

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے آدم بن ابی ایاس نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے شہید نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے اصل اصعب نے ان سے ابوا گل نے اور ان سے طہیر بن الیمان نے بیان کیا کہ آج کل کے منافق نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے زمانے کے منافقین سے برتر ہیں۔ اس وقت چھپاتے تھے اور آج اس کا حکم اظہار کر رہے ہیں۔ (بخاری، حدیث نمبر 7113)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Bilawal for dialogue among political forces to steer country out of crisis

With the country facing inflation, unemployment, poverty and terrorism, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday called for dialogues among the political forces to resolve the prevailing issues. Addressing a seminar titled "Bhutto Reference and History" in Lahore, Bilawal said: "The people are troubled by price-hike, unemployment and poverty. In addition to these, terrorism is also an issue for the country and the people."



NA Speaker pays tribute to mothers whose sons laid their lives to protect beloved motherland

Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Sunday said that the nation is indebted to all mothers whose sons were martyred in preserving the dignity and sovereignty of the beloved motherland. Mother's love is the energy which enables normal human beings to accomplish impossible feats in their lives, the speaker said, in a message on the eve of Mother's Day.

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Israeli strikes

Israeli strikes on Gaza continued on Sunday after it expanded an evacuation order for Rafah despite international outcry over its military incursion into eastern areas of the city.



Photo: Reuters

PM calls for peaceful resolution in AJK

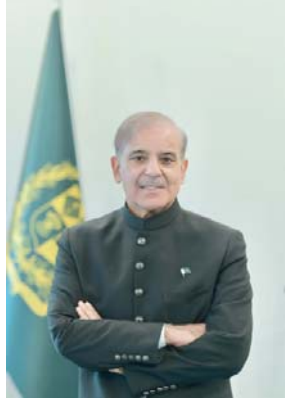
Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed deep concern over the ongoing situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), urging all parties to adopt a peaceful course of action to resolve their demands.

The prime minister emphasized that while debate, discussion, and peaceful protests were beauties of democracy, there was no tolerance for taking the law into one's own hands and damaging government properties.

"Unfortunately in situations of chaos and dissent, there are always some, who rush in to score political points," he wrote on his X timeline.

He also spoke to the Prime Minister of AJK and direct-



ed all PML-N office bearers in the region to engage with the leaders of the action committee to find a peaceful resolution.

"Despite the efforts of detractors, the matter is expected to be settled soon," he said.

AJK protests: Govt 'accepts' all demands following violent clashes



Spokesman Report

RAWALAKOT: Following violent protests over the last 48 hours, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government on Saturday accepted all demands of Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), protesting against high electricity bills and taxes, ARY News reported, citing sources.

Azad Kashmir witnessed violent clashes between the police and activists of a rights movement amid a wheel-jam and shutter-down strike across the territory, which left at least one police official dead and several others injured.

Sub-inspector Adnan Qureshi succumbed to a gunshot wound in the chest in the town of Islamgarh, where he was deployed to stop a rally for Muzaffarabad under the banner of the Jammu Kashmir

Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

The JAAC, which has traders at the forefront in most parts of the state, has been seeking the provision of electricity as per hydropower generation cost in AJK, subsidised wheat flour and an end to the privileges of the elite class.

The violent protesters damaged multiple vehicles, including a magistrate's car at the Poonch-Kotli road. Moreover, markets, trade centres, offices and schools and restaurants remained closed across the AJK.

Sources told ARY News that the AJK government has finally accepted all demands of the protesters following negotiations held between JAAC delegation and territory's Chief Secretary at residence of Rawalakot Commissioner.

UN chief calls for 'immediate' Gaza ceasefire, hostage release

Agencies

KUWAIT CITY: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday urged an immediate halt to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, the return of hostages and a "surge" in humanitarian aid to the besieged Palestinian territory.

"I repeat my call, the world's call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the uncon-

ditional release of all hostages and an immediate surge in humanitarian aid," Guterres said in a video address to an international donors' conference in Kuwait.

"But a ceasefire will only be the start. It will be a long road back from the devastation and trauma of this war," he added.

Israeli strikes on Gaza continued on Sunday after it expanded an evacuation order for Rafah

despite international outcry over its military incursion into eastern areas of the city, effectively shutting a key aid crossing.

"The war in Gaza is causing horrific human suffering, devastating lives, tearing families apart and rendering huge numbers of people homeless, hungry and traumatized," Guterres said.

His remarks were played at the opening of the conference in

Kuwait organized by the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and the UN's humanitarian coordination organization OCHA.

On Friday, in Nairobi, the UN head warned Gaza faced an "epic humanitarian disaster" if Israel launched a full-scale ground operation in Rafah.

Gaza's bloodiest-ever war began following Hamas's unpre-

cedented October 7 attack on Israel that resulted in the deaths of more than 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures.

Vowing to destroy Hamas, Israel launched a retaliatory offensive that has killed more than 34,971 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

IMF delegation reaches Pakistan, talks to begin tomorrow: Aurangzeb

PPA

LAHORE: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team has reached Pakistan, and the two sides would begin talks for a new loan programme on Monday (tomorrow).

Addressing a pre-budget seminar, finance minister said that the private sector would have to lead and guide the country out of the difficult phase.

Finance minister also said that the FBR's Track and Trace System has utterly failed and vowed to bring traders in the tax net.

In his speech, the finance minister covered a variety of subjects, including the rupee exchange rate and interest rates, which, he added, were determined by the State Bank of Pakistan.

He said the rupee's exchange rate has stabilized and the inflation coming down.

He made it clear that the government would extend facilities to traders but would remain on track to



Continued on Page 8

Nawaz Sharif ready for grand dialogue with PTI founder: Sanaullah

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister's (PM) Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif is ready for grand dialogue with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

In an interview with a private TV channel, Rana Sanaullah emphasized the need for a grand dialogue with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stating that unconditional talks are the only way forward and the only option for resolving issues and creating a conducive environment.

He said that PTI is a reality that cannot be denied, whereas "Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari are also a reality," Sanaullah added.

Rana Sanaullah stressed that if dialogue is political, then political parties should be included, and that institutions can also be part of the grand dialogue in the next phase. He emphasized that the inclusion of institutions in the grand dialogue is crucial for



Continued on Page 8

AJK BOI Chairman steps down over 'protests against inflation'

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman AJK Board of Investment (BOI) Sardar Amjad Jalil on Saturday resigned from his post, citing the current situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, Sardar Amjad expressed deep concern over the prevailing political situation in AJK, saying that the citizens were protesting for basic necessities like electricity and flour.

Holding AJK Prime Minister and his cabinet responsible, he said that their lack of interest and cooperation had led to the current crisis. He lamented that AJK, once a peaceful region, was now witnessing bloodshed and violence.

The former AJK BOI Chairman appealed to the Joint Action Committee to continue their peaceful protests and urged the AJK government to provide relief to the people.

He mentioned that he had personally convinced foreign investors to invest in Azad Kashmir, but the Prime Minister's "stubbornness and opposition" thwarted his efforts.

Sardar Amjad Jalil has sent his resignation to the Prime Minister of AJK, Chaudhry Anwarul Haq.

Continued on Page 8

Afghan nationals offloaded at Peshawar airport over fake passports

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration offloaded the Afghan woman and her four children from a UK-bound flight over

fake documents.

The Afghan nationals were travelling to UK after illegally entering Pakistan, the FIA spokesperson said.

The Afghan nationals got their passports from the agent, which

were declared fake by the Afghan Consulate.

In a separate action, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) offloaded a passenger at Karachi airport over fake travel papers.

The FIA-Immigration offload-

ed a passenger Tauseef Ahmed from an overseas flight over fake travel documents.

"Accused Tauseef Ahmed was traveling with a fake visa of Japan on his passport," FIA officials said.

"The accused was transferred

to the FIA's anti-human trafficking cell Karachi for investigation", FIA spokesperson said.

Prior to this, nine alleged beggars travelling to Saudi Arabia in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims were offloaded at Multan airport.

Unemployment in South Punjab

Chairman Senate says industrial development is very necessary to eliminate poverty

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that industrial development is very necessary to eliminate poverty, backwardness and unemployment from South Punjab. Under CPEC, "Special Economic Zone" was established in Multan. will go these views were expressed by Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani while addressing a dinner ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan. On this occasion, Mian Rashid Iqbal, President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan, Senior Vice President Sheikh Nadeem Ahmed, Vice President Sheikh Asim Saeed, Mian Tanveer A Sheikh, Khwaja Muhammad Yusuf, Khwaja Muhammad Usman, Khwaja Muhammad Hussain, Aurangzeb Alamgir, Zafar Iqbal Siddiqui, Rumana Tanveer Sheikh, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali

Anjum and other members of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan were also present, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that the legitimate demands of the industrialists and investors will be fulfilled according to the government resources. All resources will be utilized to establish an IT park in Multan. Establishment of a hospital for thalassemia patients in Multan is very important. For thalassemia test before marriage, I will request my son, Member of Punjab Assembly, to play his role in the legislation. It is important to provide facilities. He said to empower women Benazir Income Support Program has been launched for the same as the development of minorities is also among our top priorities. We founded the Women Bank, Women Crisis Center and the first Women Chamber of Commerce in Multan for the development of women. In response to a question, he said that when I was the

Prime Minister, I made every effort to solve the long-standing problems of this Saraiki region. Due to poverty and backwardness in South Punjab, people used to enroll their children in madrasas are where the young people who come out sometimes become a threat to the society with their ideas. That is why we started the project of building a cadet college Multan in the region, which faced many difficulties, now its foundation stone has been laid during the caretaker period. With the construction of Head Mohammad Wala Bridge and Garh Maharaja Bridge in Multan Region, the whole of South Punjab has become more accessible to other cities in the country. and it is a fact that if development is to be fostered in a region, there Roads, motorways and bridges should be built. Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani further said that it is a bitter reality that major projects in Lahore are completed within a few months but projects



in South Punjab suffer from long delays which are rare. Shuja Abad and Jalalpur Pirwala flyovers are only NOCs of Railways are hanging in waiting. He said that he will talk to the higher officials about increasing dialysis facilities

in Multan, the problems of traders and income tax, apart from cyber crime which has become a problem, while the meeting of the finance sub-committee of the Senate was held. So representation of Multan Chamber will be

ensured. He said that I demand the Chief Minister of Punjab to immediately declare Multan, the biggest city of South Punjab, as a "Big City". In response to a question, he said that the alternative to expensive electricity is solar

energy. has denied the rumors of tax on it now more and more people benefit from this facility. Mian Rashid Iqbal, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, while speaking, demanded to ensure the provision of loans to traders and industrialists at a low markup, along with special subsidies for participation in international exhibitions. Multan Ring Road should be completed. Sewerage system should be improved. Appointment of Secretary Industries should be ensured in South Punjab. Banks should be mandated to give fair share to SME sectors under export refinance scheme. The recommendations of the Chambers prevailed when amending the Rules of Procedure go Establishment of IT Park in Multan should be ensured. He said that the electricity tariff should be reduced for the export-oriented industry and the fixed tax on the seasonal industry should be abolished.

Protest

KARACHI: People belonging to Hindu community protest against the abduction of Priya Kumari outside the Karachi Press Club.



Photo: Online

Punjab minister Bokhari lauds KPK, Sindh for subsidising bread

PPA

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bokhari said that it is a matter of great rejoice that the price of bread is also being subsidized in KPK and Sindh by following the footsteps of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has become a 'Brand of Pakistan'. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has the experienced leadership of Quaid Nawaz Sharif along with his extensive experience of running the government affairs. Whichever project Maryam Nawaz Sharif launches in Punjab, other provinces are compelled to follow suit.



Azma Bokhari remarked that the province which is short of revenue to pay even salaries will now give suggestions to us. Founder PTI's Shehat Card was a 'Fraud Card' project as strange tales of corruption were seen in this 'Fraud Card' project. The Punjab government after making improvements in the 'Shehat Card' is going to launch it afresh. Barrister Saif instead of displaying his abilities and skills in Punjab should show them in KPK. He should also impart wisdom and awareness to his Chief Minister. If wisdom and awareness were available at any shop then we would have bought it and sent it to his Chief Minister as a gift, she concluded.

Campaign lunches against 12 diseases from today in Wana: DHO

Adam Khan Wazir

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: District Health Officer, Dr. Inayat ur Rehman, announces Intensified outreach activities for routine vaccinations in South Waziristan Lower District.



He said in the media talking on Sunday, District Health Officer, Dr. Inayat ur Rehman, South Waziristan Lower announced the commencement of Intensified outreach activities for routine vaccinations in South Waziristan Lower, starting May 13th, 2024 from today. He said the aim of this initiative is to vaccinate all eligible children against vaccine-preventable diseases. Dr. Rehman urged parents and caregivers to bring their children for vaccination, emphasizing the importance of protecting them from harmful diseases.

A large consignment of dead chickens was seized, five accused were arrested

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the order of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, crackdown of food safety teams continued, meat carrying vehicle was checked in Sheikhpura Road, Kadanawala. 1300 kg of dead chickens were destroyed, a case was registered, the vehicle was handed over to the police, the accused were arrested.

The DG Food Authority has informed that the meat of the dead chickens was to be prepared and supplied to various marriage halls and fast food points. Asim Javed has further said that the very necessary supply record and the necessary agreement were found to be non-existent. On receiving the secret information, the team took timely action and destroyed the harmful chickens and registered a case against the accused. The consumption of diseased and undercooked meat causes stomach and liver diseases. Counterfeit mafia sells disease not food in the lure of high profit. Have the urban chicken slaughtered in your presence, never buy pre-prepared meat. On the orders of the Chief Minister of Punjab, the teams of Punjab Food Authority are continuously checking to ensure the supply of quality food.

Strongly resist the attempt to roll back the South Punjab Secretariat Project: Senator

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Leader of Pakistan People's Party and Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hasan has said that they will strongly resist the attempt to roll back the South Punjab Secretariat project and recall the secretaries' staff and will not accept this decision under any circumstances. He expressed these thoughts People's Party Human Rights Wing South Punjab President and Founder Asif Zardari Exchanged in a meeting with the Release Committee Pakistan Salim-ur-Rehman Mayo. Considering whether there was a mutual discussion on the South Punjab Secretariat project, national political situation, government initiatives and Rana Mahmoodul Hasan. While talking, said that NAIN the by-election of 148, Ali Qasim Gilani won with a huge majority. He said that before the by-election, the preparation of the local body elections and the convention of the candidates participating in the local body elections will be held.

Sardar Attique Conference backs talks with Azad Kashmir government

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/ RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has welcomed the move of talks between the Azad Kashmir government and the Public Action Committee.

He said that In a critical situation, the leaders of the Azad Kashmir Government Committee and the People's Action Committee will have to show prudence and high vision. The current situation of Azad Kashmir is a matter of concern for the entire Kash-

miri leadership. The existence and status of Azad Kashmir may be in jeopardy due to the current situation. Action committee officials and officials should try to understand the real conspiracy behind this movement. The existence and internal sovereignty of Azad Kashmir have been seriously threatened. If any accident take us back to the 50s, 60s. India will go to any extent to take advantage of the chaos of Azad Kashmir. If the situation is not reformed, it is not far off that the situation will get out of everyone's hands. The real test is to differentiate between the legitimate



public problems of Azad Kashmir and the conspiracies of the enemy. We deeply regret the martyrdom of sub-inspec-

tor Adnan Qureshi, who was martyred in Islamgarh, and sympathize with the injured police officers and protesters. Be it the administration or the protesters, can not afford the death and martyrdom.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation in Azad Kashmir, the government should take immediate steps. He expressed these views while talking to the media about the current situation in Azad Kashmir. He said that it is the last time to reform the situation in Azad Kashmir. Political means should be used. Army, FC and Rangers should not be subjected to any ordeal in Azad Kashmir.

Every one in my constituency should consider themselves to be governor': Sardar Saleem

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: In my constituency and district, every one who pulls a cart, sleeps on the footpath and lives in a tent should consider himself the Governor of Punjab, I am indebted to each and every member of my district, to Allah and His Messenger. After all, my people have full right over me, whether they belong to any political party, these thoughts were expressed by the newly elected Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, a former candidate on his arrival in his native NA-50 constituency. Addressing on the occa-

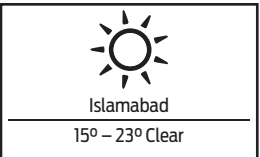


sion of historical and late exemplary reception at various places under the leadership of Punjab Assembly PP

4 Malik Riyast Ali Sudhriyal, on this occasion former candidate National Assembly CEO Shaheen Group of Companies Malik Sher Khan Sudhriyal, Malik Waqas Sadhriyal, Tehsil President PPP Fateh Jang Sardar Zaheer Khan, PA to Malik State Sudhriyal and ex-councilor Anas Aziz, Chairman Attock Press Registered Sheikh Faisal Javed, Senior journalist Tariq Qadri, Malik Arshad Apart from, a large number of workers were present, on the occasion of the reception of Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, the leaves of many fruits were plucked and the Jiyalan danced to the beat of the drum.

Sardar Salim Haid Khan said, "I congratulate the people of my district.

The people of my area are my strength. I have never allowed ministers and positions to come between me and the people.", remained among my people on the streets, neighborhoods and footpaths and still my doors will remain open as always for everyone, he said that since 1993 till now, I have been connected with them and Pakistan People's Party heart and soul. I am also grateful to the friends who have maintained their commitment without fear and did not think that the People's Party is suffering in Punjab.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:33 am
Zohr 12:04 pm
Asr 4:57 pm
Maghrib 7:00 pm
Isha 8:36 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

AU holds International Conference on recent trends in Statistics & Data Analysis

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The 1st International Conference on "Recent Trends in Statistics and Data Analysis with Applications in Natural Sciences", organized by Air University (AU) Islamabad with resounding success. The conference held both online and physically, brought together over 200 participants from across the globe, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and knowledge in the field of statistics and data analysis.

Chief Guest, Minister for IT, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, graced the occasion with her presence, emphasizing the importance of data-driven approaches in shaping the future of science and technology. Dr. Naeem Uz Zafar, Chief Statistician of the Bureau of Statistics Pakistan, honored the event as the Guest of Honor and high-

lighted the pivotal role of statistics in the decision-making process. Their presence added an aura of prestige and honor to the event, setting the tone for a gathering characterized by intellectual exchange and camaraderie.

Vice Chancellor Air University, Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan HI(M), Registrar Air University, Air Cdre (Retd) Abdul Wahab Motla, Dean Faculty of Basic & Applied Sciences, Dr. Rashid Mehmood, Dr. Asghari Maqsood, Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Conference Chair, Dr. Ammara Nawaz Cheema, along with other esteemed dignitaries, warmly welcomed to guests of the 1st International Conference on Recent Trends in Statistics and Data Analysis with Applications in Natural Sciences. Conference Chair, Dr. Ammara Nawaz Cheema said the conference provided a platform for scholars and learners

to converge, facilitating enriching discussions and collaborations. The theme of the conference, aimed at fostering a conducive environment for collective learning, resonated throughout the various sessions and presentations.

More than 100 papers were presented, showcasing cutting-edge research and innovative applications of statistical methods across diverse domains of natural sciences. The conference was concluded on a high note. During the ceremony, shields were presented to the sponsors in recognition of their invaluable support, while certificates were awarded to all participants, acknowledging their contributions to the success of the conference. Additionally, the conference recognized outstanding contributions through the presentation of Best Paper Awards, encouraging continued excellence in



The 1st International Conference on Recent Trends in Statistics and Data Analysis with Applications in Natural Sciences served as a catalyst for fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge dissemination in the field.

AGM

LAHORE: Rai Riaz Hussain presiding the Annual General body meeting of the Executive Committee of Jhang Chiniot Officers Association, at Jhang Chiniot House Lahore.



FCEPL Promotes Sustainable Dairy Practices at Lahore Agri-Connections Expo

PPA

LAHORE: Friesland Campina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL), a global dairy leader, recently participated in the two-day Agri-Connections Expo in Lahore. At the event, the Company showcased its commitment to sustainable dairy practices and the enhancement of farmer livelihoods.

The FCEPL team also shared global dairy best practices and discussed ways to support and empower farmers.

Dedicated to its purpose of 'Nourishing Pakistan,' The company is committed to improving the lives of farmers, empowering rural women in the dairy value chain, producing in balance with nature, and nourishing millions of Pakistanis every day life by providing safe, healthy, and accessible nutrition.

Teachers Panel sweeps ASA election at IIUI

CITY DESK

ISLAMABAD, MAY 12 (APP): The Teachers Panel has won the Academic Staff Association (ASA) annual election at International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) with a lead of 88 votes by securing 241 votes as against 153 votes by the opponent The Academicians panel. According to the results, Professor Dr. Tariq Javed from the Faculty of Science was elected as the President of the Association while the slot of Secretary General went to Dr. Faizur Raheem from the International Institute of Islamic Economics, said a press release.

Dr. Abid Masood from the Faculty of Languages and Literature and Dr. Ambreen Abbasi from the Faculty of Shariah and Law are elected to the slot of Vice President from the Male and Female Campus respectively. The other body members include Dr. Muhammad Imran as Joint Secretary (Male), Kiran Kiani as Joint Secretary (Female), Dr. Ahmad Hammad as Secretary Finance, Ihsan Malik as Secretary Information (Male), and Dr. Sumera Saghir Ahmad as Secretary Information (Female). While expressing his views about the election, the newly elected President of the Association Professor Dr. Tariq Javed thanked the IIUI academic community for their overwhelming support of his panel. He assured them of his full dedication to resolving all the outstanding issues of his constituency. He also thanked the members of his cabinet from the last year who stood beside him, specifically those who have been relieved of their office this term. They include Professor Dr. Naveeda Riaz, Dr. Habib ur Rehman, Dr. Asad Ghufuran and Dr. Asma Rashid. He further added that in 2023, the same panels contested the election which was won by Teachers Panel with a lead of 59 votes. The lead this year has been 88 votes which indicates the trust of the IIUI community in the leadership of the Teachers Panel and they wanted the continuation of last year's policies. The new cabinet will work hard to fulfill the promises made to the community and protect the the International and Islamic identity of the university.

International Nurses Day shines spotlight on Healthcare Heroes



CITY DESK

ISLAMABAD: International Nurses Day was observed worldwide on Sunday (Today) to acknowledge their invaluable contribution to health care and health security. This global celebration occurs annually on May 12, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

This year's theme, "Our Nurses, Our Future: the economic power of care," underscores the significant contributions of nurses. According to the World Health Organization and the International Council of Nurses, this year's focus aims to reshape perceptions of nursing for the substantial economic and societal benefits. International Nurses Day serves as a poignant reminder of the vital role nurses play as the backbone of the healthcare system. With their unwavering dedication, nurses provide round-the-clock care, administer medication, and advocate for patients' well-being.

Beyond their essential duties, nurses also serve as educators, empowering patients to understand their conditions and treatment options. They facilitate communication and coordination among patients and other healthcare professionals. Despite their vital role, nurses often face challenges such as heavy workloads and understaffing, leading to burnout and increased stress levels.

Moreover, they bear the emotional burden of witnessing patient suffering and providing end-of-life care. International Nurses Day provides an opportunity to express gratitude to nurses for their tireless commitment and unwavering compassion.

AIOU to close admissions on May 15

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University Semester Spring 2024 admissions (phase 2) ends in two days. Students can take admission in Associate Degree (BA/BCom), BBA, BS (ODL) programs, teachers training programs (1.5, 2.5 and 4 Years B. Ed.), postgraduate diploma programs, and certificate courses till May 15. Admission forms and prospectuses for these programs are available on the university website.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, hopes that those who want to pursue their education will avail the opportunity to register themselves by the given deadline. Students can either visit the nearest regional office or call the university's helpline 051-111 112 468 for any information.

Palestinian leader urges muslim unity against Israeli aggression

PNP

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Memon Asad Tamimi, Imam of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Member of Palestinian Parliament, addressed an All-Parties Conference on Palestine organized by Jamiat Ahle Hadith Pakistan at the National Press Club Islamabad. The conference was attended by prominent leaders, including Allama Hisham Elahi Zaheer, Chairman Allama Tariq Mehmood Yazdani, and Khushnood Ali Khan.

Sheikh Tamimi emphasized the need for Muslim unity against Israeli aggression, stating that Palestine is the land of the Prophets of Islam and its protection is a collective responsibility of the Islamic nation. He condemned the destruction caused by the alliance of Israel, Britain, and



India and urged the rulers of Muslim countries to take a stand against these powers.

Other leaders at the conference echoed Sheikh Tamimi's sentiments, calling for the protection of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the liberation of Palestine.

They criticized the inaction of Muslim rulers and the failure of the United Nations to implement resolutions in favor of Palestine.

The conference concluded with a call to action, urging Muslims to unite and demon-

strate their strength in support of the Palestinian cause. The leaders emphasized that the scholars and religious parties have a crucial role to play in keeping the issue of Palestine alive and advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people.

Climate warriors: Mobilizing Pakistan's youth to confront environmental challenges

Qurat ul Ain

Pakistan is grappling with the daunting reality of climate change, a challenge that echoes across its diverse landscapes. Yet, amidst this adversity its vibrant youth offers a dynamic solution to take center stage in the battle against environmental degradation.

With nearly 68% of the population under 30, Pakistan possesses a force capable of driving transformative change. It's time to harness their energy and empower them to lead in confronting climate issues facing the nation. From grassroots movements to policy advocacy, Pakistani youth are making their voices heard. They are organizing tree plantation drives, conducting awareness campaigns, and pushing for eco-friendly policies at both local and national levels.

Their efforts are not going unnoticed. Climate warriors: Mobilizing Pakistan's youth to confront environmental challenges Experts believe that engaging youth in climate action is not just essential for Pakistan's future but also imperative for addressing the global climate crisis. According to Muhammad Saleem, a Media Spokesperson at the Ministry of Climate

Change and Environmental Coordination, the government recognizes the importance of nurturing youth leadership in climate action. Saleem highlights the National Adaptation Plan as a crucial framework for guiding future initiatives. However, he acknowledges that more concrete steps are needed to translate policies into tangible actions on the ground.

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change underscores the urgency of global solidarity and cooperation. Climate warriors: Mobilizing Pakistan's youth to confront environmental challenges The international community must prioritize climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building initiatives to support sustainable development efforts in countries like Pakistan, Muhammad Saleem emphasized. Ali Jabir Malik, a climate researcher, speaker and journalist, emphasizes the urgent need for proactive youth-centric policies. He fears that without such policies, Pakistan's youth bulge could become both an asset and a risk in the fight against climate change.

Malik stresses the importance of involving young people in policy-making, community mobilization, and innovative solutions to address the

growing climate vulnerabilities being faced by the country. Adnan Riaz, a young social activist, echoes Malik's sentiments, emphasizing the power of youth-led environmental campaigns. He points to the role of social media in mobilizing young people and amplifying their voices on climate issues.

Riaz believes that Pakistani youth have the potential to drive significant change through initiatives like sustainable ecotourism and green entrepreneurship. Sadia Mazhar, another young social activist, highlights the plethora of opportunities available for youth engagement in environmental action. She mentions initiatives like urban forests, organic farming, and climate advocacy campaigns as examples of positive disruptions that transcend age and socioeconomic barriers. The government, too, is taking steps to harness the energy and enthusiasm of its youth.

Initiatives like the PM's Talent Hunt Programme is aimed at identifying and nurturing young talent across the country. Under this programme, talented individuals will have the opportunity to participate in national events like the upcoming National Games, fostering a sense of pride and achievement among the youth.

Furthermore, the government is actively seeking partnerships with international donors and investors to accelerate its transition to renewable energy. With ambitious targets set for 2030, including 60% clean energy production and 30% electric vehicles, Pakistan is positioning itself as a leader in sustainable development. Climate warriors: Mobilizing Pakistan's youth to confront environmental challenges

Despite these efforts, challenges remain. Limited resources, bureaucratic hurdles, and a lack of coordination often hinder youth-led initiatives. However, experts believe that by fostering an enabling environment and providing support for youth-led innovation, Pakistan can overcome these obstacles and emerge as a global leader in climate action. In a nutshell, Pakistan's youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the leaders of today.

With their energy, creativity, and passion for change, they have the power to drive meaningful progress in the fight against climate change. By harnessing this youth power and providing them with the necessary support and resources, Pakistan can build a more sustainable and resilient future for generations to come

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Educational Exchange Programs: Bridging Nations, Building Futures

Shehwar Fatima

In an increasingly interconnected world, the importance of fostering international understanding and cooperation cannot be overstated. One of the most effective ways to achieve this is through educational exchange programs which stand as beacons of hope, fostering genuine connections and understanding between nations. Particularly in the case of Pakistan, where perceptions can be skewed by stereotypes and geopolitical tensions, these programs play a crucial role in breaking down barriers and building bridges. Through scholarships, student exchanges, and academic collaborations, educational exchange programs offer a powerful platform for strengthening people-to-people ties and nurturing a more harmonious global community.

Pakistan, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse society, has much to offer the world. Yet, its potential is often overshadowed by negative narratives perpetuated in media and politics. Educational exchange programs provide an opportunity to showcase the true essence of a country, allowing students and scholars from other countries to experience its warmth, hospitality, and intellectual vibrancy firsthand. By studying alongside, participants gain a deeper understanding of its history, culture, and societal dynamics, dispelling misconceptions and fostering mutual respect.

Conversely, Pakistani students and scholars benefit immensely from exposure to international academic environments. By studying abroad, they

gain access to world-class education, cutting-edge research facilities, and diverse perspectives that enrich their learning experience. Moreover, they serve as cultural ambassadors, representing Pakistan on the global stage and challenging stereotypes through their achievements and contributions. These exchanges not only enhance their academic and professional skills but also instill in them a broader worldview and a sense of global citizenship.

Moreover, educational exchange programs contribute to the formation of global citizens equipped with cross-cultural competencies. In an era characterized by rapid globalization, the ability to navigate cultural differences and work collaboratively across borders is increasingly valued. By exposing students to new perspectives and ways of thinking, these programs foster adaptability, tolerance, and intercultural communication skills. Such attributes are invaluable in a world where diversity is celebrated as a source of strength rather than division.

The benefits of educational exchange programs extend beyond individual participants to encompass broader societal impacts. By forging connections between institutions and fostering international partnerships, these initiatives facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise. Collaborative research projects, joint academic programs, and faculty exchanges enrich the academic landscape and promote innovation in various fields.

By nurturing a network of alumni who share a common bond through shared experiences, these programs lay the foundation for long-term collabora-

tion and cooperation between nations. Alumni often go on to become leaders in their respective fields, leveraging their cross-cultural understanding and networks to address common challenges and promote peace and prosperity. Indeed, many of the world's most pressing issues, from climate change to global health pandemics, require collective action and collaboration across borders, making initiatives like educational exchange programs more relevant than ever.

By investing in education and human capital development, countries like Pakistan can unlock their full potential and drive sustainable development. Educational exchange programs contribute to capacity-building efforts by equipping students and scholars with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to address local and global challenges. Whether it's in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), arts and humanities, or social sciences, these programs empower individuals to become agents of change and innovation in their communities.

However, to realize the full potential of educational exchange programs, greater investment and support are needed from governments, educational institutions, and the private sector. This includes expanding scholarship opportunities, streamlining visa processes, promoting academic partnerships, and fostering a culture of inclusivity and diversity on campuses. Moreover, efforts should be made to ensure that exchange programs are accessible to students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and regions within Paki-

stan, thus promoting equity and social mobility.

Moreover, educational exchange programs play a crucial role in addressing global challenges such as extremism and intolerance. By promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect for diversity, these programs empower participants to become advocates for peace and tolerance in their communities. Through collaborative projects and initiatives, they work together to tackle issues of common concern, bridging divides and promoting a sense of shared humanity. These programs have a multiplier effect, benefiting not only participants but also their home countries and host institutions.

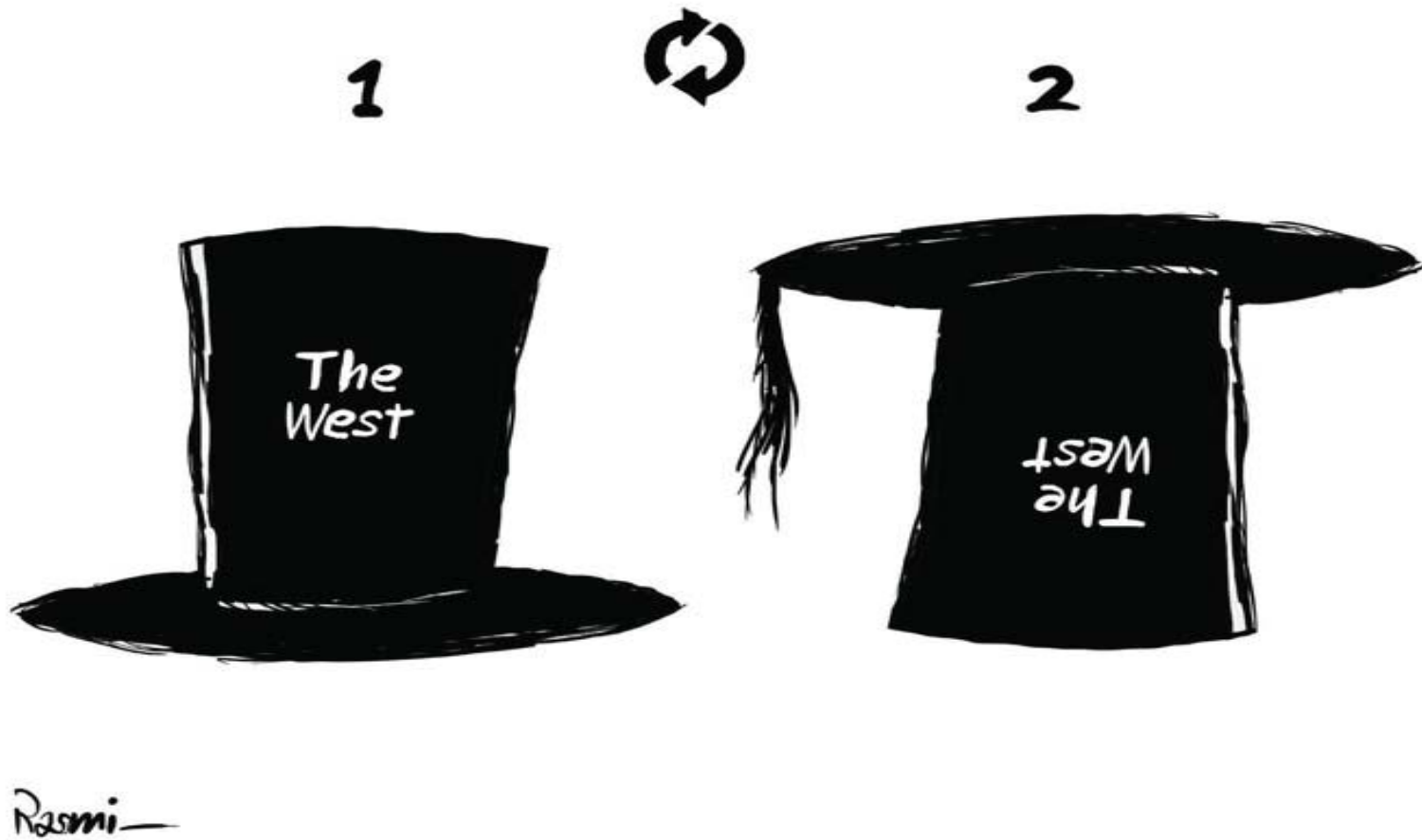
In conclusion, educational exchange programs have the power to transform lives and strengthen relationships. In the case of Pakistan, these programs offer a pathway to greater understanding, cooperation, and prosperity, both for its people and the global community at large. In an increasingly interconnected world, educational exchange programs are more important than ever as vehicles for promoting peace, understanding, and cooperation. By investing in these programs and fostering cross-cultural dialogue, we can build a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous future for all. It's time to recognize the immense value of educational exchange programs and commit to expanding and strengthening them for the benefit of current and future generations.

Writer is student of Fatima Jinnah Women University. She can be reached at Shehwar.f12@gmail.com

ICUBE-Q satellite result of first Pak-China lunar probe cooperation

The ICUBE-Q satellite is the result of the first lunar exploration cooperation project between China and Pakistan which was guided by the principles of equality, mutual benefits, the peaceful utilization of space and inclusive development. "The project will also enhance the friendship between the two countries and expand diverse cooperation in the field of aerospace," said Ge Ping, Deputy Director of China National Space Agency (CNSA)'s Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Center.

The collaboration was initially offered by China, expecting a student-built payload to the moon onboard the Chang'e-6 mission. A proposal by Pakistan's IST went through the selection and started working in a collaborative effort with IST faculty and students, Pakistan's national space agency SUPARCO and SJTU since 2023, CGTN reported. The Chang'e-6 spacecraft, which successfully performed a near-moon braking procedure and entered the lunar orbit on May 8, is operating normally, with subsequent flight control work to be carried out as planned, said Ge. "Both China and Pakistan attach great importance to this cooperation. During the development of the payload, government organs and scientific institutions in both countries made significant preparations," Ge added. "I believe that this cooperation is of great significance to promoting friendly relations between the two countries and enriching people's understanding of the moon," Ge noted, adding that "We will share our scientific achievements to lay the foundation for future lunar exploration activities, which will be of great significance to promoting the construction of a global community with a shared future in outer space." "China and Pakistan have signed a cooperation agreement on the International Lunar Research Station. China has received Pakistan's applications for payload cooperation on the Chang'e-8 mission and for borrowing lunar samples returned by the Chang'e-5 mission. Relevant work is progressing steadily, he noted. "We welcome Pakistan's participation in China's lunar and deep space exploration missions, and we will conduct extensive exchanges and cooperation related to space technology, space science and space applications to contribute to the peaceful use of outer space and serve civilization and global well-being," Ge said. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said, "The launch of the Chang'e-6 mission is a model example of international cooperation in action. It demonstrated that China acts on its word, and that it undertakes meaningful cooperation and extends meaningful assistance to developing countries." "Pakistan's involvement in ICUBE-Q is a testament to the fact that the country is also making progress in space exploration and technology," he said. "Space cooperation between China and Pakistan is a vital aspect of our bilateral relations," Khalil Hashmi said. "The two countries have drawn a concrete roadmap for future collaboration on space exploration, knowledge and research exchange visits, and knowledge transfers and resource-sharing," he added. "This mission will open up opportunities for Pakistan to explore the deep space environment and study the dynamics and geography of the moon. It will also give impetus to higher education in the space sciences in Pakistan," said Syed Amer Ahsan Gilani, deputy director-general of the Satellite Manufacturing Department of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission. "Space cooperation between China and Pakistan is a vital aspect of our bilateral relations," Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi said. "The two countries have drawn a concrete roadmap for future collaboration on space exploration, knowledge and research exchange visits, and knowledge transfers and resource-sharing," he added.



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

Failed Indian Attempts to conduct peaceful and open elections in IIOJK - I

India has failed to conduct fair and open elections in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The stark realities and alleged atrocities committed by India and its army in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir are visible to the international community. Under the leadership of Modi and the BJP, India appears to be rigorously adhering to Hindutva ideology, characterized by its politics steeped in hypocrisy and falsehoods. In India's political landscape, the emergence of Hindutva ideology has significantly influenced electoral dynamics, reshaping the contours of political discourse and identity. Hindutva, rooted in the concept of Hindu nationalism, advocates for the supremacy of Hindu culture and values, advocating for the establishment of a Hindu Rashtra, or Hindu nation. Over time, the proliferation of Hindutva ideology has been accompanied by a variety of election strategies employed by different political entities, sparking vehement opposition across the nation.

At the core of Hindutva election tactics lies the utilization of religious identity and symbolism to mobilize electoral backing. Political parties aligned with Hindutva ideology often utilize rhetoric focused on issues such as cow protection, temple construction, and religious conversions to energize Hindu voters. By capitalizing on sentiments of religious pride and insecurity, these parties aim to solidify a Hindu vote bank, positioning themselves as guardians of Hindu interests against perceived threats. A hallmark tactic of Hindutva in elections is the politicization of religious symbols and rituals. Campaigns often showcase overt displays of religious image-

ry, such as Hindu deities, slogans, and religious processions, to resonate with voters' religious sentiments. Additionally, the construction or renovation of Hindu temples and the observance of religious festivals are frequently utilized as political spectacles to demonstrate allegiance to Hindutva ideology and Hindu voters.

Communal polarization is another notable aspect of Hindutva election tactics in India. By fanning communal tensions and exploiting religious fault lines, Hindutva forces aim to polarize voters along religious lines, depicting minorities as 'others' and fostering fear and distrust among communities. Communal violence and hate speech often escalate during election campaigns, with political leaders and affiliated groups inciting animosity towards religious minorities for electoral gain.

The weaponization of social media and digital platforms has become a crucial component of Hindutva election tactics in India. Online propaganda, fake news, and targeted disinformation campaigns are deployed to manipulate public opinion, vilify political opponents, and amplify divisive narratives. The proliferation of communal hatred and misinformation through social media poses a significant challenge to the integrity of electoral processes and undermines democratic values.

Furthermore, Hindutva election tactics often intersect with broader socio-economic issues, such as caste politics and identity-based mobilization. The promotion of a Hindu majoritarian agenda is often accompanied by appeals to caste hierarchies and traditional social structures, further complicating the electoral landscape and exacerbating social divisions. Hindutva election tactics undermine India's secular and

pluralistic fabric, subverting the principles of equality, secularism, and tolerance enshrined in the Constitution. The exploitation of religion for electoral gains not only undermines the democratic process but also perpetuates social discord and marginalizes vulnerable communities.

Under the leadership of Modi and the BJP, India epitomizes hypocrisy and deceit. While publicly espousing support for minorities, they violate the human rights of minorities within India. The situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir mirrors the dual behavior of Modi and his Hindutva ideology. In the picturesque valleys and mountainous terrain of IIOJK, a complex narrative of discontent brews beneath the surface. The region, scarred by decades of conflict and political turmoil, harbors a palpable sense of alienation among a significant portion of its population towards the Indian state. Understanding the roots of this discontent necessitates an exploration of historical, political, and socio-cultural dynamics that have shaped the region's identity and its strained relationship with India. Historically, the seeds of discontent in IIOJK can be traced back to the circumstances surrounding its accession to India in 1947. The contentious accession, orchestrated by the region's former ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, amidst communal violence and partition, has remained a topic of dispute since its occurrence. Kashmiris perceive it as a betrayal of their aspirations for self-determination, particularly in light of the assurances made by Indian leaders regarding a plebiscite to determine the region's future. Political grievances also play a significant role in shaping anti-India sentiment in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The assertive approach of successive Indian administrations in addressing dissent and unrest in the area has fueled resentment among the local populace.

To be continued

A few Processed Foods That Can Be Good for the Body

It is often a common perception that processed food is not good for health but in reality this is not true. No doubt, processed foods are heavily processed products with many added ingredients like additives, preservatives, and artificial substances. While most of these foods aren't great for our health due to their additives, some can offer benefits when eaten in moderation.

Canned Beans: Despite being processed, canned beans are packed with protein, fiber, and various vitamins and minerals like folate, iron, and potassium. They're convenient and can be used in soups, salads, and main dishes. Look for options with no added salt to control your sodium intake better.

Whole Grain Bread: Unlike refined bread, whole grain bread is rich in fiber, B vitamins, iron, and magnesium. Choose bread with minimal additives and where whole grains are the main ingredient for the most nutritional value.

Nut Butter: Pure nut butters without added sugars or oils provide healthy fats, protein, fiber, and essential vitamins and minerals like vitamin E, magnesium, and potassium. They're a nutritious addition to meals and snacks, promoting heart health.

Canned Fish: Varieties like salmon, tuna, and sardines in cans are high in protein and omega-3 fatty acids, which are good for heart health, cognitive function, and reducing inflammation. Pick fish packed in water or olive oil to avoid extra additives and unhealthy fats.

Oatmeal Packets: Oatmeal is a great source of fiber and energy. Choose plain or low-sugar options and add fruits, nuts, or seeds for extra nutrients and flavors.

Dark Chocolate: Dark chocolate with 70% cocoa or more is rich in antioxidants called flavonoids, which have various health benefits like improving heart health and mood. Enjoy in moderation to satisfy sweet cravings.

Protein Bars: Some protein bars can be healthy if they're made from whole food ingredients like nuts, seeds, and natural sweeteners. Look for options with minimal added sugars and artificial additives.

Whole Grain Pasta: Made from whole wheat or other whole grains, whole grain pasta is higher in fiber, vitamins, and minerals compared to refined pasta. It helps regulate blood sugar, supports digestion, and aids in weight management.

To me, Some possible benefits of processed foods.

Convenience: Processed foods are often easy to prepare and consume, which can be helpful for busy people. They can also be stored for longer periods, reducing waste.

Durability: Certain processed foods, like canned fruits and vegetables, last longer compared to fresh produce, making them easier to purchase and store. This can be beneficial for those with limited access to fresh produce.

Nutrition: Some processed foods are fortified with vitamins and minerals, making them a part of a healthy diet. For example, some cereals are fortified with iron, while some milk is fortified with calcium.

Taste: Many people enjoy the taste of processed foods, as they often contain added flavors like salt, sugar, and other seasonings that make them delicious.

Writer is Member National Development Export Board, for Agro and Processed Foods.



Abdul Basit Alvi



Ch. Zulfiqar Ali Anjum

Turkestan: a center of international tourism and pilgrimage

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

Turkestan is the cultural and historical city of Kazakhstan, a center of international tourism and pilgrimage. The ancient city of South Kazakhstan was named the spiritual capital of the Turkic world at an informal summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States. In February 2021, it was officially admitted to the list of World Heritage cities of Eurasia.

It is believed that the first settlements on the territory of Turkestan date back to the sixth century AD.

"In 2020, we launched the Stratigraphy of the Turkestan Settlement project and examined the archaeological complexes of the ancient city. During the excavations, it was found that the initial appearance of a settlement in the area took place in the 16th-14th centuries. The Bronze Age complex found in the Sherbai necropolis located on the southern outskirts of the city determined the age of Turkestan to be 3,000 years."

In the south of Kazakhstan, in a valley between the Syr Darya River and the Karatau mountains, there were once two ancient settlements - Shavgar and Yasy, which were administrative and economic centers of Turkestan in different historical periods. First, the main city of the region was Shavgar, then Yasy (as Turkestan was called until the 16th century).

Since the Great Silk Road passed through these lands and Yasy was the place of preaching activity of the great thinker, poet, and Sufi Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, over time the city became a center of art, science, and world trade. When its fame spread throughout the Muslim world, Yasy was named "the second Mecca."

In the 16th century, Turkestan was mentioned in many written sources and it was named as



the capital and main city of the Kazakh Khanate (a Nomadic state) until the 19th century.

"In addition to the mausoleum, where Khoja Ahmed Yasawi was buried, 21 Kazakh khans (rulers), eight sultans, 23 biys (judges), 63 batyrs (heroes), five holy mothers, 30 saints from the Timurid, Shaybani and Kazakh Khanate dynasties are buried in the city."

The next significant period of history is related to the entry of these lands into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), when industry began to develop in the city. In 2018, Kazakhstan's First President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed a decree on the formation of the Turkestan region. Turkestan is now developing as a tourist hub and financial center.

The Hazret Sultan international airport, the Western China-Western Europe international highway were built and are operating, new theaters, museums, ultra-modern stadiums, and media centers were built. The Orenburg-Tashkent railway passes through Turkestan, and now, together with Uzbekistan, a project is being worked out to



launch a high-speed train Turkestan-Shymkent-Tashkent.

The largest University in the Central Asian region named after Khoja Ahmed Yasawi is also located here as well as the recently opened University of Tourism, Hospitality and Sports.

More than 30 million trees including fruit trees have already been planted around the city, and new squares and parks with fountains were opened in the city.

A free economic zone in Turkestan has been created to boost economic development. A special legal regime with tax exemptions and customs exemptions has also been introduced. Turkestan and the region are now included in the ease of doing business ranking in the country.

Turkestan is the largest spiritual center of pilgrimage and tourism not only for Kazakhs, but

also for tourists from all over the world. There are more than 800 monuments of archeology, history, and architecture in the Turkestan region.

It is projected that the number of tourists will increase to one million people by 2030.

The government plans to make Turkestan the main spiritual center of the country. A city with a long history has a plethora of sacred sites and tens of thousands of tourists come annually to perform the small hajj (Islamic pilgrimage).

Ms Zhanar Amangeldiyeva PhD, Rector, Ahmet Yasawi University, said that the region is promising, primarily from the point of view of the economy of cultural heritage.

"This rich cultural heritage can increase economic profitability. A tourist hub and cultur-



al center will not only allow the authorities to raise money to maintain ancient monuments, but also develop nearby territories,

where there are many archaeological monuments of antiquity and the late Middle Ages. This will raise the socio-economic stand-

ards of living in the region and will provide both direct and indirect employment of the population," said Zhanar.



Dr. Fai urges Pakistan to keep up pressure on India over Kashmir

By PPA

ISLAMABAD: Renowned ambassador of the Kashmir Freedom Movement and Secretary General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum in Washington, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, emphasized the enduring support of the Pakistani people for Kashmiris, asserting that such backing prevents the Kashmir issue from being sidelined. He highlighted that the issue persists through the sacrifices made by individuals.

Dr. Fai underscored Pakistan's pivotal role as the center of hope for Kashmiris, stressing the necessity for robust lobbying efforts on

the global stage to address India's grave actions. He emphasized the imperative of informing the world about the inhumane actions of Indian authorities.

These sentiments were expressed by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai during a dinner event hosted by Shafiq Butt, Business leader from Rawalpindi, Islamabad.

Among the attendees were President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir Europe; Mohammad Ghalib, President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK; Raja Faheem Kayani, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Kashmir; Dr. Mushtaq, Senior Leader APHC and Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement;

Altaf Ahmed Bhat; former federal secretary Khawaja Siddique; Chairman World Kashmir Freedom Movement Muzamil Ayub Thakur from UK; Sardar Zulfiqar from America; Inam Masoudi; Dr. Waleed Rasool, Mudassar Lone; Yasir Butt; Ishtiaq Qureshi; Attaur Rehman Chauhan; Faisal Jameel, and other distinguished guests.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi fai emphasized the vigorous representation of Kashmiri interests in international forums and drew parallels with instances of human rights violations in other regions, urging external intervention where necessary. He lamented the

silence of major powers and the United Nations on the atrocities in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai reiterated his call for the international community to intervene against the illegal and immoral actions of the Indian government in Occupied Kashmir. He condemned India's policy of targeted killings, which contravenes international human rights law and the Geneva Convention.

Muhammad Ghalib, President of Tehreek Kashmir Europe, said that we stand united with the people of Occupied Kashmir, advocating for their inherent rights of self-determination

and autonomy, devoid of external influence or interference.

Raja Faheem Kayani, President of Tehreek Kashmir UK, expressed unwavering solidarity with Occupied Kashmir, underscoring the imperative of safeguarding their fundamental rights to self-determination and autonomy, free from external meddling or coercion.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat, Senior Leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement, underscored the gravity of the Kashmir dispute, labeling it a potential nuclear flashpoint. He advocated

for a Kashmir-centric approach in Pakistan's foreign policy.

Bhat further highlighted the current incarceration of all Hurriyat leadership, emphasizing the urgent responsibility of both the Base Camp and the diaspora to advance the mission of Kashmiri freedom until its fruition. He emphasized the shared identity between the people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan, stressing the need for collaborative efforts towards Kashmir's liberation. Quoting Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he reiterated that Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan. Warning against the perilous consequen-

ces of global silence on the Kashmir issue, Bhat urged for a swift and peaceful resolution to avert broader instability.

Dr. Mushtaq, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Kashmir, pledges to bolster the Kashmiri freedom movement through political and diplomatic channels, ensuring the realization of martyrs' aspirations for Kashmir's liberation from Indian occupation.

Shafiq Ahmed Butt, the event's host, announced plans for a forthcoming major event on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, inviting key stakeholders to participate.

TED University offers huge scholarships on quality education to Pakistani students

By PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Ankara-based TED University officials offered huge scholarships on quality education in 23 undergraduate and 17 graduate programmes to the Pakistani students enrolling for the Fall-2024 semester. Speaking at the Devcom-Pakistan webinar on Sunday, the TED University international programmes officials said the new enrolments will be offered scholarships from 25 to 100 percent based on their academics and other credentials while the Pakistani students are exempted from any GRE and English language tests.

The TED University official webinar was organized by the

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Sunday. The guest speakers included the Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, TED University Chief of International Programs Office Can Öney, TED University Head of International Programs Office Levent Ocal, TED University Head of International Student Community Haares Munir, a senior student at TED University Areej Fatima, and the founder Tri-star Education Danish Ahmed.

Can Öney said that TED is one of the top universities in Ankara with highly educated professional faculty members that are available to the students in the time of their need. The university

houses many facilities to support students' education, health and recreation free of cost. The undergraduate courses offered in the five faculties are architecture, city and regional planning, industrial design, interior architecture and environmental design, visual communication design, psychology, sociology, mathematics, English language and literature, business administration, economics, political science and international relations, early childhood education, primary education, guidance and psychological counseling, English language education, mathematics education, computer engineering, electrical and electronics engineering, industrial engineering, civil engineering, mechanical

engineering, and software engineering. He told the audience the graduate programmes include applied data science, architecture and urban studies, civil engineering, computer engineering, developmental focused clinical child and adolescent psychology, economics, economics and finance, mechanical engineering, mechatronics engineering, engineering management, English language education, industrial engineering, interactive computing and information systems, management in educational institutions, migration studies, and psychological counseling and guidance.

Mr. Öney said that about 5000 students are studying at the TED university at the moment while

the faculty to student Ratio is 24:1 that provides sufficient individual guidance to the students. The students also have the chance to benefit from the joint project, academic study and scientific research with their faculty members. The directorate of research, technology, and innovation provides support to the students. So far, the students have taken part in 84 research projects, 44 nationally funded projects, 23 internationally funded projects, and curated 100 industry projects.

TED University Head of International Student Community Haares Munir said: We feel at home while studying at the TED University. All faculty members are very competent and friend-

ly while the TED International Office is available 24/7 to resolve the internal students' problems. All the health, sports and recreation facilities are available in the university besides very discounted or free meals. Students at Ted university have ample opportunities to show and groom their leadership skills. The outdoor educational and recreational trips are a very important part of the student life at the university. The Turkish nation in general is very friendly towards the Pakistani students once you are able to communicate with them. Knowing Turkish language or at least the basic level will help you a lot to communicate with the locals and to resolve your day-to-day issues.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive

Director Munir Ahmed traced the common cultural values between the both nations, and said the relations between Turkey and Pakistan are deep-rooted in history. In the merging geopolitical landscape, both nations need to interact closely and widely and harness the potential of collaborations in all fields and improve trade and cultural ties. The students exchange programme will enhance the understanding between both the nations.

TED University Head of International Programs Office Levent Ocal paid gratitude to the Pakistani mothers especially who send their children to Turkey for education. He said Turkey always welcomes Pakistanis warmly and has the feel of brotherhood.

Malik Khuda Bakhsh congratulates Punjab Governor on taking oath



PPA
KARACHI: Khuda Bakhsh, Convener of the Standing Committee on Energy of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), & Senior Leader of Petroleum and CNG Industry, congratulated the well-known politician Sardar Salim Hadier on taking oath as the Governor of Punjab.

In his message, Malik Khuda Bakhsh, who also hails from village Khunda (Attock) conveyed trust of the people of area that the appointment of Sardar Salim Hadier as the Governor of Punjab will not only improve the law and order situation in the province of Punjab, but expected that with the appointment of Sardar Saleem as Governor of the Punjab, there will be great likelihood from businessmen, industrialists and investors for acceleration commercial and industrial activities in the province.

Malik Khuda Bakhsh, hoped that as Governor of the Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider will also take deep interest in the development of back ward areas of District Attock. Khuda Bakhsh also enlightened the services rendered by Sardar Saleem during his tenure as MNA NA-59.

PIAF asks govt to engage with industry to formulate successful economic strategies



PPA
LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has proposed a collaborative approach between the government and the business community, stressing the government to engage with industry stakeholders to formulate successful economic strategies.

The PIAF Chairman Fabeemur Rehman Saigol said that this collaboration is especially crucial in this economic unstable condition. It is imperative that the government involves the business community in shaping economic policies, he asserted. He argued that aligning the interests of the government and businesses is essential for creating an economic framework that is not only robust but also sustainable in the long run.

Oil price deregulation will lead to a foreign monopoly on lifeline energy

PPA
The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) said on Sunday that oil price liberalisation will lead to the full monopoly of a foreign company on lifeline energy resources. It is not in the national interest to frame policies that will lead to full control of an influential foreign oil corporation over Pakistan's fragile oil market, it added. Talking to the petroleum dealers, Hassan Shah, a member of the PPDA executive committee, said that in the event of deregulation, Saudi Aramco will gradually have a full monopoly on the oil market in Pakistan. Pakistani oil refineries do not have the financial strength to compete with Saudi Aramco,

and they will have no other option but to shut down, he added. He underlined that wiping out any chance of competition and leaving the country at the mercy of a single entity is not in the national interest. Hassan Shah said that because of wrong decisions, consumers will ultimately end up paying higher prices, instead of enjoying any perks of the free market. On the macroeconomic end, the move would cause unheard-of inflation and exchange rate erosion, causing irreversible damage to the faltering economy as well. Hassan Shah stated that no one should have unrestricted power to control fuel prices, which would lead to an economic catastrophe because

the local oil market is highly unstable. Shah said that the central bank should analyze how deregulation affects inflation and currency value, and the prime minister, finance minister, and interior minister should look into the matter. Moreover, since oil is vital to national security, the Ministry of Defence must assess the strategic impact of such moves. He stated that we should not allow situations like those in Sri Lanka to appease influential business groups at the expense of the masses and the country. According to Hassan Shah, the deregulation would result in a constant rise in oil prices under a variety of pretexts, which would be detrimental to both the public and businesses.

He explained that western countries have adopted free market fuel pricing after guaranteeing a smooth supply curve. They can handle supply chain disruptions because they have months of fuel in reserve. However, Pakistan cannot keep reserves for 15 days. Shortages and dryouts occur almost monthly, especially in smaller cities. Under these situations, only strict regulation prevents refineries, OMCs, and outlets from raising fuel prices. A free hand to exploit defenceless consumers would destabilise the market, affecting the price of virtually everything. The fuel demand curve is almost perfectly inelastic in nature. He demanded that the government must reject the idea of deregulating oil prices because it would destroy the country.

King of Fruit

ISLAMABAD: A fruit seller arranges mangoes at his stall outside Food and Vegetable Market of Sector I-11 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

ICCI-Islamabad Police organize walk 'Say no to drugs'



PPA
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Islamabad Capital Police jointly organized an awareness walk to promote a healthy lifestyle and say no to drugs. The participants in large number including those representing the business community, friends of Police, sportsmen, members of civil society, students of Sweet Home, and other educational institutions walked should to shoulder raising awareness against drug abuse and drug trafficking.

The Chief Guest Inspector General Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi while addressing the participants said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry cooperation to all the stakeholders in war against narcotics to develop a healthy nation. He said that Islamabad Police under his command is pursuing a zero-tolerance policy for all types and forms of drugs to save the young generation from the curse. In his address President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari lauded Inspector General of Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi for taking the important initiative of making the capital free of every kind of crimes including drug peddling. He said that it is the duty of the entire community to carry forward this solemn campaign to every corner of the country for the bright future of the coming generations. He also reiterated Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry cooperation to all the stakeholders in war against narcotics to develop a healthy nation.

Pakistan Investment Opportunities Summit and Smart Expo held in Jeddah

Noorulhassan Gujjar
JEDDAH: Pakistan investment opportunities summit and Smart Expo begins in Jeddah, with a purpose to introduce the opportunities by the leading hospitality projects to the lucrative market of Saudi Arabia. The event will target businessmen, investors and prospects among general consumers, who retain keen interest in investing in Pakistan. It is believed that the leading hospitality projects along with the other emerging sectors will show their competitive advantage with ample options to invest in Pakistani market. The event is likely to create a strong footprint in the Saudi market.



Addressing the inaugural session of the event, Consul general of Pakistan, Mr. Khalid Majid said "I urge you to come forward and support your government's initiatives to work for the socio-economic development of our country. Organizing today's event is a very practical step and it would augment Governments efforts towards building a prosperous Pakistan. This is only the beginning and I am sure that this summit will provide a launching pad for many potential investors and businesses." PAEI and its leadership deserve special felicitations for organizing this event. Pakistan Investment Opportunities

Summit and Smart Expo event is aimed at Creating a robust platform to Showcase Pakistan as a Lucrative Investment destination, increasing and capitalizing the Investment through responsible Tourism & Hospitality Projects in the Country. Further, this kind of events will help in bringing Foreign Exchange and investments which is a way for prosperity and economic development. Mr. Raja Nasir Ali Khan, Minister for planning and Development Gilgit Baltistan and Prof. Kausar Taqdees Gillani Minister for small industries Corporation, Travel and Trade authority of Azad Kashmir present-

ed the tourism and investment potential of their respective regions. The event is organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry (PAEI) in collaboration with hospitality, tourism, housing industries and corporates of Pakistan. The expo is expected to attract thousands of visitors and potential investors. Inaugural session and exhibition opening session was attended by large number of Saudi Businessmen, representatives of Saudi companies and Pakistani business community and community leaders. Ethnic media persons and social media influencers took keen interest in the event.

BPM for proactive steps to stabilize economy as uncertainty continues to pervade

PPA
LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has stated that political uncertainty has rattled the Pakistan economy, asking the government to take proactive measures to encounter external and domestic challenges, besides stabilizing the economy. In a statement issued here today, the BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president Mian Anjum Nisar observed that months after the elections that were expected to presage easing of all political uncertainty paving the way for economic stability that all stakeholders and associated media pundits insisted would be a key factor in turning the economy around are having to deal with a major wheat scam that has Punjab farmers protesting on the streets, the acceptance by the State Bank of Pakistan that there were mistakes in the Urdu text on currency notes only after it was pointed out by the ombudsman and one conflict arising from the Punjab police heavy-handedness against the lawyers protest.

Digital Diplomacy in Pakistan: Navigating the New Frontier

Saba Bibi
In today's interconnected world, where the digital landscape is constantly evolving, digital diplomacy has emerged as a vital tool for nations to manage their international image and relations. Pakistan, with its rich cultural heritage and complex geopolitical landscape, stands to greatly benefit from harnessing the potential of digital diplomacy. As we navigate the ever-changing world of international relations, digital diplomacy has become a transformative force, redefining how states engage with each other and with their global audiences. Pakistan, situated at the crossroads of geopolitical significance and technological evolution, has begun to embrace this new frontier, recognizing the potential of digital tools to enhance its diplomatic outreach and influence. The digital age presents Pakistan with an unprecedented opportunity to project its narrative and policies on

the global stage. Through social media platforms, official websites, and virtual engagements, Pakistan can bypass traditional media gatekeepers and directly connect with international audiences. This direct communication channel allows for a more nuanced and authentic representation of Pakistan's stance on various issues, from regional security to economic development. Moreover, digital diplomacy enables Pakistan to engage in real-time dialogue with foreign publics, fostering a sense of transparency and accessibility. It also serves as a cost-effective means of conducting public diplomacy, crucial for a country with budgetary constraints. The potential to reach a wider audience, including the diaspora and international stakeholders, is a significant advantage that digital diplomacy offers. Digital diplomacy, at its core, is about leveraging technology to promote national interests and engage with global audiences. For Pakistan, this means utilizing platforms like Twitter,

Facebook, and Instagram to share its narrative and engage in public diplomacy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made strides in this direction, with active social media accounts that provide updates on policy positions, humanitarian efforts, and cultural events. However, Pakistan faces several challenges in fully harnessing the power of digital diplomacy. One of the primary obstacles is the digital divide within the country. Limited internet access in rural and remote areas hinders the ability to engage all segments of the population in digital diplomatic initiatives. This gap must be bridged to ensure a cohesive national narrative and to leverage the full potential of citizen diplomacy. Cybersecurity is another concern, with the threat of misinformation and cyber attacks posing risks to the integrity of digital diplomatic efforts. Establishing robust security protocols and countering propaganda requires a concerted effort and investment in

technological infrastructure. Institutional resistance and the need for capacity building also present challenges. Diplomatic institutions must adapt to the fast-paced digital environment, which necessitates a shift in mindset and the acquisition of new skills among diplomats and policymakers. The impact of Pakistan's digital diplomacy on international relations is multifaceted. On one hand, it has the potential to improve Pakistan's image abroad, attract foreign investment, and strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties. On the other hand, the effectiveness of these efforts is contingent upon overcoming the aforementioned challenges and ensuring a consistent and strategic approach. Digital diplomacy also plays a critical role in crisis management and conflict resolution. By providing timely and accurate information, Pakistan can mitigate misunderstandings and build trust with international partners.

Furthermore, it can contribute to shaping global discourse on issues pertinent to Pakistan, such as the Kashmir dispute and counter-terrorism efforts. Looking ahead, Pakistan must continue to innovate in the realm of digital diplomacy. This includes exploring emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and virtual reality to create immersive experiences that can educate and engage global audiences. Collaborations with tech companies can also provide new avenues for digital engagement. As Pakistan navigates the complex landscape of digital diplomacy, it stands at a juncture where the prospects are as promising as the challenges are daunting. The successful integration of digital tools into diplomatic practice can significantly enhance Pakistan's standing in the international community. However, this requires a proactive approach, addressing the digital divide, investing in cybersecurity, and fostering institutional adaptability.

By doing so, Pakistan can effectively wield digital diplomacy as a tool for peace, progress, and partnership in the global arena. As Pakistan continues to navigate the new frontier of digital diplomacy, it stands to significantly enhance its international standing. By addressing the challenges head-on and capitalizing on the opportunities presented by the digital age, Pakistan can strengthen its voice on the global stage and foster a more nuanced understanding of its culture, values, and policies. This rewritten version incorporates a formal tone while using conversational language and a touch of optimism to humanize the article. It maintains the original content's focus on the importance of digital diplomacy in Pakistan's international relations while presenting the information in a more engaging and accessible manner. *Writer is pursuing Bachelor's in Defence and Diplomatic Studies from Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi*

NA Speaker congratulates hockey team for winning silver medal

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the Nation-

al Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Sunday congratulated the national hockey team for winning the silver



medal in the Azlan Shah Hockey tournament.

In a message, the speaker conveyed his best wishes to the national hockey team and praised their splendid game-play throughout the tournament.

He said that Pakistan's hockey team has brought honour to the country and its people with their outstanding

performance.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed pride over the best performance of the players and hoped that the players would continue to excel in future competitions.

He assured the team that the entire nation stands behind them, offering prayers and support for their success.

Chief Minister KP greets Pakistan Hockey team on winning silver medal in Azlan Shah Cup

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister

(CM) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday greeted the Pakistan hockey team for their excellent performance in the Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament. CM in a message of felicitation, congratulated the national team for their excellent performance in the tournament and termed winning the silver medal is commendable.

He said that after 13-year, Pakistan's Hockey team reached in the final of the tournament, which is encouraging, Pakistani team showed excellent performance, he added The national hockey team is expected to perform better in the coming days, CM said, adding, "May I pray for more success for the national hockey team in the coming days." He hoped that the current hockey team will restore Pakistan's lost position in the field of hockey. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is taking concerted steps to promote national sports, the CM added. He said that the provincial government will provide full support to the talented players for the promotion of hockey.



Technic

Brajan Gruda (R) of FSV Mainz 05 vies with Salih Oezcan of Borussia Dortmund during the German first division Bundesliga football match between FSV Mainz 05 and Borussia Dortmund in Mainz, Germany.



Photo: Joachim Bywalezt/Xinhua

Holstein Kiel promoted to Bundesliga for first time



AFP

Holstein Kiel reached the Bundesliga for the first time in their history following a 1-1 draw with Fortuna Duesseeldorf on Saturday, capping a remarkable rise from the German fourth division over the last decade.

Kiel went into the game needing only a point against promotion rivals Fortuna to secure a historic promotion and they took the lead inside two minutes through striker Benedikt Pichler.

Duesseeldorf's Christos Tzolis restored parity from the penalty spot in the 70th minute following an on-field video review, setting the stage for a tense finale. But Kiel survived a Duesseeldorf onslaught, which secures Marcel Rapp's side at least second place in the final standings and a debut season in the Bundesliga next season.

"When I looked at the field and I saw all the people on it, I thought I was in a dream," Kiel midfielder Philipp Sander told Sky Sports Germany after Kiel fans invaded the pitch at full-time.

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"We've kept a very low profile over the last few weeks and I think everyone has had a few dreams, but didn't quite want to believe it yet because we all thought, if you open your mouth too early, it might go wrong. Now we've just done it and it is unbelievable!"

Kiel's journey completes a wild decade that has seen them rise from Regionalliga North, the fourth tier of German football, to the Bundesliga in just 11 seasons.

Holstein Kiel had twice come close to promotion to the Bundesliga in recent years, finishing third in 2017/18 and again in 2020/21, but both times lost out in the play-off.

The result is also significant for St Pauli, who can secure a return to Germany's top flight after a 13-year absence with a victory at home to bottom-team VfL Osnabrueck on Sunday.

A St Pauli victory would also see them go into the final weekend a point clear of Kiel and in pole position to go up as champions.

Fortuna Duesseeldorf's failure to win in Kiel all but ends their hopes of automatic promotion, with the Bundesliga relegation play-off almost certainly awaiting them.

Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Rizwan guide Pakistan to victory over Ireland

A Sports

DUBLIN: Mohammad Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman scored half-centuries, followed by Azam Khan's blistering cameo helped Pakistan defeat Ireland by seven wickets in the second T20I of the three-match series here on Sunday.

Pakistan successfully chased the 194-run target with 19 balls to spare and levelled the series 1-1.

The Greenshirts had an unwanted start to the chase as they lost Saim Ayub (6) and Babar Azam (0) in 1.4 overs with only 14 runs on the board.

Rizwan and Zaman then led the chase for Pakistan as they helped stabilize the innings after two early wickets.

They charged against Irish bowlers and constructed a 140-run partnership in 78 balls to tilt the game in Pakistan's favour.

However, Ben White broke the stand with the wicket of Zaman, who scored 78 runs from 40 balls with the help of four boundaries and four sixes.



Azam Khan joined Rizwan at the crease, with 41 required from 33 balls, but the former ensured that Pakistan finished the match with 19 balls to spare.

Khan scored an unbeaten 30 off 10 with four sixes. He hit Mark Adair for three sixes in the 17th over to finish the match in style.

Meanwhile, Rizwan top-scored for Pakistan with an unbeaten 75 off 46, featuring six boundaries and four sixes.

For Ireland, Adair, White

and Graham Hume picked one wicket each.

Earlier, Pakistan opted to bowl first and reduced Ireland to 34-2 inside four overs, with Shaheen Afridi removing both opening batters in the same over.

Tucker and Harry Tector then joined hands to construct a 62-run stand before Abbas Afridi halted their progress as he dismissed the latter.

Tector scored an anchoring 32 off 28 with the help of four boundaries.

Tucker was then joined by Curtis Campher (22) and they raised a quick 41-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Abbas Afridi ended Tucker's brilliant innings of 51 runs from 34 balls, featuring five boundaries and two sixes.

Delany then scored a quick 28 off 10 balls with the help of five boundaries, including two sixes, to propel Ireland to 193 in their allocated 20 overs.

For Pakistan, Shaheen Afridi claimed three wickets, and Abbas Afridi managed two wickets.

Mainz ease relegation worries after stunning Dortmund in Bundesliga

Xinhua

BERLIN: Mainz scored three goals in a frenetic first half to stun uninspired Borussia Dortmund 3-0 in Bundesliga's 33rd round on Saturday.

The Nullfunfer started highly motivated against the Champions League finalist, knowing that a win would lift them out of the relegation zone.

The hosts pressed Dortmund onto the back foot as Nadiem Amiri rattled the crossbar in the seventh minute before Silvan Widmer's header hit the left post moments later.

Mainz broke the deadlock with

12 minutes gone when Leandro Barreiro exchanged a one-two with Widmer before drilling the ball into the bottom left corner past goalkeeper Alexander Meyer.

Meyer remained in the thick of things and helped Mainz to double the lead as he unleashed an offside free kick into the path of Lee Jae-sung, who made no mistake to send the ball into the roof of the net in the 19th minute.

Relegation-threatened Mainz pressed relentlessly and tripled its lead four minutes after Lee benefited from Barreiro's good build-up work and assist.

Mainz should have extended the lead, but Lee and Barrei-

ro lacked in accuracy in front of the target. And Dortmund posed absolutely no threat to the host's well-positioned bulwark.

In the 52nd minute, Edin Terzic's man thought they had reduced the deficit through Youssef Moukoko but the goal of the German international was ruled offside by VAR.

With the result, Mainz have extended their unbeaten run to eight games, and Dortmund stay on the 5th spot.

"One team fought to win, and another just wanted to play football. We were always late, for all duels. That made the difference today. This is a tough defeat

that hurts a lot. But it is more than deserved. It's a very bitter evening for us," said Dortmund coach Terzic.

In the other matches on Saturday, relegation-threatened Cologne secured a 3-2 victory over Union Berlin to boost their survival hopes.

Substitute Benjamin Sesko converted a penalty to secure fourth-placed Leipzig a 1-1 stalemate with Werder Bremen.

Wasteful Freiburg shared the spoils with Heidenheim following a 1-1 draw, and Eintracht Frankfurt held Borussia Monchengladbach 1-1 to maintain their chances for a top-six



finish. On Friday, Stuttgart edged

Augsburg 1-0 thanks to Serhou Guirassy's sole goal, helping the Swabians to leapfrog Bayern Munich in the standings.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of members of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, belonging to Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Sunday.



Photo: PID

NA Speaker pays tribute to mothers whose sons laid their lives to protect beloved motherland

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Sunday said that the nation is indebted to all mothers whose sons were martyred in preserving the dignity and sovereignty of the beloved motherland. Mother's love is the energy which enables normal human beings to accomplish impossible feats in their lives, the speaker said, in a message on the eve of Mother's Day.

Mothers through their selfless sacrifices, unconditional love and unwavering dedication play a pivotal role in shaping future generations, he added. Recognizing the immense challenges mothers face in balancing familial responsibilities and professional endeavors, the Speaker urged for a celebration of their resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment. He stressed that every nation owes a debt of gratitude to its mothers, who nurture and



guide with boundless love and compassion. The Speaker reaf-

firmed the National Assembly of Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding maternal and child rights. He said, through legislative measures and parliamentary forums like the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, SDGs Secretariat, and Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, efforts would be made to ensure the maximum well-being and empowerment of mothers and children alike. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also paid rich tribute to mothers of Palestine and the Indi-

an Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, whose children are being martyred but their resolve and commitment in their rightful struggle are unshaken. The Speaker said whatever he is today is due to the prayers and training of his beloved parents. He encouraged individuals to honor their mothers, highlighting the unique and selfless nature of this relationship rooted in unconditional love, sacrifice, and providing comfort during difficult times.

IPP discusses economic, general situation, reaffirms support for government

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The leadership of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) have discussed the economic and general situation of the country and decided to continue supporting the government. In a meeting presided over by IPP President Abdul Aleem Khan here Sunday, it was noted that the country was making progress towards improvement, and therefore, chaos and anarchy should be discouraged at all costs.

Congratulating the IPP on its victory in the recent by-elections, the participants expressed satisfaction with the Party's performance and discussed a plan of action for

further improvement in the future said a news release received here on Sunday. Abdul Aleem Khan directed that, in the first phase, the organizational structure of the Party should be completed at the district level across Punjab and preparations for local body elections should commence at the grassroots level. He directed that the elected party members should highlight the problems of the common man in the National and Provincial Assemblies. Central leaders of the IPP expressed full confidence in the Party President Abdul Aleem Khan's leadership and assured him of their complete support. The participants expressed their expectation that Abdul Aleem Khan



would continue to unite everyone in the future as he has in the past and always prioritize the interests of the party. Senior political leaders including Ishaq Khan Khakwani, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Humayun Akhtar Khan, Provincial President Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan, Sardar Ayaz Khan Niazi, MNA Awon Chaudhry, Eng. Gul

Asghar Bhagour, Dr. Manza Hassan, MP Shoaib Siddiqui and Sara Ahmad were present at the meeting. Additionally, Mian Khalid Mehmood, Additional Secretary General of IPP, Central Information Secretary Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan, Taskin Khakwani, Dr. Arooj Gilani, Nouman Langriyal, Farrukh Mumtaz Manika, Noraziz Shakoar, Ameer Haider Singha, Yawar Kamal, Ch. Zaheer Uddin, Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, Haroon Imran Gill, Syed Gul Agha, Naushir Mann, and Malik Zaman Naseeb also participated in the meeting. During the meeting, the participants discussed the organizational situation of the Party, shared past experiences, outlined future political strat-

egies, explored cooperation with other political parties and deliberated on various important issues. They unanimously agreed that all colleagues must continue the political journey together and participate the next election with a strong narrative. It was also decided that within the next week, names of Party Presidents and General Secretaries will be proposed from all districts of Punjab, followed by party conventions and political gatherings to consolidate the IPP at the level of the Union Council. At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and strongly condemned Israeli atrocities.

Haideri submits resolution in NA to condemn Khuzdar Press Club President's murder

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Secretary General Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri has submitted a resolution with the National Assembly Secretariat calling for denouncing the tragic killing of Khuzdar Press Club President Maulana Siddique Mengal.

The JUI-F leader, while drawing the House's attention towards the heinous crime, underscored that the CCTV footage depicted the assailants' daredevil attack and their subsequent escape.

The federal and provincial authorities have been urged to promptly apprehend those responsible for the murder.

Haideri, in the resolution, mentioned that Maulana Siddique, the provincial Vice Ameer of JUI-F, was killed on May 3 while en route to attend Friday prayers. Moreover, the killing occurred on the World Press Freedom Day, while two innocent bystanders also lost their lives in the incident.

Govt taking economic decisions in best interest of Pakistan: Aurangzeb

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Sunday that the government is taking decisions which seem tough but are in the larger interest of the country's economy and its people.

Addressing a Pre-Budget Conference FY 2024-25 jointly organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Business Recorder at a local hotel, he said, "We are doing all this not under the pressure of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) but for Pakistan because the country is supreme to all of us."

He added that the government was taking all possible measures and ensuring institutional reforms to restore confidence of the business community in the tax revenue collection authorities, especially the FBR (Federal Board of Revenue). He said that effective steps were also being put in place to enhance financial support for various sectors out of which agriculture, information technology (IT) and SME (small and medium enterprises) are priority sectors.

He emphasised that the private sector would have to come forward and play a proactive role to steer the country out of present day economic challenges, asserting that the government's job is to improve governance and provide facilitation to businessmen and industrialists.

The Federal Finance Minister said that the industry should not depend more on government subsidies on various counts but to strive to transform into export-oriented entities, assuring that the government would provide all possible facilitation in this regard. He said that comprehensive measures were being taken for proper enforcement in the FBR in addition to its reformation and structural changes in the tax collection mechanism. "Since March this year, we have started a campaign for tax registration," he said and dispelled the general perception among the people that when they come into the tax net, they will be 'harassed'. He cited that the government is providing relief in taxes and facilities on a number of other counts to tax filers. He, however, added that the government would negotiate but not back down from the tax registration campaign.

Punjab to start solar tube-well project for farmers

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz announced plans to start a solar tube-well project for farmers in the province.

In a meeting with the Provincial Minister for Irrigation Kazim Pirzada, they discussed the affairs of the Irrigation Department, focusing on ensuring timely water supply to farmers.

Progress was reviewed on updating the irrigation system and strengthening waterways (khal) across the province.

CM Maryam stated that initially, 1200 waterways will be lined with Rs 10 billion, followed by an additional 7,000 throughout the province in the second phase. She stressed that this initiative will ensure ample water availability to farmers, even those situated along the canals.

Irrigation Minister Kazim Pirzada highlighted the commitment of the cabinet and team under the CM's leadership to work tirelessly for public welfare.

President urges restraint, resolution of AJK issues through dialogue

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday urged all the stakeholders to exercise restraint and resolve the issues in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) through dialogue and mutual consultation. He stressed that the political parties, state institutions and the people of AJK should act responsibly so that hostile elements could not exploit the situation to their benefit.

President urges restraint, resolution of AJK issues through dialogue. The president expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of members of the AJK Legislative Assembly belonging to Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The delegation briefed the president

about recent happenings and unfortunate developments in AJK. Talking to members of the AJK Legislative Assembly, the president highlighted that the demands of the people of AJK should be addressed as per law, adding that he would take up/discuss the grievances of the people of AJK with the Prime Minister of Pakistan to find a way out of the current situation. He further emphasized that priority should be accorded to the socio-economic uplift of AJK, with special focus on the development of health, education, tourism and infrastructure. He underlined the need to bring the far-flung areas at par with other developed areas of the country. The president regretted the current situation and offered condolences over the unfortunate death of the police officer and prayed for swift recovery of all those who were injured in recent clashes.

Senate Chairman Gilani appreciates Christian Community's role in country's uplift



Bureau Report

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said on Sunday that Christian community was performing important role in country's uplift.

He said this during lunch in his honour given by Christian Community, led by MNA Naveed Amir Jeeva, at a local hotel.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani observed that he himself got education from La Salle School.

Commenting on services in health sector, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani observed that Mission Hospital's role was also appreciable.

The Chairman Senate hoped that the community would continue to serve society with more dedication in future also.

Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani also vowed

to resolve issues of the community on priority basis, especially hailing from South Punjab.

MNA Naveed Amir Jeeva, Bishop Yousuf Sohan, Bishop Leo Paul Roderick and some others hailed Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani for matchless service in South Punjab's uplift.

MNA Naveed Amir Jeeva stated that Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani ensured five percent jobs quota for minority. Similarly, August 11 was declared as Minority Day.

Apart from this, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani also performed important role and helped introduce four new seats in Senate.

On this occasion, local leader PPP Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Pastor Asif Raza, Samuel Sardar, Brother Qamar Father Patrick and some others were also present.

IMF delegation reaches Pakistan, talks to begin tomorrow: Aurangzeb

Continued from Page 1

expand tax net. The finance minister said the steps would be taken for improving tax-to-GDP ratio, swift privatisation of loss-making state-

owned enterprises (SOEs) and overhauling the energy sector.

He said that the power theft will be strictly dealt with adding that the private sector will be given representation in Discos boards.

Nawaz Sharif ready for grand dialogue with PTI founder: Sanaullah

Continued from Page 1

progress. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Terheek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, who is incarcerated in Adiala Jail, ruled out 'any deal to seek his release' and urged the courts to expedite hearings of his cases.

Talking to journalists in Adiala Jail, Imran Khan noted he has been saying for the past 18 months that he is ready for talks, but not for a deal, emphasising that deals are made by those

who want to flee the country, like Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif.

The deposed prime minister noted he had constituted a three-member committee for dialogue, adding that no retired general has been tasked to hold talks. "We are ready to hold talks with everyone, except three political parties - PML-N, PPP, and MQM-P," he added.

He asserted that dialogue occurs with adversaries, and PTI's most formidable adversaries are the ones with whom dialogue will be initiated.

AJK BOI Chairman steps down over 'protests against inflation'

Continued from Page 1

Azad Kashmir witnessed violent clashes between the police and activists of a rights movement amid a wheel-jam and shutter-down strike across the territory, which left at least one police official dead and several others injured.

Sub-inspector Adnan Qureshi succumbed to a gunshot wound in the chest in the town of Islamgarh, where he was deployed to stop a rally

for Muzaffarabad under the banner of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC). The JAAC, which has traders at the forefront in most parts of the state, has been seeking the provision of electricity as per hydropower generation cost in AJK, subsidised wheat flour and an end to the privileges of the elite class.

They called for the strike following the arrest of at least 70 of their members in raids on Thursday.