



President urges global efforts to address climate change

President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday underlined the need for global efforts to address the challenge of climate change by adopting environment-friendly technology, promoting afforestation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The president, talking to the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan/COP 29 President-designate, Mukhtar Babayev... (Details on Page 8)



Sardar Saleem Haider sworn in as Punjab governor

Sardar Saleem Haider was sworn in as the new governor of Punjab in a ceremony held at the Governor's House on Friday. Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan administered the oath to the newly appointed governor. Earlier, the swearing-in ceremony of Sardar Saleem as Punjab governor, scheduled for May 7, had been postponed till May 7, "due to inevitable reasons".

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Trade related matters on Friday.



Photo: PID

PM for trade policies to facilitate businesses, enhance export competitiveness

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to formulate the trade policies with a core objective of facilitating the business sector, calling for urgent measures to enhance the competitiveness of the country's exports. The prime minister, chairing a meeting on the trade sector, called for steps to promote exports of non-traditional goods and instructed for immediate payment of the certified duty

drawback of the exporters. Highlighting the significance of the private sector, he instructed to ensure consultation with them during the policy-making and implement the deletion policy to uplift the auto sector. Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the relevant ministry to devise a comprehensive strategy to scrutinize the performance of trade and investment officers posted in Pakistan's missions abroad, by rewarding the good performers and removing the incompetent ones.

The prime minister told the meeting that he would personally carry out the fortnightly review of the export sectors. In the meeting, the prime minister was told that the discussion on the Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and the Gulf states was in the final stage and transit trade agreements with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan had already been materialized.

It was told that during the recent Pak-Saudi Business Conference, around 450 business-to-business meetings were

held and that the volume of e-commerce trade was witnessing a constant increase with the enlisting of over 3,000 firms on the Pakistan Trade Portal. The meeting was also apprised of the strict monitoring of Afghan Transit Trade, double-digit premium growth of public sector insurance companies, finalising Gem Export Framework, and in-principle approval by Pakistan and Russia to operationalise the barter trade. It was told that consultation with the stakeholders was in progress on Pref-

erential Trade Agreements with Azerbaijan and Afghanistan, as well as on the New Strategic Trade Policy.

Moreover, necessary legislation was also being made to establish the Technology and Innovation Fund for industrial development. Federal ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Dr Musaddik Malik, Ahad Khan Cheema, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, State Bank governor and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

PTI rejects ISPR DG's demand for apology

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has unanimously rejected the military spokesperson's demand for an apology for starting any dialogue.

"The DG ISPR's demand for apology while describing a political party representing millions of people as anarchists is unanimously rejected," a statement of the PTI's core committee said on Friday.

This came in reaction to Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Maj-Gen Ahmed Sharif's May 7 press conference where he said that any dialogue with the PTI could happen only if the party

apologises publicly in front of the nation.

When asked if there was a possibility of any dialogue with the PTI, he replied: "If some political mindset, leader or clique attacks its own army, causes rifts between the army and its people, insults the nation's martyrs and issues threats and hatches propaganda, then there can be no dialogue with them. There is only one way back for such political anarchists that it [PTI] asks for an earnest apology in front of the nation and promises that it will forgo politics of hate and adopt constructive [style of] politics."

He also said that it was not appropriate for the army to

Continued on Page 8

Police bar protesters from marching to US embassy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police barred on Friday the supporters of Islami Jamaat Talaba, the student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, from marching towards the United States embassy as they held a protest in favour of the Palestinians.

"Protesters attempt to enter the Red Zone. Islamabad Police is on alert to maintain law and order. Protesters cannot be allowed to enter the Red Zone," the police said in a social media post.

"All the law and order situation is being direct-



ly monitored by the DIG operations."

Live footage from the site showed the police stopping the protesters from entering the sealed area. A heavy contingent of police was deployed in the area as the police sealed

the Serena Chowk, which leads to different embassies, including the US.

The religio-political party has been protesting for Palestinians amid Israeli air strikes on Gaza. It has demanded an immediate ceasefire in

Gaza to provide relief to the people.

Reports said that the members of IJT threw plastic bottles at policemen after they were barred from entering the sensitive area.

The religio-political party has been protesting for Palestinians amid Israeli air strikes on Gaza. It has demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to provide relief to the people.

It merits here to mention that gathering of more than five people was banned in the federal capital under Section 144 of the CrPC.

Investiture ceremony of Karachi Corps held



PPA

KARACHI: Investiture ceremony of Karachi Corps was held. Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Babar Iftikhar HI (M) was Chief Guest on the occasion. Awards of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military), Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military), and Tamgha-i-Basalat were conferred on Army officers and soldiers.

Next of Kin of 9 Soldiers received Tamgha-i-Basalat on

behalf of Shuhadas. 14 officers were awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) and 19 officers were awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) for rendering meritorious services to the nation.

A large number of senior Army officers and families of awardees attended the ceremony.

Corps Commander also interacted with Families of Shuhada and paid rich tribute to their sacrifices.

Mohsin Naqvi directs to complete construction work of Model Jail in Islamabad



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday visited the model jail under construction in Sector H of Islamabad and ordered to complete the Mohsin Naqvi construction work within six months. During an inspection of under-construction jail, the minister observed that the project of construction of jail in Islamabad has been stalled for 13 year but now it will be completed in 6 months.

Naqvi tasked the officials concerned to complete the first phase of the prison construction in 6 months directing

Chief Commissioner Islamabad and IG Islamabad Police to regularly review progress on construction activities. Keeping the project on hold for 7 year is clearly incompetence, Mohsin Naqvi observed, adding that the construction work in jail should continue day and night in the timeline. The process of appointment of necessary staff should also be started immediately, he ordered adding that the provision of resources for the completion of the project will be ensured. The minister gave instructions to the concerned authorities

Continued on Page 8

Ethiopian envoy calls on Sindh Governor

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula on Friday called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor's House.

During the meeting, the ambassador extended an invitation to the governor for leading the 2nd business and trade delegation to Ethiopia from May 26 to 31, an embassy press release said.

Matters of mutual interests including bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation between the two countries also came under the discussion.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula addressed a large gathering of students at the IT Facility and appreciated the initiative taken by the Sindh governor for empowering the youth with modern



skills. He said Pakistan had talented youth that made more than 60 per cent of its total population. Equipping them with modern skills was crucial to spur economic growth and development in Pakistan, he added.

He said the modern technologies would help them connect with the global market which would eventually enable them to contribute to strong nation building.

The ambassador said the Government of Ethiopia was ready to work with the Government of Pakistan for expertise,

Ishaq Dar's visit to China important part of institutional exchanges: Lin Jian

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Friday said the first official visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar's to China from May 13-16 was an important part of the institutional exchanges

between the two foreign ministries. "China is willing to work with the Pakistani side to take this visit as an opportunity to further implement the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries," Spokesperson Lin Jian said at his regular press briefing.

He said Dar would hold the

fifth round of the Foreign Minister-Level China-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue. Dar was invited by Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese foreign minister, Lin said. Terming China and Pakistan as all-weather strategic partners and "ironclad" friends,

he said, in recent years, the two countries have maintained close high-level exchanges and exchanges at all levels, joined hands to cope with changes in the international and regional situation, deepened mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation, and pushed forward the China-Pakistan friendship,

which has become stronger over the years. After the completion of the elections in Pakistan this year, President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Chairman Zhao Leji sent congratulatory messages to the Pakistani leaders at the first opportunity, expressing China's sincere congratulations and good wishes, he added.

Chairman Senate see off the first Hajj flight pilgrims from Multan International Airport

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Thursday saw off the Hajj Pilgrims travelling by first Hajj flight of Air Sial at Multan International Airport.

He garlanded the pilgrims and asked them to maintain discipline in the Holy Land as ambassador of the country. As many as 150 pilgrims flew by Air Sial Flight for Madina today from the Multan international Airport

Addressing the ceremony Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that he was very delighted to see the blessed pilgrims off as only those who are permitted from the Holy Land. He informed it was a welcome gesture by Air Sial to operate Hajj flights from Multan recalling that he extended help for construction of Sialkot airport as former prime minister.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said to the Hajj Pilgrims that they should pray for the progress & prosperity of Pakistan, pray for peace in Pakistan especially pray for the erad-



ication of terrorism in Pakistan in their worship during Hajj also, asked them to pray martyrs of Palestine and oppressed of Gaza and added they should also pray for all those Shuhada including Pakistan Army and Other Security Forces and civilians who lost their lives for the country. He reminisced that PPP had curbed the terrorism from the coun-

try in its 2008-13 tenure and regretted that it was rearing its head once again. Director Hajj Rehan Abbas Khokhar congratulated the pilgrims saying that they were very lucky to be chosen for Hajj.

He appreciated the services of Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani for the country and in particular for

Southern Punjab. Airport Manager M. Anwar Zia, Chief Security Officer (CSOO, Col Shahzad Jamil Regional Manager Air Sial, Abdullah Masood Bokhari, Station Manager, Ali Abbas, PIA Station Manager, Nadeem Murtaza, Deputy Director FIA, Adnan Lohani, and others were also present on the occasion.

Shaukat Mir strongly condemned the unjustified police brutality



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the other hand, today in Azad Kashmir, protests were held against inflation on the call of the Joint Action Committee. Demonstrations were held against the government of Azad Kashmir in three divisions of Muzaffarabad, Poonch and Mirpur. All the markets remained closed throughout the day. In the evening, there were clashes between the police and the protesters in Muzaffarabad Tanga Stand and the police fired tear gas shells at the protesters, which injured the protesters. Police detained 70 protesters.

Joint Action Committee Shaukat Nawaz Mir strongly condemned the unjustified police brutality on the peaceful protesters and announced the continuation of the complete Pehiya Jam strike.

During the Maghrib prayer, women and children were seriously affected by the shelling of tear gas in Bela Noor Shah grid station and Bala Peer. The Joint Action Committee has announced the continuation of the full shutdown paha jam strike for the non-inspection period...

Tomorrow too there will be a complete shutter down jam strike across Azad Kashmir.

According to the latest reports, the clashes between the police and the protestors are going on. Faced with severe difficulties, the police ransacked the house of Shaukat Nawaz Mir and violated the sanctity of the chador and the wall.

Funeral Prayers of seven laborers who were killed in Gwadar offered



Waqar Paracha

KHANEWAL: District Administration Said The funeral prayers of 7 laborers who were killed by terrorists in Gwadar were offered in Khanewal. Five people of Mianchan and two people of Kabirwala and Lodhra residents were also offered funeral prayers. The dead were buried with sobbs. Hundreds of people including political, social, religious and administration and local administration participated in the funeral prayer.

Yesterday, funeral prayers were offered for seven people who died in the firing of terrorists in Gwadar.

The deceased included two close brothers, Asad and Haseeb, and relatives Sajid, Al-Muqbar and Adnan, who worked as barbers in Gwadar to support their families.

After 38 hours, when the dead bodies of the victims reached Khanewal Shamkot Interchange, the road was blocked protesting by the heirs one after continuous negotiation efforts by the district administration The protest was ended after an hour, when the deceased reached Mohsinwal area, a protest was held once again and the protest continued for two hours. When they arrived, there was chaos and every eye was filled with tears, of the West After the prayer, the funeral prayer was performed. In the funeral prayer, a large number of political, social, religious and citizens, including Deputy Commissioner Khanawal Waseem Hamid Sindhu, DPO Rana Umar Farooq, participated and was buried.

The heirs said that our loved ones who went for labor have been brutally killed and abused.

Million Christians to support PPP candidate in NA-148 by-election

Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: In connection with the Election campaign of PPP candidate Syed Ali Qasim Gillani for the by-election in National Assembly Constituency NA-148 on May 19, Qasim Bela Christian Colony under the chairmanship of Member of National Assembly and minority leader Naveed Amir Jiva. Minority convention ceremony was held in the ceremony, candidates in attendance National Assembly NA 148 Syed Ali Qasim Gillani was a special guest. Other guests were Senior Vice President of PPP South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, President PPP DG Khan Sardar Asif Khan Dasti, District General Secretary PPP Multan Rao Sajid Ali, Malik Manzoor Damra, Multan City Information Secretary Khawaja Imran, Jahangir Bhutta, Chaudhry Raheel Anjum, Salam Bhatti, Mrs. Safira Walder, Jayala Nazir Kathia including Lewis Colony, Abroon Colony, Nusrat Colony, Jamilabad Colony and a large number of Christian community participated that on this occasion Pastor Shahzad George, Pastor Asher, Pastor Asif Raza, Pastor Yusuf linked to NA 148 led by Naveed Amir Jiva The full support of Syed Ali Qasim Gillani from all the Christian community and announced to seal the arrow sign on May 19. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Ali Qasim Gillani said that on May 19, two candidates will serve the people. There will be a competition between those who do politics of violence and despair, you By voting for the public servants, the politicians of violence and despair will suffer a crushing defeat. The past is a witness that my father Former Prime Minister and Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, from the platform of the People's Party, tried to solve the problems of the people of Multan. And played an active role in the construction and development of Multan.

Ali Qasim said my first priority will be to own and own the inhabitants of this Christian colony. You will surely get your rights and it will be my responsibility to solve all your problems. Stamping the mark is to be done, I assure you, my success will be your success Naveed Amir Jiva, Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Asif Khan Dasti, Rao Sajid Ali, Malik Manzoor Damra, Khawaja Imran, Chaudhry Raheel, Pastor S Shahzad George, Pastor Asher, Pastor Asif Raza, Pastor Yusuf, Mrs. Safira Walder, Mr. Dawood and Others while addressing said in a joint statement that PPP is the only party which always minority community Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani as Prime Minister issued a formal notification to celebrate Minority Day on August 11 at the official level, allocated 5% quota in jobs for minorities, allocated 4 seats in the Senate of Pakistan.

Protest

FAISALABAD: Activists of Pakistan Central Muslim League hold banner during protest rally in favour of farmers at a road in the city.



Photo: Online

Govt spokesman says first priority of govt is to negotiate with the Action Committees

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Government Spokesman, Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan has said that the first and last priority of the government is to negotiate with the Action Committees. If I try to take it, the law will make its own way, the government's effort is to ensure the safety of citizens, I condemn the Dydal incident. Tried to spread sensation, the government regularly notified the action committees regarding the resolution of their demands after negotiations, the action committees themselves made a commitment to the government committee regarding the targeted subsidy on flour and



later deviated.

Talking to the media along with Food Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim in the D complex, the spokesperson of the Independent State of Jammu and Kashmir and Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan said that

the government is always ready for negotiations with the Action Committee, the government has never closed its doors for negotiations. He said that the aim of the government is to reduce the problems of the people. To a question, he said that security measures have

been taken by the police to maintain public order, no force has been used anywhere.

The spokesperson of the government said that all the political parties are present in the coalition government and all of them have openly said on the assembly floor that they want to solve the problems of the people. In response to another question, the spokesperson of the government said that 12 police personnel were injured in the Dadyal incident..

The incident will be investigated. Condemning the Dadyal incident, he has said that the government believes in negotiations, in this regard, the businessmen have an open offer whenever they want.

Sardar Attique condemns Indian, Israeli agenda to destabilize Azad Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the Muslim Conference has been fully supporting legitimate public demands since day one. All issues should be resolved through dialogue.

Conspiracy against Pakistan and armed forces under the guise of demands is not acceptable in any way. Some elements want to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of Azad Kashmir under the guise of issues.

People should not be a part of any negative movement directly or indirectly as a result of which we have to compro-

mise the present status of Azad Kashmir. The current status of Azad Kashmir and the internal autonomy of the elements are biting like a thorn. To deprive them of this, such situations may be intended to be justified.

He expressed these views while talking to the media about the current situation of Azad Kashmir. Learn from the statements of Umar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti who slandered Pakistan, the armed forces of Pakistan and the idea of annexation of Pakistan. Businessmen should separate themselves from such evil elements who are plotting to hijack public interests.

It is the Indian and Israeli agenda to create instability in Azad Kashmir.. The statement



of the Indian Defense Minister yesterday cannot be ignored. India wants to take advantage of the situation in Azad Kashmir. We must ensure the security of our ideological, geographical and defense borders in any case. Therefore, the appointment is a wise decision of the Azad Kashmir government.

The government of Azad Kashmir cannot take respon-

sibility for the security of the Chinese. FC and Rangers are responsible for the security and safety of the Chinese in all of Pakistan. President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the Muslim Conference supported the legitimate public demands of Rosawal, and emphasized that all the problems should be resolved through dialogue. However, under the guise of public issues, some people want to create unrest and chaos in Azad Kashmir.

The leaders of the Public Action Committee should be wary of such miscreants and the Azad Kashmir government also has no choice but

to prevent such miscreants. Is. Violence, abusive language, abusive speech and vandalism are not the solution to any problem. Such incidents can worsen the situation.

The government of Azad Kashmir should immediately decide to consult the entire leadership and form a committee consisting of senior people. President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad advised the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and said that the Prime Minister should take steps to resolve the demands of the Azad Kashmir Action Committee and the latest tensions created through political tact, wisdom and understanding.

ISLAMABAD
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:36 am
Zohr 12:04 pm
Asr 4:56 pm
Maghrib 6:58 pm
Isha 8:33 pm

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

Women Police Stations
Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

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

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

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

COMPLAINTS
Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316

Assistant Commissioner Takhtbhai

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

MARDAN: Aftab Alam's visit to Takhtbhai Bazar disguised as a customer, keeping in mind public complaints about high street prices? The Assistant Commissioner made a surprise visit to Takhtbhai Bazar disguised as a customer and bought meat from 4 butchers. Two butchers gave 850 per kg and 2 butchers gave 800 per kg. Apart from this, the AC also arrested those who exceeded the government purchase price list in sweet shops and imposed heavy fines on them. A warning was given to send him to jail for the future. Similarly, Assistant Commissioner Takhtbhai Aftab Alam's surprise visit to Al-Saudia Hotel and Alam & Safdar Hotel, keeping in mind the public complaints, the Assistant Commissioner made a surprise visit to Al-Saudia Hotel and Alam & Safdar Hotel during the inspection. The following problems were found. The weight of bread was found to be low. The presence of kebab and meat was found on the next day. The managers of the two hotels were arrested and fined heavily due to poor cleanliness. A warning was given for the future.

Hamdard Foundation Pakistan

A monthly meeting of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly Karachi chapter

PPA

KARACHI: A monthly meeting of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly Karachi chapter, organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP), was held yesterday at Bait-ul-Hikmah Auditorium in Madinat al-Hikmah titled: "Is technology the way of progress?" Renowned journalist and author Faizullah Khan was invited as a chief guest. The meeting was presided over by Ms. Sadia President HFP.

Ms. Sadia Rashid in her presidential address said that the significance of technology was undeniable to any rational individual. From education to sports, agriculture to industry, trade to medicine, every aspect of life has been impacted by modern technology. Undoubtedly, technology has facilitated human existence, yet it has profoundly altered our lifestyle, influencing our culture, conversations, and thoughts.

She further said that without transitioning to digital systems and acquiring proficiency in technology

and scientific disciplines, neither can the defense of the country be ensured nor the survival of the nation. The Internet has revolutionized numerous social spheres, encompassing business, financial transactions, politics, journalism, and education. Embracing modern education is imperative to cultivate an ethical and skilled workforce capable of confronting future challenges. Increased screen time impacts negatively on the mental and physical well-being of users. Therefore, it is imperative to use technological gadgets only for learning purposes.

She added that Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said's renowned words, "pursue science to progress," resonate deeply. Pakistan has reached a significant milestone: iCube-Qamar has successfully entered lunar orbit. This achievement is a source of immense pride for our nation, underscoring our commitment to advancement and excellence.

Chief Guest Faizullah Khan praised the young speakers for



their command of Urdu words and poetic verses. He attributed the outstanding speeches of the Naunehal speakers to the distinctive platform of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly, where children are encouraged to express their thoughts independently. This platform was founded by the remarkable and esteemed individual, Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim

Mohammed Said, to foster the intellectual growth of the nation. Although renowned as a distinguished physician, it was his profound sense of patriotism that distinguished him. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said dedicated himself to molding the minds and characters of the new generation, providing unparalleled and exceptional national service.

He also said that Hakim Said initiated the publication of Monthly Hamdard Naunehal, a venture that has enriched multiple generations and endures to the present day. Despite the vast expanse of Urdu literature, there has been a notable absence in children's literature. Even in contemporary times, newspapers, magazines, and journals often lack dedicated sections

for children. However, Monthly Hamdard Naunehal has significantly contributed to filling this gap in Urdu children's literature. Additionally, Shaheed's travelogues for children acquainted us with the cultures and civilizations of numerous countries during our formative years.

The esteemed guest further advised students to make a habit of reading Hamdard Naunehal and encouraged them not only to be consumers of technology but also to become innovators.

Young speakers from different schools including the Speaker Syeda Maryam Fatima (Hamdard Public School), Leader of the House Ayesha Fawad (Hamdard Public School), and Leader of the opposition Syed Muhammad Shuja (Hamdard Public School) also shared their thoughts during the meeting. The meeting was concluded after the recitation of Dua-i-Said, presented by the students of Hamdard Public School and Hamdard Village School.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Ambassador of Italy H.E Marilina Armellini on Friday.



Photo: PID

WAWA starts Kitchen Gardening in Zindawar School System in Wana

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) has started kitchen gardening in Zindawar School System, in Wana South Waziristan Lower District which will fulfill the need of vegetables for home cooking.

Jalal Wazir, General Secretary of Wana Welfare Association, (WAWA) told the media that teaching staff in various private educational institutions have started training students in kitchen gardening.

Jalal Wazir said that this will not only increase the trend of healthy vegetables in the society but also will fulfill the need of home cooking vegetables.

He said that if we succeed in establish-



ing a kitchen garden in every house and attract the community towards kitchen

gardening, many economic problems of our area will be eliminated.

He said that consumption of fresh vegetables will reduce health problems and diseases.

He said that a healthy society will flourish and at the same time economic problems will also be reduced.

He appealed to all the Government and private principals of Schools, that you should talk to the students in the assembly to promote kitchen gardening in schools and enlighten them on its usefulness, so that they can be aware of them and start working on it in their homes.

He further said that all principals along with Wana Welfare Association should support this mission.

Asif Iqbal Khan DDG FDE appointed



As per notification of Deputy Secretary Ministry of Education and professional, Asif Iqbal Khan Director General National Library of Pakistan has been appointed as DDG Federal Directorate of Education with immediate effect.

President Private Schools Association Islamabad Zofran Ellahi Secretary General Abdul Waheed Khan welcomes to Asif Iqbal Khan as DDG FDE and hope that in his leadership FDE is more better perform.

Six held for gambling on cocks' fight in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: May Six persons were arrested red handed for gambling and betting on rooster fights in the limits of Pindigheb Police station in Attock district on Friday. Police sources said that acting on a tip off, a police party raided the site where cock fights and betting were going on in an open area where people from far-flung areas were also participating. Police arrested as many as six alleged gamblers red handed and seized bet money besides six roosters. Pindigheb police have registered a case and launched further investigation.

Three booked for torturing son-in-law, family

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Three persons among them a man and his son was arrested for subjecting to torture his son in law family over domestic dispute in the limits of Fatehjang Police station on Friday. Nazkat Ali has reported to Police that his son Zeeshan contracted arranged marriage with daughter of Riaz Hussain- a native of Swabi and later the couple developed differences. On Friday, Riaz Hussain along with his son and another accompany came to his house and subject whole family to torture. On getting information, Police reached at the spot and arrested the suspects. #

Pak-China agricultural development under CPEC needs to focus ToT, capacity buildup on modern technology: Experts



PNP

ISLAMABAD: The experts at a policy dialogue on Thursday demanded Pakistan-China council on agriculture development led by the private sector of both the countries to focus technology transfer and capacity building of Pakistani farmers on modern technologies under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The experts were addressing the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) the policy dialogue titled "Greening of the CPEC: Sustainable Agriculture in Pakistan and the Learnings from China" organized here.

Dr Hassan Daud Butt, former project director CPEC, former CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment said that the future of agriculture production and food security relied on technology advancement, good policies and leadership. However, it was pertinent to establish a council of agriculture development led by private sector and linked them to Chinese counterparts that would help achieve targets swiftly.

He said China has made massive progress in the field of agriculture through consistent policies, leadership and technology-driven interventions.

Mr Butt added that the Chinese advancement in agriculture sector was unique in its fashion as less public capital and more private sector investment was utilized in developing the agriculture sector.

Research Associate, Misbah Khan provided a comprehensive view on the preliminary findings of the report titled "Scoping Study on Agriculture Development in Pakistan". Khan mentioned that Pakistan might create its route towards resilience, productivity and environmental stewardship by developing synergy with China's technology advancement, policy support and investment opportunities.

25K cattle vaccinated during the free mobile vet camps organized in the remote parts

Rafullah Mandokhail

ZHOB: "The livestock sector plays an important role in the rural economy in poverty-hit Balochistan. The livestock rearing is the primary source of livelihood as the rural economy is heavily reliant on livestock," said District Livestock Officer at Livestock and Dairy Development Zhub Dr Naseebullah Kakar.

He said, keeping in mind the crucial role of livestock sector in the rural economy, on the special directives of provincial minister Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Secretary Muhammad Tayyab Lehri and Director General Dr Farooq Tareen, free mobile veterinary camps have been organized in different villages of Dana Abdullah Zai - a remote and mountainous part of the district and Qamar Din Karez - close to Pak-Afghan border.

"Under the supervision of District Livestock Officer Dr Naseebullah



Kakar, over 25,000 cattle have been vaccinated and free medicines have been provided to the cattle owners," he

told journalist Rafullah Mandokhail. The people of the area have thanked the provincial minister and the live-

stock officer for organizing free vet camps and said that Dana Abdullah Zai and Qamar Din Karez are far-off hilly areas, where the only source of livelihood is livestock. By organizing free veterinary camps, various animal diseases have been prevented through vaccination.

Dr. Naseebullah Kakar has said that the livestock sector has potential to support the livelihood of the rural population as it is a key source of employment for a large population of Balochistan. Sheep, goats, cows and camels are reared extensively in Balochistan. These cattle are not only part of the local diet, but their dairy products, such as milk, meat, and wool also have a commercial value.

"Efforts are being made by the provincial government of Balochistan to develop and put the livestock sector on modern lines. So that the livelihood of the rural people can be improved," he vowed.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

CPEC 2.0: Ray of hope for the future - I

Pakistan stands at the threshold of a promising future, poised to unlock new avenues of growth and opportunity through the adoption of diversified development strategies and strengthened cooperation with China. This collaborative approach not only heralds a brighter tomorrow but also underscores the resilience and potential of the bilateral partnership between the two nations.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) embarks on a new phase with "CPEC II", aiming to build upon the achievements and lessons learned from its predecessor. Version two seeks to deepen economic cooperation and bilateral relations between the two nations while addressing emerging priorities and seizing new opportunities. Marking a strategic shift, CPEC II focuses on diversified development initiatives, highlighting fresh areas of collaboration such as agriculture, industrial cooperation, technology transfer, tourism, and social development projects. This ambitious agenda aims to expand the scope of economic engagement between China and Pakistan, fostering sustainable growth and mutual prosperity. At the heart of CPEC II lies the implementation of additional infrastructure projects, encompassing highways, railways, ports, and airports. These endeavors are crafted to enhance connectivity within Pakistan and with China, promising to boost trade, streamline transportation of the timeline of CPEC and its subsequent evolution into CPEC II

presents a captivating narrative of collaboration and progress between China and Pakistan.

In 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was officially inaugurated during Chinese President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Pakistan. This inaugural phase prioritized infrastructure development, laying the groundwork for ambitious projects spanning roads, railways, and energy initiatives. By 2015, the initial phase of CPEC had gained substantial momentum, witnessing the completion of several infrastructure endeavors aimed at bolstering connectivity between China's western region and Pakistan's Gwadar Port. As the corridor gained traction, 2017 marked a pivotal moment with the initiation of a diverse array of projects covering sectors such as energy, transportation, telecommunications, and industrial cooperation. CPEC began to attract international attention as a linchpin of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. 2017 also saw discussions emerge regarding the expansion and diversification of CPEC's scope, leading to the conceptualization of CPEC II. This transformative phase aimed to build upon the successes of its predecessor while exploring new avenues of cooperation, including agriculture, technology transfer, and social development.

Formal agreements signed between

China and Pakistan in 2021 heralded the commencement of CPEC II, marking a significant milestone in their economic partnership. The focus shifted towards comprehensive and inclusive development strategies, emphasizing sustainable growth and mutual prosperity.

Implementation of CPEC II began in earnest in 2022, marked by the launch of additional infrastructure projects spanning highways, railways, ports, and airports. Simultaneously, efforts were made to foster people-to-people exchanges, cultural cooperation, and educational collaboration between the two nations.

As CPEC II gained momentum in 2023, new initiatives took shape, deepening economic cooperation and bilateral ties between China and Pakistan. The corridor emerged as a cornerstone of regional development and connectivity, underscoring its transformative potential.

In 2024, as CPEC II continued to progress, Pakistan and China reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing collaboration and addressing emerging priorities and opportunities. The corridor remained a symbol of resilience, innovation, and shared prosperity, signaling a promising future for both nations. CPEC II holds promise for Pakistan's economic future, but it also faces challenges. Geopolitical tensions and security

threats could disrupt its progress. Ensuring safety for infrastructure and personnel is crucial. Economic stability is another concern due to global market volatility. Local opposition over land and environmental issues needs addressing. Debt sustainability is a worry, requiring careful financial management. Environmental impacts of large-scale projects must be managed responsibly. Political instability could also hinder the project's continuity. Collaboration and proactive measures are needed to overcome these obstacles. Only with careful planning can CPEC II fulfill its potential for Pakistan's prosperity. The transformation from CPEC to CPEC II reflects the dynamic evolution of the economic partnership between China and Pakistan, underscoring their mutual dedication to fostering development and prosperity.

CPEC II envisions the expansion of energy projects to meet Pakistan's power generation needs, with a focus on sustainable solutions. By tapping into renewable energy sources and modernizing existing infrastructure, CPEC II endeavors to promote environmental responsibility and resilience in the face of evolving energy demands. In addition to physical infrastructure, CPEC II emphasizes the significance of people-to-people exchanges, cultural cooperation, and educational collaboration. These initiatives are geared towards strengthening social bonds, deepening mutual understanding, and nurturing enduring friendships between the peoples of China and Pakistan.

To be continued



Analysis
Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

UNGA: Palestinian membership

The United Nations General Assembly Friday voted, by an overwhelming majority, to grant new "rights and privileges" to Palestine and called on the Security Council to favourably reconsider its request to become a full member of the UN. The 193-member world body approved the Arab and Palestinian sponsored resolution by a vote of 143-9 with 25 abstentions.

Pakistan backed the resolution which "determines" that a state of Palestine is qualified for membership and recommends that the Security Council reconsider its request "favourably." The renewed push for full Palestinian membership in the UN comes as Israeli aggression in Gaza has put the more than 75-year-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict at center stage. At numerous Council and Assembly meetings, the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinians in Gaza and the killing of more than 35,000 people in the enclave, have generated worldwide outrage over Israeli atrocities. The United States vetoed a widely backed Council resolution on April 18 that would have paved the way for full United Nations membership for Palestine, a goal the Palestinians have long sought and Israel, with the support of its powerful allies, has worked to prevent. US Deputy Ambassador Robert Wood made clear on Thursday that the Biden administration opposed the Assembly resolution. The United States was among the nine countries voting against it, along with Israel. Speaking before the vote, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said there would come a day when Israel would be held accountable for the crimes committed against Palestinians, especially in Gaza. The insults hurled today – a reference to the highly provocative speech by Israel's UN Ambassador Gild Erdan – were "the arrogance of the aggressor", reflecting the impunity of the occupier, and trampling inherent and the UN Charter given rights of Palestinian people to self-determination, the Pakistani envoy said. He expressed the hope that the international community would appropriately respond. "This is contrary to expectations of the member states, and standards and practice of the United Nations," Ambassador Akram remarked. The resolution's adoption, he added, would determine the widespread support for Palestine to be accorded full UN membership. Israel, Ambassador Akram said, had refused the calls by the Assembly, by the Security Council and even by its patrons and friends, to halt the massacre of innocents and accept an immediate ceasefire. The Israeli leadership had reneged on negotiated deals for a ceasefire, he said, noting it had now initiated its assault on Rafah. Highlighting that the Palestinian people have been denied their right to self-determination since 1947 and, after 1967, obliged to live under Israel's brutal occupation, he said the General Assembly could partially redress the historic injustice by admitting Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. "The assertion that Palestine's admission can happen only through negotiations reflects the inequity of this position. Negotiations must have a level playing field. If Israel negotiates as a full member of the UN, so too should Palestine," the Pakistani envoy said, referring to the US statement in opposing the Palestinian bid for full membership. He added, "The adoption of this resolution will be a partial yet vital step towards redressing the historic injustice against the people of Palestine. It will reflect a political reality, which would facilitate the revival of a peace process to realize the universally agreed objective of creating a two-state solution, the objective of establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian State along the 4th June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds as its capital." Riyadh Mansour, Permanent Observer of the observer State of Palestine, recounted the devastating impacts of the ongoing war in Gaza, with over 35,000 Palestinians killed, a further 80,000 injured and over two million displaced. "No words can capture what such loss and trauma signify for Palestinians, their families, their communities and for our nation as whole," he said. He added that the Palestinians in Gaza had been pushed to the "very edge" of the Strip, "to the very brink of life" with "bombs and bullets haunting them".



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

Navigating the Immigration Policies of Canada

Wania Jahangir Khan

The world is rapidly marching towards a political union, and Canada's valuation system is an example that there is still room for new prospects, and the dream of equality can come true no matter which culture you are born into. During this time, Canada's immigration policy is very vital since the change processes occur and they have been proven as globalization, technology, and the change in population. Conversely, the procedure of immigration policy formation is not up to simplicity as it involves a very complex mechanism. Hence, care is needed into the policy because it keeps the balance of nation prosperity and society inclusiveness as well as aiming for diversity.

The Canadian immigration policy has been on the foreign and economic stage for ages now because of the direction of its humanitarian aim, which attracts refugees, skilled workers, and reunion of families. Let it be there and it is going to eat with colour and body in the fabric of the national culture; on the other hand, the project is going to significantly contribute to the economy. The immigrants bring various skills, the resourcefulness of the mind and new concepts that encourage innovation of the industry and economic growth of the most hit sectors such as technology, agriculture, and production.

However, Canada is confronted with the reality of the present day 20th century which implies an ageing population and labour shifts towards its policies. Nothing better than readjustment in terms of

labour force, reviewed immigration policies, programs, and face-to-face interviews. This is not just the moral dilemma of the day but the careful balance between whether the altruistic number of refugees who intake would be able to fill the niche requirements for the missing spot in the economy that various professions generate employment.

The stress of getting an application, as well as the extended processing time left by other people up for grabs and further derailing the desire when it comes to desired immigrants. It is very important to ensure that the entire process of application is saved and smooth in addition to dedicating such resources as personnel who will help in better processing. Also, a thorough integration of settlers with a successful mitigation strategy should be complemented by a broad range of services relating to transportation, health, housing, education, welfare, security, and a social fabric that transcend language training. By the means of different directions that aim to eliminate immigrant difference from the economy, for example, from employment prospects, residence matters, and cultural integration, integrated immigrants should be considered.

Furthermore, we should advise regarding integration, which is a sensitive subject, as well. While Canadians are completely committed to their cultural roots, diversity is the fundamental cornerstone of their identity. It is now the aim and the responsibility of the society to create an environment conducive to the successful integration of newly arrived immigrants. In this way, language training, employment assistance, and community activities that are aimed to make a society that is not fair at

all are going to be used by this.

On the same side of the coin, the right procedure which is followed and fulfilment of public needs also play a key role in this matter. The whole nation has the right to anticipate genuine endeavours on the side of the authorities to regulate the process of resettling newcomers in the spirit of impartiality, which is embedded in their very principles. This eventually necessitates a powerful all-around performance oversight system, a speedy processing of applications and other necessary things to ensure questions, grievances and other complaints are handled accordingly.

Summarizing it all we can say that national identity and further prosperity of Canada are based on the migration policy and the willingness to accept different nations, ways of life, and viewpoints. Although flaws and disparities in the area of maintenance of the current system of supporting social security may lead to the necessity of upcoming reforms, this system preserves the considerable advantages. These include simplification of the processes and substituting the human social component with careful rebalancing on the dynamics of the economic and social life. Sustainability is a priority for any country and through establishing a policy that incorporates both efficiency and inclusivity, will ensure that colors always tell a story of the beautiful richness of the people in the country, who should be the signs of constant development and growth.

Writer is student of Bachelors of International Relations at Fatima Jinnah Women University. She can be reached at waniajahangir9@gmail.com

Pigeon Flying-A Serious Hazard to Flight Operations

Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority have launched a comprehensive public awareness campaign to address the growing threat of pigeon and kite flying near military and civilian airfields across the country. These activities pose a significant risk to aircraft safety and can result in catastrophic damage to multi-million dollar machines, jeopardizing national assets and operational capabilities.

Bird strikes, including those involving pigeons, are a major concern for the aviation industry worldwide. In Pakistan, these incidents have caused millions of dollars in damages to aircraft and engines. Airports are responsible for implementing bird control measures, such as deploying bird shooters near runways and taking other preventive actions, however, the public's participation is crucial to effectively mitigate this hazard.

The awareness campaign emphasizes the importance of responsible waste management and prohibition of pigeon flights close to airfields. Carcasses and offal left in open areas attract large birds like eagles and vultures, which can collide with high-speed aircraft during takeoff and landing. These bird strikes can have devastating consequences, potentially leading to the loss of aircraft, pilots and precious lives. To address this issue, the authorities have taken several measures. Signboards and informative pamphlets have been placed around airports/airfields urging the public to properly dispose off animal remains. Shopkeepers, food outlets and hotel owners have also been educated about the importance of proper waste management to prevent attracting birds. The campaign also targets the hazards posed by kite and pigeon flying in the vicinity of PAF airfields. These activities can disrupt flight operations and pose a direct threat to aircraft safety. The authorities have directed the local police

and district administration to enforce Section 144, which prohibits kite flying and selling, and to restrict pigeon flying near military and civilian airfields.

The awareness campaign is being implemented across the country, with dedicated efforts at major airports like Islamabad International Airport, Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore, Jinnah International Airport in Karachi and Gilgit International Airport. At these airports, the management is collaborating with local authorities, community leaders and religious organizations to raise awareness and ensure effective waste management.

At Islamabad International Airport, a meeting of the Environmental Control Committee was also held to discuss the bird strike awareness campaign. Banners were displayed, and the authorities are working with the district administration and police to conduct public outreach. Similar initiatives have been undertaken at other airports, with informative pamphlets distributed, disposal bags provided and awareness sessions conducted with residents.

Pakistan Air Force has also been actively involved in the campaign, with officers giving presentations on the threats posed by bird hazards and garbage dumping to national assets. The authorities have emphasized the need for joint efforts between the military, civil aviation and local communities to address this critical issue.

The pigeon flying awareness campaign launched by the Pakistan Air Force and the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority is a crucial initiative to safeguard the country's aviation assets and ensure the safety of flight operations. So let us join hands together to support our Shaheens in educating the public, promoting responsible waste management and restricting hazardous activities near airfields, in order to mitigate the risk of bird strikes and protect the nation's valuable air power capabilities.



Analysis
Izmi Herlani

Xi Jinping, 'a sincere friend of Serbia'

BELGRADE/BELJING (XINHUA): Situated by the scenic Danube River, the Smederevo Steelworks had long been hailed as the pride of Serbia before it slid to bankruptcy more than two decades ago.

Thanks to the deepening of the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation between China and Serbia, the century-old factory made a remarkable comeback in 2016 when its Chinese partner arrived.

In just a couple of months, the steel mill started turning a profit. It has now become one of the world's largest iron and steel makers and integrated service providers measured by production capacity.

The rebirth of the steel mill stands as a key epitome of the broader practical cooperation between the two countries.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping pays his second state visit to the European country in the coming days, expectations are running high that the ironclad friendship between the two nations will be further enriched and strengthened.

Many big Chinese investment projects here were brought about by President Xi, former Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic said. "He is a sincere friend of Serbia."

An Icon Reborn

During his first state visit to Serbia in 2016, Xi offered a strong helping hand to the Smederevo Steelworks, ushering in a wave of Chinese support.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic clearly remembers how he, then as prime minister, approached Xi during the latter's visit with the idea of saving the struggling company. Xi assured him with a famous Chinese saying that "promises must be kept, and actions must be resultful."

"What we pledge to do, such as introducing cutting-edge technology, ensuring local employment, and benefiting the wider community, must be achieved without fail," Xi told the workers when visiting the factory.

Vladan Mihailovic, executive director for production at the steelworks, described Xi's visit as a turning point. With Xi's support, China offered sustained assistance to Serbia to revive the factory.

"The president's commitments, especially regarding the modernization of production facilities, have become a reality," said Mihailovic.

About 60 km away to the northwest of the steelworks nestles the Belgrade Centre railway station, the starting



point of another Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation project Xi cares about — the Belgrade-Novı Sad high-speed railway.

As a segment of the Serbia-Hungary railway, it began operations in March 2022 and has since been shuttling passengers between Serbia's two largest cities at speeds of up to 200 km per hour. Vucic dubbed it "a gift for future generations."

The flourishing cooperation between Beijing and Belgrade within the framework of the BRI epitomizes the growing synergy between development strategies of the two countries, which has significantly bolstered bilateral economic and trade relations.

According to Chinese customs statistics, the total trade volume between China and Serbia in 2023 reached 4.35 billion U. S. dollars, an

increase of 23.7 percent compared to the previous year.

In October last year, witnessed by Xi and Vucic, China and Serbia signed a free trade agreement in Beijing, the first one inked between China and a Central and Eastern European country. After the deal takes effect, more than 60 percent of taxable items will become tariff-free immediately, and the final import volume proportion of both sides with zero-tariff items will reach about 95 percent.

"China is one of the most important partners for Serbia's economic development," said Nenad Stekic, a research fellow with the Institute of International Politics and Economics, a Serbian think tank.

"Since we elevated our relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2016, the relationship has been

really going on an upward trajectory across the board," he added.

A Friend In Need

Both the steel mill and the iron rail bear witness to the special rapport between the two nations, which has been forged with blood and lives. In the face of difficulties and challenges, the Chinese and Serbian people have always supported each other through thick and thin.

When the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc across the world, China extended timely help to Serbia. Providing Serbia with protective equipments, medical instruments and vaccines, China also dispatched a team of medical professionals to help it better contain the pandemic.

It was already late night hours when Chinese medical team landed at Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport.

Vucic headed a group of senior officials to greet the experts. While handshaking was not advisable during the outbreak, the Serbian leader chose to elbow-bump with every member of the Chinese team. He also kissed a Chinese national flag in a show of gratitude for China's timely support.

The Chinese people "have proven as friends in the most difficult times when we fight for lives of Serbian people," Vucic said.

In the following month, Serbia awarded its most prestigious military awards to the Chinese medical team members, recognizing their invaluable contribution to the country's battle against the pandemic.

When China was facing difficulties, Serbia also rushed to help. After a massive earthquake flattened China's Wenchuan county in 2008, Serbia

offered speedy assistance to China and provided a large amount of relief supplies to the people in the affected areas.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed. That's a great sentence," Vucic told Xinhua.

A Bond Ironclad

"An ironclad friend" is how Xi describes Serbia in China's foreign relations. In Chinese diplomatic discourse, the term conveys a special meaning.

Serbia is proud of its ironclad friendship with China, and China has always treated Serbia as equal, Vucic told Xi during his visit to China to attend the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in October last year.

An ironclad friendship, commented Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at Renmin University of China, implies close relations, close communication and close cooperation on the basis of true respect for each other's core interests. All these features apply to the China-Serbia relationship.

Taking a stroll through Belgrade's Kalemegdan Park, a symbol of Serbia's resilience, heritage and natural beauty, during his 2016 visit, Xi expressed his profound respect for the country and its people.

"The Serbian people, with an indomitable spirit, have revived time and again in history like the phoenix nirvana, which the Chinese people admire very much," said the Chinese president, who maintains that all countries, regardless of size, are equal members of the international community and should coexist peacefully and learn from each other.

Guided by Xi's philosophy, China firmly supports Serbia on issues concerning its core interests and major concerns, making their ironclad friendship a good example of equal treatment and mutual benefit between countries of different sizes.

The bond between the two countries is reinforced not only through diplomacy but also through mutual respect and understanding, emphasized Aleksandar Vulin, a former Serbian minister of defense and internal affairs.

"Serbia holds profound respect for the People's Republic of China, not merely due to its size, but owing to the exemplary leadership it embodies," he added. "China knows how to talk and listen. China is a partner, not a commander. China does not dictate, China advises."

Full Membership of Palestine and Israel in the United Nations in light of Resolution 273 and the USA veto

by Nader Alturk

On Friday 10 May 2024, a sweeping vote was held, representing an international consensus, in the United Nations General Assembly, on a resolution affirming the right of the State of Palestine to obtain full membership, and granting it additional rights and privileges in the United Nations and its various institutions and arms. (143) countries voted in favor of the resolution, while (9) countries opposed, while (25) countries abstained from voting.

This resolution confirms that the State of Palestine fulfills all the conditions stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, especially Article Four, and thus it deserves and qualifies for full membership in the United Nations. This is considered a clear message of confirmation from the international community of the natural, legal, and historical right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their aspirations. Towards liberation and independence and living on its land in security and peace like the rest of the peoples of the world, and this step comes within the efforts aimed at protecting and preserving the two-state solution based on ending the colonial occupation and the Israeli apartheid system and achieving peace and stability in the region, despite the historical injustice that has afflicted the Palestinian people since the Nakba. In the year 1948 and until now, strengthening Palestine's position in the United Nations is an enhancement of peace and solutions based on multilateral diplomacy, based on international law, and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Although 12 member states in the Security Council agreed to grant the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations, the United States of America once again used its veto in favor of the Israeli occupation on April 17, 2024, in order to prevent the State of Palestine from obtaining full membership

in the United Nations.

It is believed that as long as the United States of America—whose presidents and leaders brag about being Zionists—is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the State of Palestine will not obtain full membership.

It is believed that the only way is a diplomatic and media campaign to delegitimize Israel, focusing on the Israelis' permanent and ongoing violation of the rules of international law, their non-compliance with international legitimacy resolutions, and their disregard for United Nations resolutions, even though their state was established by a United Nations resolution 181 of 1947, and the focus is on genocide, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing in the Gaza Strip.

It is also believed that it is necessary for the aforementioned campaign to include a broad focus on United Nations Resolution No. 273, according to which Israel obtained full conditional membership in the United Nations, as its membership is conditional on the implementation of UN Resolutions 181 and 194 regarding the division of the historic land of Palestine into two states and the return of Palestinian refugees to their immigrant cities and villages. Including the year 1948, compensation for their suffering and the use of their property.

Therefore, Israel's failure to fulfill the conditions for its membership in the United Nations first requires its expulsion from the United Nations before demanding full Palestine membership therein, and then for every recent incident. With returning the Palestinian issue to its roots by returning it to the United Nations to fully implement Resolutions 181D and 194, because there cannot be a negotiated solution to the Palestinian issue with an American vision that may not go beyond what Donald Trump offered in the deal of the century, which still exists and has not been canceled or undone by the United States despite it was born dead, which

makes any negotiations, whatever they are, absurd and a waste of the time that the Israelis will invest in stealing more Palestinian land, building settlements, Judaizing Jerusalem, normalization with Arab and Islamic countries...etc.

UN resolution 273 (III) on 11 May 1949. Admission of Israel to membership in the United Nations:

Having received the report of the Security Council on the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations, 1/

Noting that, in the judgment of the Security Council, Israel is a peace-loving State and is able and willing to carry out the obligations contained in the Charter,

Noting that the Security Council has recommended to the General Assembly that it admit Israel to membership in the United Nations,

Noting furthermore the declaration by the State of Israel that it "unreservedly accepts the obligations of the United Nations Charter and undertakes to honour them from the day when it becomes a Member of the United Nations";^{2/}

Recalling its resolutions of 29 November 1947 3/ and 11 December 1948 4/ and taking note of the declarations and explanations made by the representative of the Government of Israel 5/ before the ad hoc Political Committee in respect of the implementation of the said resolutions,

The General Assembly, Acting in discharge of its functions under Article 4 of the Charter and rule 125 of its rules of procedure,

1. Decides that Israel is a peace-loving State which accepts the obligations contained in the Charter and is able and willing to carry out those obligations;

2. Decides to admit Israel to membership in the United Nations.

(For more details please read on United Nations website resolution 181 on 29 November 1947 and resolution 194 on 11 December 1948)

Accordingly, the Israelis ignore all international legitimacy reso-



lutions, United Nations resolutions, public international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights principles, and the continuation of the Israeli aggression against our Palestinian people since 1948, which has been escalating since October 7, 2023 AD, and the discovery of mass graves in all areas of the Gaza Strip, and the continuation and escalation of the policy of punishment. The collective imposition of the siege by the Palestinian people, depriving civilians of electricity, water, food, and medicine, and confiscating lands in the West Bank for settlement purposes, confirms that the Israelis, army, government, and settlers, are committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and ethnic cleansing, which confirms categorically and beyond doubt that Israel is a state that loves aggression and war. It is hostile to peace and does not accept the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and is neither able nor willing to implement those obligations.

It is believed that the ongoing war against the Palestinian people will not end as long as the Israeli goal is to transfer our people in the Gaza Strip to Sinai. Therefore, 80% of the buildings in the Gaza Strip were destroyed, 32 hospitals out of 36 were destroyed, most of the schools and all universities were destroyed, and civilian homes, institutions, factories, companies and infrastructure were destroyed with the aim of transforming... The Gaza Strip has become a place that does not provide the most basic necessities

of life, so that its plans to displace our people can succeed.

It is believed that the war will not end as long as the support of Western countries, especially the United States of America, continues blindly and unlimitedly, the latest of which is the US Congress' approval of aid to the Israelis worth \$26 billion, including \$17 billion in military support, whereby the Israelis will be provided with more bombs and weapons to kill more Palestinian civilians, and what is strange is that despite all the financial and economic crises that Western countries and the United States of America are facing and problems in financing social welfare and health care programs for their people, they find enough money to support the Israeli occupation and provide it with weapons to kill our Palestinian people.

Therefore, what is required is to stop supplying weapons to the Israelis and declare Netanyahu, his government, and the leaders of his army as war criminals who must be arrested and tried, just as Nazi leaders were arrested and tried after World War II for their crimes against the Jews and against other ethnic groups in Europe.

What raises hope that humanity will become more humane is the popular movement in all Western countries and the United States of America, and the movement of students in American and European universities against the Israeli occupation and the genocide of our Palestinian people indicates that future leaders who will lead Western governments, civil society and the American Congress will be supportive of Palestine and realize that it is being exhausted. Their country's financial, economic, and military capabilities serve the Zionist colonial project in Palestine at the expense of the future of their country, their people, and future generations. What is striking about the statements of American university students is that they do not talk about the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories in 1967, but rather consider the establishment of Israel as a state on the land of Palestine in 1948 to

be the true beginning. The occupation and that what happened at that time was the usurpation of the land of Palestine by Zionist settlers who came from nowhere to occupy the land of the Palestinian people and plunder their property to establish their Zionist state. The movement of American and Western students began to see that their democracy, economy, and political system were stolen, plundered, and controlled by the Zionist lobby. Therefore, change in favor of Palestine has begun and will never stop.

One of the advantages of the student movement in universities in the United States of America is that it revealed that Israeli technological development is not their own efforts and capabilities, but rather the result of close cooperation for many years with American and Western universities in various fields. Which confirms that without American and Western support, Israel would be at the bottom of the list of countries in the world in terms of technological, economic, financial, military development...etc.

What is required of Western countries and the United States of America is to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the rules of international law, to stop their political, economic, financial, technological, and military support for the Israelis, to adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy regarding Palestine, and to work to thwart the Israeli plan to displace the Palestinian people outside Palestine, whether they are in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, including Palestinians living in Jerusalem and 2 million Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship, which aims to achieve one of the lies that established their state on the land of Palestine, that Palestine is a land without a people for a people without a land, and thus replacing the Palestinian people with more Zionist settlers.

This requires diligent and serious work to implement Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016 regarding the illegality of confiscating Palestinian lands

and building settlements, and implementing Resolution 67/19 of 2012 and all United Nations resolutions related to Palestine.

What is required is for the United States of America to adhere to international legitimacy resolutions regarding settlements and to back away from the Deal of the Century issued during the era of President Donald Trump, which ignored international law and United Nations resolutions and tried to consider the Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands as legitimate and legal.

What is happening in Gaza are war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and ethnic cleansing. All of humanity is required to unite and consider Benjamin Netanyahu, Ben Gvir, Smotrich, the Israeli leaders, and the leaders of the Israeli army as war criminals, and to arrest them in any country they visit, even if it is the United States of America, as was done. The Nazis were arrested for their crimes against Jews and ethnic minorities in Europe during World War II.

It is believed that the Israeli security, technological and military failure on October 7, 2023, Israel's inability to defend itself against Iranian missiles and drones, and its need for the United States of America, Britain and other countries to confront the Iranian attack, all of this confirms that hundreds of billions in military support have been provided to the Israelis since 1948 until today. It did not qualify it to become a regional power capable of defending itself alone!! Which raises questions about the extent of Israel's future importance in defending the interests of the United States of America and Western countries in the Middle East and North Africa region!! Which will prompt the United States of America and Western countries to urgently search for another strategic partner that is more efficient and capable of defending their interests in the region.

The writer is Deputy Head of Mission in Embassy of the State of Palestine, Pakistan

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
73,085.50	72,658.05
Day's High	Day's Low
73,449.37	72,876.83
Index Value	Change
16,278,214,624	+427.45
Percentage	Time
+0.59%	10 May, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
8,433.76	+52.41
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	10 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
39,475.89	+88.13
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	10 May, 1:40 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
38,229.11	+155.13
Percentage	Time
+0.41%	10 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.5	182.2
Bahrain Dinar	741.25	749.25
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.6	39
Danish Krone	40.24	40.64
Euro	296	298.7
Hong Kong Dollar	35.6	35.95
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.13	915.13
Malaysian Ringgit	58.79	59.39
New Zealand \$	166.93	168.93
Norwegians Krone	25.69	25.99
Omani Riyal	724.21	732.21
Qatari Riyal	76.57	77.27
Saudi Riyal	73.4	74.1
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	25.79	26.09
Swiss Franc	306.4	308.9
Thai Bhat	7.56	7.71
U.A.E Dirham	75.1	75.85
UK Pound Sterling	344	347.5
US Dollar	277.1	279.6

Petroleum market will be in chaos: Dr. Hanif Mughal

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, said on Friday that the removal of the government's control over oil prices should not be taken lightly as it is a serious national security issue.

Some elements want to push the country into chaos and for profit, which should not be allowed, he said.

The Prime Minister, Army Chief, and Chief Justice should take notice of the situation; otherwise, it can go out of control, he added.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said in a statement issued here today that by allowing the deregulation



of oil prices, the people will become bankrupt and the economy of Pakistan will be destroyed.

This move, backed by some powerful companies and individuals, will sink the country into a quagmire of problems. He said that there is neither infrastructure nor storage capacity in Pakistan for such an adventure.

It is said that the deregulation would empower oil marketing companies to determine fuel prices on the basis of market forces. Consumers getting gasoline and diesel from places closer to ports and refineries would get relatively cheaper products. However, in fact, it will be a death warrant for the people and the petroleum industry of Pakistan, he underlined.

According to the International Energy Agency, it is mandatory for every member country to stock at least 90 days of oil. The United States, China, and dozens of other countries have stored oil for several years, which can be brought to the market when needed.

However, he said, Pakistan barely has the capacity to store 15 to 20 days of oil, due to which this sector remains unstable. Despite government oversight, oil marketing companies often create crises for profit.

Deregulation in these circumstances is like playing with fire, as our fragile economy is unable to withstand the shocks resulting from deregulation, he warned.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Kick-off meeting between Karandaaz Pakistan, FBR and Ministry of Finance on Digitalization of the Tax System took place at FBR Headquarters on Friday.



Photo: PID

Fly Jinnah marks its first flight to Muscat

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Starting with two weekly flights, the new route will connect Islamabad to Muscat, the vibrant capital of Oman.

Pakistan's low-cost carrier, Fly Jinnah, commenced its first non-stop flight from Islamabad International Airport to Muscat International Airport in Oman.

Upon arrival at Muscat International Airport, the flight was greeted with a traditional water cannon salute and a welcome ceremony. The newly added route will connect both cities with a frequency of two weekly flights, providing travellers with convenient and affordable options to explore the vibrant city of Muscat.

Commenting on the inauguration of the airline's third international flight, Fly

Jinnah's spokesperson said: "Celebrating our continued growth and commitment to enhancing air travel opportunities, we are proud to have commenced non-stop flights between Islamabad and Muscat in Oman, our third international destination. This expansion underscores our dedication to offering more affordable and quality air travel solutions, both domestically and internationally."

Fly Jinnah remains steadfast in offering convenient and affordable service to its passengers. With its modern fleet of five Airbus A320 aircraft, the airline serves five major cities in Pakistan: Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta. This new route adds to Fly Jinnah's growing list of international destinations, complementing the existing flight route to Sharjah, UAE.

'Dulux Experience Store' brings the magic of Dulux closer to paint consumers in Lahore

PPA

LAHORE: Ushering in a new era of immersive experience for Dulux paint consumers in Pakistan, AkzoNobel Pakistan Ltd, today inaugurated its latest Dulux Experience Store at Ayub Paint House on the Bedia road (DHA Phase V) in Lahore.

A first-of-its-kind concept in the Pakistan paint industry, the Dulux Experience Store is developed on the concept of "See, Touch and Feel", helping paint consumers relish Dulux's superior quality and customer service under one roof.

"At AkzoNobel, we always go the extra mile, working with and for our consumers to anticipate their needs, tailor specific solutions and exceed their expectations - taking them further than they can go. In just one year, our debut Dulux Experience Store has witnessed an overwhelmingly positive response, delighting over 10,000 families in Lahore.

Now, we're getting even closer to our consumers with the second Dulux Experience Store with the aim to helping them paint the future with more confidence," said Mubbasher Omar, Chief Executive



Officer, AkzoNobel Pakistan Limited.

At AkzoNobel, we realize that families are increasingly considering many factors while choosing paint for their homes.

However, getting credible information under one roof is still a challenge. Addressing all consumer concerns under

one roof is our new Dulux Experience Store on Bedia road.

Here Dulux paint experts empower consumers to conveniently personalize their painting journey, right from globally on-trend colour inspiration to colour selection among more than 2,000 colour options of Dulux paints.

PTCL's 'Flash Fiber' reaches 500,000 User Milestone, reflecting rapid growth

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's fastest Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) service, PTCL's Flash Fiber has demonstrated swift growth to reach the milestone of 500,000 customers nationwide. The service revolutionizes internet connectivity in Pakistan, besides offering a host of integrated ICT services to transform the experience of its customers.

PTCL Group is rapidly expanding its fiber network in Pakistan, upgrading from copper to improve digital experiences and customer satisfaction. Currently, PTCL's Flash Fiber service links 79 cities across the nation and is expanding further. Flash Fiber achieved this milestone



at an unmatched pace in Pakistan's telecom sector, highlighting its exceptional popularity due to its rapid speeds, flawless connectivity, and a range of complementary digital offerings, such as PTCL Group's premier OTT service, SHOQ. Celebrating this significant milestone, Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO of PTCL & Ufone 4G, expressed, "We are thrilled by the enthusiastic response to our FTTH service 'Flash Fiber', which is

designed to revolutionize user experiences, support smart home setups and enhance digital lifestyles in Pakistan. We firmly believe that high-speed and reliable internet connectivity acts as a catalyst for economic growth and social advancement, as it drives a substantial portion of the economy and opens doors to progress and development. We are strategically expanding our fiber network with the aim of making high-quality connectivity easily accessible to every internet user in Pakistan."

High-speed connectivity also touches upon softer aspects including leisure and entertainment. On the back of Flash Fiber's blazing speeds, PTCL is enriching user experience by providing premi-

um content through its IPTV (SHOQ TV) and OTT App (SHOQ) services. Flash Fiber customers can also enjoy Flash Eye Security Solution for their house or office that is designed to meet all their security needs. Not only this, but Flash Fiber customers can also avail medical insurance.

PTCL's FTTH service provides fastest connectivity that fosters innovation and drives socio-economic growth. The widespread adoption of fiber connectivity presents a valuable opportunity to unlock Pakistan's growth potential across agriculture, health, education, e-commerce, entrepreneurship, and the digital economy, promoting sustainable and inclusive progress.

MENA region leads global growth in luxury travel, reveals Mastercard Affluent Travel report

PPA

DUBAI: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has emerged as one of the main regions driving growth in affluent travel, recording high spends, while also displaying an appetite for sustainable eco-luxury and meaningful cultural experiences. Mastercard's latest report, 'Affluent Travel: A Middle East Perspective', released during the Arabian Travel Market 2024, unpacks some of the key trends.

The appetite for new experiences in unexplored destinations, micro-trips and 'bleisure' will likely drive the growth of the global luxury travel market, which is expected to grow by 7.9% (CAGR) between 2024 and 2030, according to Grand View Research. While the world awaits the emergence

of the first trillionaires, high-net-worth travelers contribute approximately 36% of the global spend on travel as stated in a Jones Lang LaSalle study.

Affluent consumers are keen adopters of the conscious travel trend and place a premium on the authenticity of eco-luxury experiences. These include associating with travel brands that support local communities. Globally, one in 10 consumers have stayed in luxury eco-friendly accommodation in the last three years, compared to five of 10 among 18-34-year-old affluent. According to Euromonitor, a sizeable 38% of luxury seekers are willing to pay between 30% and 50% more for sustainable travel features such as energy-efficient services. A quarter would pay even higher to find less carbon-intensive transport.

CCP approves acquisition in thermal power sector

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a merger in the thermal power sector. The approved transaction entails the acquisition of 20.97% shareholding of M/s. Orient Power Company (Private) Limited (OPCOL) by M/s. Whistler Enterprises (Private) Limited (WEL).

M/s. Whistler Enterprises (Private) Limited, a recently incorporated private limited company under the Laws of Pakistan, focuses on setting up, acquiring, or carrying on power generation businesses and related products or services. While M/s. Orient Power Company (Private) Limited is an independent power producer operating

a 225 MW power plant in Balloki, Kasur.

The shares are being acquired from M/s. Mahmood Textile Mills Limited and Mr. Khawaja Mehr Ali, pursuant to a Share Purchase Agreement. The Phase I competition assessment identified 'Power Generation - Thermal' as the relevant product market, revealing that the market share of OPCOL in the Thermal power generation segment is less than 1%, which will remain unchanged post-transaction.

Given that the proposed transaction will not lead to the dominance of WEL in the relevant market post-transaction, the merger was authorized under Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Kaspersky experts report more than two critical cyber incidents per day in 2023

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The frequency of high-severity incidents with direct human involvement exceeded two per day in 2023, according to the Kaspersky Managed Detection and Response (MDR) team. In the latest MDR Analyst Report, they observed this trend across all industries with financial, IT, government, and industrial sectors at the top of the list.

According to the report, 22.9% of all detected high-severity incidents were recorded in the government sector. IT companies came second (15.4%), closely followed by financial and industrial companies that reported 14.9% and 11.8% of incidents respectively.

The annual Managed Detection and Response (MDR) Analyst Report provides information about the reported incidents, their nature, and their distribution by industry and geographic region. It also highlights the most common tactics, techniques and tools attackers used in the past year. These results are based on analysis of MDR incidents detected by the Kaspersky Security Operations Center (SOC).

Regarding the nature of these incidents, nearly 25% of them were driven by humans. The percentage of malware attacks resulting in serious consequences dipped slightly in 2023 compared to previous years, accounting for just over 12% of the total reported critical incidents. This decline represents the smallest share of high-severity incidents in recent years and can be attributed to the "commoditization of attacks".

The 2023 MDR's report, also found that the proportion of incidents involving the detection of targeted attack artefacts, publicly available critical vulnerabilities and the use of social engineering was around 4-5%.

To enhance protection against advanced attacks, companies are advised to implement effective cybersecurity solutions and hire qualified practitioners to manage them or adopt managed security services such as Managed Detection and Response (MDR) and Incident Response.

PAK vs IRE: Ireland clinch maiden victory against Pakistan in T20I

DUBLIN: Ireland clinched their maiden T20I victory against Pakistan as they beat the Green Shirts in the opener of the three-match series at the Clontarf Cricket Club, Dublin, on Friday.

The hosts stunned the Green Shirts by five wickets in a historic win as this was the first time the Irish hosted Pakistan in T20Is.

Despite a brilliant start while defending the 183-run target as Pakistan managed to get two wickets in the first five overs with Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi striking for them, the Green Shirts couldn't stand against Andrew Balbirnie and Harry Tector.

Both the Irish batters stood tall against Pakistan's bowling attack and formed a formidable 77-run partnership which brought the home team back in the game after a disastrous start.

Tector departed after scoring 36 runs but Balbirnie stood tall and continued to score for his side. George Dockrell brought the much-needed energy to Ireland's innings as he scored 24 runs on 12 balls with four boundaries, which turned out to be the turning point of the match.

Shaheen bagged two wickets while Abbas Afridi, Imad Wasim and Naseem Shah picked one wicket each.

Pakistan got a major breakthrough when Shaheen removed Balbirnie but Gareth Delany (10 on 6) and Curtis



Campher (15 on 7) cruised the home side to victory.

Batting first, Pakistan posted 182/6 as skipper Babar Azam starred with 57 off 43 balls while Saim Ayub made 29-ball 45. Iftikhar Ahmed chipped in with 15-ball 37.

The Men in Green lost Mohammad Rizwan (1) early in the innings. Babar

paired with Saim to provide stability to the innings with an 85-run stand.

Saim was caught by Campher off the bowling of Delany after scoring 45 runs off 29 balls, including four boundaries and three sixes.

Meanwhile, Babar crossed fifty for the 38th time in T20Is. He was caught by Mark Adair off the bowling of Craig

Young, scoring 57 runs from 43 deliveries.

Pakistan struggled for a bit where they lost four wickets for 31 runs but Iftikhar covered the runs at the backend.

He smoked 15-ball 37, powered by three fours and as many sixes. Shaheen Shah Afridi also remained unbeaten, scoring 13 runs from 7 deliveries, hitting two sixes, with a strike rate of 185.71.

Pakistan-New Zealand match ends in 1-1 draw

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and New Zealand ended their match in a 1-1 draw in the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh, Malaysia on Friday. According to information made available here by the Pakistan Hockey Federation, in the fifth pool match both Pakistan and New Zealand struggled to break the deadlock until halftime.

It was not until the 35th minute when New Zealand managed to find the net, taking the lead. However, Pakistan's resilience paid off when they equalized through a penalty corner executed by Abu Bakar in the 43rd minute, ultimately resulting in a 1-1 draw. With a total of 11 points from five matches, Pakistan has successfully secured its place in the final. Pakistan had clinched the third position in the previous edition of the event. In the final, to be contested on Saturday, Pakistan will take on Japan. This prestigious event, featuring six teams including hosts Malaysia, Pakistan, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and Canada, has garnered immense attention from hockey enthusiasts from across the world.

James Anderson to retire after England home summer: reports

A Sports



LONDON: Star England pacer James Anderson is likely to call time on his illustrious 22-year-long career at the end of the 2024 summer, the Guardian reported Friday.

According to the details, England Test head coach Brendon McCullum reached the United Kingdom (UK) from New Zealand earlier this week and told the right-arm pacer over a round of golf that he looks forward to the future, in a build-up to the Ashes 2025-26.

However, neither Anderson nor the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) commented on the reports.

But the veteran pacer may address the claims this Saturday as he is scheduled to appear on the BBC's coverage of the first Women's T20I between England and Pakistan at Edgbaston.

Anderson will turn 42 by the conclusion of England's three-match series against West Indies in July and could hang up his boots during their subsequent series against Sri Lanka, scheduled to commence at his home ground, Old Trafford, in August.

James Anderson is the only pacer in history to take 700 Test wickets. He achieved the milestone during England's fifth away Test against India, in March this year.

He is also the third in the list of players with the most Test wickets, only behind spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800 wickets) of Sri Lanka and the late Shane Warne (708 wickets) of Australia.

The pacer is currently the oldest active player in international cricket, making his debut in 2003 against Zimbabwe at Lord's.

He bowled Mark Vermeulen to take his first wicket in Test cricket and has taken 700 wickets at an average under 27 with 32 five-wicket hauls.

Shakib claims four as Bangladesh edge Zimbabwe

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Returning all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan claimed 4-35 to help Bangladesh recover from a batting collapse and beat Zimbabwe by five runs in Friday's fourth Twenty20 international in Dhaka.

Mustafizur Rahman chipped in with 3-19, helping Bangladesh out Zimbabwe for 138 runs in 19.4 overs.

Replying to a modest 143, Zimbabwe lost opener Brian Bennett for a duck in the first over and were quickly reduced to 57-4.

But they remained in contention after a middle-order rally, with Johnathan Campbell and Ryan Burl putting on a 35-run stand.

Mustafizur forced Burl to give a catch to Soumya Sarkar after making 19 runs, and Shakib took the wicket of Campbell for 31 to put Bangladesh on top.

Wellington Masakadza hit 19 runs from eight balls to take Zimbabwe close, only to go off the strike in the final over when Zimbabwe needed 14.

Shakib Al Hasan, who was playing his first T20I in nearly a year, dismissed Blessing Muzarabani and Richard Ngarava in the final over to wrap up the Zimbabwe innings.

Sent in to bat after Zimbabwe won the toss, Bangladesh got off to a flying start when openers Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Soumya made a 101-run stand for the first wicket.

Luke Jongwe dismissed Tanzid for 52 off 37 balls to break the opening partnership and then Soumya fell in the same over for 41. The hosts lost their remaining eight wickets for just 35 runs to be bowled out for the first time in the series.

Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza sent back Towhid Hridoy for 12 before Bennett struck twice in the same over, dismissing Shakib for one.

Bangladesh had already clinched the series after sweeping the first three matches.

Zimbabwe wrap up their Bangladesh tour with the fifth and final match of the series in Dhaka on Sunday.

Central Asian Volleyball Championship kicks off with grand opening ceremony

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The stage is set for the highly anticipated Engro Central Asian Volleyball Championship, scheduled to take place from May 11th to May 17th, 2024, at the Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad. With six national teams from Central Asian countries, including Iran, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, set to compete, the excitement among volleyball enthusiasts is palpable.

Today marks the grand commencement of the Central Asian Volleyball League, heralded by a magnificent press conference and trophy unveiling ceremony, graciously hosted by the prestigious Serena Hotels. This event promises to be an electrifying prelude to a week filled with exhilarating matches and intense competition.

The festivities will kick off



with the first match of the tournament at 1:00 PM, featuring a showdown between Turkmenistan and Iran. This will be followed by a thrilling match between Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan. The highlight of the day will be the much-anticipated opening ceremony, scheduled for 5:30 PM, where esteemed guests and dignitaries will come together to celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship and interna-

tional camaraderie. Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Government of Pakistan, will grace the occasion as the chief guest.

Following the opening ceremony, the action-packed day will continue with a riveting match between Pakistan and Afghanistan at 6:30 PM, setting the stage for an exciting start to the tournament.



Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Pakistan Sports Board for providing the facilities to host this prestigious tournament in Pakistan. PVF also acknowledges the invaluable support of the Director General of Sports, the Minister of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), and the Secretary of IPC, whose unwavering support has been instrumental

in making this event a reality. PVF extends its sincere gratitude to Serena Hotels for hosting the Press Conference and Trophy Unveiling Ceremony.

As the Central Asian Volleyball League gets underway, spectators and fans can expect a week of intense competition, thrilling matches, and unforgettable moments, showcasing the best of volleyball talent from across the region.

Pakistan eye to 'identify key players for T20 World Cup' in England series

A Sports

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan women's cricket team are all geared up to take on England in the first of the three-match T20I series starting tomorrow at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground here.

The second and third T20Is will be played in Northampton and Leeds on 17 and 19 May, respectively.

Pakistan will then take on England in a three-match ODI series, part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25, scheduled to be played from 23 to 29 May in Derby, Taunton and Chelmsford.

Pakistan women's team captain Nida Dar stated that she has full confidence in each of her player's abilities while also termed the upcoming series as an opportunity to identify key players before the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to take place in October in Bangladesh.

"We have been working hard to fine-tune our skills and strategies ahead of this series. Each member of the team has showcased great dedication and discipline during the practice sessions, and I have full faith in their abilities to deliver in the forthcoming series."

"Playing against a top side



like England is always a challenge, but it is also a great opportunity for our players to test themselves against the best

in the world. The series will help us identify key players for the upcoming T20 World Cup."

Pakistan women squad:

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

England women T20I squad: Heather Knight (captain), Alice Capsey, Amy Jones, Bess Heath, Charlie Dean, Danielle Gibson, Danielle Wyatt, Freya Kemp, Lauren Bell, Lauren Filer, Linsey Smith, Maia Bouchier, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Sarah Glenn and Sophie Ecclestone

Tamasha to livestream ICC men's T20 World Cup 2024

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tamasha, Pakistan's largest homegrown OTT platform, has secured digital broadcasting rights from Ten Sports for all six ICC mega tournaments spanning the years 2024 and 2025.

The mega tournaments included the highly anticipated ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, ICC Champions Trophy 2025, ICC test men's test championship, and all women ICC events, said a news release received here on Friday.

The agreement was between Tamasha and Ten Sports, attended by Aamir Ibrahim, CEO, Jazz, and Duraid Qureshi, Founder and CEO, HUM Network Limited (HNL).

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from

June 2 to June 29, will include 55 matches.

The highly anticipated Pakistan vs. India match is scheduled for June 9 in New York. Pakistan's first match is against the USA on June 6 at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium, Dallas.

Before the T20 World Cup, Pakistan will play three T20 matches against Ireland in Dublin from May 10 to May 14, followed by a four-match series in England from May 22 to May 30, serving as crucial warm-up games. Babar Azam will captain the Pakistan side in the T20 World Cup.

Commenting on Tamasha securing digital broadcasting rights for the ICC tournaments, Aamer Ejaz, Chief Digital Officer, Jazz, stated, "We are incredibly excited to bring the free HD livestreaming of the ICC mega tournaments for millions of passionate

cricket fans across Pakistan.

Tamasha has always been dedicated to providing top-notch entertainment, and the new development reaffirms our commitment to delivering unparalleled viewing experiences. With the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and all the upcoming ICC events now part of our lineup, we're poised to set new standards in digital streaming." Also sharing his thoughts on the development, Duraid Qureshi, CEO, HNL, said, "We are thrilled to join hands with Tamasha, Pakistan's premier homegrown OTT entertainment platform, for digital streaming of all major ICC tournaments till the end of 2025. Pakistani audience along with Ten Sports will have an opportunity of watching cricket matches live on Tamasha."

In this partnership we aim to reach out to a wider audience and

promote the digital viewing habits of Pakistanis, bringing the exhilarating experience of ICC tournaments directly to the fingertips of millions, fostering a new era of connectivity and passion for cricket across the nation."

Tamasha has solidified its position as the top choice for live sports streaming, with over 26 million viewers tuning in for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. It reached #1 on both the Apple App Store & Google Play Store, peaking at 8.5 million daily active users and 21 million monthly active users during the tournament, capturing 80% of the viewership among seven digital platforms.

The platform previously streamed events like the ICC T20 World Cup (2022), FIFA World Cup (2022), Asia Cup 2023, ICC World Cup 2023, and HBL PSL seasons 8 and 9. In 2023, "Tama-



sha" was the second most searched tech term on Google, just after ChatGPT. Viewers can effortlessly catch the ICC T20 World Cup action on Tamasha through its user-friendly Android and iOS apps or website. With the added convenience of a casting feature, fans can enjoy matches on their smart TVs for an immersive experience. Tamasha boasts a rich library of entertainment content, including Live TV Channels, Pakistani and international movies, captivating web series, and exclusive Tamasha Originals, ensuring there's something for every taste. By consistently providing great content, Tamasha remains the top choice for sports fans and entertainment lovers alike.

Graduation Ceremony

Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Operations), alongwith faculty and graduating officers of No 59 Combat Commanders' Course at Airpower Centre of Excellence on Friday.



Graduation Ceremony of No 59 Combat Commanders' Course

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Graduation Ceremony of No 59 Combat Commanders' Course was held at PAF Airpower Centre of Excellence (ACE). Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Operations), was the Chief Guest at the occasion.

Addressing the graduating Officers, the Chief Guest said that in future conflict Air Power would be the decisive factor, therefore, as guardians of the aerial frontiers of the country, every individual of Pakistan Air Force has to prove equal to the task. He also emphasized the strategic goal of ensuring operational agility and readiness. Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Operations) highlighted that as per Worthy Chief of the Air Staff's vision, a transformative rebalancing drive is up and running in PAF which is premised on smart

inductions on a fast operationalization cycle. He reiterated the pivotal role of Combat Commanders in steering Pakistan Air Force towards its goal of becoming a "Next Generation Air Force". The Chief Guest also appreciated the tremendous efforts of the faculty and expressed his satisfaction that all schools of PAF ACE are working in complete harmony for training the future combat leadership of Pakistan Air Force.

Earlier, the Chief Guest awarded certificates and trophies to the graduating officers who underwent a strenuous and professionally demanding course. Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for overall best performance amongst Combat Pilots was awarded to Squadron Leader Bilal Malik, while Air Officer Commanding Air Defence Trophy for overall best performance amongst Combat Controllers was awarded to Squadron Leader Atta Ullah Shahibzada.

President urges global efforts to address climate change

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday underlined the need for global efforts to address the challenge of climate change by adopting environment-friendly technology, promoting afforestation, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The president, talking to the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan/COP 29 President-designate, Mukhtar Babayev, who along with his delegation called on him, highlighted that global warming and climate change were affecting the glacier and causing water scarcity.

He said that tackling these



challenges required global support to mitigate their adverse impacts. Azerbaijan is going to host the 29th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Frame-

work Convention on Climate Change (COP 29) in Baku in November 2024 and the president, in his capacity as the President-designate of COP 29, is here to invite President

Zardari to the conference. Welcoming the minister, the president congratulated Azerbaijan on winning the bid to host COP 29 and expressed the hope that COP 29 would result in setting the New Collective Quantified Goal on Finance that would help developing countries fulfil their climate finance needs. He highlighted that Pakistan had planted mangrove forests over hundreds of thousands of hectares that would help protect the environment, besides earning carbon credits for Pakistan. President Zardari said that Pakistan highly valued its relations with Azerbaijan and wanted to further expand bilateral cooperation in the areas of common inter-

est. He called for promoting more interactions, bilateral exchanges and people-to-people contacts to further cement relations between the two brotherly countries. Mukhtar Babayev underlined the need for further enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, particularly in the area of tourism and culture. He also delivered the invitation to the president to participate in COP 29 in Baku in November 2024. The president conveyed his best wishes for the successful hosting of COP 29 and expressed the hope that Azerbaijan would play its role to secure the interest of developing countries in meeting their financing needs for climate adaptation.

Azerbaijan minister to brief PM on climate change at summit in Baku

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Ecology & Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Mukhtar Babayev Friday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House and handed over an invitation letter to him from President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to participate in the COP-29 meeting to be held in Baku in November 2024. The prime minister thanked the President of Azerbaijan for the invitation, and congratulated him and the Azerbaijan people



on Baku's selection for hosting COP-29, the most important

gathering of world leaders this year to deliberate upon the chal-

lenges posed by climate change. He said that Pakistan was

one of the most vulnerable countries that had borne the adverse impact of climate change in recent years, including the catastrophic floods of 2022. He stressed the need for urgent action to enhance climate resilience. The Azerbaijan minister thanked the prime minister for receiving him and offering Pakistan's support for the successful organization of the COP-29. He said the Azerbaijan side would work closely with Pakistan to set an agenda that suitably reflects the needs of climate vulnerable countries.

Keeping Humanity Alive....

International Red Cross Red Crescent Day is celebrated on May 8 every year around the world to honor the humanitarian works and humanitarian principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Immediately after World War I, the world needed peace and stability. In 1934, at the 15th International Conference in Tokyo, the Armistice Report was presented by the Red Cross, which laid down principles for the protection of the wounded during war.

The day is dedicated to those who suffer from food shortages, natural disasters, tragedies, war as well as epidemics, the day highlights the humanitarian values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. On this day, basic facilities are provided to those populations who are really in need. On the other hand, this day is also the birthday of "Henry Dunant", the founder of the Red Cross. This day is of great importance as it is a day to pay tribute to the services provided by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worldwide for the survival and sustainability of humanity. Under my supervision various events were organized by Pakistan Red Crescent throughout the week in connection with the International Red Cross Red Crescent Day. This year the theme of the International Day has been "Keeping

Humanity Alive". Under my leadership, the services of the Pakistan Red Crescent for the flood sufferers got a new identity for Pakistan. We are a nation struggling with natural calamities and tragedies. We have flexibility. With such flexibility, we are ready to face another difficulty after suffering one problem. We are suffering from lack of resources, but we are not discouraged. Model homes are being built for the homeless, for public facilities, toilets are being constructed in the affected districts, provision of livelihood is in full swing, and Red Crescent has distributed buffaloes and loader rickshaws for household support. The efforts of the Pakistan Red Crescent have spread awareness, self-help and volunteering spirit. The Pakistan Red Crescent has promoted the humanitarian spirit, building an ideal humanitarian society and highlighting the efforts of the Red Cross. On the occasion of Red Crescent Day, the first event was organized under the title of Art and Painting Competition among the students of the school. This event was visible in the F9 Park. Apart from more than four hundred students, Red Crescent staff, support staff and volunteers also participated in this competi-

tion. This healthy activity was supported by two members jewelry, guest of honor, CDA authorities, school administrations and IFRC Head of delegation received a warm welcome. The second event showcased the timely response of the Pakistan Red Crescent during any kind of catastrophe. It was called the First Aid Simulation Exercise. The third event was called "Kindness Challenge". IN this initiative, fruit baskets and gifts (toys) were distributed to the children under treatment in hospitals, for old age homes, and orphanages. Garbage and plastic were cleaned from the Lake view park. Hundreds of cadets of Hassan Abdal Cadet College along with the Pakistan Red Crescent participated in the cleanliness campaign. The next day, tree planting was also done on the left side of faizAbad Murree road. About two hundred and fifty saplings were planted. A record number of people donated blood at the blood donation camp under Pakistan Red Crescent Regional Blood Donors Center at FAST University. An event was held at the Fatima Jinnah Auditorium of the National Headquarters on waste segregation, reduce, reuse and recycle initiatives. In addition to the

awareness, the participants were also provided with information about the clean city project. By making the aforementioned events possible from May 2 to May 8, the PRCS raised its name in the national societies around the world. Similarly, the four provincial Branches including Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Tribal Areas (FATA) branches also celebrated the International Day in a grand manner. International Red Cross Red Crescent Day reminds us of the importance of compassion, love, love, and help to others.

The day also upholds the organizational principles, mission, values and activities. I appeal to the youth of my beloved country that there is a blood donation campaign, or public awareness programs or first aid teaching sessions, you all should actively participate in them. Pakistan Red Crescent organizes various events throughout the year for the promotion of healthy activities. International Red Cross Red Crescent Day is celebrated on May 8 every year around the world. This time Red Crescent has kept the youth busy for a whole week with service to humanity, blood donation, environmental protection, first aid, tree planting and cleanliness campaign. Go ahead, Support the Pakistan Red Crescent for a humanitarian society.

Writer is Chairman in Pakistan Red Crescent



Analysis

Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari

Incident of May 9 is strongly condemned: Chaudhry Zulfiqar

PPA

MULTAN: A renowned industrialist and member of the National Development Export Board for Agro and Processed Foods Chaudhry Zulfiqar expressed solidarity with the Pakistani army, stating that if there is an army, there is Pakistan, and if there is Pakistan, there are we. We trust that our brave army is capable of handling all situations. We strongly condemn the events of May 9. The government should establish a judicial commission, including the Supreme Court's intervention, to conduct transparent investigations and ensure that those responsible for the desecration of martyrs' memorials and causing damage to national properties are severely punished. Because the Paki-



stani army is our pride, perpetrators must be held accountable to safeguard Pakistan's survival and security. For the nation's progress and development, we all must unite on one platform and play our roles together. Long live Pakistan, long live the Pakistani army.

Mohsin Naqvi directs to complete construction...

Continued from Page 1

regarding the completion of the project under construction. Chief Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Ali Randhawa briefed the minister about the project. He said that the project to build a jail in Islamabad started in 2011 but even after many years, this project could not

be completed. He said that the jail will have a capacity of 2,000 prisoners however the capacity to hold two thousand more prisoners will be increased. Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Agha, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Mohammad Ali Randhawa, IG Police Islamabad Contractors, Consultants and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

PTI rejects ISPR DG's demand for apology

Continued from Page 1

be involved." In its statement, the former ruling party described the military spokesperson's press conference as "unconstitutional and illegal".

It reiterated that PTI founder Imran Khan has consistently condemned the "false flag operation" of May 9 and called for a judicial inquiry into the events.

The party also condemned raids on its leaders and workers and reiterated an independent inquiry into the riots. The committee demanded an end to alleged witch-hunting

against the party. The PTI also demanded a judicial inquiry into former caretaker prime minister Anwarul Haq Kakar's statement. It apparently highlighted the former premier's statement that fair elections can take place without PTI chief Imran Khan or several party members.

Khan's party also expressed grief over the killings of seven labourers in Balochistan's Gwadar on Thursday and demanded strict investigation against those responsible for the attack. It also demanded an end to security institutions' alleged interference in politics.