Barkat Rice Mills



Situation is under control in Bishkek: Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic claims

Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic for Pakistan H. E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev briefed the media in Islamabad regarding the Bishkek events in which Pakistani students sustained injuries and hundreds of students flew back to Pakistan after hostile locals attacked students pursuing education. (Details on Page 5)



Pakistan to launch second satellite into space today (Thursday)

Pakistan's latest modern Communication Satellite, MM1, is Xichang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC), China. The state-run dcaster reported that the SUPARCO MM1 satellite is a result of the tireless efforts of Pakistani scientists and engineers.

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Calls on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Buddhist Monks led by Minister of Budhassasana and Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka H.E Vidura Wickra-



PM highlights ancient heritage of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis- is visiting Pakistan to attend a Information and Broadcasting ished in the northwest Pakistan in the shape of Gandhara art and culture, over two thousand years ago. He underscored the importance that his government

attached to interfaith harmony. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of esteemed Buddhist leaders that called on Keshabman Shakya from Nepal.

Media Wing said in a press

The delegation included Sri Lanka's Minister for Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Vidura Wikramanayaka, Most Venerable Thich Duc Tuan from Vietnam, Most Venerable Anil Sakya from Thailand and Dr

age of Pakistan The delegation Ch. Salik Hussain, Minister for ter Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif symposium and an exhibition and Cultural Heritage Attaulon Wednesday highlighted that titled "From Gandhara to the lah Tarar, SAPM Syed Tariq tion discussed ways to strengthen appreciated the prime minis-Pakistan was proud of its ancient World," organized by the Minis-Fatemi also attended the meet-interfaith dialogue and coopera-Buddhist heritage, which flour- try of Foreign Affairs, PM Office ing. The prime minister warm- tion, as well as opportunities for ly welcomed the delegation and participation in the symposium, being held in connection with the 'Vesak Day' that commemorates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Lord Buddha. He also acknowledged the valua-

ble contributions of the Buddhist

scholars and monks to the

him. PM highlights ancient herit- Minister for Religious Affairs promotion of interfaith harmony and understanding.

During the meeting, the prime minister and the delegacultural and academic exchangexpressed his gratitude for their es between Pakistan and the Buddhist majority countries. "The meeting concluded with a resolve to continue exploring avenues for mutual understanding and cooperation, and to work together towards a more harmonious and peaceful world. In that connection, the possibil-

ity of establishing a joint forum for dialogue and collaboration was especially discussed," it was added. The Buddhist leaders ter's commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity and respect

for all religions. They also commended Pakistan's efforts to preserve and promote its Buddhist heritage sites and cultural artifacts. The delegation members showed their keen desire to collaborate with Pakistan in preserving and promoting Buddhist heritage in Pakistan.

Progress made in Raoof Hassan attack case

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The investigators, in a case pertaining to the attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) spokesman Raoof Hassan, made progress as they discovered specifics about the vehicle used by the transgenders who allegedly attacked him, ARY News reported.

According to sources, the attackers used a black Mehran car to travel to Star Market, the crime scene. The investigators have obtained Close Circuit Television (CCTV) camera footage of the Safe City Project within a two-kilometer radius surrounding the crime scene

The sources added that the investigating team is also examining footage of the private CCTV cameras. They added that the complete route of the black Mehran car is being examined while a report from the National Database Regulatory Authority is awaited.

Xi holds talks with Egyptian president

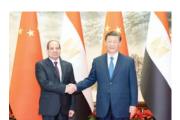
👺 Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Beijing on Wednesday.

Xi noted that, 68 years ago, Egypt was the first Arab and African state to establish diplomatic relations with China. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership, he said, adding that over the past decade, the two heads of state have worked together to guide the vigorous development of bilateral relations.

China-Egypt relations have become a vivid illustration of China's solidarity, coordination, and mutually-beneficial win-win cooperation with Arab, African, Islamic and developing countries, Xi said, adding that under the new circumstances, building a more enriched and dynamic China-Egypt relationship meets the common expectations of the two peoples.

Xi said that China is ready to work



advance cooperation, build a China-Egypt community with a shared future in the new era, and contribute to regional and world peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Xi stressed that China is striving in all aspects to build a strong and prosperous country and achieve national rejuvenation, and China and Egypt are facing historic opportunities for exchanges and cooperation in various fields. The two sides should continue to firmly support each other and work together to promote common development, Xi

China is ready to work with Egypt to tap the potential of cooperation in traditional areas such as infrastrucwith Egypt to deepen mutual trust, ture, industry, electricity and agricul-

ture, explore cooperation in emerging areas such as health care, information and communications, and renewable energy, deepen economic, trade and investment cooperation, and encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest and do business in Egypt, Xi said.

Xi urged efforts to organize the 2024 China-Egypt year of partnership, expand personnel and cultural exchanges, and make the Luban Workshop in Egypt a benchmark for China-Africa vocational education cooperation.

China supports Egypt in playing a greater role in international and regional affairs, and stands ready to further strengthen coordination and cooperation with Egypt on multilateral platforms such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS cooperation mechanism, advocate an equal and orderly multi-polar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and jointly safeguard international fairness and justice, as well as the common inter-

ests of developing countries, Xi said.

跨 City Desk

Lawyers

who attacked

from PTI: Zafar

Maneka not

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and Senator Barrister Syed Ali Zafar has denied the involvement of PTI lawyers in the attack on Khawar Manika within the court premises.

Speaking on the news program "Rubaroo" on Wednesday, Barrister Ali Zafar stated that the lawvers involved in the attack were not among those he knows from the

He emphasized that no lawyer has the right to physically assault anyone.

Barrister Zafar demanded that the licenses of those involved in the incident be revoked.

Regarding the clarification provided by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohai Ali Khan on the

Continued on Page 8

Pakistan recalls its role in UN peacekeeping on I. P. Day

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Today, Pakistan joins the international community in commemorating International Peacekeepers Day, paying tribute to the brave men and women who have served in United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world.

Pakistan is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping, with around 3,000 Peacekeepers currently serving in missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Abyei, Central African Republic, Cyprus, Western Sahara and Somalia. Since 1960, Pakistan has contributed 235,000 troops to UN peacekeeping operations in 48 United Nations Missions in 29 countries including almost all continents of the world.

Pakistan is proud of its long-standing commitment to UN peacekeeping. Our peacekeepers have demonstrated exceptional courage, professionalism and dedication to promoting peace and stability in conflict-ridden regions. Overall, 181 Pakistani peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

On this International Peacekeeping Day, we honour their nities in troubled regions.



service and sacrifice for noble cause of global peace.

Pakistan also remains committed to United Nations Uniform Gender Parity Strategy (UGPS) of United Nations for enhanced representation of women in uniform, Secretary-General's Action for peace (A4P) initiative, which seeks to improve the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations by enhancing their capacity, coherence and responsiveness. Additionally, Pakistan also supports initiatives aimed at improving the safety and security of UN peacekeepers, particularly those serving in high-risk environments.

Pakistan's contributions to UN peacekeeping are a testament to our nation's commitment to international peace and security and Pakistani peacekeepers will continue towards uplift of local commu-

Sunni Ittehad Council to get PAC chairmanship

Naveed Ahmad Kan saf (PTI) members as Sher

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to give the chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), the new home for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers.

Sources told that the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) will get 12 chairmanships of standing committees in National Assembly, while the SIC will get nine chairmanships, including the PAC one's.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will get chairmanship of 7 standing committees, sources added.

It is pertinent to mention here that Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) had formally nominated Sheikh Waqas Akram for the chairmanship of the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

The slot became a bone of contention and triggered a Pakistan

Afzal Marwat, who was earlier named by the party, openly critisised the party leadership.

Earlier on May 11, the PTI issued a show-cause notice to Sher Afzal Marwat for making 'irresponsible' statements The notice was issued by

PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan who asked Marwat to explain his statements within three days, which have been deemed damaging to the party's reputation.

The notice stated that such statements are against the party's discipline and violate the clear instructions of the party's founder, Imran Khan, who has emphasized the importance of responsible behavior.

Sher Afzal Marwat was warned that failure to respond or provide a satisfactory explanation may lead to further disciplinary action.

The show-cause notice was issued in the wake of Sher Afzal Marwat's statement, saying tug-of-war between senior that he would not let three Tehreek-e-In- people 'hijack' the party.

SC says criticism by UK **High Commissioner on** bat decision 'unjustified'

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has dismissed British High Commissioner Jane Marriott's criticism of the court's decision regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's "bat" election symbol as 'unjustified'.

In a letter written by the Registrar of the Supreme Court on the instructions of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the court responded to remakrs made by Marriott at the Asma Jehangir conference.

The court stated that all decisions made by the Supreme Court of Pakistan are within the framework of the country's constitution and law. The decision concerning the PTI's "bat" symbol was also made in accordance with the constitu-

tion and law, and therefore, any criticism regarding it is unjustified. The letter added that the

decision to take awy the symbol was based on the fact that the party did not hold intra-party elections despite the law requir-However, the letter added

that the SC has itself acknowledged and addressed the mistakes it made in the past, in an effort to prevent them from being repeated. It went on to say that if the

Commissioner has criticised the Supreme Court's decision and called for an 'open society' then it should recirporcate as well.

The letter also added tha copies may be delivered to the presdient and lady chief justice of England.

Missing poet Ahmad Farhad found in police custody

the federal capital reportedly for his firebrand poetry has been found in the custody of Azad Jammu Kashmir police, Islamabad High Court was told on Wednesday.

The Islamabad High Court heard the case regarding the ISLAMABAD: Poet Ahmad recovery of the missing Kashmi-Farhad who went missing from ri poet, Ahmad Farhad. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani presided over the proceedings on Wednes-

Attorney General Mansoor Awan, Additional Attorney and Minister for Law and Justice Nazeer Tarar appeared before the General Munawar Iqbal Dogar,



Attorney General informed the court that the whereabouts of the missing poet Ahmad Farhad have been determined. He is a suspect in a case registered in the Bagh district and is currently under police

This revelation marks a crucial

development in the case, which has garnered widespread attention. Farhad's disappearance had sparked concerns across the country, prompting demands for his recovery.

The court had given one week to the attorney general to locate the poet, who is of Kashmiri

JICA Field Survey Team visits Children's Hospital Multan

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency) field survey team visited Children's Hospital Multan and met Dean Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kashif Chishti in his

The JICA team along with Dean Professor Dr. Muhammad Kashif Chishti and MS Dr. Kamran Asif made a detailed visit to the various departments of the Children's Hospital, all the ICUs, operation theatres, wards and the old block. Dean Professor Dr. Muhammad Kashif Chishti led the JICA team including Mr. Sumoto Tadayoshi, Mr. Nishikawa Kohei, Mr. Sarmad Hashmi, Mr. Abo Hiroshi, Miss Seyama Shoko, Mr. Hiroka Hirotaka, Mr. Uchida Kazofumi and Mr. Suzuki Kazushiro to visit the Children's Complex Hospital Multan.

The purpose of JICA's visit was



to ascertain the current challenges and discuss future collaborations for better healthcare delivery at Children's Complex Hospital Multan.

Social welfare

ISLAMABAD: A charity distributing free food to deserving peoples at Sector G-8 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Economic Development in the Country is the Top Priority of the Federal and Punjab Government: Governor Punjab

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Khwaja Jalaluddin Rumi, former president of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, Saleem Haider said that Dera Ghazi Khan, met the economic development in Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here ity of the federal and Punjab at the Governor's House, government are doing The Lahore. Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi congratulated him on assuming the post of in the country, other indica-Governor of Punjab. Punjab Governor Sardar Salim ing the stock exchange, are Haider Khan appreciated improving. He said that the din Rumi. During the meet- promote investment in the din Rumi Jalaluddin Rumi doorsteps.

ing, various issues including country and provide facilieducation and national economy were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar the country is the top priorgovernor of Punjab said that due to political stability tors of the economy, includ-

ties to the industrial sector.

Well-known industrialist, former president Chamber of Commerce and Industry Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi said that industrialists are a source of employment for a large population in the society. He said that the government needs to pay immediate attention to the problems of industrialists.. In addition to the reduction in electricity and gas rates, there is an urgent need to review the

provide clean water in South Punjab, daily food supply to the needy and other public health projects. is working In this regard, we need the patronage of the government. Jalaluddin Rumi Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi invited Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan to visit South Punjab. Governor Puniab said that he will visit South Punjab soon. Governor Punjab said that I will try to solve the probthe social services of Jalalud- government is determined to markup of banks. Jalalud- lems of the people at their

Railways union demands 100% increase in salaries, pensions in upcoming budget

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: Railway Prime Union Chairman Ziauddin Ansari, President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, Secretary General Khair Muhammad Tunio, Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry have demanded that in the upcoming budget, the salaries, pensions, medical allowance and house rent of the present and retired employees should be increased by 100%. And the income tax applied to The Ministry of Finance pensioners should be abolished, instead of eliminating for the salary and pension more than thirty thousand of railways like other federvacant posts in the railways immediately, children of ment should immediateserving and retired employees and TLA employees should be given permanent budget, Railways should be



ly paid consultants and MP Ones in Pakistan Railways should be banned and the appointed MP One officers should be dismissed from the railways immediately. should take responsibility al institutions, the governly give a bailout package of Rs. go In the upcoming

National Highway Authority. He said that the government has a budget of trillions of rupees to reward the people of their choice in the name of IPPs and Benazirankum support program, while the government has a budget of Rs. There is no budget. He has said that according to the Railway Charter, the railway is not a commercial but a welfare institution. Just as institutions like motorway, metro, orange train, government jobs. The appointment of given the same budget as the educational institutions and

hospitals provide facilities to the public with the financial support of the government, similarly, railways is also the largest institution providing affordable travel facilities to the public in Pakistan. Previous governments have used this institution as a welfare institution for their political interests, but the railways were deprived of the financial support they needed from the government. Railways need to be put on its feet immediately.

Awami National Party honors sacrifices of Takkar martyrs at big ceremony

Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Organized by the Awami National Party Tehsil Takht bhai, a big and dignified ceremony was held to honor the sacrifices of the martyrs of Takkar in the Tragedy of Takkar on May 28, 1930. The service was held in the Hujra of the late Akbar Khan Lala Takkar. It was presided over by the president and moderator of Awami National Party Tehsil Takh tbhai, Mian Nasrullah Bacha. On this occasion, Quran recitation was also done for the souls of the martyrs. Fatiha will be recited in the memory of the martyrs who were martyred in the war of 1930. And special prayers for raising their ranks were asked in the ceremony, besides the family members of the martyrs who were martyred in the war of independence. Awami National Party Mardan District President Imran Khan Manduri District Vice President Jawad Khan Takkar District Additional General Secretary Sajjad Hoti. Deputy Secretary Dr. Akhtar Iqbal. Khudai Khitmatgar Lal Sharaf Khan Advocate. ANP Tehsil Takhtbhai President Mian Nasrullah Bacha General Secretary Imtiaz Khan Advocate. Former candidate of PK 61 Jamal Nasir. Arshad Takkar. Sajjad Takkar. Farhan Takkar. Sher Ali Shah, Umarzada Afghan, Sajid Takkar, Sultan Takkar and others praised the historical role of God's servants under the leadership of Bacha Khan Baba. Detailed light was given on the sacrifices of the martyrs of Takkar. And tributes were paid to them in magnificent words. Later, in the form of a procession, wreaths of flowers were placed on the memorial of the martyrs of Takkar in the form of a procession. Promised that the leadership of the Awami National Party in the background of the current domestic and international situation, the statement given by Bacha Khan Baba's followers will implement the

statement with all their might.

Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani visits the Department of Pediatric Medicine



MULTAN: Vice-Chancellor Nishtar Medical College University Professor Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani visited the Department of Pediatric Medicine the children affected by measles and the medical facilities provided to them to 3 prevent the possibility of further spread of this disease. A detailed review of the steps taken for Head of Department of Pediatric Medicine Prof. Dr. Azam Khan informed to Vice Chancellor Prof Mahnaz Khakwani about all the details in this regard. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical College University directed the medical staff to ensure uninterrupted provision of the best treatment facilities to the affected children in every possible way and assured all possible support. MS Nishtar Hospital Dr. Muhammad Kazim Khan and other senior faculty members were also present on the occasion along with Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Mehnaz Khakwani.

26th anniversary of Youme Takbeer marked at Shah Abdul Latif University

B Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Institute of International Relations, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur in collaborations with the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh, Karachi commemorated 26th Anniversary of Youme Takbeer at Diplomatic Corridor of New Academic Block of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur.

In solidarity and obligation with the motherland a grand celebration of 26th Youme Takbeer were held at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur. Professor Dr Liaqat Ali Chandio, Director Institute of International Relations, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur was in chair, while Principal Cadet College Khairpur Col Aamir Hayat was a keynote speaker.

Talking to the participants Dr Chandio highlighted the importance of this day and enlightened the audience through his detailed intellectual discourse on the theme. He said that nuclear tests of May $28{,}1998\,$ were the strategic compulsion of Pakistan to make parity with her strategic regional rivals. This capability has the defense of Pakistan more safe and secure. He stressed more on the balance between the traditional and non-traditional security dynamics of Pakistan. He deeply appreciated the role of partner organization the Center for International Strategic Studies Sindh, (CISSS), Karachi for their generous support in organizing this event. Dr Chandio in his talk briefed about future joint ventures with CISSS& other organizations to make a just and genuine academic narrative in fields of International Relations.

In his keynote speech Principal Cadet College Khairpur Col Aamir Hayat acclaimed the importance and sanctity of celebrating

Other faculty members Dr Muhammad Ramzan Kolachi, Dr Zaheer Hussain Soomro, Mr Aijaz Ahmad Shaikh also spoke at the occasion. Mr Ishrat Ali Meerani, Ms Shaheebano along with brilliant students graced the occasion.

Mr Sarfaraz Ali Korejo honored to exchange the vote of thanks followed

Pakistan Youth Parliament Delegation visits Parliament House

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A delegation from the Pakistan Youth Parliament, led by President Muhammad Abubakar, visited the Parliament House today. The five-member delegation included Senior Vice President Muhammad Faizan, Coordinators Umair Chand and Nauman Majeed, and President Punjab Malik Waqas Awan. During their visit, the delegation engaged in productive discussions with various prominent parliamentarians. Among those they met were Aleem Khan, Federal Minister; Sheharyar Afridi, Chairman PTI; Barrister Gohar, Chairman Sunni Ittehad Council; Sahibzada Hamid Raza; Mehmood Khan Achakzai; and Zartaj Gul. The meetings focused on fostering youth involvement in national governance and exploring avenues for greater collaboration between the youth and the government. President Muhammad Abubakar emphasized the importance of such interactions in bridging the gap between the youth and the political leadership. He stated, "Our aim is to ensure that the voices of the youth are heard and that they have a platform to contribute to the development of Pakistan. The support from our parliamentarians is crucial in achieving this goal. The delegation's visit is part of an ongoing initiative by the Pakistan Youth Parliament to engage with key stakeholders in the government and to advocate for policies that address the needs and aspirations of the young population.

Azad Kashmir State Disaster Management Commission approves disaster relief package for Jammu and Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: An extraordinary meeting of the Azad Kashmir State Disaster Management Commission was held here with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in the chair. Besides top officials of the Commission the meeting was attended by government ministers including Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Chaudhry Aamir Yasin, Javed Iqbal Badhanvi and several others. DG SDMA Raja Tahir Mumtaz, on the occasion presented a detailed briefing about the budget, performance and emergency response activities carried out through the authority during natural calamities. During the meeting the commission approved the purchase of relief items from the funds allocated for State Disaster Management.

The commission also approved the assistance package for the family of the SDMA assistant director who died on duty. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Haq directed the concerned authorities of the department to be more vigilant and proactive in dealing with natural disasters. The PM said that refresher courses should be arranged for the employees of the SDMA so that they could be able to deal with any kind of emergency situation effectively. He said that the protection of life and property of the people was the government's responsibility. The Prime Minister has also directed to the state disaster management authorities to conduct a seismic study of Mirpur and Muzaffarabad. The Prime Minister further stated that the employees of the rescue agencies should be equipped with modern equipment and machinery so that they could perform their duties in an efficient manner. He, however, maintained that the purchase and procurement of all machinery and relief items should be done through e-tendering to ensure transparency in the whole process.





Namaz Timings Maghrib ..7:12 pm

EMEDGENCY

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Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
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Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
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PIA Cargo	9280979
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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224

Equal World Campaign for Summit of the Future launched by Sightsavers

№ PNP

ISLAMABAD: In September 2024 world leaders will come together for the Summit of the Future in New York, to accelerate progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These global goals aim to reduce poverty and inequality by 2030, but with the deadline looming and 50% of time gone, only 12% of targets have been met.

Sightsavers' Equal World campaign says without immediate, radical and inclusive actions, and underrepresented voices of youth with disabilities not being heard, these goals will be failed.

Ahead of the upcoming UN summit, Sightsavers has launched a campaign in Pakistan to call on government to commit to disability-inclusive and specific accelerated actions for economic empowerment of youth with disabilities in line with the aims of the Summit of the Future.

Munazza Gillani, Director Pakistan and Middle East has expressed her commitment to this and said, "I would like to emphasize the critical importance of advocating for the rights of youth with disabilities in the context of the upcoming UN Summit of the Future. This summit presents a unique opportunity to address the challenges faced by young people with disabilities and to ensure their full inclusion and participation in shaping the future. At Sightsavers, we believe that every individual, regardless of their abilities, deserves equal rights and opportunities to thrive and contribute to society".

BISP disburses Rs 633.979 million to 60,379 deserving beneficiaries in Sindh

KARACHI: The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Sindh has disbursed Rs 633.979 million to 60,379 deserving women in eight districts of Sindh province under the Benazir Kafalat program. The disbursements were made during the first phase of the program, which covers eight districts in Sindh, including seven districts of Karachi Division and Hyderabad.

The BISP administration ensured transparent and efficient disbursements without any deductions through camp sites set up in the respective districts. "The Benazir Kafalat program empowers women and supports low-income families," said Director General BISP Sindh, Zulfigar Ali Sheikh.



"We ensure fair and transparent without any hassle." disbursements, and deserving women receive their due stipend families in Karachi and Hyder-

A total of 228,755 deserving

abad received their quarterly financial assistance of Rs 10,500 each, along with their educational stipends, under the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24. The BISP administration established 34 camp sites in eight districts of Sindh, providing transparent and convenient disbursements. Basic facilities, including clean drinking water, seating arrangements, and shade, are available at all camp

He further informed that to adress grievances or complaints, the BISP administration constituted a Taskforce and established a complaint cell at the Central Zone office in Karachi. Beneficiaries can also contact the BISP official free helpline number at 0800-26477



Conference

ISLAMABAD: Reema Aftab, DG Special Services Registration NADRA addressing the conference titled "National Street Children Conference - I am Somebody" under the auspices of Muslim Hands and Maidaan at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.



National Street Children Conference: "I Am Somebody" kicks off in Islamabad

₿ PNP

ISLAMABAD: Muslim Hands inaugurated the National Street Children Conference titled "I Am Somebody" today at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel. The two-day conference aims to create a platform for dialogue, action plans, and partnerships to improve the lives of street-connected children in Pakistan. Opening Remarks: Executive Director of Muslim Hands, Mr. Javed Gillani, emphasized the need for collective action and strategic partnerships to transform the lives of street children. He announced the launch of the nationwide campaign "IAM SOME-BODY," which pledges to facilitate the legal registration and school enrollment of half a million children across Pakistan over the next five years. This campaign aims to address urgent issues of birth registration and education access, mobilizing support and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders to ensure every child's right to education and identity.



Panel Discussion on Strengthening street children and proposed solutions

for enhanced protection and rights. The LegaFramework for Street Children: discussion highlighted the need for legal Experts discussed legal barriers faced by aid, access to justice, and technological solutions for birth registration.

Pakistan Cables completes the commissioning of 2MW on grid solar power plant at Nooriabad



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cables, the nation's pioneer wires and cables manufacturer, has completed the successful commissioning of its 2MW captive solar power plant located at its new manufacturing facility in Nooriabad, Sindh.

The project was executed by Atlas Energy Limited for Pakistan Cables within stipulated timelines and has commenced operations as of April 23, 2024.

The installed capacity of solar power plants is an investment in renewable energy initiatives by the Company. "We are committed to pursuing environmentally friendly initiatives in the future at our stateof-the-art manufacturing facility at Nooriabad, Sindh. We actively advocate use of renewable energy sources that save cost and contribute to the circular economy", said Fahd K. Chinoy, Chief Executive Officer - Pakistan Cables Ltd.

Pakistan Cables is the first and only building material Company in Pakistan to have science-based emission reduction targets validated by SBTi. The Company's new state of the art manufacturing facility spread across 42 acres of land in Pakistan, is equipped with cutting edge technology and equipment, set to transform the industry.

Earlier the Company also announced installation of Pakistan's first 69kV CCV line also at its manufacturing facility in Nooriabad, Sindh.

Youth-Led Initiatives Drive Momentum for iTFA Regulations in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: In a significant push towards the regulation of industrially produced trans fats (iTFAs) in Pakistan, youth leaders under the TRANSFORM Pakistan campaign from various educational institutes have successfully arranged a series of back-to-back consultative roundtable discussions. These events have underscored the need for adopting best practice policies by setting no more than 2 percent limit of iTFA of the total fats in all foods. This campaign, spearheaded by Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA) with support from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C), and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), aims at advocating conflict of interest free iTFA regulations through

Dr. Waqas Ahmed, Assistant Professor at UVAS and the university's focal person for youth engagement, expressed his admiration for the proactive involvement of the youth. He stated, "The fact that this dialogue is being led by youth leaders is highly encouraging, not just for the young participants but also for the coalition advocating for iTFA regulations."

In continuation of this momentum, the second policy dialogue, 'Limiting trans fats in food supply chain: Policy options' emphasizing the urgency of iTFA regulations in the country, was organized at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

ISSI concludes MoU with Turkiye's Yunus Emre Enstitusu

ISLAMABAD: Further strengthening its international collaboration, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Yunus Emre Enstitusu, Turkiye. The MoU signing ceremony included the participation of the Turkish Ambassador in Islamabad, His Excellency Mehmet Pacaci; Dr. Halil Toker, Coordinator of Yunus Emre Enstitusu; Turkiye, Dr. Yousaf Junaid, Ambassador of Pakistan in Ankara; Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ms. Amina Khan, Direc-

tor CAMEA; and Team CAMEA.

that this MoU is a testament of the long-standing relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye which is built on mutual respect and shared history. Collaboration between ISSI and the Yunus Emre Enstitusu is a step towards further enhancing as well as opening new avenues for cultural and academic cooperation between the two countries.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his remarks, welcomed the conclusion of the MoU stating that it will lead to further fortifying the relationship which goes back centuries and is underpinned by cultural and religious affinities as well as shared history. He added that While giving her introductory Pakistan and Turkiye are two

initiatives such as these further reinforce the efforts of the two governments to further deepen their multifaceted partnership. He concluded by saying that effective implementation of this MoU will provide a range of opportunities for collaboration in the research and academic fields and people-to-people exchanges

Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci, while expressing his views, said that the relationship between Turkiye and Pakistan is very He added that more academ-

ic collaborations are needed to strengthen and further expand the relationship in various dimensions. He also said that

remarks, Ms. Amina Khan said indispensable partners and that there is a need for further studies on the present opportunities and future horizons of Paki-

stan-Turkish relations. Dr. Yousaf Junaid, while speaking on the occasion, said that the signing of the MoU between ISSI and Yunus Emre Enstitusu will pave the way for a closer understanding in the already very sound relationship. Sharing a historical perspective on the ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, he stressed the need for taking the message of this special relationship to the youth in both countries. He assured of the Embassy's full support in imple-

mentation of the MoU. Dr. Halil Toker, in his remarks, said that the Yunus Emre Enstitusu has a significant presence



ing of this MoU is of unique significance as it will pave way for further collaboration in vari- to further heights.

in Pakistan and that the sign- ous spheres. He concluded by saying that such initiatives will take Pakistan-Turkiye relations

The ceremony ended with the signing of the MoU by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Dr. Halil Toker.

Editorial/Opinion

Thursday, May 30, 2024

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Overwhelming disaster

ital medical supplies are fast running out in Gaza's remaining hospitals, the UN health agency warned Wednesday, amid reports of continuing Israeli bombing in the besieged enclave. "We have distributed an enormous amount of essential medical supplies, but it's not enough. I mean, this is such an overwhelming disaster, it's not enough," said Dr Rik Peeperkorn, the UN World Health Organization (WHO)

representative in Palestine. Speaking in Geneva on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly, the senior WHO official echoed widespread international condemnation of the Israeli airstrike at a camp for displaced people at Tal as-Sultan northwest of Rafah, that left scores dead on Sunday. "WHO actually deplores this attack on displaced people. It demonstrates that there is no safe place in Gaza at all," he told UN News, a media website, as videos from the field hospital treating victims distributed by the UN aid office, OCHA, showed an injured father weeping while describing the moment his children died. "When the strike hit, I was thinking of my children," said Mohammad Al Ghouf. "I promised them to get to the supermarket and do some shopping and to hug them. But, unfortunately, I am here, and they are in a different place." From the same OCHA footage taken on Monday, the medical director of the International Medical Corps (IMC) field hospital described the grim task of preparing lifeless victims for burial. "I saw the dead body of a father who was basically holding his child, perhaps around three years of age. They were burned and charred. We couldn't separate them. So, we had to put both of them together in a body bag. It was very, very hard." Some 75 patients received treatment at the IMC field hospital, it was pointed out. "Out of those 75, 25 were very critical," the IMC official added, fuelling deep concerns that the specialist burns and trauma care and medicines they need are out of reach in Gaza since the Israeli military seized the main aid crossing point at Rafah earlier this month. "You can only do so much in Gaza. And when it comes to really extensive burns, etcetera, there's no place currently in Gaza where that can be treated," Dr. Peeperkorn said. "Since the closing of the Rafah crossing, we only have had three trucks into Rafah. They came through Kerem Shalom and that's the only supply. We fortunately still have some supplies, but they are quickly running out." The perilous lack of lifesaving aid supplies could be reversed if lorries carrying humanitarian aid are allowed back into the enclave in significant numbers, the WHO official insisted. "There are 60 WHO trucks standing in El Arish [in Egypt] ready to get into Gaza. So again, this plea: the Rafah crossing needs to be opened not just for medical supplies, but for all other humanitarian supplies," he said. "We have distributed an enormous amount of essential emergency medical supplies, but it's not enough. This is such an overwhelming disaster. Now, when there would be a sustained ceasefire and there would be entry routes into Gaza which are properly managed, when there is a deconfliction mechanism which actually facilitates and supports, much more is possible." The UN health agency has previously warned that more Gazans will die unless desperately needed medical evacuations for seriously sick or injured people are allowed outside the enclave. Some "10,000-plus" people are believed to require urgent transport outside Gaza for treatment, but since the Rafah closure on May 6, "there's no medical evacuation outside Gaza, and it was already a huge problem before", Dr. Peeperkorn said. According to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, and OCHA, the intensification of hostilities and issuance of evacuation orders have displaced more than 940,000 people from Rafah in the past three weeks, alongside 100,000 who have been displaced in northern Gaza.

Freedom of Speech and Thought: A Historical Perspective

Qamar Bashir

he freedom of speech, expression, thought, and assembly does not have direct references in ancient history, but various rudimentary signs of encoding them exist. In Draco's Code (c. 620 BCE) and Solon's Reforms (c. 594 BCE) in Ancient Greece, there was an emphasis on public debate. The establishment of the Assembly (Ekklesia) allowed for more open political discourse among citizens, particularly in legal and political matters. The Law of the Twelve Tables (c. 449 BCE) in Ancient Rome encoded slander and defamation with penalties for false accusations and insults. Hammurabi's Code (c. 1754 BCE) in Ancient Babylon emphasized retributive justice, where false accusations and bearing false witness were punishable, highlighting the importance of truthfulness and protection of one's repu-

During the medieval period, laws regarding freedom of speech, expression, and assembly were significantly influenced by religious doctrines and sociopolitical structures of the time. The concept of individual rights as understood today was not fully developed, and speech and assembly were often tightly controlled by religious and secular authorities. These were encoded in Canon Law, Islamic Law (Sharia), and Common Law. Amongst the monolithic religions, the injunctions on freedom of speech, thought, expression, and assembly are enunciated in the most comprehensive manner. The Holy Qur'an calls upon humankind and says, "There shall be no compulsion in (acceptance of) the religion." "And speak gently to the People," "Avoid false statements." "O you people of faith, fear from Allah and

always say the right words." "So what would you love after clearing the truth except for error?" "And don't mix the truth with falsehood." "And the word of your Lord has been fulfilled in truth and justice." Invite all the people to your Lord with wisdom and best preaching, and only argue with them most graciously. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "To tell a word of truth to reimposed in various forms in the King-

a tyrant king is the best form of Jihad." In Islam, "Freedom of Speech and Expression" is regulated by Sharia, the Quran, Hadith, and the consensus of Islamic scholars (ijma), where intellectual freedom, particularly in scientific and philosophical debates, is protected

and emphasizes social harmony and the maintenance of public order.

In Hinduism, principles like Satya (truth) and Ahimsa (non-violence) guide honest and open communication, with respect for teachers and elders being paramount. Buddhism promotes right speech (Samma Vacha), advocating for truthful, kind, and beneficial communication, while avoiding negativity and hurtful speech.

In the post-medieval period, the first formal act to control, censor, and abridge freedom of speech, thought, and expression was England's Licensing Act of 1662. This act required all printing presses and publications to obtain a license and controlled what could be printed and distributed, aimed at restricting seditious, treasonous, heretical, and offensive materials. The act authorized the government to search homes and businesses for unlicensed presses and printed materi-

als, imposing heavy penalties on violators, including fines, imprisonment, and confiscation of printing equipment.

This act effectively suppressed dissenting voices, both religious and political, but also fueled the growth of an underground press. The law lapsed in 1695, paving the way for a freer press in England but was

dom's colonies, including

In India, the Censorship of Press Act (1799) required prior government approval for certain publications. Subsequent laws like the Licensing Regulations (1823), Licensing Act (1857), and Registration Act

(1867) required printers and publishers to obtain licenses before operating, giving the government gatekeeping powers. The Vernacular Press Act (1878) and the Press Act (1910) punished publications that printed seditious material critical of the government or content deemed a threat to public order. These laws allowed the government to seize printing presses and publications, arrest and imprison publishers and editors, and impose heavy fines.

The evolution of media laws in Pakistan bears a notable resemblance to the restrictive laws imposed by the British in India and earlier in England. Though Section 19 of the Constitution grants freedom of speech, expression, and freedom of the press, these rights have been largely ignored by successive governments since the inception of Pakistan. Instead, these governments have focused more on the reasonable restrictions imposed by law.

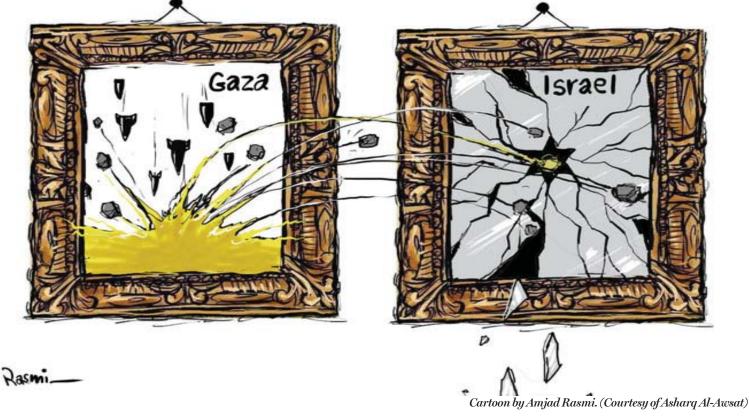
As a result, there are over 52 laws, rules, regulations, and codes of conduct primarily designed to empower the government to discipline the press and media rather than promoting a free, professional, and responsible press. Consequently, Pakistan's media environment mirrors the conditions that existed in England before 1695 and in British India.

The England's Licensing Act of 1662 was copied almost entirely by the "Press and Publications Ordinance of 1963" reflecting the same ethos of control, requiring newspapers to obtain government permission to publish. Subsequent regimes, especially military dictatorships, continued this legacy with stringent laws and censorship practices. General Zia-ul-Haq's era (1977-1988) saw the imposition of martial law regulations that severely restricted media freedom, akin to the oppressive British laws. More recent laws, like the "Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act of 2016," have continued this trend by extending state control into the digital realm, echoing the colonial strategy of stifling dissent and controlling public discourse.

This continuity underscores the enduring impact of colonial legal frameworks on contemporary media governance in Pakistan, highlighting the persistent struggle for genuine freedom of thought, speech, and expression in the country. Despite periods of relative liberalization, the legacy of colonial control mechanisms remains evident in the regulatory environment governing Pakistani media today.

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





AJK, Protest and Rangers - I

civil liberties, the privilege of engaging in peaceful demonstrations emerges as a foundational element. It symbolizes the collective voice of the populace, the pulse of democracy, and the avenue through which societal reform is not only requested but often right to peaceful assembly, as enshrined constitutions of democratic nations. or retaliation. Governments should

This entails refraining from imposing arbitrary restrictions on protest rights, such as overly stringent permit requirements, excessive delineation of protest-free zones, or disproportionate use of force against demonstra-

tors. Instead, governments should facilitate and safeguard peaceful protests, ensuring that protesters can exercise their democratic rights without fear of harassment, intimidation, or violence. Furthermore, governments must exhibit restraint in their response to public demonstrations, avoiding the use of excessive force or violence unless abso-necessitating substantial and sustained lutely necessary and strictly adhering to reform. Governments are called upon the principles of necessity and proportionality. The deployment of tear gas, rubber bullets, batons, or other crowd control measures should be carefully ent and inclusive processes of policy regulated and utilized only to the extent reform, legislative amendment, and required to uphold public order and institutional restructuring to address safeguard lives and property. Any use these grievances. Moreover, governof force must undergo thorough over- ments should perceive public protests

the rights of protesters, including their right to life and physical well-being.

Additionally, governments are tasked with ensuring the safety and protection of protesters, bystanders, and law enforcement personnel alike during public demonstrations. This entails implementing sufficient policing and crowd management strategies, guarrealized. Primarily, governments are anteeing access to emergency medical duty-bound to respect and protect the assistance, and safeguarding vulnerable groups such as journalists, human in various international human rights rights advocates, and minority commuconventions and articulated in the nities from harassment, discrimination,

refrain from arbitrary arrests or detentions of demonstrators and uphold their right to due process and a fair trial in accordance with international human rights norms.

Beyond safeguarding the rights and

Abdul Basit Alvi safety of protesters, governments have a responsibility to address the underlying grievances that often spark public demonstrations. The grievances expressed by protesters, whether arising from social injustice, economic disparity, political oppression, or environmental degradation, are indicative of underlying systemic issues to engage in dialogue with protesters civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, employing transpar-

ithin the fabric of sight, be held accountable, and uphold not as challenges to their authority but as opportunities for democratic revitalization and social discourse. By attentively listening to protesters' concerns, engaging in constructive dialogue, and addressing legitimate grievances, governments can enhance their democratic legitimacy, cultivate trust with citizens, and promote a culture of accountability and transparency. In doing so, they can demonstrate their dedication to upholding democratic values, human rights, and the rule of law, thereby fulfilling their obligation to govern in the best interests of all members of society.

> Nevertheless, along with the exercise of these rights come responsibilities aimed at ensuring the effectiveness and legitimacy of the protest itself and safeguarding broader democratic principles, peace, and human rights. Therefore, protesters shoulder a vital responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with these principles and contribute constructively to the pursuit of their demands. Chief among protesters' responsibilities is a commitment to nonviolence and peaceful methods of expression. While the right to protest is inherent in democratic principles, it is crucial that this right is exercised in a manner that respects the rights and safety of others. Violence, destruction, or intimidation not only undermine the legitimacy of the protest but also detract from the central message and risk escalating tensions with law enforcement or opposing demonstrators. By adhering to nonviolent principles, protesters can amplify their message, garner broader public support, and maintain moral integrity in their quest for change.

To be continued

Collection of skins without registration with PCC should be banned

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

The Punjab Charity Commission (PCC) is a registering and regulatory authority for registering charities and regulating collection of charitable funds.

On the Eve of Eid al-Adha 2024, the Government of Punjab has imposed a ban on the collection, acquisition, purchase, or sale of animal skins from sacrificial animals without the permission of the authorized authority, which is the Depu-

outlawed organizations, institutions, and individuals listed under the Fourth Schedule. To collect or purchase sacrificial skins, one must apply for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) in writing. In Multan, the deadline for submitting the NOC application is June 5, 2024. As per Punjab Government directives, the application must include necessary details such as a copy of the NOC obtained in 2023 for skin collection, a copy of the identity card, and if the skins are being collected by a

madrasa or institution, a certified copy of the renewed registration of that madrasa or institution. Authorized representatives must possess a permission letter from their respective madrasa/institution. Fourth Schedule individuals are not allowed to collect skins of sacrificial animals. Anyone found collecting or purchasing skins without permission will face legal action under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, with various teams assigned to conduct raids and take action in each tehsil. This is a commendable step by the Punjab Government. However, I would like to draw the Punjab Government's attention to the important law.

In 2018, an act was passed by the Punjab Assembly known as the "Charities Act 2018." According to this act, all NGOs, madrasas, and associations collecting charity must register with the Punjab Charity Commission. Those who do not register will not be able to collect charity, donations, or sacrificial skins. The Punjab Charity Commission (PCC) is a regulatory body established to ensure the proper registration of charitable organizations across the province and the proper utilization of

hat is Punjab Charity Commission PCC? funds received as donations and financial aid. The commission was established in 2018, and its objectives are as follows: Restore public trust in donations and financial aid.

Encourage non-profit organizations to build a sustainable,

strong, autonomous, and modern charitable sector. Reduce unnecessary and traditional administrative burdens on welfare organizations through information technology within the legal framework.

Facilitate the development and promotion of legally complity Commissioners. This ban also applies to prohibited and ant welfare organizations and institutions.

All institutions registered under Section 2(e) must re-register with the Punjab Charity Commission, whether they are non-profit organizations, non-governmental organizations, trusts, or institutions already registered under the following laws: Volunteer Social Welfare Agency (Registra-

tion and Control) Ordinance No. 46 of 1961. Societies Registration Act No. 21 of 1860. Companies Act 2017, Law No. 20. Any governmental or non-governmental

institution, organization, or individual collecting donations and charity for public welfare must re-register with the Punjab Charity Board, regardless of previous registrations under formal or periodically enacted laws.

Currently, many madrasas and NGOs collecting sacrificial skins in Punjab are not registered with the Punjab Charity Board. The registration of any organization, NGO, or madrasa can be verified through WhatsApp at this number: 03134995564. Remember, institutions not registered under the Charities Act 2018 are not permitted to operate (collect charity, donations, or skins). The registration of such institutions with the Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal or the Industry Department will also be considered revoked.

Through this column, we would like to draw the Chief Secretary Punjab's attention to ensure that the Deputy Commissioners of all districts in Punjab implement the provisions of the Punjab Charity Act 2018. Madrasas, associations, and NGOs not registered with the Charity Commission Board should be prevented from collecting sacrificial skins.

EMBASSY OF

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Media briefing

Situation is under control in Bishkek: Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic claims

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic for Pakistan H. E. Mr. Ulanbek Totuiaev briefed the media in Islamabad regarding the Bishkek events in which Pakistani students sustained injuries and hundreds of students flew back to Pakistan after hostile locals attacked students pursuing education.

He said On the evening of May 13, a fight broke out between local and foreign citizens in one of the hostels in the eastern part of Bishkek. Then the police opened a criminal case under the article "Hooliganism" of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic and all participants in the brawl were taken to the police department.

He said On May 17, a video of the fight and injured Kyrgyz citizens was published on one of the social media pages, as a result of which on the night of May 18 in Bishkek a crowd of people gathered demanding that the foreigners be brought to justice.

From the moment information about the incident was received, law enforcement agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic took prompt measures to detain persons involved in the event, both foreign citizens (four Egyptian citizens) and around 10 citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Chief and 9 officers of the Internal Affairs Directorate of the Sverdlovsk region were removed from their positions after riots on the night of May 18.

The situation was completely under the control of law enforcement agencies. The safety of citizens and public order were ensured.

There are no seriously injured people among the participants of the incident.

At the same time, the Embassy urges representatives of the mass media not to disseminate unreliable and unverified information.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic informs that destructive forces in foreign mass media, social networks, especially in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan deliberately spread totally false information about the situation to the Kyrgyz side for the assisin the Kyrgyz Republic that does not correspond to reality

present the situation in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, is absolutely calm and fully under control. All necessary measures have been taken to ensure security and maintain peace and stability.

In this regard, the Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic asks representatives of the media, the blogging community and foreign colleagues to be guided only by official and verified information from the competent authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Ambassador informed that On May 18, 2024, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Almaz Imangaziev met with the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Ali Zaigam at the Ministry.

During the meeting, the Pakistani side was informed about the incident involving foreign citizens and the measures taken by the law enforcement authorities of Kyrgyz Republic to suppress illegal actions and ensure public order. The Kyrgyz side also asked the Pakistani side to conduct explanatory work among representatives of the Pakistani mass media on the non-dissemination of inaccurate information on the At the same time, the Depu-

ty Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic assured the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that the situation was under the control of the competent authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Mr. Ulanbek On May 19, 2024, a meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic between the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Avazbek Atakhanov and the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Kyrgyz Republic Hassan Ali

During the discussion, Ambassador of Pakistan Hassan Ali Zaigham expressed gratitude tance provided in obtaining the the Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations. information about the incident The Ministry states that at on May 18, 2024, in Bishkek with the participation of foreign students, including citizens of Pakistan.

Deputy Minister A. Atakhanov noted that this incident has been resolved and the situation is under the full control of the law enforcement agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic, and an investigation is underway against all those involved. At the same time, the parties

agreed to organize a meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Zheenbek Kulubaev, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, within the frame-

Council, which will be held on May 21, 2024 in Astana.

On May 19, 2024, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Zheenbek Kulubaev had a telephone conversation with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the conversation, the parties noted their readiness for close cooperation and the strengthening of the Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations in various fields, which traditionally have a friendly nature and are steadily developing at the bilateral level, as well as within international and regional organizations, primarily the UN, SCO, OIC, and others.

Minister Zheenbek Kulubaev informed about the incident on May 18 of this year in Bishkek involving foreign students, including Pakistani citizens, and emphasized that public order is currently fully ensured and the situation is under the control of the competent authorities of the Kyrgyz Řepublic.

Minister Zheenbek Kulubaev emphasized the importance of using reliable information and conducting appropriate work to suppress false information and publications in Pakistan's infor-Deputy Prime Minister.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Dar expressed complete understanding of the situation and also gratitude for the effective measures taken by the Cabinet of Ministers of Kyrgyzstan to ensure public order and the safety of Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan. He also noted readiness for active cooperation on this issue.

To further exchange data and discuss the development of the Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations, the parties agreed to hold a bilateral meeting on May 21, 2024, in Astana within the framework of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, as well as to organize inter-ministerial consultations on

Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan in Bishkek in the near future.

He said On May 20, 2024, in Astana, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Zheenbek Kulubaev had a bilateral meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

ic diplomacy, and cultural and humanitarian ties between the exchange of high-level visits.

The parties noted the important role of the Intergovernmental Kyrgyz-Pakistani Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, and mation space, which could harm the cooperation between the two countries within the CASA-1000 sub-regional energy project.

In the end of the meeting the future.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic informs that following the regular meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Astana, end route to Islamabad, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

Both parties agreed that the

peoples of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan are close brotherly nations and will work together to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two coun-

The parties discussed issues related to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan in such fields as trade and investment, textile, tourism and education, healthcare, and other areas, paying a particular emphasis on the enhancement of economtwo countries, as well as on the

parties agreed to focus efforts on increasing the dynamics of mutual visits and strengthening cooperation between the business communities of the two countries. Besides, they decided to hold consultations between the foreign ministries of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan on political, consular and legal issues in the near He said On May 21, 2024 the

of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Dar made a brief stopover in Bishkek.

In Bishkek, Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar intends to visit Pakistani citizens receiving relevant treatment in medical institutions of the Kyrgyz Republic. Besides, there were working meetings of the representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Edil Baisalov met with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Ishaq Dar, who arrived in Bishkek on a short visit. They jointly visited a Pakistani

citizen undergoing treatment at the National Hospital. During the conversation, the

parties expressed satisfaction that, thanks to the established direct and constant intergovernmental contact, recent events could not damage the traditionally friendly Kyrgyz-Pakistani

of Ministers Mr. Edil Baisalov assured the senior representa-

tive of Pakistan of a friendly and benevolent attitude towards foreign students in Kyrgyzstan and that all those responsible for the recent incident will be brought to justice. The interlocutors exchanged

views and outlined a number of joint steps to strengthen cooperation in the cultural, humanitarian, trade and economic entlevels, and are actively coopspheres. The parties also found erating within the framework of mutual understanding on the various regional and internationof the Kyrgyz Republic with him. need for interstate regulation of al organizations. On May 21, 2024 Depulabor migration issues. On May Chairman of the Cabinet of 20, 2024 President of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sadyr Japarov made developed regions for the future an appeal on the incident that occurred on May 18 in Bishkek. Mr. Sadyr Japarov noted that

> he gave the law enforcement agencies an order to take control of the situation, continuously conduct explanatory work with young people and try to stabilize the situation without clashes. We were able to stop the riots in time. Now all those responsible will receive their well-deserved

Ambassador said Kyrgyz strengthening ties with brotherly people of Pakistan, taking into Deputy Head of the Cabinet account deep common history, single religion and numerous

The bilateral relations between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan are described as friendly, also have a rich history and many things in common from the perspective of religion, culture, language and

For the last years our countries have organized a significant number of visits on differ-

He is confident that joint forts can build prosperous and of our nations.

I want to tell you don't be afraid to visit Kyrgyzstan, the situation in Bishkek is calm. The recent incident in Bishkek on May 18th should not deter you from visiting Kyrgyzstan. It was an isolated incident that does not reflect the overall safety of the country or the warm hospitality of the Kyrgyz people. In the last he said Kyrgyz

people are known for their hospitality: Kyrgyzstan has a rich people are looking forward to cultural tradition of welcoming guests. You will be greeted with warmth and kindness by the locals, who will go out of their way to make you feel at home.

跨 Photo by Ramzan Mughal

Pakistan-China Friendship Association celebrates 73rd anniversary of diplomatic relations

Maveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: In a testament to their enduring friendship, Pakistan and China celebrated the 73rd anniversary of their diplomatic relations this morning at KP House, Islamabad. The event, organized by the Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PCFA KP), underscored the deep-rooted ties and mutual cooperation between the two nations.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Secretary-General of the PCFA KP, opened the ceremony by emphasizing the importance of understanding the dynamics of Chinese socio-economic development. "As close friends, it is crucial for us to grasp the intricacies of China's growth trajectory to foster deeper cooperation and mutual benefit," he remarked.

Mr. Arshad Ayub Khan, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Department, highlighted the significance of this historic friendship in his address. He emphasized the need to further enhance people-to-people relationships, drawing lessons from China's successful implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). stated Mr. Arshad Ayub Khan.



ed friends, and our friendship has stood the test of time. We must continue to strengthen our bonds by increasing cultural, trade, and business exchanges. The CPEC is a game-changer for Pakistan's economy, and with enhanced cooperation, we will see significant development across various sectors,"

the PCFA KP and encouraged more initiatives that foster cultural understanding and economic collaboration. He specifically urged for the learning of the Chinese language and deeper engagement with Chinese experts to benefit from their experience

Mr. Zhang Heqing, Chinese

at the event, appreciating the role of PCFA KP in promoting bilateral relations. He highlighted the historical linkages between China and Pakistan and the cultural and economic benefits of their partnership. Mr. Zhang Heqing mentioned the successful implementation of CPEC and the ambitious plans under-



aimed at constructing highways and motorways to boost Pakistan's prosperity and development.

Mr. Yousaf Ayub Khan, President of PCFA KP, welcomed the distinguished guests and reflected on the successful history of Pakistan-China relations. He noted that the 73rd anniversary is a testament to the enduring success The event saw participation

from notable dignitaries, including Mr. Wang Heihua, President of the All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association, Mr. Mr. Shakeel Khan, Director of PESCO. Members of the Chinese Media Group and other PCFA KP

members were also in attendance. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani provided a brief overview of the association's contributions and future plans.

The celebration of the 73rd anniversary of Pakistan-Chi-Saleem Khan, Secretary of the na diplomatic relations not only Local Government Board, and commemorates a rich past but also heralds a promising future of continued cooperation and mutual growth.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

00-Share Index Prev. Close
Drov Close
PIEV. GIUSE
75,517.48
Day's Low
74,760.10
Change
-681.18
Time
29 May, 2024 5:00 pm
SE 100 Index
Change
-71.11
Time
29 May, 4:35 pm GMT
Industrial Average
Change
-350.52
Time
29 May, 1:29 pm GMT-4
ei Stocks Average
Change

Open Market Forex Rates

-298.50

Time

29 May, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

38.556.87

Percentage

-0.77%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	184.8
Bahrain Dinar	739.5	747.5
Canadian Dollar	203	205
China Yuan	38.42	38.82
Danish Krone	40.44	40.84
Euro	298	301
Hong Kong Dollar	35.6	35.95
Indian Rupee	3.35	3.46
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.99
Kuwaiti Dinar	904.07	913.07
Malaysian Ringgit	59.05	59.65
NewZealand \$	171.14	173.14
Norwegians Krone	26.28	26.58
Omani Riyal	722.39	730.39
Qatari Riyal	76.44	77.14
Saudi Riyal	73.5	74.25
Singapore Dollar	203	205
Swedish Korona	26.08	26.38
Swiss Franc	305.32	307.82
Thai Bhat	7.6	7.75
U.A.E Dirham	75.3	76
UK Pound Sterling	349.5	353
US Dollar	277.25	280

Workshop on AI'held at Ministry of IT



ISLAMABAD: A Workshop on Artificial Intelheld at Ministry of IT and Tele-

communication on Wednesday.

The Workshop organised by Microsoft was aimed at to create awareness regarding AI use in day to day affairs and shed light on AI role in government affairs.

Secretary IT Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood, Additional Secretary Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam, Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim, heads of attached departments of MoITT and officers attended the workshop.

Country Education Lead at Microsoft Pakistan, Jibran Jamshed, gave detailed presentation on uses of AI and challenges connected to it in future.

The workshop focused on responsible use of AI, AI skills and AI solutions.

Speakers stress need for removing bottlenecks in promotion of oil, gas sectors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a conference while highlighting importance of deregulation of the petroleum sector, on Wednesday stressed the need for removing bottlenecks in promotion of oil and gas sectors in the country.

They were of the views that all stakeholders, government and regulators should set together and devise a concrete strategy in larger national interest to counter various mafias creating hurdles in promotion of this important sector

The Oil and Gas Conference Pakistan (OGCP-2024), organized by Energy Update in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). Speaking on the occasion, Oil and Gas Regu-

latory Authority (OGRA) Chairman Masroor Khan said that OGRA was providing facilities to the industry through OGRA regulatory framework. The OGRA was also assisting the industry to cope with the emerging challenges, he said. He said there were 180 terminals in the coun-

try and stock for 20 days was available. There were also 3000 illegal petrol stations for which necessary steps were need to eliminate such petrol pumps.

Speaking on the occasion, former prime



minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that there the grave energy crisis, timely decisions were was a huge potential in the energy sector of the country. Due to running out of gas, the use of LPG was increasing which needed serious

efforts to solve the problems at priority basis. He went on to say that despite awareness of stressed the need for removing bureaucratic the speakers and sponsors.

not taken to address it. "Everyone knows the problems being confronted the energy sector, now it is the time for taking decisions, "he said.

Chairman Associated Group Iqbal Z Ahmed

hurdles to bring improvement in the energy sector. He also called for innovative decision to flourish the energy sector in the country.

He also stressed the need for promotion of local production of LPG rather than focusing on importing it.

MD Attock Refinery Limited Adil Khattak said urged for taking strict measures to control smuggling of oil as it caused huge loss to the national exchequer. He said although some measures were taken to curtail the smuggling of oil but more efforts should be made in this

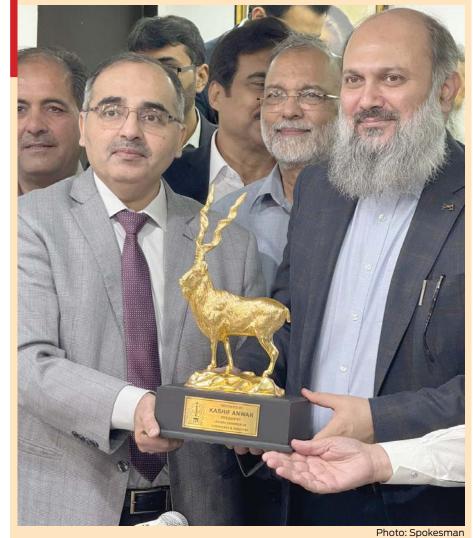
Chairman of the Organizing Committee Muhammad Naeem Qureshi in his welcome address said that the conference was aimed at showcasing Pakistan's potential in the energy sector, focusing on advancements in domestic production, exploration, and sustainable practices.

Other speakers including Senior ED OGDCL Shahzad Safdar, Ali Talha Tamimi, Andrzej M Kaczorowski, Arshad Hussain Partner at Energy Resource Management Barrister Sarah Kazmi, Halima Khan, Sarmad Hassan Shareef, PEPL; Razi Uddin Razi; Shahid Karim, Firsat Shah, Dr. Saeed Jadoon and others also spoke on the occasion.

Later mementoes were distributed among

Souvenir

LAHORE: President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Kashif Anwar Presenting souvenir to Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on his visit to LCCI.



Growatt hosts Pioneering Seminar on Smart Energy Solutions in Peshawar

LAHORE: Growatt, a global leader in advanced solar energy solutions, recently held a highly successful seminar in Peshawar, focusing on the promotion and adoption of renewable energy practices. This landmark event, a significant milestone for the solar energy sector in the region, drew an impressive array of attendees, including high-ranking government officials and influential figures from the private energy sector.

The seminar underscored unwavering commitment to sustainable energy practices in Pakistan. Renowned for their excepadvanced technology and outages. efficiency, making them the preferred choice for both residential and commercial applications.

Mian Fahad, the Country Head of Growatt - Pakistan, delivered an insightful presentation on the critical importance of renewa-



future. He highlighted Growatt's impressive track record, detailing the company's innovative products and ambitious goals for the future.

Hybrid Inverters: These seamlessly integrate solar widely recognized for their solution even during power

Max Series Inverters: Designed for large-scale solar installations, these inverters offer high effi-During the seminar, Mr. ciency and robust performance, making them ideal for industrial use

Battery-Ready Solutions: Allow for easy upgrades to existing solar systems, development goals.

and longevity.

The seminar not only reinforced Growatt's leadership in the renewable energy market but also highlighted the growing importance of sustainable energy solutions in Pakistan's energy tional quality and reliabil- power with battery storage, landscape. The event was a ity, Growatt's inverters are providing a reliable energy resounding success, reflecting the strong interest and commitment of both the public and private sectors towards a greener future.

> Growatt's continued efforts and innovative products are set to play a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's renewable energy sector, contributing significantly to the country's sustainable

Launch of Signature Rotana Islamabad: A new era in Juxury hospitality

ISLAMABAD: Rotana, a name synonymous with luxury and refinement, globally renowned brand, has officially made its grand entrance into Pakistan with the launch of Signature Rotana Islamabad. This landmark event took place at the project's site in TopCity 01, drawing a large gathering from the business community, tourism industry, and media.

With a distinguished portfolio of over 100 properties across the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Türkiye, Rotana has cemented its status as a global leader in the hospi-



legacy and a presence in over 20 counpremier 5-star hotel brand. tries & 36 cities Rotana extends its exceptional service standards to Paki- commented "We are excited to launch

tality industry. Now, with a 30-year stan, in partnership with the country's

Philip Barnes, CEO of Rotana,

Signature Rotana, our first proper- luxury and exceptional service standty in Pakistan, in partnership with Signature Complex LLP. This dynamic market is a key part of our global expansion plans, which include opening 30 new properties by 2026. We believe Signature Rotana Islamabad will attract both leisure and business travelers eager to experience Pakistan's rich culture and natural beauty."

Statement by Shaheer Ahmed on the Launch of Signature Rotana Islamabad"The launch of Signature Rotana Islamabad marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's hospitality industry. This partnership with Rotana, a global leader known for its ards, is set to make a profound impact on our market. We are committed to not only elevating hospitality standards in Pakistan but also to creating numerous business opportunities. This project will undoubtedly boost our economy by attracting international tourists and investors, and generating employment, thereby contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of the nation."

As Signature Rotana Islamabad opens its doors, it sets a new benchmark in luxury and service excellence, enhancing Pakistan's appeal as a top international destination.

Malaysia-Pakistan possess potential of \$12b bilateral trade: High Commissioner

₿ PPA

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian High Commissioner Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan has said that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy the potential of \$12 billion bilateral trade for which both have to work hard and pool efforts. He said that the current trade volume between Pakistan and Malaysia is \$1.8 billion, which is less than the mutual trade potential and that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry can play a significant role in its

advancement. The High Commissioner Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan said this while addressing a meeting of Business commuZafar Bakhtawri and Zubair

Azhar Bin Mazlan said that there are many opportunities for development in the halal industry in Malaysia and Pakistan, in which the private sector of both the countries should play their full role by taking tangible steps and that his country is ready for full cooperation with Pakistan to become a regional hub of halal

The Ambassador said that Pakistan and Malaysia are strategic partners and this partnership is very important in the development and economic prosperity of both the countries.

He further said that Malaysia nity in Islamabad Chamber of always welcomes foreign labor Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the laborers who have come

along with Senior Businessmen legally from Pakistan are playing their full role in the economy of Malaysia whose number is 200,000 and they have ample opportunities there.

> The Malaysian ambassador said that Malaysia has been working in the telecom sector in Pakistan for a long time and Malaysian companies are investing here.

> He said that Pakistan is a potential market of 240 million which can become a major economic and trading power along with ASEAN countries.

He said that Malaysia can give Pakistan rich trade opportunities in ASEAN countries so that the Pakistani economy can move

Senior businessman and former President FPCCI Zubair

Ahmed Malik highlighted the historical economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Malaysia by underscoring the need for frequent exchange of think tanks of both the countries for further the existing relation-

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that hearts of Pakistani and Malaysian people beat together. Highlighting the significance of ASEAN States he underlined the need for grant of the status of a full dialogue partner to Pakistan, asserting that direct air links between Pakistan and the ASEAN States will making a big difference in strengthen mutual trade ties. He also floated the idea of Pakistan-ASEAN Trade Conference for the benefit

of all the stakeholders. Highlighting the cordial relationship between the two countries he said that Pakistan and Malaysia are the two Muslim states, who signed the first ever Free Trade Agreement.

Vice President Islamabad

Chamber of Commerce and for consolidating of existing ties Industry, Engr. Azher ul Islam between the two brotherly states. Zafar said that we look forward to a future of closer collaboration for the shared prosperity and devel-

opment of both nations. Khan also put forward ideas on the occasion.

Ch. Magsood Tabish, Dr. Usman, Malik Naeem Awan, Khalid Ch. Imtiaz Abbasi, Waseem Ch. Sajid Iqbal, Ch. Executive member Ahmed Nawaz Basra were also present

Govt wants to help youth through Ehsaas Young Employment Schemes: Fakhr Jahan

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhr Jahan Wednesday said that the government was launching a major provincial flagship project 'Ehsaas Young Employment Scheme' to help the youth in the province stand on their own feet and start their own jobs. Under this, interest-free loans will be provided to youth across the province to establish their own business in every sector, he said and added that under this scheme, interest-free loans of one million

to Rs. 100 million would be provided to youths belonging to the province in the form of clusters, which would be given under designated branches of Bank of

He was chairing a meeting in this regard which was attended by Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Matiullah, Director Youth Affairs Dr. Noman Mujahid, Bank of Khyber. Head Microfinance Asad Kaka Khel and other concerned officials. In the meeting, a detailed briefing was given to the Adviser regarding the project. He was informed about the importance and usefulness of the project.



The total cost is 05 billion rupees and the scheme will allocate a 5 percent specific quota for minorities, special persons and young people studying in madrasas. The Advisor said that this scheme of the

province would consist of interest-free loans through which they could run their current businesses. The Youth would be able to develop or start a new business for themselves, he said and added that the aim of this scheme was to equip the youth with dignified employment according to the vision of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan of Gandapur. It will be an important step in the direction of standing the province on its own feet. He said that it was the provincial government's commitment to provide decent employment opportunities to the youth because this youth is our future.

'IPL form is irrelevant': Usman Khawaja on Glenn Maxwell's recent struggles

Sports Desk

Australian Test cricketer Usman Khawaja has extended his support for teammate Glenn Maxwell, expressing optimism that the all-rounder will showcase his top form in the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, despite his recent performance in the IPL.

Maxwell represented Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the recently concluded IPL, where he managed a meagre 52 runs in nine innings.

However, Khawaja backed Maxwell, calling IPL form 'irrelevant.' He expressed hope that the all-rounder will bounce back during the mega-event.

himself time and time again. Any player who's performed over a long period of time Khawaja expressed confiunderstands that you can't dence that Glenn Maxwell perform well every time you only requires one innings to go out there," Khawaja said regain his form. while speaking to the West

The experienced opener the middle order, and T20 World Cup 2024 warm-



acknowledged the high-risk often need to maintain higher

"You take a few risks,

cricket's not easy. But [for "The IPL form is absolute-nature of T20 cricket, where this tournament] if he gets ly irrelevant. Maxy's proven the middle-order batters one good innings, he's away. It doesn't matter what's strike rates. However, Usman happened in the past. He's not going to change his game and nor should he. Just keep going. He'll find it," Khawa-

particularly if you bat in pate in Australia's first T20

up fixture against Namibia yesterday, along with Travis Head, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Cameron Green, and Marcus Stoinis. These players were participating in IPL and expected to link up with the team soon.

Australia will face co-hosts Maxwell did not partici- West Indies in their final warm-up match on Thursday at the same venue.

T20 World Cup warm-up: Australia forced to field coach, selector against Namibia

A Sports

PORT OF SPAIN: Australia were forced to field coaches and national selector during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 warmup fixture against Namibia at Queen's Park Oval Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

Australia's head coach Andrew McDonald, assistant coaches Brad Hodge and Andre Borovec, as well as chairman of selectors George Bailey, featured in the match as substitutes due to a shortage of players.

There were only nine players available for Australia, as Travis Head, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Glenn Maxwell, Cameron Green, and Marcus Stoinis had yet to link up with the team after the conclusion of the

The former T20 World champions invited Namibia to bat first and restricted them to 119-9 in 20 overs, courtesy of brilliant bowling performance by Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa.

Hazlewood picked two wickets for five runs, while Zampa returned with figures

Zane Green was the notable contributor for Namibia with a 30-ball 38, which featured five boundaries.

Australia chased down the total in a dominant fashion in only 10 overs, thanks to David Warner's aggressive strokeplay. He smashed three sixes and six boundaries on his way to a 21-ball 54.

Tim David scored 23 runs from 16 balls, hile Matthew Wade scored an unbeaten 12 off five balls.

For Namibia, Bernard Scholtz picked two

Australia will next face co-hosts West Indies in their final warm-up match on Thursday at the same venue.

England Women win toss, elect to bat against Pakistan in third ODI

👺 A Sports

CHELMSFORD: England women have won the toss and elected to bat first against

match series here Ground on Wednes-PLAY-

ING XIs

England: Tammy Beaumont, Maia Bouchier, Heather Knight (c), Nat Sciver-Brunt, Danni Wyatt, Amy Jones (wk), Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Sophie Ecclestone, Kate Cross, Lauren Bell

Pakistan: Sadaf Shamas, Sidra Amin, Muneeba Ali, Ayesha Zafar, Nida Dar (c), Aliva Riaz, Fatima Sana, Najiha Alvi (wk) Umm-e-Hani, Diana Baig, Nashra Sandhu

Pakistan clinch Sarsabz Volleyball Series

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan team secured a dominating 3-0 victory over Australia, in the second game of the three-match Sarsabz $\,$ Volleyball Series 2024 here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Demonstrating exceptional skill and determination, the Pakistan team outplayed Australia by 3-0 with set points of 26-24,

This impressive win marks Pakistan's second consecutive victory in the series, ensuring they clinch the series win with a match still to be played. This achievement was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Pakistan volleyball team and the unwavering support from the Pakistan Volleyball Federation.

The match began with a nail-biting first set, where both teams displayed remarkable prowess. Pakistan managed to edge out Australia with a close score of 26-24, setting the tone for the

Building on their momentum in the second set, Pakistan dominated the second set with a score of 25-19. Their strategic plays and cohesive teamwork left Australia struggling to keep up. The final set was a testament to Pakistan's resilience and skill.

Despite a strong challenge from the Australian team, Pakistan secured the win with a score of 25-23, sealing their victory in the match and the series.

Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation, Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, expressed his pride in the team's performance, saying, "This series win is a significant milestone for Pakistan volleyball. The team's hard work and dedication have paid off, and we are thrilled to see them perform at such a high level. We encourage all fans to come out and support the team in the

The third and final match of the series was scheduled for May 30, 2024, at 6:30pm. The Pakistan Volleyball Federation extends its gratitude to all the supporters and sponsors who have made this series possible. The support from the fans has been instrumental in motivating the team to achieve this remarkable feat.

Islamabad, WAPDA, PAF victorious in Memorial Basketball tournament

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Pakistan Air Force (PAF) earned victories in the second round of All-Pakistan Muhammad Majid and Abdul Nasir Memorial Basketball tournament at Siddique Memon Sports Complex, Karachi.

Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA) President Muhammad Yaqoob was the chief guest on the second day of the tournament, said a press release issued here.

Islamabad outclassed the strong Police team by 87 points against 62 points in the second round of the tournament. Some brilliant game was witnessed during the match as Gibran Asif scored 26, Ali Kazmi scored 15 and, Momin Javed scored 14 points played a vital role in the Islamabad team victory, while Ali Raza scored 34 points for the police side.

In the second match, WAPDA defeated Balochistan in a one-sided match with the difference of 69 points with the help of 22 points of Zainul Hasan and 20 points of Aalee Jah. The match concluded with 108-39 points. In the earlier matches, Police beat Sindh Yellow by 62-32

points while Punjab Rangers beat Balochistan by 74-40 points. Late Muhammad Majid and late Abdul Nasir represented Pakistan as well as in national events for a long time and the purpose to organise the memorial tournament for the recognition of their great love and services to the game of basketball.

Punjab, KP qualified for semis in PM Youth Talent Hunt Handball League

Sports Desk PESHAWAR:

Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa qualified for the semi-finals of the Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt National Handball League being played here at the University of Peshawar premises on Wednesday. Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa teams



have qualified for the semi-finals of the Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt National Handball League being played under the auspices of the Directorate of Sports University of Peshawar.

In the League round matches Punjab Green defeated Balochistan Green by 33-17 and Sindh recorded a victory against the Federal Islamabad team by 11-8 while KP Green scored 37 against Sindh Green by 12 and won the match and Punjab Green scored 45 against Federal Green 8, KP White scored 20 against Sindh White 14. Punjab White defeated KP White by 37-12, while the match between the teams of Balochistan White and Federal White was equal by 18-18. On this occasion, the President of the Provincial Handball Association and Director of Sports Peshawar University Bahre Karam, Additional Registrar Dr Noorzada, Abdul Rasheed Anwar, Ahsan Khan, Sajjad Khan, officials of Pakistan Handball Federation and representatives of the Higher Education Commission were also present.

Hansi Flick replaces Xavi as Barcelona coach

Sports Desk

Barcelona appointed Hansi Flick as coach on Wednesday on a deal until June 30, 2026, after sacking Xavi Hernandez last week.

"FC Barcelona and Hansi Flick have reached an agreement for the German to become men's first team football coach until 30 June 2026," said the club in a statement.

"The new coach has signed a contract at the Club's offices accompanied by FC Barcelona president Joan Laporta."

Flick, who led German giants Bayern Munich to a historic sextuple in 2020, became the first coach ever to be sacked by the German national team in September 2023 after a string of bad results.

The 59-year-old occasional- great last week. ly watched Barcelona matches this season from the presidential box and was linked with the job after Xavi said in January he would depart at the end of the campaign. Barcelona and Xavi decided jointly

he would stay for next season after all mind and sacked the former midfield of the club or not."



"It won't be easy at all — they will suffer and they will need patience because it's a really difficult job," Xavi warned his successor last week after winning his final match in charge against Sevilla in La Liga.

"The only thing that can save them is in April but then Laporta changed his winning, whether they have been part

Barcelona finished second in La Liga this season and were knocked out of the Champions League in the quarter-finals by Paris Saint-Germain.

Spanish media said Laporta was enraged by Xavi's comments earlier in May when he highlighted the economic difficulties Barca had when competing against Spanish champions Real Madrid and other European elite.

Pakistan players on rise in ICC T20I rankings ahead of the T20 World Cup

A Sports

DUBAI: Pakistan players made significant gains in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) T20I rankings ahead of the upcoming Men's T20 World

Cup 2024. a four-match T20I series against defending T20 World champions England, during which their players' performances resulted in

gaining valuable rating points. Fakhar Zaman played a 45-run knock from 21 balls during the second T20I of the series, which helped him jump six places up

to reach 51st in the ICC T20I batting rankings.

Meanwhile, Shaheen Afridi, who returned with figures of 3-36 in the second T20I, rose up three spots to equal 11th with Austral-

ia's Adam Zampa. Haris Rauf also gained two Pakistan are currently playing places to 25th after picking two wickets in the above-mentioned game. Notably, this was his comeback game after missing out New Zealand and Ireland series due to a shoulder injury.

Star all-rounder Imad Wasim also took two wickets, which propelled him to jump 14 places to reach 38th in the bowling

Wasim followed his bowling performance with a 13-ball 22, gaining four places to joint-12th with teammate Shadab Khan.

England's captain Jos Buttler won the Man of the Match award for his brilliant innings of 84 of 51 against Pakistan, which helped him jump one place to seventh in

the T20I batting rankings. Meanwhile, his teammate Reece Topley reached the ninth spot after gaining one place in the bowling rankings, courtesy of his

figures of 3-41. West Indies recently whitewashed South Africa 3-0, which

resulted in their players also making substantial gains in the rankings

Stand-in captain Brandon King made an impressive climb of five spots to secure the eighth position in the T20I batting

Johnson Charles also saw a significant rise, moving up 17 places to claim the 20th spot, while Kyle Mayers jumped 12 spots to secure the 31st position.

Gudakesh Motie secured eight wickets against South Africa, earning him the prestigious Player of the Series award. Consequently, he experienced a remark-



able ascent in the T20I bowl- ers' rankings, progressing from outside the top 100 to 27th spot.

The Spokesman

Meeting ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain in a meeting with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin on Wednesday.

IMF wants Pakistan to impose tax on stationery items

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recommended the Pakistani government impose a tax on stationery items including books, pens, etc, citing sources

Sources in the finance department told ARY News that the lender has asked the government end tax exemptions on books, pen, paper, sticky note paper, card board and other stationery items.

Sources say that the FBR authorities will brief the prime minister tomorrow on the FY budget 2024-24.

According to budget proposals for the FY2024-25, program from the IMF. Pakistan is likely to end exemp-

tion on sales and income tax, phase-wise.

The government is also considering imposing a sales tax on tractors and pesticides, potentially leading to price hikes for these essential agricultural products.

Currently, under the Sixth Schedule of the Sales Tax Act, pesticides and their active ingredients registered by the Department of Plant Protection are exempt from sales tax. Earlier on Monday, IMF

released an official statement following discussions formally requested a new loan



Porter, visited Pakistan and held extensive negotiations from May 13 to May 23 to discuss the country's economic improvements.

The statement highlights that the Pakistani government is making serious efforts to with Pakistan. The statement increase revenue and emphaconfirmed that Islamabad has sizes the need for fair tax collection from privileged sectors.

The International Monetary The IMF delegation, led Fund (IMF) mission assured program.

by Mission Chief Nathan Pakistan of its commitment to working together for sustainable economic growth. The statement noted that Pakistan's economy would stabilize with the support of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF)

> Pakistan has successfully met the targets set under the Standby Arrangement Agreement, which will support the forthcoming new loan

The statement underscores the necessity of expanding the tax net to ensure economic growth and stability. The IMF calls for appropriate policy and exchange rate measures to control inflation and stresses the critical need for energy sector reforms in Pakistan.

Reducing the cost of energy production is essential, and a stringent monetary policy is required until inflation is under control, the statement

The IMF also highlighted the need to improve the performance of state-owned enterprises and indicated that privatization of these corporations is essential for better

Aleem Khan meets Prime Minister of Tajikistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for and said that the two countor" through satellite tech-Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday met with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda in Dushanbe.

He discussed with him matters relating to further strengthen and enhance bilateral relations, besides discussing other important matters of mutual benefit, said a press

Who is visiting Tajikistan While welcoming Federal Minister the Prime Minister of Tajikistan reiterated that the doors of Tajikistan will always be open for bilateral cooperation for Pakistan. Abdul

Illicit cigarettes

Jhelum Zone

跨 City Desk

worth around Rs

202m destroyed in

ISLAMABAD: The Jhelum Zone of Region-

destroyed a massive quantity of illicit, smug-

gled and counterfeit cigarettes worth Rs 202

million, including Rs 147.15 million in evad-

A ceremony for destruction of massive

cigarettes was held by the Jhelum Zone of

The ceremony was organized for the

gled cigarettes at Chak Barahm, Jhelum.

Rs. 147.15 million.

tion under the law.

The total value of destroyed illicit ciga-

destruction of about 2700 packets of illicit

cigarettes including non-duty paid and smug-

rettes approximated about Rs. 202 million on

which the total value of duty evaded comes at

Tehmina Aamer graced the occasion as Chief

Commissioner Jhelum Zone Walayat Khan

The participants were briefed about the

whole process of confiscation of illicit tobacco

and tobacco products till its ultimate destruc-

All the distinguished guests together

torched and destroyed the illicit cigarettes.

and officers and staff of Jhelum Zone.

Chief Commissioner, RTO, Rawalpindi Ms

Regional Tax Office, Rawalpindi, said a news

quantity of illicit/smuggled/counterfeit

al Tax Office, Rawalpindi on Wednesday

religious and cultural ties and in future this relationship can be further strengthened by the promotion of trade activities.

Earlier, while addressing International Conference at said that Pakistan is ready to cooperate in all kinds of economic and business activities in the region for which practical work is being done to bring trade corridors to global standards and connect them with other countries.

working on digitizing the "Silk the countries of Central Asia

Aleem Khan thanked the while also ensuring the imple-Prime Minister of Tajikistan mentation of "Right to Monitries are historically bound in nology on the roads under construction.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said in his address that today is the era of import and export, international trade is the guarantee of development for Dushanbe Abdul Aleem Khan which standard and spacious roads will be constructed while for the countries of Central Asia, like Karachi and Port Qasim, Gwadar Port would also be available

The minister while offering all kinds of support from Pakistan to the Central Asian States He added that Pakistan is said that through this international conference, new ways of Route Corridor" especially for development and prosperity will be opened between differ-

ent countries.

Abdul Aleem Khan held separate meetings with the Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in addition to Tajikistan in Dushanbe, in which it was agreed to promote Business-to-Business and Government-to-Government activities between Pakistan and Central Asian countries..

Similarly, the construction of trade corridors from Pakistan to these countries through China, Afghanistan and alternative routes was also consid-

Tajikistan's Minister of Material Resources Ahmedzada Noor Mahmad also called Aleem Khan in which the

export of various food items including sugar, potatoes, textiles and livestock from Pakistan was discussed. Among those who held a meeting with Abdul Aleem Khan were Transport Minister of Kyrgyzstan Tilektekebaev, Transport Minister of Uzbekistan Makhkamovilkham Rustamovich, Deputy Transport Minister of Kazakhstan Maksat K. Kaliak Parov and the Minister of Transport of Tajikistan and the host Azeem

Ibrahim were included. Abdul Aleem Khan expressed his gratitude to the ministers while describing the holding of this conference as very fruitful while gifts were on Federal Minister Abdul also exchanged with each other on this occasion.

The State of Palestine welcomes Mexico's declaration of intervention in the genocide case against Israel before the ICJ

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine warmly welcomes the declaration of intervention by the Government of the United Mexican States under Article 63 of the Rules of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case concerning the Application of the Convention on the Prevention

Guest. The ceremony was also attended by the and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel).

> Mexico's motion shows a steadfast commitment to justice and the international rule of law, underscoring the deep-rooted solidarity and historical friendship between our nations. In this regard, the



State of Palestine wishes to reiterate its profound appreciation to the Republic of Nicaragua, the Republic of Colombia, and the State of Libya for their declarations of intervention before the Court in this critical case.

We call upon all states to actively engage in the proceedings before the lighting the urgent need for inter-

cide and to combat Israel's impunity. These declarations come at a crucial time when the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, particularly in Rafah, are enduring a disastrous humanitarian situation, which has resulted in unprecedented suffering, high-

approves them."

Pakistan condoles deaths, destruction by landslide in Papua New Guinea

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday expressed its condolence over the losses of life and properties caused by massive landslide in Papua New Guinea. "The people and government of Pakistan are deeply saddened by the widespread death and destruction caused by a massive landslide in Enga province in Papua New Guinea," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement.

She conveyed heartfelt condolences and sympathies over the tragic loss of life. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. We pray for early recovery of those people and government of Papua al tragedy," the spokesperson added.



who are missing and stand with the New Guinea in this hour of nation-

Ahsan Iqbal honoured by APO for outstanding contributions to socioeconomic development

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Prof Ahsan Iqbal received an award from the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Kuala Lumpur for his outstanding contribution to socio-economic development efforts through policy, strategic thinking, effective leadership and manage

He received the award at the 66th meeting of the Governing Body of the Asian Productivity Organization in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as the organization includes 21 countries, including Pakistan, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives. He was awarded for his achieve-

ments during all his tenures as federal minister, implementing innovative projects to increase productivity in Pakistan through international

Ahsan Iqbal formulated progres-

GBM MPG

contributed significantly to Pakistan's productive agenda and overall development. The award recognizes individuals who have made exemplary contributions to improving national or regional socio-economic productivity through their work, inspiring ideas, and influence, it added.

The Asian Productivity Organization, established in 1961, promotes productivity in the Asia-Pacific region through mutual cooperation, committed to sustainable socio-economic development through policy sive policies and regulations that advisory services in various sectors.

FM Azerbaijan arrives on two-day visit

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov on Wednesday arrived here on a two-day official visit. At the Islamabad International Airport, he was warmly received by Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan and West Asia) Ahmed Naseem Warraich, Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X account.

Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov will call on Prime Minister ter Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.



Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and hold extensive discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minis-

Health ministers reach Kabirwala, review treatment of measles affected children

Bureau Report

LAHORE: On the direction of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Provincial Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir visited the Basic Health Unit (BHU) in Kot Haq Nawaz, Kabirwala and gathered information from parents about the measles affected children and mandated strict action against those responsible for the negligence.

Following the Chief Minister's directives, the number of 'Clinic on Wheels' and 'Field Hospitals' has been increased in the affected areas.

Additionally, a special ward for measles treatment has been established at the Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif has

sought an immediate report from the Secretary of Health on the causes behind the rise in measles cases. She emphasized the need for the Health Department to provide the best possible treatment to the affected children, highlighting that the loss of innocent lives is due to departmental negligence and inefficiency.

The chief minister stressed that those found responsible for the negligence will face severe punishment. She also ordered daily monitoring of measles and other infectious diseases, ensuring that no lapses occur in treating affected children. Furthermore, she directed the Health Department to ensure the availability of vaccines for all diseases, including measles, at all health centers and government hospitals across Punjab.

Lawyers who attacked Maneka...

Continued from Page 7

tweets from Imran Khan's account, Zafar stated, "Since the tweets have been happening, they have been from Imran Khan's account and he

PTI leaders flay Khawar Maneka's for 'obscene' remarks against party

He added, "The tweets are only made under Imran Khan's instruc-

Responding to a question, Zafar confirmed that there has been no deal and there is no plan for one. He dismissed these as rumors. He stated that the current situation surrounding the PTI clearly indicates that there is no deal in the works.

Court to push for an end to the genonational intervention and justice. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi