Khalid Qazi, Chief Marketing KARACHI: Yango, an Officer of Discover Pakistan, shared their excitement, saying, "This partnership marks a significant milestone in our efforts to promote Pakistan as a premier travel destination. Through our collaboration with Yango, we are confident that we can offer travellers unique and unforgettable visual experiences, showcasing the richness and diversity of our country."

The partnership between Yango and Discover Pakistan signifies a shared vision to have a positive impact on the travel and tourism industry in Pakistan, driving economic growth, cultural exchange, and sustainable development. Together, they aim to inspire travellers to embark on unforgettable journeys throughout Pakistan, discovering the beauty and wonders of the country.

#### Dr. Kashif Sohail, President of Kashif Media Group, USA

LAHORE: The President of Kashif Media (US) Dr. Kashif Sohail is Pioneer of artificial intelligence (A) based futuristic videos. Dr. Kashif Sohail is firstly started making and publishing Al based videos and audios regularly on daily weekly basis and he has significantly contribution to the development and progress of these based robotic videos. Dr. Kashif Sohail is is also the author of dozens of books which has been producing Al based futuristic videos, influencing and advocating about the

future and application of Al to various domains, including computer vision and videos. Dr. Kashif Sohail is working on Al based Videos and has led to significant advancements in video understanding object, direction and video recommendations systems, His expertise focus on visual recognition and understanding, object detection, and video recommendation systems. Dr. Kashif expertise is focussing on visual recognition and understanding with applications in various aspects of video classification, activity recognition, and scene

#### POGEE to kick off today with Pakistan Öil, Gas & Energy Exhibition'

LAHORE: The 18th edition of 'Pakistan Oil, Gas & Energy Exhibition' (POGEE) will kick off today at Expo Center, Lahore. This exhibition is receiving tremendous response from the leading international and local Energy-companies and stakeholders of this key industry. The exhibition will ative.

be continue 3 days.

The energy sector of Pakistan plays a vital role in the economic development of the country while directly affecting the operations and growth of all other industrial sectors. Given the socioeconomic impact and contributions of this robust sector, optimal planning for sustainable energy is imper-

### SECP proposes enhanced disclosures for Shariah Stock **Screening of listed** companies

**₿ PPA** 

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has proposed amendments to a consultation paper the Fourth Schedule of the containing the objectives Companies Act, 2017. These and details of the proposed amendments enhance the amendments in compara list of disclosures made in financial statements of listed companies for Shariah stock

screening of shares. Listed companies will be required to provide crucial information about their subsidiary companies for Shariah stock screening purposes in order to align the regulatory framework with market needs for a fair-trading environment. Additionally, the language of the Fourth Schedule has clarity to the Shariah stock

screening of shares to include in Islamic indices maintained by the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

The SECP has published tive format and draft notification. The concept paper is available at the following link https://www.secp.gov. pk/document/consultation-paper-amendmentsto-the-fourth-schedule-to-

The SECP has invited feedback and comments from all stakeholders on the proposed changes to the Fourth Schedule. Interested persons are encouraged to share feedback through been simplified to bring email at Islamic.finance@ secp.gov by May 21, 2024.

the-companies-act-2017/

#### **Finance Minister's** meeting with international investors, explores Pakistan's investment potential

ISLAMABAD: Standard Chartered Pakistan hosted an exclusive meeting between a delegation of international investors representing renowned Asset Management Funds from different parts of the world and the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, in Islamabad. The meeting aimed to foster collaboration and explore potential investment opportunities in Pakistan's econ-

Standard Chartered has a rich history in Pakistan, having worked closely with the authorities through its onshore presence and global network. The bank continues to facilitate foreign participation in Pakistan's local and foreign currency debt and capital markets by engaging with high-profile international investors.

The Minister was accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Federal and opportunities.

Board of Revenue (FBR). During an insightful discussion with international investors, the Minister highlighted the government's tax initiatives and macroeconomic stability, marked by reduced inflation and a surge in the stock market, reflecting growing investor confidence.

This initiative underscores Standard Chartered's commitment to nurturing economic growth and development within Pakistan by bridging the gap between international investors and local stakeholders. The meeting concluded successfully, with participants expressing optimism regarding future collaborations and investment prospects within Pakistan.

As part of their visit, the investors will also hold meetings with officials from the State Bank of Pakistan, multilateral organisations, local businesses, and other stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of the current country dynamics

# Holding PSL in Balochistan on cards: Interior minister

QUETTA: Federal Home and Tribal Affairs Minister and Chairman PCB, Mohsin Naqvi, said that national and international sports events can be organized in Balochistan.

"Holding of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in Quetta is being mulled over, he said while addressing a press conference during his visit to Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Home and Tribal Affairs Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove, former Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, and PCB officials accompanied the Minister in the press conference.

The Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also visited the Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti Stadium, where he was briefed by the PCB officials.

Addressing the news briefing, he said "on the special invitation of the Chief Minister Balochistan, he has visited the Akbar Bugti Stadium.

Installation of floodlights was the three months. longstanding demand of the provincial government; he said announcing that help promote cricket and sports activthe floodlights will be installed within



"The installation of floodlights will ities in the province, which is rich in

talent. To a question, he said that the tan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti extended his youth of the province will be provided opportunities at the national level. Earlier, Chief Minister Balochsi-

gratitude to the federal minister for giving attention to the sports in

# Match officials named for FIFA Qualifier

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMA-BAD: FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers are just corner, and Pakistan is gearing

up to face

Saudi Arabia in Round 2.

According to details, the match is scheduled to take place on June 6 here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex.

FIFA has announced the match officials for the match, with Bahrain's Hassan Mhofoud set to be the referee while Kemel Tokabev from Kyrgyzstan will serve as the match commissioner.

The Jinnah Stadium is all set to host this exciting encounter, and football fans from across the country are eagerly looking vering resolve sealed the a score of 7-5, 6-4. In the last The PTF President Aisam- and Rs.50,000 respectively. | forward to cheering on their team.

## WAPDA taste first final defeat in tennis in 42 years after falling to PAF

**➢ Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) etched their name in the annals of tennis history as they secured a resounding 2-0 victory against Pakistan WAPDA in the 1st Inter-Department Tennis Trophy at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Tuesday. The PAF team showcased remarkable skills and determination to hand over formidable WAPDA their first defeat in the final of any national tennis tournament in 42 years.

PAF's Yousaf Khalil ering Muhammad Abid of



match with a score of 6-2, round matches, SNGPL 6-4, igniting celebrations amongst PAF supporters. The momentum continued for PAF as the 23-year-old Muhammad Shoaib stunned seasoned Aqeel Khan in a emerged victorious in the thrilling showdown that first singles match, overpow- lasted for one hour and 36 minutes. Shoaib earned a WAPDA with a masterful hard-fought victory in the Zaman of Navy, but ultiperformance. Yousaf's stra- epic battle, clinching the mately emerged triumphant

emerged victorious against Pakistan Navy.

Ahmed Babar of SNGPL displayed his prowess, clinching a commanding 6-2, 6-3 win over Faizan Khan of Pakistan Navy. Saqib Hayat of SNGPL fought hard against Asad

tor Salim Saifullah Khan attended the closing ceremony besides witnessing the matches. Aisam commended the exceptional talent on display and expressed his vision to expand the tournament in future by also including players from all PTF units. Senator Salim Saifullah Khan, Patron of PTF, hailed the success of the inaugural event and congratulated all participating departments, especially PAF, for their historic victory. The event concluded with the distribution of prizes and medals. A total of Rs.300,000 was distributed amongst the winners, runners-up, and third position-holders with the breaktegic brilliance and unwatitle for his department with after a grueling encounter. up Rs.150,000 Rs.100,000

## Ireland name squads for Pakistan series, T20 World Cup 2024

A Sports

DUBLIN: Cricket Ireland on Tuesday, named three squads for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Pakistan, T20 tri-series against the Netherlands and Scotland and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

Ireland's squad for Pakistan T20Is and tri-series feature 14 players, however, ace pacer Josh Little, currently participating in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, will be added as the 15th member to the T20 World Cup 2024 squad.

Right-handed explosive opener Paul Stirling will continue to lead the European nation which features experienced players like Andrew Balbirnie, and George Dockrell. Ireland will kick start their prepara-

tions for this year's cricket extravaganza with a three-match T20I series against Pakistan, scheduled in Dublin from May

They will then travel to the Netherlands to partake in the tri-series. The all-European tri-series will run from

The series will be played in a pure round-robin format, with no final, mean-



ing the top team in the standings by the end of the matches to be crowned cham-

"We have an intensive block of T20 cricket coming up this month ahead of the T20 World Cup - we have seven games in 15 days as preparation for the tournament," said Ireland head coach Heinrich Malan.

"We will not be treating those seven

games as warmups, though, we'll be aiming to win as many of those games as possible.

"The T20 format is fast-paced, thinkon-your-feet style of cricket. To find a way to win - given the often frenetic and evolving game going on around you - is a skill you can truly only ever learn and develop on the field of play.

"The squad is one that we have grad-

ually developed and tested out over the last 18 or so months - the skill sets we need to cover are there, albeit we have allowed Josh [Little] to continue in the IPL until his side end their campaign, so he will likely join us ahead of the big tournament.

"We are now entering the final stretch before the T20 World Cup begins, it will be a challenging couple of weeks, but we're ready to tackle whatever is thrown

Notably, Ireland, placed in Group A alongside Pakistan, India, USA and Canada, will start their T20 World Cup 2024 campaign against inaugural cham-

They will then take on the USA and Canada on June 7 and 14 respectively before playing their last group fixture against 2009 champions Pakistan on June 16.

Ireland squad for Pakistan T20Is and

Paul Stirling (c), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andrew Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White, Craig Young.

#### Aamir Atlas achieves World Squash Level 2 Coaching **Certification**



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former squash player Aamir Atlas has once again achieved milestone, as he has become a World Squash Level-2 certified coach.

Atlas, who has had an illustrious playing career, winning 65 medals and reaching a World Ranking of 14, is now ready to share his expertise with the next generation of squash players. Talking to APP, Atlas expressed his excitement and commit-

ment to serve the country and the game of squash as a coach. "I'm thrilled to have achieved this landmark, and I'm eager to give back to the game that has given me so much," he said.

Now I feel myself in a position to introduce and teach budding players how to play this great sport. Being a World Squash Level 2 Coach I believe I will be instrumental in nurturing a player's lifelong love for the game," he said.

Atlas, who beat Kuwait's Abdullah Al Mezayan in three sets and became the first Pakistani in 14 years to claim the Asian Squash Championship 2013 title, believes that Pakistan has been lagging behind in squash due to a lack of adaptation to modern scientific changes in the game.

"We need to adopt international standards and modern techniques if we want to succeed in the game," he emphasized.

With his wealth of experience and expertise, Atlas who remained Pakistan No. 1 for almost nine years, is well-positioned to make a significant impact on the development of squash

He expressed his willingness to offer his services to players and the government to promote and encourage squash in the country. This achievement is a testament to Atlas's dedication and passion for the game.

#### Pak squad named for Asian Volleyball League



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) on Tuesday announced a 14-member squad for the Engro Central Asian Volleyball League starting from May 11 to 17 here at Liaquat Gymnasium of the Pakistan Sports Complex.

According to Pakistan Volleyball Federation Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, after rigorous training sessions and thorough evaluation, head coach Ruben Wolochin from Argentina has selected players to compete in the highly antic-

The team was ready to showcase their skills and sportsmanship in the League. The league would feature teams from six countries including Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and host Pakistan.

The Volleyball League promises to be a thrilling competition. bringing together top teams from the region to compete for glory and recognition," said Yaqoob, adding that fans and supporters were invited to come and cheer for all the participating teams as they strive for victory in this prestigious tournament.

Murad Jehan would lead green-shirts in the League along with Muhammad Kasheef Naveed appointed as Vice-Captain while Waleed Khan, Murad Khan, Aimal Khan, Usman Faryad Ali, Fakhar Ud Din, Afaq Khan, Abdul Zaheer, Musawer Khan, Muhammad Hamad, Ali Haider, Nasir Ali and Muhammad Yaseen will be part of fourteen members Pakistan squad.

Argentine Ruben Wolochin would be the head coach of the team while Saeed Ahmed Khan Sady and Ehsan Iqbal were named as assistant coaches.

Brazilian Lucas Rodrigues, will be with the team as a physical trainer, while Muhammad Ismail Khan, Muhammad Sulaiman Amin and Juan Cobucci, a Scoutman from Argentina will join the Pakistan Volleyball team as Assistant Scoutman.

According to draws of Engro Central Asian Volleyball League, Pakistan would play an opening match against Turkmenistan on May 11 followed by Afghanistan on May 12, Kyrgyzstan on May 13, Sri Lanka on May 15, against Iran on May 16. The final of the Central Asian Volleyball League will be played on May 17.

## Kyren Wilson survives Zak Jones fightback to win World Snooker Championship

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: Kyren Wilson held his nerve sive fightback from qualifier Zak Jones to win the World Snooker Championship title for the first time.

A clearly emotional Wilson eventually triumphed 18-14 in the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre in northern England but only after Jones, who hope of a remarkable rally.

But in the end, the 12th-ranked Englishman regained his composure sufficiently to see off his Welsh oppo-

"Can you imagine how embarrass- were cheering for him! ing it would have been if I'd lost and Bailey is dressed like that?" Wilson, on Monday as he overcame an impres- pointing to his son, dressed in classic final, let alone a World final, and he's waistcoat and bow tie snooker attire, told the BBC.

The 32-year-old added: "I'd like to say sorry to Jak for that outburst (shouting 'come on' on match ball) but it does just mean so much to all of us.

"My mum and dad have remortgaged lost the first seven frames of the best and sacrificed their whole lives to get of 35 contest, had won three frames in me here. My brother and wife too. The a row from 17-11 down to give himself list goes on and on, it's a massive team

> Kyren Wilson paid tribute to the resilient Jones by saying: "He was so tough and I don't know if there's many people left in Wales the amount that It's been a long month but I'm happy

"Me and Jak have come through the junior ranks together. This is Jak's first conducted himself in an amazing fashion and I'm sure he'll be back."

A gracious Jones said: "I congratulate Kyren and family. They deserve it so much. If anyone deserves it, he does." Zak Jones was only the ninth quali-

fier in 47 years at the Crucible to reach the final and he came within sight of emulating Terry Griffiths, his fellow Welshman, in 1979 and Shaun Murphy in 2005 in winning the title.

"It's been an unbelievable tournament for me. About a month ago I was twitching in my first qualifying match.

During his stirring recovery in Monday's concluding evening session, Jones even threatened a maximum 147 break after potting the first 12 reds and

Jones had started Monday's morning session five frames down at 11-6 behind but twice reduced Wilson's lead to three frames.

Kyren Wilson, however, restored his advantage to lead Zak Jones 15-10 heading into the evening's play.

Jones, who had defeated seeds Zhang Anda and Judd Trump en route to the final, hit back with his first century of the final to cut Wilson's lead to 16-11. The 28th frame saw Jones clear to

the colours to force a re-spotted black



only for Wilson to move within a frame the third player, after John Parrott in of victory thanks to a stunning pot off three cushions.

the World Snooker Championship final Jones ensured there would be a with a session to spare. mid-session interval with a break of 67 as he started to claw his way back after looking like he might become only

But in the end, he had left himself with just too much to do as Kyren Wilson regained his composure.

1989 and Jimmy White in 1993, to lose

# The Spokesman

#### Meeting on law & order situation

President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the law and order situation and the ongoing development projects in Balochistan, Quetta on Tuesday.



## FM Finance and Revenue chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presided over a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, today.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Commerce Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Privatization Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Chairman SECP, Dy Chairman Planning Commission, Federal Secretaries, and other senior ter for Economic Affairs Mr. PASSCO attended the meeting online.

reviewed and approved a ment drive. number of proposals from



tries and Divisions.

government officials of the increase the wheat procure- for Kharif 2024 as proposed Ministry to present a detailed billion to Finance Division as relevant ministries. Minis- ment target for PASSCO by Ministry of Industries & plan for the future use of the rupee cover for the WB fund-Ahad Khan Cheema and MD with the required Cash Credit also directed to continuously Limit for the purchase of addi-The Economic Coordi- would help PASCCO scale up appropriate measures to the nation Committee (ECC) its on-going wheat procure-

The ECC gave approval to iser to meet the requirements PSM workers and directed the ties of the contractors. Rs. 3.2 from 1.40 to 1.80 MMT along Production. The Ministry was assess the demand & supply tional quantity. The approval situation of urea and suggest ECC in a timely manner.

ECC also gave go-ahead The ECC also approved to Ministry of Industries & various Government Minis- the proposal for import of Production's request for the

200,000 MTs of Urea fertil- disbursement of salaries of

asset along with timelines. AJK. This would help ease the liquidity requirements of the Power Sector.

The ECC considered a summary to authorize BISP to arrange funds from its allocated budget for financing the Special Relief Package for Daily Wage Workers on the Chaman Border, highlighting government support for the vulnerable group. Further, the ECC consid-

ered and approved proposals for Technical Supplementary Grants, including: 1. Rs. 4.8 billion for Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Rs. 5.8 billion for the Earthquake Reconstruction & Rehabilitation Authority's to clear matured liabili-Financial Inclusion and ECC also allowed Power Infrastructure Project (FIIP). Division's request for release Rs. 162 million to the Minisof budgeted expenditures to try of Housing & Works for clear the arrears of tariff differ- Repair and Maintenance of ential subsidy Rs. 70 billion Public Buildings in Islamfor KE and Rs 55 billion for abad. Rs. 2.2 billion to the Ministry of Interior for the FATA TDP-ERP Project.

## President for dialogue with all political forces in Balochistan

👺 Bureau Report

QUETTA,: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that certain quarters rior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Goverdid not want stability in Balochistan and in the country and for the future of the province, they would talk to all the political forces in the province.

The president was given a briefing on the law and order and the progress on different ongoing development projects in the province.

The meeting was attended by Intenor Balochistan Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, provincial ministers and senior federal and provincial authorities, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

#### Pakistan, Kazakhstan to boost ties in IT & **Telecom sector**



#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H. E. Yerzhan Kistafin called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in her office on Tuesday.

The two sides exchanged views on enhancing collaboration in the field of IT and Telecommunication.

Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan wanted to boost ties with Kazakhstan in IT and telecom sector, adding that the formation of joint working group between the two countries is necessary for connecting the tech companies of both sides.

She noted that both Pakistan and also present in the meeting.

Kazakhstan can initiate technology transfer and IT experts' exchange program.

Shaza Fatima said that IT and Telecommunication sector of Pakistan has investment opportunities, inviting Kazakhstan tech companies to invest in this sector.

Kazakhstan Ambassador said that Kazakhstan will increase cooperation with Pakistan in IT & Telecom sector and the ties in this sector will strengthened.

Additional Secretary, MoITT Ms. Aisha Humera Moriani, Chairman Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) Muhammad Zohaib Khan and DG International Coordination Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi were

#### Saudi Crown Prince MBS' visit to Pakistan is 'on the cards', confirms FM Dar

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign visit Pakistan between May 10 to 15. Minister Ishaq Dar has confirmed that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's much-anticipated visit to Pakistan is on the cards, saying the final dates of his visit are expected to be received from the kingdom this month.

"InshaAllah, the visit is due [and] I believe we may receive final dates てof the visit from Saudi Arabia ☐ anytime in May," FM Dar said while addressing the media at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad on Tuesday.

His statement came a day after Geo Saudi crown prince was expected to to Pakistan.

It would be the first visit of the Saudi crown prince, also known as MBS, to Pakistan in five years as he last time visited the country in February 2019 during the rule of former prime minister Imran Khan.

"As of now, the [Saudi crown prince visit is on the cards," the oreign minister said while responding to a question.

Recalling a Pakistan's delegation recent meeting with the Saudi crown prince in Makkah, the deputy prime minister said Prince Salman had assured Prime Minister Shehbaz News citing sources reported that the Sharif that he would undertake a visit

## SC adjourns IHC judges letter case

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of in suo motu ings are our reaction to see notice case on letter of six judges of Islamabad High Court (IHC) for indefinite

A six-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, and comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Jamal Khan rat Hilali and Justice Naeem

During the course of proceedings, the chief justice remarked that pressure could "It has also become a big pressure that we are relentless," he

He said that some people had taken over the social media and "live court proceedfor yourselves how the court proceedings are conducted". Referring to Article 209 of

the Constitution, the CJP said the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) should not be burdened as it was not its responsibility. Addressing the Islamabad Bar Association's (IBA)

Mandokhail, Justice Athar lawyer, the CJP said that the Minallah, Justice Musar- SJC could change the code of conduct. "You should write a Akhtar Afghan heard the case. good letter to the Council, if they deemed it appropriate they may accept it.

The IBA's lawyer Ahmed be exerted in every way and Hassan Shah said that the they were focusing on that. responsibility would not be determined without investi-



method and the law would be the same, he said.

The Supreme Court Bar Association, in its comments submitted to the SC, said it would never compromise on judges. the independence of the judi-

Even for the judges, the ciary, calling for investigations against those who interfered.

It further said that there was a complete code of conduct regarding the responsibilities and protection of

The SCBA said the IHC

had the power of contempt of court proceedings and it should have utilized it. It was bevond understanding that why the high court did not initiate the contempt of court proceedings.

During the hearing, the Karachi Bar Association also submitted its proposals in the case. It said that judges should be bound to inform the competent authority within seven days of any attempt of interference, and the authorities should be bound to ensure the protection of judges.

It said that if anyone gave a false statement then action should be taken against him. The Supreme Court and high courts should set up a special cell for such report.

Later, the case was

Minister said that influen-

tial word governments espe-

cially the members of the UN

security council should act in

light of the Banjul declaration

and take effective measures to

seek a permanent solution to

the Kashmir dispute. Term-

ing resolution of Kashmir

dispute as the key to ensure

lasting peace in the region, the

must shun its obduracy and

move forward to resolve this

long-standing conflict amica-

#### Saudi Arabia-Pakistan...

sessions organized. The representatives of relevant government organings were quite fruitful and are likely izations delivered detailed presenta- to lead to tangible trade and investtions on the regulatory framework in ment opportunities between the two Pakistan. After the breakout sessions countries in the near future.

Continued from Page 1 business to business meetings were arranged between more than 450 the Plenary session, breakout briefing  $\;\;$  companies of Pakistan and KSA. The feedback shows that the B2B meet-

## Govt. to take decisions...

Continued from Page 1 the parliament and MOFA had no

solid stance over the malicious and sacrilegious material being circulated on social media platforms which required concerted efforts by all the members.

He said that designation of an OIC-special envoy over Islamophobia was a positive outcome. The foreign minister said that he had told the summit that the alarming genocide like situation in Gaza was parallel to what was happening in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He said that their focus was on 'economic diplomacy' and Africa possessed 'tremendous scope for the Pakistani export-

a note verbale was received from their previous tenure, regretting the US ambassador in March who that certain personalities indulged wanted to meet with the leaders of 'in petty politics'.

objection over his meetings with the leader of the opposition and other members of the parliament. However, Dar made it clear that

the ministry neither initiated the process nor arranged it as claimed by certain media reports. He also brushed aside a set of claims by political leaders about his role in the import of wheat as head of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister categorically stated that he did not approve any summary in this regard till August 9, 2023 when their previous government completed its tenure.

The minister also rejected assumption about dysfunctioning of Track To a question, he maintained that and Trace System of FBR during

## PM AJK hails OIC declaration on Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has welcomed the 34-point declaration of the OIC in which the Muslim body reiterated its all out support for the Kashmiris' right to self determination and called for an early settlement of the dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions. In his special statement, the Prime Minister Haq also welcomed the OIC conference's demand seeking the UN Security Council's



tions on Kashmir to help the The AJK premier hailed Paki-Kashmiri people to deter- stan's Deputy Prime Minister

Kashmir vociferously at the OIC summit held in Gambian capital. He said that Mr. Dar's demand for an immediate end to Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, release of political prisoners and withdrawal of the actions India took to forcibly integrate the occupied state into India were genuinely justified. The PM said that it was incumbent upon AJK premier said that India the international community to resolve the long pending dispute peacefully. He also welcomed the OIC Secretary General Hussain Ibrarole to implement its resolu- mine their political future. and Foreign Minister Ishaq him Taha's contention on the people.

bly in line with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri

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Dar for raising the issue of issue of Kashmir. The Prime