

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم جن مارتے ہیں کیا کہ ہم ظفر رضی اللہ عنہ کے پاس موجود تھے ماں سے کہا گیا کہ ایک شخص ایسا ہے جو یہاں کی باتیں سن کر جاتا ہے۔ اس پر ظفر رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہا کہ میں نے ہی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا ہے آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے بتایا کہ جنت میں چغل خور نہیں جائے گا۔ (کنز الدقائق: حدیث نمبر 6056)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## Minister of China's Communist Party Liu Jianchao to visit Pakistan

Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party's Central Committee Liu Jianchao is set to visit Islamabad from 20-22 June 2024 on the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.



## Marwat denies reports of Imran placing ban on public appearances

Sher Afzal Marwat revealed on Wednesday that his honest answers to political questions have often led to difficulties for him. Speaking on the program 'Ruharoo' on Wednesday, he candidly discussed his experiences within the party, particularly his recent absence from the media. He stated, "I cannot lie when answering political questions, and my truthfulness has sometimes created problems." (Details on Page 8)

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## Eid-ul-Azha celebration

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) celebrated Eid Ul-Adha with the troops at Line of Control (LOC) in the Haji Pir sector.



Photo: ISPR

## Army Chief celebrates Eid-ul-Azha with troops at LoC in Haji Pir Sector

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir on Monday visited the Line of Control (LOC) in the Haji Pir sector to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with the troops.

The COAS offered Eid prayers with the officers and soldiers at the front line, praying for Pakistan's peace and prosperity. On the festive occasion, he paid respects to the sacrifices of the martyrs of Pakistan, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Addressing the troops, the COAS commended their dedication, high morale, and commitment to defending the motherland.

He said, "As soldiers, we take pride in celebrating such festivities away from our homes and loved ones while on duty, ensuring the security of our country and fellow citizens."

Discussing the indigenous freedom struggle of the people in Indian Illegally Occupied

Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the COAS reiterated Pakistan's principled stance, aligned with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

He condemned India's ongoing oppression and brutalities against the Kashmiris, saying that post-election, India had been attempting to mask its aggression and victimization of the Kashmiri people with false propaganda and provocations against Pakistan.

Such tactics, including manufacturing false flag operations, had become a routine political tool of India, he added.

"Pakistan has always supported peace and stability in the region; however, any provocation or violation of Pakistan's territorial sovereignty will be met with a swift and resolute response, with the full support of the nation, InshaAllah," the COAS concluded.

Earlier upon arrival at the LoC, the COAS was received by the Commander of Rawalpindi Corps.

## Visit of the Minister of the Int'l Department of the Communist Party of China

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister of the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, Mr. Liu Jianchao, will visit Islamabad from 20-22 June 2024.

During the visit, Minister Liu will co-chair with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister the Third Meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) of the Political Parties on CPEC. He will also call on the senior civil and military leadership of Pakistan.

Established in 2019, the



JCM of Political Parties on CPEC is a regular consultation mechanism between the Communist Party of China and the political parties of Pakistan. Previous meetings were held on 19 March 2019 in Beijing and on 20 August 2020 virtually.

At the Third Meeting of the JCM, Pakistan and China will review the progress of CPEC projects, CPEC's contribution to Pakistan's socio-economic development, and its up-gradation and extension for regional connectivity.

## PM Shehbaz, President Kassym-Jomart discuss bilateral, regional issues

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Monday discussed bilateral as well as regional issues of mutual interest.

The prime minister emphasized that enhanced connectivity between the two countries was critical for economic and trade relations and the two sides need to maintain their focus on this important dimension.

The prime minister held a telephone conversation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

The two dignitaries exchanged Eid greetings and prayers for the peoples of both countries.

The Kazakh president expressed his delight on the prime minister's election for the second time and remarked that this would help strengthen Pakistan's political and economic situation.

"The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the positive trajectory of their bilateral relationship and reaffirmed shared desire to expand cooperation between both countries to its full potential, particularly in trade and investment," PM Office Media Wing said in a press statement.

While underscoring the significance of regional cooperation, the prime minister said that he looked forward to his participation in the upcoming SCO Heads of State meeting in Astana,



Kazakhstan on 3-4 July, 2024. The Kazakh president expressed his happiness on learning of the prime minister's participation in next month's Summit, where the invited leaders would discuss a comprehensive agenda to advance regional cooperation.

The prime minister also extended a cordial invitation to the president of Kazakhstan to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience, which he graciously accepted.

On X account, the prime minister said that he had a wonderful conversation with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan on Eid ul-Adha.

"Exchanged warm greetings and discussed ways to further strengthen our bilateral relations, especially trade & investment as well as regional cooperation. Look forward to my visit

## President strongly condemns journalist Khalil Jibran's murder

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday strongly condemned the killing of Khalil Jibran, a senior journalist of private TV channel, Khyber News, in Landi Kotal, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The president expressed his deep grief and sorrow over his murder. He expressed condolence with the bereaved family and prayed for them to bear the loss with fortitude, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

## Need to immediately privatize Pakistan's critical sectors, says Fin Min Aurangzeb

Commerce Desk

KAMALIA: Federal Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday reiterated the government's commitment to reduce expenditures to strengthen the country's economy, ARY News reported.

Addressing a press conference in his hometown, Kamalia, the minister said the federal government would shut down parallel ministries or departments that have been devolved to provinces.

This move is expected to significantly reduce expenditure and improve efficiency, he said, adding Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already announced the closure of Pakistan Public Works Department.

The minister went on to say that the government will privatise state-owned enterprises (SOEs), which



have been a significant drain on the national exchequer.

"If PIA was privatized 10 years ago, there would not have been so much loss," he said.

The minister also announced that airport outsourcing is being completed, with Karachi airport set to be handed over to the private sector by July or August this year, to be followed by Lahore airport.

On revenue side, the minister emphasized the need to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio from 9.5% to 13% over the next three years, stressing that taxes are essential for running

the country.

To achieve this goal, the government has announced revenue measures, including bringing the non-taxable sector into the tax base, gradually eliminating tax exemptions worth Rs3.9 trillion, and rephrasing policies in areas like health and agriculture.

The government is also focusing on compliance, plugging leakages in the system, and implementing an end-to-end digitization system to reduce human intervention, increase transparency, and end corruption.

"Sales tax automation is a top priority of the incumbent government," he remarked.

The minister assured that the prime minister's recent visit to China was focused on technology transfer, industry development, and enhancing exports, rather than seeking aid.

## PM strongly condemns killing of Landi Kotal senior journalist

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the murder of Khalil Jibran, a senior journalist in Landi Kotal city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The prime minister, sympathising with the bereaved family members of the slain journalist, directed the KP chief minister and relevant authorities to arrest the perpetrators and take them to the task.

He reiterated the government's resolve to take all-out measures to protect the lives and freedom of the media community.

## Journalist killed in Khyber district laid to rest after protest

Adam Khan Wazir

LANDI KOTAL: A Pakistani journalist, Khalil Jibran, who was shot by unknown assailants on Tuesday in the Khyber district of the KP province was laid to rest on Wednesday.

Before the burial, a group of journalists protested on the main highway with his body.

Jibran was shot near his home in the Mazrina area of tehsil Landi Kotal in the Khyber district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The journalist was travelling in vehicle with another person identified as Sajid, who was injured.

The vehicle had an issue so they stopped it; however, some assailants came and pulled out Jibran, shooting him dead and fleeing the scene.

Jibran died on the spot, while Sajid was then transported to the hospital to

Continued on Page 8

## Ahsan Iqbal dispels impression of weakening Pakistan-China relations

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday dispelled the impression, propagated by a political party's smear campaign on social media, that Pakistan-China relations had weakened.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that for the last few days, a political party had started a campaign on social media aimed at sacrificing Pak-China relations for its politics. He said, "All of us are Pakistani and should understand the difference between politics and the state. When we play with the state for the sake of politics, we act like enemies of the country."

The Federal Minister said that a political party had learned the skill of trolling

Continued on Page 8

# All the political parties have to work together to solve the problems facing the country: Gillani

**Kiran Asim / Syed Nadeem Kazmi**

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has said that we will try to change the economic situation of the country together with all the allies. He expressed these views while talking to the media after performing the Eid prayer at Darbar Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed. He said that after the Senate election, the delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf came to the chamber and met me and demanded that a parliamentary leader and a leader of the opposition be made and we will make them. He said that I myself have been in jail, the cases of political opponents are under hearing. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani further said that on the occasion of Eid, the oppressed Palestinians must be remembered, the testimonies of the Palestinians should not be in vain. He said that our enemies are attacking brave men, we condemn it, today we must remember those who were

martyred while protecting our country. He said that I have been given a huge responsibility in difficult situations, I will try to fulfill the aspirations of the nation. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani further said that the common citizen should feel that he is getting relief, All political parties should join Unitedly to provide relief to Poor People He said that Saint is a symbol of federation, I will try to fulfill the hopes of all the members and take everyone together.

He said that the People's Party has always promoted the politics of reconciliation, we will try to take all the political parties together for Pakistan, we will not compromise on the honor and respect of the Upper House and the members. Regarding the by-elections, Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gillani said that we have fought by-elections before and we will fight again. Later, an Eid Milan function was organized at Gillani House Multan, which was attended by a large number of civil society representatives, lawyers,

political leaders and activists Of Pakistan People's Party. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani received Eid from political activists and elders and congratulated them on Eid. Speaking on this occasion Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said that the coalition government is aware of the country's problems, all the political parties have to work together to solve the problems facing the country, the coalition government is trying to deal with the country's problems. He said that he has been trying for the development of Multan before and will continue to play a role for the development of Multan in the future. Regarding the separate province, he said that Pakistan People's Party always struggled for the establish of Saraiki province, we got the bill passed by the Senate, and now we will take more steps for the establish of the Saraiki province by smoothing the public opinion. Besides, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, in his special message on the occasion of Constitution Day, paid tribute to those



great personalities who gave the draft of the 1973 Constitution to the nation. Chairman Senate said Constitution Day

is an important day which has been established by the Senate of Pakistan. The Constitution of 1973 has played

an important role in strengthening the Federation of Pakistan and promoting unity among all the federal units by establishing the Upper House. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that we have to work together to promote democracy and democratic attitudes, problems can be overcome only through unity and unity. It is the responsibility of all the democratic forces to play their role for the survival of the Constitution of Pakistan and the strengthening of the democratic system and to contribute to the development and prosperity of Pakistan. On this occasion, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani assured the local businessmen and elders of the city that special economic zones will be established in Multan, which will create employment opportunities and develop Multan. Development works of Multan will start to be seen after Eid. He said that a special fund has been kept for the people of Multan, now the people of the constituency will also get jobs, Multan will be made a city of lights.

## Beautiful Pakistan

KHANPUR: People enjoying Parasailing at Khanpur lake during the Eid holidays.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Three among sibling drown in Attock

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Three persons among them teenage sibling drowns in two different incidents in two different parts of Attock on Tuesday, Police and rescue 1122 sources said.

In the first incident three persons of the same family drown in river Indus in Bagh Neelab area in the limits of Attock Police station on the second day of Eid. As father Khurum Shahzad along with his 17 years old son Shaheer and 12 years old daughter Warda went in to water to enjoy bathing, Warda loses control and starts drowning for which her brother



went to save her but also loses control and started drowning. Looking his children in distress, their father went to rescue them however he failed so. Meanwhile, local boat owner joined the rescue work and took out Khurum safely from deep waters, retrieve the body of Shaheer but body of the girl

was not found till filing this news report. The body of the deceased was shifted by rescue 1122 team to district headquarters hospital Attock.

Moreover, a 16 years old boy drowns in Ghazi Brotha water channel in Adalzai area in the limits of Hazro Police station on. Police and rescue sources said that victim Afzal Shah went to water channel for picnic to celebrate Eid where he loses control and drowned. It may be mentioned that district administration Attock has imposed section 144 and banned bathing and swimming in water channels but the same is ignored by public especially youth.

## Accident to the truck of the beverage company, people looted the bottles

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: After the driver escaped, a large number of residents of the area rushed to the truck full of bottles and the one who grabbed as many bottles as he could run away.

After the accident that happened to the truck of the beverage company in Faisalabad, a large number of people looted the bottles. The video also went viral on social media. The delivery truck of Faisalabad Beverage Company met with an accident, due to fear, the driver ran away leaving the truck full of bottles. After the driver escaped, a large number of residents of the area rushed to the truck full of bottles and the one who grabbed as many bottles as he could run away.

## PTI has never refused negotiations: Makhdoomzada Qureshi

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Central leader of PTI and Deputy Parliamentary Leader in National Assembly Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi has said that Tehreek-e-Insaf has never refused negotiations. But our first demand is that a commission should be formed to investigate the tragedy of May 9. According to us, those who are innocent



in this tragedy should be released immediately and those who are involved in this tragedy should be punished. Tehreek-e-Insaf founder chairman Imran Khan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and thousands of workers are still under arrest and should be released immediately. He said that our second demand is that a commission should be formed regarding the results of the February 8 elections to investigate and tell how the 16 seats came to power. Which is not their right. He expressed these views while talking to the media in the cover of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria's Darbar after performing the Eid-ul-Adha prayers.

He said that Tehreek-e-Insaf founder chairman Imran Khan and Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi sacrificed for a great cause. They are still bound today. Allah Ta'ala acquitted Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the cipher case with honor and he became red-faced. Later, false cases were registered against them in Lahore and Islamabad police stations on May 9. He was present in Karachi. He said that with Allah Ta'ala, there is no darkness, and God willing, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi will be among us soon. That he expressed his desire to form a coalition government with Tehreek-e-Insaf. But we took a principled stand and refused. He said that there is no internal disagreement in Tehreek-e-Insaf and the entire party is united. He said that the people voted for Tehreek-e-Insaf despite being bound by the central leadership: despite being stripped of the election symbol and despite intense pressure.

This proves that Tehreek-e-Insaf is the party of the future. He said it is the second Eid. Makhdoom is celebrating without Shah Mahmood Qureshi. We hope for justice from Allah Ta'ala and from the judiciary. And God willing, Shah Mahmood Qureshi will soon be among the people. And will be talking to the media instead of me. He conveyed Eid greetings to the entire nation with the help of the media. And expressed good wishes. He thanked the Multan media for the continuous coverage in the scorching heat. Later, Makhdoomzada Zain Hussain Qureshi along with Makhdoom Mureed Hussain Qureshi, Brigadier (R) Maqsood Qureshi, Makhdoomzada Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, Pir Saif Qureshi, Dr. Asif Qureshi and other members of the family offered Eid-ul-Adha prayers. After performing the prayer, he made a special prayer for the country's development and security, the founding chairman of PTL, Imran Khan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and the release of other captives. Attended the shrines of Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria and Hazrat Shah Rukan ud Din Noori Huzuri. Spread the sheets and pray. Later, he visited the graves of his elders buried in the courtyard of the court and recited the Fatiha.

## Germany's Sports Diplomacy: Using Football to Build Bridges

**Nimra Arooj**

In the realm of international relations, sports diplomacy has emerged as a powerful tool for fostering goodwill, building bridges between nations, and promoting peace. Among the various sports, football holds a unique position due to its universal appeal and ability to unite people across cultural and political divides. Germany, with its rich footballing heritage and commitment to international cooperation, has proficiently harnessed the power of football to enhance its diplomatic efforts and build global bridges.

Football, often referred to as the world's game, transcends linguistic, cultural, and political barriers. It is a sport that commands a global audience, with billions tuning in to watch major tournaments like the FIFA World Cup. Germany has long recognized the unifying potential of football, whose universal appeal makes it an ideal platform for diplomacy by reaching diverse

audiences and fostering mutual understanding. The country's passion for the sport is evident in its successful domestic league, the Bundesliga, and its national teams' impressive performances on the international stage. However, beyond the competitive aspects, Germany has strategically used football as a means to promote international cooperation, cultural exchange, and social development.

One of the most significant examples of Germany's sports diplomacy through football was the 2006 FIFA World Cup, hosted by Germany. Dubbed the "Summer Fairytale," the tournament was not only a sporting success but also a diplomatic achievement. Germany's meticulous organization and warm hospitality left a lasting impression on visitors from around the world, showcasing the country's capacity for openness and inclusivity. The 2006 World Cup served as a platform for Germany to promote its values of tolerance, diversity, and international friendship. The event brought together people from

different cultures, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect. It also provided an opportunity for Germany to reframe its global image, moving away from the historical shadows of the 20th century and presenting itself as a modern, welcoming, and forward-thinking nation.

Germany's commitment to using football as a tool for development and peace is evident in its various international initiatives. The German Football Association (DFB) and numerous NGOs have implemented programs that leverage football to address social issues, promote education, and support youth development in different parts of the world. One notable initiative is the "Football for Development" program, which uses the sport to foster social inclusion, health education, and conflict resolution in developing countries. By partnering with local organizations, Germany has helped build football facilities, train coaches, and provide educational materials, thereby creating safe spaces for young people to learn and grow. In post-conflict

regions and areas affected by social strife, football has proven to be a powerful tool for uniting communities and promoting reconciliation. The simple act of playing football can break down barriers, build trust, and offer a sense of normalcy and hope. Germany's participation in these initiatives highlights its commitment to using sports diplomacy to foster global peace and stability.

Germany has also utilized football to promote gender equality and empower women and girls globally. The DFB and other organizations have played a key role in supporting women's football, both within Germany and internationally. Initiatives focused on developing women's football in countries where the sport is less established have helped challenge gender stereotypes and create opportunities for female athletes. In countries where women's participation in sports is limited due to cultural or societal constraints, Germany's support for women's football has been particularly impactful. By providing resources, training, and platforms for competi-

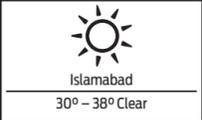
tion, Germany has helped to elevate the status of women's football and advocate for gender equality in sports.

While Germany's sports diplomacy through football has achieved notable successes, it is not without challenges. The commercialization of football, issues related to corruption within international football organizations, and the need for sustainable development practices are some of the obstacles that need to be addressed. To maintain and enhance its role in sports diplomacy, Germany must continue to uphold the integrity of the sport and advocate for transparency and fairness within football governance. Additionally, ensuring that football development programs are sustainable and have long-term positive impacts on communities is essential. Looking ahead, Germany has the opportunity to further leverage its footballing expertise and diplomatic acumen to address global challenges. As climate change, social inequality, and geopolitical tensions persist, football can serve as a powerful platform for raising awareness, mobi-

lizing action, and fostering international solidarity.

Germany's use of football as a tool for sports diplomacy exemplifies the sport's potential to build bridges and promote positive change. Through hosting major tournaments, supporting development programs, promoting gender equality, and fostering integration, Germany has demonstrated how football can be harnessed to advance diplomatic goals and contribute to global peace and unity. As the world continues to navigate complex challenges, the spirit of football – with its emphasis on teamwork, fair play, and mutual respect – can inspire and guide efforts to create a more just and harmonious world. Germany's leadership in sports diplomacy, particularly through football, offers a compelling model for other nations to follow, highlighting the profound impact that sports can have on international relations and human development.

Writer is student of BS in International Relations in Fatima Jinnah Women University.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	5:10 pm
Maghrib	7:21 pm
Isha	9:05 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80

**IESCO continues to maintain zero load management in all 6 circles**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Wednesday continued to maintain zero load management across its six circles besides Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The electricity demand in Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Wednesday stood at 1,718 megawatts (MW) at 08: 00 pm against the allocation quota of 2,050 MW from the national grid system.

Chief Engineer Operation Director Muhammad Aslam Khan told that owing to availability of sufficient electricity in the system, IESCO maintained zero load management programme in all six circles and AJK. Smooth and uninterrupted power supply was being supplied in Islamabad, Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantt, Jhelum, Attock and Chakwal Circles besides AJK, he added.

He said that the company was withdrawing 1,581 MW from the National Grid.

# Xinhua, Belga ink MoU to boost cooperation

Lacroix welcomed Fu's visit, saying that Belga and Xinhua share a long history of ties

**Xinhua**

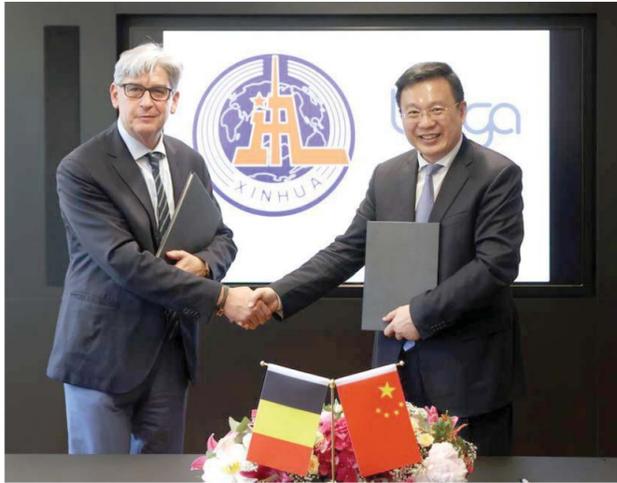
BRUSSELS: President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Patrick Lacroix, CEO of Belgium's Belga News Agency, in Brussels on Tuesday, in a move to deepen cooperation between the two agencies.

"Belga is Xinhua's important partner," Fu said. Starting from this MoU, Xinhua and Belga will further deepen practical cooperation and bring bilateral ties to new heights, he added.

Fu voiced his hope that the two news agencies will collaborate to tell compelling stories about the China-Belgium friendship, enhance technical exchanges in artificial intelligence and media convergence, and jointly produce more news products with international influence.

Lacroix welcomed Fu's visit, saying that Belga and Xinhua share a long history of ties and enjoy broad prospects for cooperation.

The signing of the MoU will leave a strong mark in the history of exchanges between the two agencies, he added.



President of Xinhua News Agency Fu Hua and Patrick Lacroix, CEO of Belgium's Belga News Agency, sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in a move to deepen cooperation between the two agencies during a meeting in Brussels, Belgium (Xinhua/Zhao Dingzhe)

## Sawab

ISLAMABAD: Volunteers serving food among the people, at Jamia Masjid Rehmat ul Alamin on the 1st day of Eid ul Azha in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Grand Cleaning operation in Multan successfully ends on Eid-ul-Adha: Marium Khan

**Quratul Ain Asim**

MULTAN: The Grand Cleaning operation. On Eid-ul-Adha Days From the Administration and Waste Management Company has been Successfully Ended.

On this occasion, Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan while addressing the waste management company officers and personnel and sentry workers announced bonuses for the sentry workers and company personnel who make every corner of the city shine. I feel the desire to perform better, providing the best services to the citizens is the first responsibility of the administration.

Sentry Works, the real heroes,



made the wonderful cleanup possible on Eid. Commissioner Maryam Khan said that the constructive and positive role of the media and Thank you for your cooperation.

DC Multan Waseem Hamid Sindhu said that after washing the main highways of the city,

rose water was sprinkled. The Waste Management Company collected more than 24 thousand tons of garbage in the three days of Eid.

On Eid al-Adha, the citizens were provided with a clean and clean environment by conducting an exemplary

cleaning operation. It was a priority to protect the citizens from pollution and provide a clean environment.

Chairman Waste Management Company Rashid Iqbal said that every citizen of Multan, including the business community, appreciated the efforts of the management, Waste Management Company.

CO Waste Management Company Shahid Yaqoob said that the cleanliness complaints received on 1139 were also resolved on priority basis. All the transfer stations were completely cleared of debris on the three days of Eid.

On this occasion, complete sweeping was also done at Ghanta Ghar Chowk

## Pakistan to join Int'l Transport Corridor as per President Putin vision: Khalid Jamali



**Spokesman Report**

KHANTY-MANSIYSK: Pakistan has accepted President Vladimir Putin's invitation to join the North-South International Transport Corridor and has begun the process of accession, according to Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia, H. E. Muhammad Khalid Jamali.

"Referring to President Vladimir Putin's State of the Union Address last year, where he invited Pakistan to join the International Transport Corridor, Pakistan in principle has agreed to join it and started the relevant procedure. We are heading towards that direction," said Pakistan's Ambassador H. E. Muhammad Khalid Jamali, while addressing the International IT-Forum, held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, on 18-19 June 2024.

The Ambassador highlighted the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Russia, noting their cooperation on international platforms like the SCO and the UN. He added, "We have requested assistance from our Russian friends in joining the BRICS."

Ambassador Jamali stated that Pakistan had successfully imported 1 million tons of Russian crude oil and expressed strong interest in securing a consistent supply of Russian oil and gas resources.

Agriculture was identified as another promising area for collaboration, given Pakistan's agricultural base with 69% of its population engaged in the sector. "Collaboration in the sphere of agriculture is yet another promising area of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia, as Pakistan is an agricultural country with 69% of population engaged in it," the Ambassador stated.

The revival of the Silk Route was emphasized with the successful shipment of Pakistani citrus fruits to Dagestan via Iran and Azerbaijan. "We are trying to revive the historic Silk Route. The first shipment of Pakistani citrus fruits has reached Dagestan via Iran and Azerbaijan. This new trade route signifies the potential for increased trade volume, which has already reached \$1 billion, Ambassador Muhammad Khalid Jamali added.

## IGP Rizvi lauds Islamabad Police for performing duty with dedication in extreme heat

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Wednesday appreciated the Capital Police for performing duty during Eid-ul-Azha days with dedication and diligence in extreme heat while wearing bulletproof jackets.



Due to effective security measures of the police, no untoward incident took place in the city, he said in a statement.

The IGP further lauded the police that their vigilance had helped curbed one-wheeling and reckless motorcycle stunts by the youth on city roads, which, otherwise, were a norm during Eid days.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson said that the IGP himself took rounds of the city during Eid days to inspect police checkpoints and public parks in order to ensure security arrangements.

He said the IGP commended DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza and the police force for ensuring effective security arrangements across the city. "DIG Ali Raza personally oversaw all security operations. Special police units were deployed around public parks, and Safe City cameras ensured effective monitoring," the spokesperson added.

## Pakistan rejects Indian MEA's statement about Pak-China joint statement on J&K issue

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 19 (APP): Pakistan on Wednesday said that India had no right to object to the references made to Jammu and Kashmir in Pakistan-China joint statement of June 8 and reiterated 'it is an established fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally-recognized disputed territory.'

In response to media queries regarding the statement made by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on June 3, the Foreign Office Spokesperson in a press statement said that Kashmir dispute has been on the agenda of the UN Security Council for over seven decades.

"The relevant Security Council resolutions clearly stipulate that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations," it was reasserted.

In that backdrop, the spokesperson said the Indian claims over Jammu and Kashmir were totally unfounded and misplaced.

"India should not mislead the international community about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is a flagship developmental endeavour, agreed upon by two sovereign nations. Instead of making baseless claims about CPEC, India should implement, at the earliest, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir," it was further added.

# Attaining Peaceful Environment: Everyone's Responsibility And Right

**Hadia Ahmad**

Nobody wants space-ships flying in space and his child dying on earth, nobody wants rockets going out to space and bombs falling, and nobody wants scientific discoveries and discovering the bodies of his loved ones from rubble. Everybody wants to live a happy life, everybody wants his children playing and laughing around, and everybody wants to succeed in life, all the things are only possible when there is a peaceful environment. The first and foremost responsibility and right of a man is to attain a peaceful environment for himself and his family. The child, tired of this exhausting world, goes to the lap of his mother to heal himself because that is the safest place for him in the whole world. Peace is the most important thing for everyone.

The word "goal" triggers the

thoughts of materialistic things not of peace, the need of the day. The dream worth chasing in life is attaining peace for everyone, not a Ferrari or a billion dollars. The thing that separates the hero from others is his passion for leading humanity to a better way- the way to peace.

"The way to lead humanity to a better future is the way to peace."

Securing a peaceful environment for every individual should be everybody's priority. Peace is not just the absence of war, rather it is the presence of opportunities, freedom, and justice. The obstacles in the way are egos, short-term thinking, complexities of issues, and leadership. Humans live with biases, fears, and competition. Most of the time, the focus is on winning not on solutions. Minds fall for the emotional and persuasive language of hawks and don't listen to doves' perspectives.

The diplomatic field is very backward in some countries. Their voices

are not heard and get rejected on the global level. Their voices are not rejected because of a bad economy but because of incompetence in representing the case. What matters is pushing the right person to the right place to speak the right words. One thing missing, everything is gone.

Peace can be achieved by working and coming together. It starts at home, an individual having a peaceful environment can go beyond the seven skies because of the freedom. The study by WHO reveals that a peaceful environment contributes to better mental health and higher productivity in an individual. In communities, instead of fighting on petty matters, problems should be dealt with collectively. Politicians should bury their egos. Implementation of policies should be focused instead of just words that have no importance. The Focus should be on cooperation instead of fighting.

To save the victims of violence and war, every global citizen should

perform his responsibility. Palestinians, Kashmiris, and others like them must be liberated by our efforts. Sometimes for peace, fighting is inevitable because the oppressor is not going to move without getting defeated. The real oppressor is the one who remains silent, sees everything, and does nothing. No one can say that he doesn't have any concerns with them. If he is not going through that situation right now, he could be in the future, or his kids, or maybe his ancestors have gone through this. Being Pakistanis, we all know the migration of 1947 and its terrific incidents.

Norman Vincent Peale: "When you help others, you help yourself."

By realizing peace, sustainable economic development will be possible, and resources will be used in a better way. Policies will be planned for the long term. Institute of Economics and Peace reports that the absence of peace costs global economy \$ 14.6 trillion which is 12.46 % of global GDP.

If peace is attained, this large amount will not get wasted. The healthcare sector and welfare projects can have more allocated funds for the whole community. Education standards will become better. Working on discoveries and inventions will be expanded, better research will be published due to more resources provided to them. Opportunities, facilities, justice, security of life, property, and freedom will be provided to everyone. In Global Peace Index rankings, countries having top positions are Iceland, Denmark, Ireland, etc. are the ones where all these things are provided to everyone. These countries are also on top in the World Happiness Report.

To promote peace, start with yourself and start right now. The action of the plan includes raising awareness, using emotional intelligence and diplomacy, establishing, and regulating strong institutions, making laws, spreading knowledge regarding environmental science, using creativity and

art. Communication technology has the most essential role, it has made conflict monitoring better by informing others and working together. This generation has more burden on its shoulders because they have seen on their screens what the actual war is, instead of just hearing the word war.

The most important responsibility and right of an individual and community is to get a peaceful environment. It leads to the development of the economy, better education, establishment of businesses, improvement in the healthcare sector, and provision of resources for collective welfare projects. It is the responsibility and need of humans to advance in the thriving world and it must be everyone's goal because the next steps of the ladder will be taken after taking the first one which is attaining peace.

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# Rebranding Russia: The Role of Public Diplomacy in Putin's Regime

**Sidra Noor**

In the global theatre of public diplomacy, Russia, led by President Vladimir Putin, has staged a strategic revival that deserves careful examination. Putin's government has revitalised Russia's image on the international arena by combining historical resonance, cultural outreach, and media influence, developing a nuanced knowledge of its policies and ideas.

The rich historical and cultural legacy of Russia is a cornerstone of its public diplomacy strategy. Under Putin, there has been a determined attempt to use Russia's history to improve its current image. This technique uses communal memory of past successes, like as World War II triumph, to instill a feeling of national pride and continuity. The 2015 commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War is an excellent example, attracting global attention and involvement while strengthening Russia's position as a crucial force in history.

Critics sometimes accuse these sites of propagating misinformation, but it is critical to appreciate their position in the larger context of media pluralism. RT and Sputnik give coverage of world events from a Russian perspective, which can be especially enticing in areas where anti-Western feeling is widespread. This media strategy is more than just broadcasting Russia's viewpoint; it is also about participating in the global information rivalry, in which every major power strives to influence public opinion and policy.

Educational and scientific collaboration is another pillar of Russian public diplomacy. Russia has established signif-

icant academic relations with a variety of nations through scholarships, exchange programmes, and collaborative research initiatives. The government backs programmes such as the Russkiy Mir Foundation, which promotes Russian language and culture abroad while cultivating long-term connections based on intellectual and cultural affinity.

These educational activities are particularly successful in instilling benevolence in younger generations. By hosting international students and sending Russian intellectuals abroad, Russia builds a network of people who are familiar with, and frequently favourable to, its culture and politics. This soft power strategy establishes the foundation for future diplomatic and economic collaborations.

Humanitarian and development assistance are also significant elements of Russia's public diplomacy. Russia provides assistance to many nations in need via agencies such as Rossotrudnichestvo, notably in the post-Soviet area and emerging regions. This help is not merely a gesture of kindness, but also a geopolitical measure to strengthen relationships and encourage reliance.

For example, Russia's assistance in delivering vaccinations and medical supplies during the COVID-19 epidemic has received widespread recognition. The Sputnik V vaccination, in particular, became emblematic of Russia's scientific prowess and devotion to world health. Russia's reputation as a responsible and benign global actor is strengthened by its willingness to aid during times of crises.

Economic diplomacy is an important aspect of Putin's public diplomacy. By using its rich natural resources and strategic economic alliances, Russia hopes to

strengthen its power and establish mutual dependency. This approach involves energy diplomacy, in which Russia utilises its oil and gas exports as a means of influence. For example, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project has been a major source of conflict in Europe, demonstrating Russia's capacity to use energy supply as a political instrument.

Russia also participates in infrastructure projects and investment efforts, especially in underdeveloped countries. These initiatives frequently come with favourable terms for the host nations, which strengthens economic connections and fosters goodwill. By investing in critical areas of foreign economies, Russia hopes to create a network of economically aligned partners who are more inclined to back its geopolitical objectives.

Military diplomacy, albeit more discreet, plays an important role in Russia's public diplomacy approach. Russia aspires to promote itself as a vital security partner for a number of countries through joint military exercises, arms sales, and defence accords. These operations not only strengthen Russia's strategic partnerships, but also demonstrate its military might and commitment to world security.

For example, Russia's military cooperation with nations such as India and China includes not just arms sales but also cooperative training and strategic consultations. Such alliances highlight Russia's status as a significant global power and provide a platform for advancing its diplomatic goals.

While Russian public diplomacy has made great progress, there remain certain problems and complaints. Accusations of misinformation operations and meddling

in the domestic affairs of other countries have harmed its reputation in some circles. These activities, which are frequently highlighted by Western governments and the media, have the potential to harm Russia's good public diplomacy efforts.

Furthermore, the efficiency of Russia's public diplomacy is sometimes questioned since it aligns with wider geopolitical policies viewed as hostile. The 2014 annexation of Crimea, as well as Russia's role in the Syrian crisis, have created worldwide controversy and harmed Russia's image. The Kremlin continues to struggle to strike a balance between muscular foreign policy and popular diplomacy objectives.

Russian public diplomacy has changed dramatically under Vladimir Putin, with a purposeful use of historical narratives, cultural exchanges, media influence, educational collaboration, and humanitarian help. These initiatives demonstrate a profound knowledge of soft power and how it influences global attitudes.

While the international community is split on Russia's actions and intentions, it is evident that Putin's administration has successfully used public diplomacy to achieve its national goals. Russia has established a separate position on the global arena by promoting cultural appreciation, providing alternative media narratives, and engaging in educational and humanitarian projects. As with every nation's public diplomacy, the ultimate measure of success is the capacity to establish long-term connections and understanding, especially in the face of geopolitical complications.

*Writer is independent and self-motivated student in Fatima Jinnah Women University*



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

## Kashmir in the Mirror of Reality - I

Amongst the increasingly complex web of perception and misperception, the notion of reality becomes a continual point of examination. Reality, depicted as a mirror, reflects not only tangible elements but also the intangible subtleties that mold our comprehension of the world. It serves as a tool for introspection, aiding in unraveling the complexities of existence.

However, reality is far from singular; it is multifaceted, molded by diverse viewpoints and experiences. This reflective surface captures these variations, offering glimpses into different truths. What one perceives as real may differ significantly for another, underscoring the inherent subjectivity in our perceptions. Yet, within this subjectivity, fundamental truths persist—core principles that ground our comprehension of reality. Despite being obscured by bias and distortion, the mirror reflects these truths, urging us to delve deeper into the essence of existence.

In human interactions, this mirror acts as a mediator, fostering understanding and empathy. It mirrors our actions and their consequences, compelling us to face the truth of our impact on others. Through this reflection, we confront our humanity, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, the mirror extends beyond human experience, encompassing the natural world and the cosmos. It mirrors the intricate interplay of universal forces, inviting contemplation and awe. Within this reflection, we find solace and inspiration, recognizing our place in the vast tapestry of existence.

In today's world, where misinformation proliferates and reality seems

elusive, the mirror serves as a beacon of clarity. It prompts us to question and critically examine the narratives presented to us, urging us to seek truth amidst the noise. Through this process, we navigate the labyrinth of perception, inching closer to a clearer understanding of reality. It emphasizes the importance of consulting the mirror of reality rather than succumbing to misperceptions.

In the digital age, where information spreads rapidly and social media reigns supreme, false propaganda has reached unprecedented levels. Falsehoods, inaccuracies, and baseless claims propagate swiftly, often with significant repercussions. This pervasive issue underscores the pressing need for vigilance and critical thinking in navigating the virtual landscape. One of its most insidious forms is the dissemination of unsubstantiated misinformation. Within the echo chambers of social media, where engagement trumps accuracy, unverified claims can gain traction swiftly, fostering discord and confusion. Whether politically motivated, sensationalist, or conspiratorial, the ramifications of unchecked misinformation are far-reaching. They undermine trust in institutions, sow division, and disrupt democratic discourse. When presented as fact, baseless allegations blur the line between reality and fiction, leaving individuals vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation. Moreover, false propaganda has tangible consequences, shaping public opinion, influencing policy, and inciting violence. Instances of misinformation leading to violence serve as stark reminders of the dangers posed by unchecked falsehoods. In a time when misinformation can have life-threatening consequences, the urgency to counter false propaganda cannot be overstated.

Combating this menace demands a comprehensive approach. Firstly, social media platforms must assume greater responsibility for the content they host, implementing rigorous fact-checking mechanisms and algorithms geared towards prioritizing accuracy over virality. Moreover, it's essential to integrate media literacy education into school curricula and public awareness campaigns. Empowering individuals with critical thinking skills is crucial for discerning truth from falsehood. Additionally, civil society plays a pivotal role in the fight against false propaganda by promoting a culture of accountability and transparency. Independent fact-checking organizations, investigative journalists, and academic institutions act as guardians against misinformation, exposing falsehoods and holding propagandists accountable.

By fostering transparency and encouraging evidence-based discourse, civil society can help immunize communities against the spread of misinformation. Ultimately, countering false propaganda requires a collective effort involving individuals, institutions, and governments. By staying vigilant, questioning sources, and demanding evidence, we can curb the spread of misinformation and preserve the integrity of public discourse. In an era where truth is increasingly besieged, prioritizing evidence-based information is crucial for navigating the digital landscape rife with falsehoods. In the context of AJK and IIOJK, it's crucial

to rely on facts rather than falling prey to false propaganda and misinformation.

The history of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is deeply intertwined with the struggle for self-determination and freedom. AJK occupies a significant place in South Asian history, bearing witness to the resilience and determination of its inhabitants in the face of adversity. Initially part of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, the region became embroiled in a territorial dispute following the partition of British India in 1947. As India and Pakistan emerged as independent nations, Jammu and Kashmir's fate remained uncertain.

The liberation movement in AJK was initiated by Kashmiris themselves. In October 1947, tribal militias supported by Pakistan's military crossed into Kashmir, igniting a fervent struggle for independence. The people of AJK, inspired and dignified by the quest for freedom, joined hands with their counterparts across the Line of Control (LoC) to repel the invaders and secure their autonomy. However, this liberation came at a great cost. Despite facing formidable challenges posed by rugged terrain and harsh conditions, the freedom fighters displayed unwavering resolve, showcasing acts of courage and sacrifice as they defended their homeland against external aggression.

In 1949, after a ceasefire agreement brokered by the United Nations between India and Pakistan, AJK emerged as a self-governing entity under Pakistani administration. Nevertheless, the struggle for the liberation of Kashmir continues, with a significant portion

of the region under illegal occupation by India. Over the years, the people of Kashmir have persistently asserted their right to self-determination, expressing their aspirations through democratic channels and peaceful protests. Despite encountering challenges and setbacks, their resolve remained unwavering, driven by their inherent belief in the right to freedom and sovereignty. The liberation of AJK stands as a testament to the unyielding spirit of its populace and the effectiveness of collective action in the pursuit of justice. It serves as a source of inspiration for oppressed communities globally, demonstrating that even in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, the flame of freedom cannot be extinguished.

Today, AJK stands as a symbol of resilience and determination, serving as a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggle for Kashmiri self-determination. The quest for freedom endures as Kashmiris endeavor to fulfill their aspirations for a future marked by peace, prosperity, and dignity.

education.

Moreover, AJK benefits from significant support in higher education, with 125 seats reserved across 22 universities and 36 reserve seats in medical colleges of Punjab designated for AJK students. The Punjab government further allocates Rs 750 million to the Kashmir Education Endowment Fund (KEEF), facilitating educational endeavors in AJK.

In terms of electricity production, AJK plays a significant role, contributing 28.5% of hydel power to the national grid and boasting the lowest electricity prices even before proposed reductions. Notably, AJK's wheat prices are substantially lower compared to other regions, further contributing to its economic advantage.

Employment opportunities are also notable in AJK, with 30% of its population employed in government jobs, with 25% in the Government of AJK and 3% in the Army or Combined Armed Forces. Despite these achievements, challenges persist, such as a shortage of staff due to Kashmiri graduates not returning from the mainland.

Furthermore, AJK's healthcare system benefits from a favorable doctor-patient ratio of 1:2315, supported by military facilities. However, recent funding challenges, particularly after the 18th amendment, have posed significant obstacles, with the Federal Higher Education Commission (HEC) absolving itself from funding AJK universities due to budget cuts. Consequently, the Government of AJK faces difficulties in even meeting basic financial obligations, such as paying salaries, highlighting the need for continued support and collaboration to sustain the progress made in AJK.

*To be continued*

**Akhmet Yassawi University: A Hub of Knowledge & Research**

# University aims to nurture positive thinking, skill & innovation: Dr. Temirbekova Zhanar

Amjad Mehmood

**A**khmet Yassawi University, is one of the premier educational institutes in Turkistan, Kazakhstan offering a vast range of degree programs in contemporary disciplines to national and international students. The university provides a quality education experience in a conducive atmosphere for students' learning and research in high-tech labs and allied facilities. Highly qualified teaching faculty maintained top-class pedagogical standards to distinguish the university among leading world-class institutes. The university also marched up in various global rankings under the leadership of its Rector, Dr. Temirbekova Zhanar Amangeldiyevna, PhD).

Daily The Spokesman conducted an exclusive interview with the Rector to share in-depth information about the university for young Pakistani learners and international students who keenly explore the opportunities of higher education across the world.

**• University's Mission & Vision**

International Kazakh-Turkish University, named after Khoja Ahmet Yasawi, is the first international educational institution opened in independent Kazakhstan.

The university was established on October 31, 1992, with the agreement of the Presidents and Governments of Kazakhstan and Turkey, as the first joint project of the two Turkic states. There was also great significance in naming the institute after the name of Khoja Ahmet Yasawi, a thinker, educator, and religious figure known as a wise man of all Turkic peoples. The University bearing the name of a remarkable individual, has a mission that distinguishes it from others.

Talking about the University mission, the Rector said "Our unique mission is to be a university that nurtures forward-thinking, skilled, and innovative individuals in the Turkic world, guided by the academic principles and teachings of Khoja Ahmet Yasawi." She added that for more than 30 years, our educational institution has been teaching the youth of Turkic-speaking countries and communities under one roof to become a leader in quality education and scientific research, strengthening integration between peoples.

Adding further she said with a humble beginning, our university has grown exponentially.



File photo of AKHMET YASSAWI UNIVERSITY, Turkistan, Kazakhstan

Initially, we operated with just 3-4 faculties and a student body of 300. Now, our educational institution hosts approximately 10,000 students from 17 countries and represents 30 nationalities, a testament to our expanding global reach and influence. She added that our hopes and plans for the future are several times greater than the present situation.

**• Uniqueness of University from other Educational Institutions in Region**

Talking about the uniqueness of Akhmet Yassawi University in the region she said, "The first feature is that our university is the only institution in Kazakhstan with international status. Since its establishment, the institution has been serving to strengthen the cooperation of Turkic world to transform and develop the spiritual capital—the city of Turkistan."

She explained that another unique feature is the power of its name. The university's philosophy becomes clear when one asks about Khoja Ahmet Yasawi. Yasawi was the only person who contributed to the widespread understanding of Islam among Turkic-speaking nations. He stood at the pinnacle of

humanity. She said that is why, when defining our mission and uniqueness, we consider Yasawi's teachings as the academic principles that make us distinctive. She added we are proud of our Clinical Diagnostic Center, Botanical Garden, Research Institutes, extensive Library, and Cultural Center, which help us stay ahead of other universities.

**• Vital Academic Programs & Faculties**

Ahmet Yasawi University is one of the leading multidisciplinary educational institutions in Kazakhstan. The university's multi-level educational system includes higher primary education (bachelor's), internship, master's, residency, and doctoral levels. The University is currently offering 153 programs in 9 different disciplines mainly from pedagogical sciences, arts and humanities, social sciences, journalism and information, business, management and law, natural sciences, mathematics and statistics, information and communication technologies, engineering, manufacturing & construction, and health & social welfare (medicine).

Talking about the faculties at the university she said we have

increased the incentive funds to 900 thousand Tenge for awarding the authors of scientific articles and patents published in impact factor journals at the university. Similarly, the university introduced friendly and supportive rules to improve the quality of scientific research and timely defense of dissertations by doctoral students. She informed that in recent years, science funding in the country has increased by 3.5 times. She said 35 projects are being implemented at the university. Consequently, an educational laboratory "STEM and Creativity" and another scientific laboratory "Nanotechnology and New Materials for Energy" were opened during the current academic year. She said that the university fully supports innovative, promising start-up projects with the potential for commercialization.

**• Recent Initiatives to Enhance Educational Quality**

While sharing her thoughts about recent initiatives to enhance educational quality she said to improve the quality of education, first of all, it is necessary to pay attention to strengthening the professionalism and qualification of the teaching staff. Therefore, we have been organizing the "Yasawi Winter School" project for the last two years. The project aims to improve the knowledge and skills of teaching and administrative staff. The best experts from abroad and Kazakhstan are invited to the winter school as speakers. Also, at the beginning of the year, 187 of our teacher-professors participated in the "Implementation Model and Strengthening its Content" project and exchanged experience with qualified specialists from Finland. The Rector further said we are also focusing on implementation of dual diploma education programs. In 2023, as a result of the successful cooperation between Ahmet Yasawi University and Mugla Sıtkı Koçman University, the "Tourism" and "Restaurant and Hotel Business" educational programs under the Department of Management and Tourism of the Faculty of Economics, Management, and Law have been awarded a double degree by the Higher Education Council of Turkey (YÖK). She said we are working on adding double-degree educational programs in "Medicine," "Theology," "International Relations" and "Information Technologies" specialties.

**• University's support in employability after graduation**

The Rector informed that over 90,000 students have graduated from the university since its foundation. They work in various ministries and international organizations; presidential assistants, mayors, sports fans, and art stars are present. The University has established a Center for Career Development and Contact with potential employers. We value graduates' adaptation to the labor market and their successful employment. Therefore, we spare no effort to be in demand when the applicants who choose to enter the labor market in 4-5 years. Currently, over

80% of graduates are employed. The University also keeps close contact with partners so that the graduates can get jobs conveniently. She added the University emphasizes students' practical knowledge so that they can get real-time field exposure.

mented effectively. She added that in the academic year 2023-2024, 28 lecturers and 193 university students went on an exchange of study and experience under academic mobility programs. To give lectures and seminars within the framework of the Visiting Professor program every year from the UK, Spain, Norway, Russia, USA, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan higher education institutions (Oxford, Exeter, Leicester, Cambridge, Brunel, Gazi, Hajetepe, etc.) famous professors are also invited.

**• University Standing on International Rankings**

Talking about the University ranking the Rector said that international rating agencies highly appreciate the work carried out in various directions at the university. Ahmet Yasawi University entered the subject ranking of the world's best universities in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024, published on March 22. She said our educational institution in this year's subject rating was 201-250 position in "Modern Languages" and 251-300 in the subject of "Education and Training" with better standing than last year. She added in 2024, the university website took 7th place among domestic higher education institutions in the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities-2023. In the QS Sustainability Rankings 2024, the university took 1151-1200 places in the world. It was ranked 362nd in Asia and 8th among Kazakhstan universities. Also, the educational institution

for teachers. As the leading institution that trains these specialists, we do our best to provide quality education and 35 percent of our students are studying in pedagogical fields. We also pay close attention to leading in the rapidly developing field of information technology and engineering.

**• Long-Term Goals & Aspirations**

Talking about the long-term goals, the Rector shared that the development of any university depends on its strategic plan, and it is necessary to analyze the parameters of this strategic plan annually to bring essential changes. While developing the new strategic plan, we searched for comprehensive answers to the questions of our university's mission, our vision for the future, and our values. We discussed this with university stakeholders and as a result of the discussion, we created the Strategic Development Plan of our university for 2024-2029. A lot of work is being done to advance to the next level within the framework of this strategy.

The university's development program covering the period from 2024 to 2029 aims to make the university one of the best international educational institutions with a high image and reputation. Through our new strategy, we have identified four main directions that will be prioritized in the coming years, including sustainable institutional development, achieving academic dominance, increasing scientific and innovative potential, and developing a clinical diagnostic center. The university will also move to the



Rector, Dr. Temirbekova Zhanar Amangeldiyevna, PhD

**• Inclusiveness & Diversity on Campus**

The goals of sustainable development, such as inclusion and prevention of discrimination and inequality between people, are deeply in tune with the philosophy of Yasawi Baba. Hazrat Sultan urges people to enrich feelings such as faith, contentment, love, patience, goodness, generosity, honesty, justice, modesty, mutual love, and respect. The Rector explained that our university has started work on the footprints of these philosophies. In the research institute, "Yasaitanu," research and study of the teachings and heritage of Khoja Ahmet Yasawi, a collection of essential principles and ideas for humanity and their application in educational work, have been started. The Scientific Research Center "Sustainable Development" opened at our university and works to ensure inclusiveness and diversity on campus.

**• International Partnerships & Collaborations**

Further sharing details about international partnerships and collaborations the Rector said as the first international higher education institution to open in independent Kazakhstan, we constantly revitalize work in this direction. According to the strategic plan for internationalization, the educational institution has established solid scientific, academic, social, and cultural ties with higher educational institutions and organizations in other countries including 126 MOUs, 140 agreements with international organizations, and 50 internal mobility agreements.

Our university continuously works to optimize the exchange of knowledge and experience of teachers and students abroad. As a result, "Visiting Professor," "Orhun," "Mevlana," "Erasmus+" and programs allocated based on bilateral contracts, as well as by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, are being imple-

took the 787th place in the QS World University Rankings 2024, the most influential rating agency in the world.

**• Challenges & Opportunities at Akhmet Yassawi University**

While sharing her thoughts about the challenges and opportunities at the university, she expressed that the main direction of the university's work is clarified through the Strategic Development Plan. She said after detailed analysis our main focus is on the weakness of our university's educational and laboratory base, the lack of study areas and dormitories. We are making plans and negotiating with partners to eliminate these gaps. Highlighting another challenge, she said lack of training in technical and other specialties (construction, architecture, agriculture, veterinary medicine, etc.) oriented to the region's needs is also a problem. Therefore, we need to develop and introduce new educational programs for professions that are in demand in the future. One of our main plans is to open the Faculty of Agriculture. Specific steps for solving other problems in the educational process, in the direction of scientific research, and in the direction of infrastructural development have been defined. She added we can also expand strategic partnerships with Turkish universities ready to work on the franchise model.

**• Programs & Curriculum Design**

Describing programs and curriculum design the Rector said our educational institution always serves to eliminate the personnel shortage in the region. We constantly monitor the professions in demand in the Turkistan region and supplement the academic programs. We also conduct focus groups with students and employers, thereby improving the quality of our educational programs. Our second leader is pedagogy. Due to Turkistan's dense population and large number of children and schools, there is a great demand

"Smart University" model with a digital ecosystem.

**• Rector's Message to Prospective Students**

Ahmet Yasawi University has several advantages over other higher educational institutions in Kazakhstan. "Our international status is the most important aspect". Since its establishment, our university has provided special grants to the youth of the Turkic world. Every year, representatives of the fraternal people who won 250 grants come to us to learn. In addition to state grants, we have the "Turkey Quota" program. The Republic of Turkey annually allocates grants and scholarships to 500 students.

Every year, we send our strongest young people, most active volunteers, best-performing athletes, and artists who represent the university in various competitions to summer school in Turkey. In addition, students choose a direction and a profession, and we as an institution participate in their formation as a comprehensive personality and acquire the most necessary skills of the 21st century.

All educational buildings, libraries, canteens, and laboratories on the university's territory allow the students to have a carefree education and make their student years unforgettable. In short, at Ahmet Yasawi University, special attention is paid to students' mastery of the knowledge acquired during the educational process, expansion of their scientific-technical and social thinking, mastery of new ideas, and ability to use scientific information effectively. The most important thing is that we continuously work to ensure that our students and graduates gain competition and do not lose their place in the market. "Our university, which has become the symbol of Turkish youth, has a bright future. Therefore, its abundant opportunities will surely benefit our students, graduates, teachers, and staff."



Group photo on the occasion of International Conference "The Golden Horde and Its Legacy", Turkistan, Kazakhstan



Rector addressing to audience in International Conference, The Golden Horde and Its Legacy (April 25-26, 2024, Turkistan, Kazakhstan)



Dr. Temirbekova Zhanar, Rector and Naveed Ahmad Khan Editor, Daily The Spokesman

ten faculties working to train high-quality and in-demand specialists, including the Faculty of Dentistry, the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the Faculty of Philology, the Faculty of Economics, Management & Law, Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Social & Humanities, Faculty of Postgraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Sports & Arts, and the Faculty of Medicine. She added we have a unique preparatory center for foreign and Kazakh students to learn languages where students learn Kazakh, Turkish, English, and Russian languages.

**• Fostering Innovation & Research**

Sharing details about research and innovation, the Rector said that Ahmet Yasawi University's research activities are based on the further integration of education, science, and innovation. University scientists are keenly engaged in conducting research in the fields of Turkology, archeology, religion, history, economics, mathematics, physics, information technology, ecology, electric power, biotechnology, and medicines. She added that developing research and innovation activities amongst the students and teachers is essential. She said we have

*Oil prices stable as demand uncertainty persists*



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Oil prices were stable on Tuesday, as traders awaited signs of a hoped-for summer demand boost to prop up prices even as strong supply threatens to blunt gains.

Benchmark Brent crude futures were down 2 cents to \$84.23 per barrel at 1231 GMT after climbing in the previous session. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures, which also rose on Monday, were up 3 cents to \$80.36 a barrel.

Both benchmarks gained around 2% on Monday, closing at their highest levels since April. Brent has clambered back from an early-June close of \$77.52, though remains off its \$90 peaks in mid-April.

"The oil market shifted its focus back to fundamentals, which have been soft for some time," said BoFA commodity and derivatives strategist Francisco Blanch in a note, adding that global crude oil inventories and refined product storage in the United States and Singapore, among other places, was higher.

Meanwhile, global oil demand growth slowed to 890,000 barrels per day year on year in the first quarter, and data suggests consumption growth likely slowed further in the second quarter, he said in the note.

But US crude inventories are expected to have fallen by 2.3 million barrels in the week to June 14, according to analysts polled by Reuters.

"The critical data set this week, at least for us, will be the U.S. oil inventory data as it could confirm or refute the developing optimism that demand has started its ascent at the dawn of the summer driving season," Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM wrote in a note.

Some analysts remained bullish on the price impact of an extension by the OPEC+ group of supply cuts in the near term.

"The latest guidance provided by OPEC+, as well as their unchanged 2.25 million barrels per day demand growth outlook, signals a stagnation in oil supply growth for 2024 and an apparent downside risk to production in 2025," said Patricio Valdivieso, Rystad Energy vice president and global lead of crude trading analysis.

**NETU establishment to drive innovation, sustainable development: Planning Ministry**

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The establishment of National Economic Transformation Unit (NETU) in Public Sector Development Programme Budget 2024-25 is aimed at driving comprehensive economic reform and sustainable development across Pakistan.

The unit was aligning with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of a prosperous and resilient nation, a Ministry of Planning and Development press release said on Wednesday.

The ministry said the NETU would serve as a strategic body focused on facilitating economic growth, enhancing productivity, and fostering innovation. It would work in close collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector entities, academia, and international partners, to implement evidence-based policies and initiatives that align with Pakistan's long-term economic goal of becoming a one trillion dollar economy by 2035.

"The establishment of the National Economic Transformation Unit is a significant step towards reviving and transforming the role of the Ministry of Planning and Development as a development think tank and realizing our vision of a prosperous and resilient Pakistan," said Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal in a statement while emphasizing the importance of the NETU.

He said the NETU would play a crucial role in addressing economic challenges, reviving and promoting inclusive growth, and ensuring that "our development strategies are sustainable and forward-thinking."

"The NETU will attract the best Pakistani talent and enable them to play their role in nation-building," he added.

The NETU will operate within the framework of Pakistan Vision 2025 and the 5Es framework, ensuring that its initiatives are in line with national development priorities.

The Vision 2025 outlines the roadmap for achieving sustainable development and economic prosperity, while the 5Es framework focuses on following areas:

**Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister visited Jagran-2 Hydropower Project**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar visited Jagran-2 Hydropower Plant under construction in Neelum district, Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He was briefed on the progress of the construction of 50MW power plant. He was briefed that the work on the Jagran-2 is proceeding as per the plan and that the construction will be completed in the year 2025. Expressing satisfaction and appreciation at the progress of the project, the Deputy Prime Minister promised to take up the issue at the ECNEC to fast track the approvals through an early action.

The Deputy Prime Minister also met the Chinese engineers and Pakistani team working on the Jagran-2. He conveyed the best wishes of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Government of Pakistan for the engineers, technicians and workers employed in the project and assured full support and security of the Government of Pakistan for its timely completion. He expressed the confidence that the project will contribute significantly towards electrical power generation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and bring benefits to the local population in terms of employment, education, agriculture, industrial development, and tourism.



**Pak-Azerbaijan Relations**

Islamabad: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov, Azeem Qureshi Managing Director, Legend Hotel & Resorts and others cutting the cake at Legends hotel, Islamabad.



**Give KP its outstanding money, CM Gandapur to PM**



**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: "I am telling Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif the last time to give Khyber Pakhtunkhwa its due money," Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here, KP chief minister said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has sought the province's support over the talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for loan package.

"Firstly, I want the money of the province to be paid to

us, if not paid, we will inform the IMF that they are getting money in our name but don't pay it to us," KP CM said.

He said, "It is my warning to the prime minister that you are forcing us to push your government out of power". "I know, how to expel you out of power. You could not bear it. No one could prevent us from taking our due rights," he declared.

He said it is responsibility of the federal government to end the power load shedding. "We will shut down the national grid if an uninterrupted power supply was not assured to us," he warned.

"The assembly members should go to grid stations personally and restore the power supply in the areas where a load shedding of 12 hours being implemented," he added.

**Ex-PM Abbasi's 'easiest way' to identify who can pay taxes**

**Monitoring Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has suggested an "easiest way" to identify who can pay taxes as the country plans to collect Rs12,970 billion in taxes.

"There will be inflation. Your economy did not grow and you have to collect more than Rs4 trillion in taxes. You will have to impose more taxes to meet that target," said in an interview with Spotlight with Munizae Jahangir aired on Aaj News on Tuesday.

He was of the view that the government should have done reforms instead of imposing more burdens on the taxpayers. The former prime minister explained that Rs105,000 would be cut from the sala-



ries of those who are earning Rs300,000 per month.

In 2018, Abbasi said that the PML-N government formed three slabs and there was no tax on people earning Rs100,000 per month but everyone had to file tax returns. "People don't pay 30% to 35%

tax, but they will give 15% tax."

He advised that the government would have to revise the tax slab and bring everyone into the tax net.

"You have a system called CNIC [identity card] and the whole of Pakistan is connected to it. Now 55 million people have CNICs. You should make a mobile application and allow people to file taxes through it. If you say that you don't have income, then I will check your utility bills and expenses. If you say that your spouse supports you then I will see their income. The basic thing is that if you have expenses then you have salary and the government is a partner in your salary."

He added that the taxation would have a disproportionate impact on the poor people.

**Salaried class braces for impact as govt imposes higher income taxes**

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: In a move that will impact the salaried class, the government has imposed a higher income tax rate of up to 35 per cent in the budget 2024-25.

According to the budget documents, the new income tax slabs for the salaried class will be applicable from the tax year 2024, effective for salaries payable on or after July 1, 2024, in cases where the annual salary exceeds Rs600,000.

For salaried taxpayers earning up to Rs600,000 per year, there would be no change, as the income bracket would

remain at a zero per cent tax rate. But many experts believe that it would directly impact the take-home pay of the inflation-burdened salaried class.

They believe that the government has failed to tax the rich, who have been benefiting from the tax exemptions and low taxes.

The federal government has increased the income tax rate for people earning Rs100,000 or above per month in the federal budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

The tax rate has increased from 2.5% to 5% for those earning between Rs600,000 and Rs1,200,000 per annum.

**Pakistan exposed to external funding conditions, policy missteps: Fitch**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was exposed to external funding conditions and policy missteps as the country needs around \$20 billion per year in the FY2024- FY25, the global ratings agency Fitch said on Tuesday.

"Pakistan's projected funding needs still exceed reserves including maturing bilateral debt that we expect will continue to be rolled over," the US-based Fitch Ratings — one of three leading global rating agencies — said in its report.

Gross reserves (including gold) now stand at \$15.1 billion, over two months of external payments, up from \$9.6 billion at FYE23.

This comes almost a week after the South Asian country present-

ed its annual outlay of Rs18.87 trillion in Parliament amid noise from the opposition. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, who presented the deficit budget, informed the National Assembly that Pakistan was seeking an Extended Fund Facility from the International Monetary Fund.

In a live address to the nation before Eid, Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed hope that it would be Pakistan's last loan programme that would help it leave behind neighbouring countries which include India.

The government has set a challenging tax revenue target of Rs13 trillion for the year starting July 1, a near 40% jump from the current year, in its national budget.

According to the ratings agency,

Pakistan's 'CCC' rating, affirmed in December 2023, reflected high external funding risks amid high medium-term financing requirements.

It was of the view that the budget looked to strengthen the case for a new bailout deal with IMF, but it was uncertain whether fiscal targets "will be hit, but even assuming only partial implementation of the budget, we forecast the fiscal deficit will narrow."

It should reduce external pressures, albeit at a cost to growth, the report said.

Key objectives for the upcoming fiscal year include bringing the public debt-to-GDP ratio to sustainable levels and prioritising improvements in Pakistan's balance of payments position, the government's budget document showed.



# PCB stands by Haris Rauf in bullying incident

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the unruly behaviour of some cricket fan against ace fast bowler Haris Rauf and extended unconditional support to the fast bowler in this unfortunate incident of mass mind. Naqvi also warned of legal action against the perpetrator.

The unfortunate incident occurred in the United States of America (USA) where some cricket fan used offensive language against Haris Rauf when he was accompanying in the premises of a hotel or public place. The alleged fan was, perhaps, angry at Pakistan cricket team's early exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies & USA.

Haris Rauf was the highest wicket-taker alongside Muhammad Amir in



the competition where he bagged seven wickets in four matches. He also picked 3-21 against India – a match Pakistan lost from a position of ascendancy. Pakistan ended up third on the points-table with a better run-rate than the second



placed USA who qualified with 5 points.

In a tweet on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) the PCB Chief Mohsin Naqvi wrote: 'Strongly condemn the appalling incident involving Haris Rauf. Such actions against our players

are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Those who are involved must immediately apologize to Haris Rauf, failing which we will pursue legal action against the individual responsible.'

Meanwhile, Pakistan pace sensation Haris Rauf, who completed 100 T20I wickets during the T20 World Cup, shed light on the incident through a tweet on X and elaborated how a nasty cricket fan had insulted his family in rage. "As public figures, we are open to receiving all kinds of feedback from the public. They are entitled to support or criticize us. Nevertheless, when it comes to my parent r my family, I will not hesitate to respond accordingly. It is important to show respect towards people and their families, irrespective of their professions."

The cricketing fraternity has come forward with support for Haris Rauf and condemned the incident as unwarranted and unfortunate.

## Tanzim fined for breaching ICC code of conduct

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh player Tanzim Hasan Saqib has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during their ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Group D match against Nepal at the Arnos Vale Ground, Kingstown in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sunday.

Tanzim was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator during an International Match."

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Tanzim's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period, said a press release.

The incident occurred at the end of the third over of Nepal's innings, when Tanzim, after bowling a delivery, walked towards Nepal batter Rohit Paudel in an aggressive manner and made inappropriate physical contact.

Tanzim admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Sam Nogajski, third umpire Jayaraman Madanagopal and fourth umpire Kumar Dharmasena levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.



## ICC Men's T20 WC match officials named for Super 8s

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Chris Gaffaney and Richard Kettleborough, both members of The Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires, would be the on-field umpires for the USA's historic first-ever knockout match at an ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which takes place against South Africa on June 19.

The co-hosts qualified in second place from Group A, in part thanks to a magnificent Super Over victory against Pakistan and will now take on the Proteas as well as England and fellow co-hosts West Indies in Group 2 of the Super 8s, said a press release.

Joel Wilson would be the TV Umpire for USA against South Africa, while he will also stand as on-field umpire alongside Gaffaney when



the American team take on England in Barbados on June 23. Allahudien Paleker, who is making his senior men's tournament debut in this competition, will act as the fourth umpire.

The same day would see Kettleborough return to the middle for the seismic Group 1 clash between Australia and India alongside compatriot Richard Illingworth.

Illingworth and Michael Gough would oversee Australia's Super 8s opener against Bangladesh, while Nitin Menon and Ahsan Raza are the on-field umpires for England's meeting with the West Indies.

Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, making history in this competition as the first Bangladeshi official at an ICC Men's T20 World Cup, is the TV Umpire for that

one, and will act as on-field umpire alongside Chris Brown for England's second Group 2 game against South Africa.

Jeff Crowe of The Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees, who has overseen more T20Is than anyone else, would be in the chair for England's clashes with the West Indies and South Africa as well as Australia against India.

## FIH Hockey Pro League title showdown in Netherlands

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The final stage of the FIH Pro League 2023/24 season is about to get underway in Netherlands with matches to be played in Utrecht and Amsterdam from June 22-30.

Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Great Britain would all be in action in the men's and women's competition, with both titles still up for grabs, said a press release.

Netherlands currently stand at the top of women's standings with 36 points having won all 12 games so far this season. With 4 games left in the season, Netherlands hold an 8-point lead over Germany in third place, and the Danas could halt the Dutch title charge but will require other teams to take points off the hosts as well. Argentina, who finished their campaign earlier during the Antwerp stage, are second with 34 points from 16 games. Belgium and Great Britain, on 19 and 14 points respectively are out of contention for the title, but will still aim to hit their strides fully, with the Olympic Games just a month away.



## After brawl with fan, Haris Rauf responds to incident on X

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Following the video – which went viral on social media – showing the Pakistan pacer charging towards a fan, the pacer Haris Rauf responded and pledge that he won't step back from responding if somebody [fans] says abuses at his parents and family.

In his message of social media platform X, Haris Rauf stated, "I decided to not bring this to social media, but now that the video is out, I feel it is necessary to address the situation."

As public figures, we are open to receiving all kinds of feedback from the public. They are entitled to support or criticize us. Nevertheless, when it comes to my parents and my family, I will not hesitate to respond accordingly. It is important to show respect towards people and their families, irrespective of their professions," Rauf wrote.

There has been significant resentment and anger among Pakistan fans both in the US and back home due to the team's lackluster performance in the T20 World Cup, following their disappointing show in the ODI World Cup last year in India.

Captain Babar Azam has faced heavy criticism for failing to unite the team and lead by example, with former cricketers and fans in Pakistan calling for his removal from the captaincy.

Interestingly, the Pakistan Cricket Board reinstated Babar as captain in white-ball cricket after he had stepped down following the 50-over World Cup debacle in 2023. During his absence, pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi led the team but only lasted as skipper for a solitary series.

## Germany ease past Hungary to reach last 16 at Euro 2024

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: Jamal Musiala and Ilkay Gundogan scored as hosts Germany became the first team to qualify for the last 16 of Euro 2024 on Wednesday after beating Hungary 2-0 in Stuttgart.

Musiala struck for the second game running midway through the first half, much to the anger of Hungary players who felt a foul should have been awarded in the build-up to the goal.

Gundogan grabbed his side's second on 67 minutes as Germany eased to a second successive win in Group A of Euro 2024, making sure they will progress to the knockout phase at least as one of the best third-placed sides.

Julian Nagelsmann's men can wrap up top spot when they play Switzerland in Frankfurt in their final group fixture on Sunday.

Hungary are staring at elimination after back-to-back defeats and must beat Scotland if they are to stand any chance of reaching the last 16.

Germany unsurprisingly stuck with the same line-up that battered Scotland 5-1 in the first game of the tournament, ending a run of three major finals in which they had lost their opening match.

Hungary coach Marco Rossi made two changes following a disappointing 3-1 loss to Switzerland, bringing Marton Dardai into his three-man defence and starting Bendeguz Bolla at right wing-back.

A dismal first half left Hungary with too much to do against the Swiss and Rossi admitted beating Germany would require a "perfect match" from his team.

Hungary almost struck in the opening seconds as Manuel Neuer raced out to take the ball off the toe of Roland Sallai.

Kai Havertz outmuscled Willi Orban only to be superbly denied by Peter Gulacsi, who thrust out his right hand to deny the Arsenal attacker.

Robert Andrich's volley from the resulting corner was bravely headed behind by Bolla, but it wasn't long until Germany's persistence was rewarded.

Musiala cushioned the ball through for Gundogan and the Germany captain kept the attack alive after jostling with Orban, knocking it back for Musiala to slam in off the crossbar with a touch off Attila Fiola.

Hungary were furious no foul was given for the contact between Gundogan and Orban that knocked the defender to the ground, the goal confirmed



after a brief VAR check.

Dominik Szoboszlai's curling free-kick drew a terrific stop from Neuer soaring to his right, the goalkeeper kick-

ing away the follow-up as Hungary tried to scramble in the rebound.

A key block from Jonathan Tah foiled a second opportunity in quick succes-

sion for Szoboszlai, with Musiala then drilling into the side-netting at the other end.

Hungary had the ball in Germa-

ny's net in first-half stoppage time, but Sallai's effort was ruled out for offside after Neuer palmed away an Orban header. Gulacsi clawed away a deflected Toni Kroos drive early in the second half before Hungary forward Barnabas Varga, who scored in the loss to Switzerland, nodded narrowly over from an inviting cross.

Germany picked apart the Hungary defence with a patient attack to double their lead just past the hour.

Maximilian Mittelstaedt found space down the left and slid across a pass for Gundogan to sweep home from near the penalty spot.

Niclas Fuellkrug failed to get a finishing touch as Joshua Kimmich powered across the face of goal, with Gulacsi making smart saves to keep out Kimmich and Leroy Sane as Germany sought a third goal.

Julian Nagelsmann withdrew his front three with the game under control to keep them fresh for the Switzerland clash.

Neuer had a nervy moment late on when he spilt a cross, but Kimmich cleared Orban's shot off the line to preserve the clean sheet for Germany – their first in eight games at the Euro 2024.

## Ahsan Raza among ICC appointed match officials for the Super Eights in T20 World Cup

**Sports Desk**

LAHORE: The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced match officials for the Super Eight stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies from June 19 (Wednesday).

Ahsan Raza of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires is the only Pakistani umpire to officiate in the Super Eight.

Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, David Boon and Richie Richardson from the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees will be the match referees while the umpires include Chris Gaffaney, Richard Kettleborough, Richard Illingworth, Michael Gough, Nitin Menon, Joel Wilson, Ahsan Raza, Chris Brown, Rodney Tucker, Paul Reiffel,

Allahudien Paleker, Alex Wharf, Kumar Dharmasena, Adrian Holstock, Langton Rusere, and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid who will be making history in this competition as the first Bangladeshi official at an ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The USA team will participate in a historic first-ever knockout match at an ICC Men's T20 World Cup which takes place against South Africa on 19 June. The co-hosts USA qualified in second place from Group A, in part thanks to a magnificent Super Over victory against Pakistan and will now take on the Proteas as well as England and fellow co-hosts West Indies in Group 2 of the Super 8s.

The Double headers will be played in the Super Eight stage and the teams have been divid-

ed in two groups of four each. USA, West Indies, England and South Africa comprise one group while India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Australia form the other. The match officials will officiate in the following order.

June 19, 2024 (Wednesday): USA v South Africa (Antigua), Referee: Ranjan Madugalle, On-field Umpires: Chris Gaffaney and Richard Kettleborough, TV Umpire: Joel Wilson; Fourth Umpire: Langton Rusere

England v West Indies (St Lucia), Referee: Jeff Crowe; On-field Umpires: Nitin Menon and Ahsan Raza; TV Umpire: Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid; Fourth Umpire: Chris Brown

June 20, 2024 (Thursday): Afghanistan v India (Barbados), Referee: David Boon;

On-field Umpires: Rodney Tucker and Paul Reiffel; TV Umpire: Allahudien Paleker; Fourth Umpire: Alex Wharf

Australia v Bangladesh (Antigua), Referee: Richie Richardson; On-field Umpires: Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough; TV Umpire: Kumar Dharmasena; Fourth Umpire: Adrian Holstock

June 21, 2024 (Friday): England v South Africa (St Lucia), Referee: Jeff Crowe; On-field Umpires: Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and Chris Brown; TV Umpire: Joel Wilson; Fourth Umpire: Chris Gaffaney

SA v West Indies (Barbados): Referee: David Boon; On-field Umpires: Paul Reiffel and Allahudien Paleker; TV Umpire: Rodney Tucker; Fourth Umpire: Alex Wharf



June 22, 2024 (Saturday): India v Bangladesh (Antigua): Referee: Ranjan Madugalle; On-field Umpires: Michael Gough and Adrian Holdstock; TV Umpire: Langton Rusere; Fourth Umpire: Richard Kettleborough

Afghanistan v Australia (St Vincent): Referee: Richie

Richardson; On-field Umpires: Kumar Dharmasena and Ahsan Raza; TV Umpire: Richard Illingworth; Fourth Umpire: Nitin Menon

USA v England (Barbados): Referee: David Boon; On-field Umpires: Chris Gaffaney and Joel Wilson; TV Umpire: Paul

Reiffel; Fourth Umpire: Allahudien Paleker

West Indies v South Africa (Antigua): Referee: Ranjan Madugalle; On-field Umpires: Rodney Tucker and Alex Wharf; TV Umpire: Chris Brown; Fourth Umpire: Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid

June 24, 2024 (Monday): Australia v India (St Lucia): Referee: Jeff Crowe; On-field Umpires: Richard Kettleborough and Richard Illingworth; TV Umpire: Michael Gough; Fourth Umpire: Kumar Dharmasena

Afghanistan v Bangladesh (St Vincent): Referee: Richie Richardson; On-field Umpires: Langton Rusere and Nitin Menon; TV Umpire: Adrian Holdstock; Fourth Umpire: Ahsan Raza

## Israeli airstrikes

Israeli airstrikes targeted refugee camps in central Gaza early Tuesday, resulting in significant casualties.



## 17 killed as Israeli strikes hit Nuseirat, Bureij refugee camps in Gaza

**Spokesman Report**

GAZA: Israeli air attacks hit refugee camps in Central Gaza in the early hours of Tuesday morning, leaving several people killed and injured, according to local media.

An Israeli air attack on a house in Block 3 of the Bureij refugee camp has killed at least one person and wounded others. In the Nuseirat refugee camp, at least 17 people were killed and others injured in attacks from Israeli warplanes.

Local media is reporting at least 17 deaths overnight in the Nuseirat refugee camp following a night of heavy Israeli bombardment in central Gaza.

Earlier, it was reported that at least seven people had been confirmed killed in a strike on a home in Nuseirat, while five people had been confirmed killed in a separate strike. At least 274 displaced Palestini-

ans were killed in the Nuseirat refugee camp earlier this month after the Israeli military conducted a deadly rescue operation to free four Israeli captives held there.

Meanwhile, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dissolved the country's war cabinet, following the withdrawal of his principal rival, Benny Gantz.

The six-member war cabinet will now be replaced by a "kitchen cabinet", which Netanyahu will be able to consult for advice on the war on Gaza.

Hamas seized 251 hostages on October 7, of whom Israel believes 116 remain in Gaza, including 41 who the army says are dead.

The attack resulted in the deaths of 1,194 people in Israel.

Israel's retaliatory bombardments and ground offensive on Gaza have killed 37,347 people, mostly civilians, according to the territory's health ministry.

# PM conveys Eid greetings to UAE president; lauds consistent support to Pakistan

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister speaks with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, on Eid-ul-Adha. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and conveyed warm greetings to His Highness on the blessed occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, earlier today.

The two leaders extended

best wishes and prayers for the continued progress and prosperity of the peoples of both the UAE as well as Pakistan.

The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's deep appreciation to His Highness for the UAE's consistent support to Pakistan and also reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to the UAE through thick and thin.

Recalling his most productive visit to the UAE in May 2024, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to transform the fraternal and special ties between the two countries



into an enduring and mutually beneficial strategic partnership, especially focused on trade

and investment. Emphasizing the significance of frequent high level exchange

between the two countries, the Prime Minister reiterated to His Highness a most cordial invitation to undertake an official visit to Pakistan, at his earliest convenience.

In response, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed graciously conveyed his acceptance of the invitation and agreed to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at an early date.

Both leaders agreed to remain in close contact in order to advance their shared desire to take the brotherly and close ties between the two countries to even greater heights.

## Marwat denies reports of Imran placing ban on public appearances

**Monitoring Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Sher Afzal Marwat revealed on Wednesday that his honest answers to political questions have often led to difficulties for him. Speaking on the program 'Rubaroo' on Wednesday, he candidly discussed his experiences within the party, particularly his recent absence from the media.

He stated, "I cannot lie when answering political questions, and my truthfulness has sometimes created problems."

He further explained that he prefers to focus on his work and has been avoiding talk shows lately, not due to any party restrictions but because of his personal preference. He emphasized

that PTI Chairman Imran Khan has not imposed any restrictions on him.

"Khan Sahib has not given any directives to limit my public appearances," Marwat said, adding that the party chairman generally avoids interfering in minor matters.

Marwat also highlighted the challenges he faced within the party, stating that he was always involved in difficult tasks like organizing protests and rallies. However, he clarified that he has never sought or received any privileges from the party, such as ministerial positions or advisory roles, even during periods when the PTI was in power.

He expressed pride in his contributions to the party, stating, "I have worked hard for the party, serving on the political front for Khan Sahib voluntarily. The result of our efforts is evident in the party's recent comeback and the seats it secured in the elections."

## Saudi ministry distributes over 400 million food items to Hajj pilgrims

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Ministry of Commerce oversaw the distribution of over 400 million food items and more than 160 million packages of milk and juice to pilgrims during the Hajj season of 1445 AH.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), beverages were the most sought after, with bottled water following closely at over 147 million packages, and baked goods totaling more than 84 million loaves of bread.

As part of the Hajj plan this

year, the ministry's supervisory teams worked closely with organizers to guarantee the availability of essential goods for pilgrims.

They conducted inspections at sales outlets, monitored food supply chains, and supervised commercial establishments to uphold consumer protection regulations and prevent any violations.



## Eid ul Azha third day being celebrated with animals' sacrifice

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: People on Wednesday continued sacrificing animals and taking part in festivities on the third day of Eid Al-Adha.

The Muslims celebrating Eidul Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) with religious fervour to commemorate the great sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and Hazrat Ismael (AS).

The faithful are slaughtering their sacrificial animals in remembrance of Sunnat-e Ibrahim on third day of the Eid.

Civic authorities of cities and towns have been on alert and have made special arrangements for disposal of offal and remains of slaughtered animals during three days of Eidul Adha.

The remains of sacrifice animals being taken in some areas of Karachi timely, while there are also complaints from some neigh-

borhoods about the sanitary workers ignoring removal of offal resulting in unhygienic conditions for general public.

Eidul Adha is one of two Eid festivals observed by the Muslim faithful, to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim's willing-



ness to sacrifice his own son to God. Traditionally marked by the slaughter of animals, whose meat is shared with family members and the poor.

The Pakistan government has announced a three-day holiday for Eid, from Monday to Wednesday.

## Reports say slain TTP commander was released after fall of Kabul

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A senior commander of the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Abdul Manan alias Hakimullah, has been killed in the Kunar province of Afghanistan. Manan was a member of the TTP's Shura (Council) for Malakand.

This killing comes amidst escalating internal conflicts within the TTP and its affiliated terrorist groups. Recent reports suggest that infighting and internal strife within the TTP in Afghanistan are leading to the mysterious deaths of key commanders.

Manan's presence and death in Afghanistan further confirm

that the Afghan Taliban are providing safe havens to TTP militants.

Manan had been active in numerous terrorist activities, including targeted killings. He was a close associate of TTP leader Umar Khalid Khurasani (Umar Lala) and played a key role in planning terrorist attacks in Bajaur.

Manan had been active in attacks against security forces and civilians since 2007. He was arrested by the Afghan government in Nangarhar province in 2014 but was released after the Taliban captured Kabul in 2021.

His brother, Tariq alias Asad, is also a member of the TTP. Manan's death is being seen as a major blow to the TTP.

## PM lauds Punjab CM, her team over cleanliness operations during Eid days

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciated Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team for ensuring cleanliness and providing other public services during the three days of Eid-ul-Azha.

"Well done Punjab Well done Maryam Nawaz," the prime minister remarked while lauding the Punjab CM and her team for successfully carrying out the cleanliness drive.

He said that an 80% reduction in

throwing waste in the Lahore canal consequent to the use of drones was appreciable.

Prime Minister Shehbaz saluted the cleanliness teams for performing their duties in the sizzling hot weather and asked the Punjab government to keep up the tradition of public service and sprinkling rose water in the streets to suppress the odor.

He expressed the hope that the Punjab government would not only continue the standard of public service but would also improve it further.

## Laptop explodes killing two children in Faisalabad

**Abdul Majid**

FASALABAD: In a tragic incident in Batala Colony, Faisalabad, two children lost their lives, while seven others were injured when a laptop suddenly exploded.

The deceased have been identified as 6-year-old Dua Fatima and 9-year-old Talha, who succumbed to their injuries at the hospital during treatment.

According to the police, the laptop was in use at the time of the incident when it suddenly burst into flames, leading to a fire that engulfed the

house.

The rescue teams promptly responded to the emergency call and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital, where three of them are reported to be in critical condition.

Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, has expressed her condolences to the bereaved families and directed the authorities to provide the best possible medical care to the injured.

She has directed that the best medical facilities be provided for the treatment of the injured persons in the Sahiyanwal Sharif Pora incident.

## Ahsan Iqbal dispels impression...

*Continued from Page 1*

and it was being used against the state institutions, political opponents and media persons to achieve their objectives. This style was neither democratic nor beneficial, he added. He said that although his party leadership had remained in jails and in opposition, but they never targeted the state or its institutions. "If we weaken these institutions, there is no guarantee from outside for the survival of the state," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal said that for the past few days, a specific political party had started trolling aimed at Pak-China relations, giving the impression that the relations had been downgraded. However, in reality, after the recent

visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, these relations had reached new heights, he added. He said that the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the visit was not only comprehensive but also a proof of the best relations between the both countries.

He said that the joint statement covered the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), defence, and other fields including space cooperation. "Similarly, China has said that after the successful completion of CPEC Phase 1, they are ready for an upgraded version of the CPEC," he added. He said that after the joint statement, only a fool could believe that Pak-China relations had been downgraded.

## Journalist killed in Khyber district

*Continued from Page 1*

receive medical treatment.

According to the police, Khalil Jibrani had previously received threats from terrorists as he was affiliated with a local TV channel, Khyber News. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur, condemned the killing of journalist Khalil Jibrani. He took notice of the incident and directed the police to take immediate action to arrest the elements involved in the firing.

Gandapur expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy for the deceased journalist.

The Chief Minister assured the affected family members that the killers will not be able to escape the law. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, also condemned the murder of journalist Khalil Jibrani and expressed his condolences to the bereaved family.

The funeral prayers of journalist were performed in KP and were attended by political and social leaders, journalists, and other individuals.



Before the funeral prayers, journalists, political and social personalities also protested on the Pak-Afghan highway along with the deceased's body.

The protesters demanded that the killers be immediately arrested, a martyr's package be provided to the grieving family, and free education should be ensured for Khalil's children.

A case has been registered at the Landi Kotal police station.

The DPO (District Police Officer) said that the case has been registered on the complaint of the injured lawyer Sajjad against unknown accused, which includes sections from the anti-terrorism law.

The DPO explained that in the attack, advocate Sajjad was injured,