**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited



#### PM wishes president early, complete recovery

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed good wishes for early and complete recovery of President Asif Ali Zardari. The premier prayed to Allah Almighty for complete recovery of the president.

PPP's stance on canal issue is crystal clear, says Sherry Rehman

tesponding to an editorial published in an English nev Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Vice President Senato Iman said on Thursday that the party's stance on the

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawwal Al-Mukarram 5, Friday, April 4, 2025



www.dailyspokesman.net



(a) @daily spokesman



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## preciation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presents appreciation shields to the members of task force of power sec-



# PM announces massive relief of upto Rs7.69 per unit for electricity consumers

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday announced a significant reduction in the electricity prices of up to Rs 7.69 per unit for the consumers, pledging to provide further relief in near future through structural reforms in the power sector.

The prime minister, addressing a ceremony to unveil the package, said that the average per unit price for the domestic consumers had been brought down by Rs 7.41

and Rs 7.69 industrial sector.

price for industrial sector was Rs inflation rate and electricity bills. 58.5 which was first reduced by Rs 10.3 and further by Rs 7.69," he added.

The prime minister pointed out that the government was taking structural reforms especially in power sector to ensure further relief for the consumers and overall development of the

"This reduction will help industrialists to produce cheaper and more competitive products," he added. He noted that the common people had to suffer "In June 2024, the per unit a lot in the the past due to high

The Power Division is also

further reduce and stabilize elec-

tricity prices in the country, said a

He went on to say that the

statement issued here.

However, he assured that the government was taking further steps to provide maximum relief

Highlighting the structural reforms to be taken in power sector, the prime minister said the government will ensure halting power theft which was around Rs600 billion per year. Similarly, he said by establishing open market, the electricity tariffs will be further decreased.

He said there was no option but to privatize or commercialize Power Distribution Companies

uous improvement in the elec-

tricity sector. "We are working

electricity distribution system and

bring further reductions in power

public would now witness contin- million consumers were getting a soon operate at full capacity.

tariff, "he said.

(DISCOs) to reduce the burden Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, of line losses and power theft on the national exchequer.

"I have directed the team concerned to work diligently to implement reforms in the sector as soon as possible," he added.

Appreciating the task force formed to finalize power reforms, the prime minister said the force worked really hard and through their innovative thoughts, they brought different options and managed to convince the IMF to reduce the power tariffs.

The prime minister also gave away shields to Deputy Prime

cost of electricity in the country.

These 20 million consumers are

now getting electricity at Rs 11.50

He said owing to the govern-

per unit," he said.

The minister said currently,20 ment's initiatives, industries would

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Power Minister Awais Leghari, Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, SAPM Muhammad Ali, Finance Secretary Imdadullah Bosal, Power Secretary Dr Fakhr e Alam Irfan, National Coordinator on Task Force on Energy Lt General Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and FBR

Chairman Rashid Langrial. Members of the federal cabinet, parliamentarians, business community members, and senior government officers also attended

## **General Asim, COAS** visits Wana and Chehkan to celebrate **Eid with troops**



**Spokesman Report** 

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Wana in South Waziristan and Chehkan in Dera Ismail Khan to spend Eid-ul-Fitr with the officers and troops employed on the Western Border.

COAS Asim Munir, offered Eid prayers, and prayed for the enduring stability and prosperity of Pakistan, said a news release by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) issued here.

During his interaction, COAS Asim Munir extended warm Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the troops, lauding their unwavering dedication and exemplary service to the nation.

homeland but also exemplify your profound love for Pakistan," he stated.

General Syed Asim Munir COAS Visits Wana and Chehkan to Celebrate Eid with TroopsHe appreciated the performance of the Armed Forces and LEAs alongside the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who have always braved against the menace of terrorism.

In acknowledging the formations' tireless efforts, the COAS Asim Munir attributed their achievements to the sacrifices of our martyrs and those who are committed towards the greater cause of peace and

Upon his arrival, the COAS "Your commitment and was warmly received by the resilience not only secure our Corps Commander Peshawar.

## President Zardari tests positive for Covid

March Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari has tested positive for Covid-19, ARY News reported, citing his physician Dr Asim Hussain on Wednesday.

Dr Asim said that President Zardari was receiving medical care at a private hospital, where he has been placed in isolation.

meetings of the president have been postponed as he recovers from the infectious disease.

According to Dr Asim, all

Meanwhile, doctors have conducted multiple tests to assess his health status.

A day earlier, the PPP co-chairman was moved to refuted the reports relating the hospital in Karachi from Nawabshah after experiencing

The PPP co-chairman was



shifted to the hospital in the city after suffering from fever owing to an infection.

Earlier today, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon to President Zardari's health and said that his health was improving.

In a post on X, Sindh's

## Pakistan launches operation to repatriate Afghan nationals

Govt fulfills promise with Rs 7.41 per

unit relief to power consumers: Awais

working on others aspects to day and night to improve the

👺 City Desk

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed

Khan Leghari on Thursday said

that the government has fulfilled

its promise made with the people

by reducing Rs 7.41 per unit power

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan launched a large-scale operation undocumented Afghans will be against illegal Afghan migrants on Thursday, April 3, following the expiration of the official April 2 deadline, reported the 24News-HD TV channel on Thursday.

conducted a raid in the Gulyana Bela area, rounding up Afghan migrants and transporting them had announced that deporta-

back to Afghanistan in buses in a respectful manner.

Police officials stated that more deported in a similar way in the

coming days. The government had initially set a March 31 deadline for Afghans holding Afghan Citizen The operation started in Cards (ACC) to leave Pakistan, Kharian, where Gulyana police but it was postponed due to Eidul

Fitr holidays. Earlier, the Interior Ministry tions would begin on April 1, stating that sufficient time had been given for their voluntary

The government assured that migrants will not be mistreated, and arrangements for food and healthcare have been made for their repatriation.

According to the AFP report, since Pakistan launched the campaign in November 2023, over 800,000 Afghans have been repatriated.



## China urges U.S. to correct its wrongdoing of 'reciprocal tariffs'

👺 Xinhua

BEIJING: China urged the United States to correct its wrongful imposition of "reciprocal tariffs," and address economic and trade differences with China and other countries through equal, respectful, and mutually-beneficial negotiations, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Thursday.

Guo made the remarks at a regular press briefing in response to a query about Washington's announcement of "reciprocal tariffs" on major trading partners.

Under the pretext of "reciprocity," the United States has imposed additional tariffs on exports from China and other countries, which seriously violates World Trade Organization regulations and severely undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system, noted Guo. "The Chinese side firmly

opposes this and will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights and interests," said the spokesperson, reiterating that there is no winner in a trade or tariff war, and that protectionism offers no solution.

# UN Military Observers' Offices Under Threat: AJK leader condemns India's move

Abdul Maieed Tahir

MIRPUR: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Abdul Majeed has strongly condemned the statement of the illegal Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha imposed on the people of occupied Kashmir to close the offices of the United Nations Military Observers for India and Pakistan in Srinagar and send back the military mission. He said in his statement that Manoj Sinha is becoming more loyal to the of the United Nations Military Observ-



facit rulers than to the Shah. The offices

under the recognized resolutions of the Security Council.

These resolutions have been recognized by India and deviating from them or closing these offices is tantamount to denying the decisions of the Security Council.

Former Prime Minister Chaudhry Majeed said that the resolutions of the Security Council on Jammu and Kashmir are in full force and violating these resolutions means implementing UN sanctions against oneself. He said that the statement of the Lieutenant the borders.

ers in Srinagar have been established Governor is adorned with baseless ignorance and incomprehension. It seems that India has been given to divert the attention of its people from internal problems and severe economic crises and to create artificial popularity for the BJP. Former Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed said that the Indian extremist government has proven to be unable to solve the economic and internal challenges of its people and its disorganized army has failed to deal with the separatist movements in the country and defend

## Saraiki Leaders vow to protect region's rights, reject irrigation projects

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Zahoor Dhreija Chairman Saraikistan National Council Said We will not allow the Sindh to be plundered. From the Indus Waters Treaty to any irrigation agreement, the Seraiki community has not been taken into confidence. We will not accept any irrigation projects until a Seraiki province is formed. The Seraiki region is the land of seven rivers, we have been the heirs of riverine civilization for centuries. The rulers should recognize the rights of the Seraiki nation and stop the conspiracy to wall off the Seraiki nation and turn it into a minority. These views were expressed by Saraiki leaders Zahoor Dhareja, Khwaja Ghulam Farid Koreija and others while addressing the "April Flower" ceremony organized by the Saraikistan National Council on the Chachran Pattan River in the Indus River. On this occasion, the ritual of throwing flowers in the Chenab River was performed and flowers were thrown in the Chenab River. The memorable ceremony of the Saraikistan National Council included full representation of the Seraiki parties. Apart from others, both factions of the Seraiki party were also present at the ceremony.

### Kashmiri Leader slams Indian forces' barbarity on Eid



MUZAFFARABAD: Former Acting President and Secretary General of the Muslim Conference, Ms. Mehran-Nisa, has said that the atrocities of the Indian occupation forces continue. Even on the occasion of Eid, barbarity continues. We condemn the closure of the Eidgah and Jamia Masjid and depriving Muslims of Eid prayers. The United Nations should take notice of the ongoing bloodshed in

occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine, the provision of fundamental rights and the atrocities of the occupying forces. Expressing these views, Ms. Mehran-Nisa, Secretary General of the Muslim Conference and former Deputy Speaker, has condemned the act of preventing the performance of Eid prayers and creating obstacles in the performance of religious festivals in the occupied areas including Srinagar and said that such incidents cannot suppress the movements for freedom and right to self-determination. Ms. Mehran-Nisa said that the performance of Eid prayers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr is a major religious festival and worship. Preventing and arresting the founder chairman of the Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Muhammad Umar Farooq, from performing Eid prayers in Jamia Masjid is condemnable. Detaining millions of Kashmiris is the worst act. Obstruction and restriction of religious rituals is a condemnable act. Ms. Mehran-Nisa said that the United Nations Security Council Appealed to the Council and more than fifty Islamic countries to take steps to provide the Kashmiri people with a recognized right to self-determination so that lasting peace can be established in South Asia and the tension over the Kashmir dispute can be resolved.

## Shooting in a house near Dawood Chowk, Medina Town: Rescue

Abdul Maiid
■

FAISALABAD: According to eyewitnesses, a man shot his wife, sisterin-law, daughter and himself due to a domestic dispute. Raja Kashif, 28, and his young daughter, six-year-old Merab, died on the spot due to the bullets. Zunira, 25, wife of Raja Kashif (wife) and Faiza, 27, daughter of Younis (sister-in-law) were injured. The rescue team reached the spot and shifted the injured to the Civil Hospital after providing medical assistance. The bodies of the deceased were handed over to the concerned police station, Medina Town.

#### Over 150,000 tourists enjoy Eid in KP's scenic destinations



PESHAWAR: Over 150,000 tourists flocked to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's scenic destinations during Eid-ul-Fitr, enjoying the picturesque landscapes and pleasant weather.

The influx of visitors started on the first day of Eid and continued through the third day, with some tourists still present in certain areas. According to the Tourism Authority on Thursday, more than 95,000 tourists visited various destinations across the province during the three days of Eid. Among them, 42,111 tourists celebrated Eid in Naran, while 28,000 visited Galiyat. Additionally, 16,400 tourists explored Kumrat, and 8,483 visited the breathtaking valleys of Kalash. Moreover, around 50000 others enjoyed their Eid in scenic Swat valley.

The natural beauty, serene environment, and pleasant weather made the experience memorable for the visitors, who took the opportunity to double their joy while celebrating Eid in these famous tourist spots.

#### SSP operations directs enhanced crime control measures in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Islamabad, Muhammad Shoaib Khan, presided over an important meeting on Thursday regarding crime control with officers from Soan Zone, Industrial Area Zone, and the Anti-Robbery and Dacoity Unit.

A spokesperson told APP that the meeting focused on strategies to curb criminal activities in the federal capital. On the occasion, SSP Operations issued strict directives for enhanced vigilance against proclaimed

SSP Shoaib instructed officers to make patrolling more effective and purposeful to ensure the arrest of those involved in street crimes, as well SSP Shoaib emphasized the need to utilize all available resources to

eradicate criminal elements and conduct a crackdown against individuals involved in serious crimes and absconding offenders He further ordered targeted operations against land grabbers, drug

dealers, and those possessing illegal weapons to ensure strict legal action against them. SSP Shoaib also stressed that suspects involved in serious crimes must

be brought to justice through solid, evidence-based charge sheets. He directed all SHOs to effectively address public complaints at the police station level and resolve citizens' issues on a priority basis. Additionally, SSP warned that complaints regarding corruption,

misconduct, or inappropriate behavior would be dealt with strictly, as any abuse of authority would not be tolerated. He reiterated that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police, and any negligence in this regard would not be tolerated.

## Traditional Baggi

RAWALPINDI: An elder vendor is dusting his traditional baggi to attract customers along the Murree Road and earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family.



# India's Eid Day Aggression Exposed: Sardar Attique

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

GHAZIABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, while strongly condemning the unprovoked firing and shelling by the Indian army on civilians in the Tetri Note sector on LO C on Eid day, said that India has made a failed attempt to divert attention from the arrest of a terrorist network in border in Azad Kashmir.

He said that the world knows that the face of India's terrorism has been exposed at the global level. India also kept the market of oppression and and Kashmir Muslim Conference and cruelty hot on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, which cannot be condemned Ahmed Khan strongly condemned enough. He said that even on the holy occasion of Eid festival, Kashmiri Parties Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz



Balochistan by attacking Attique LOC Muslims were not allowed to offer Eid prayers and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was

arrested and placed under house arrest. While Talking to media persons and party officials President of All Jammu former Prime Minister Sardar Attique the detention of senior leader of All Umar Farooq from offering Eid prayers and termed it unjustified. Continuously preventing a respected leader from fulfilling his religious promises is extremely disturbing and unacceptable.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is the Khateeb of the historic Jama Masjid of Kashmir, he is also the Chairman of All Parties Hurrivat Conference.

Mirwaiz's family has been associated with Jama Masjid for centuries. Mirwaiz's re-detention is extremely regrettable and an interference in religious matters.

These views were expressed by them while talking to Muslim Conference leaders. They said that such steps of the administration are unacceptable. They said that they demand the United Nations Security Council, international human rights institutions and organizations to take notice of Modi's aggres-

#### Govt ensuring fixed wages to kiln workers: MPA

FAISALABAD: Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) Ijaz Alam Augustine has said the Punjab government is strictly following the policy of ensuring provision of fixed wages to kiln workers.

Inaugurating a project to produce bricks by a machine in collaboration with a private organisation, Pakistan Partnership Initiative here on Thursday, he said that brickkiln machines could produce more bricks with less labour.

A US businessman Mike Berkeley, Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Partnership Investment Ashraf Mull and a large number of kiln owners and workers were also present.

The MPA said the brick-kiln machine would be helpful to produce best quality bricks at economical rates. He also reviewed the process of making bricks with

# Faisalabad Police registered 418 cases during operations against drug peddlers

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: According to City Police Officer Sahibzada Bilal Umar, Faisalabad Police has started operations against criminal elements across the district. Police of police stations are mobilized to arrest them. While a crackdown is also underway against proclaimed offenders.

During the last month of March, the police carried out vigorous operations against the criminal elements and conducted successful raids at various

While taking action to arrest robbery and robbery. dangerous proclaimed offenders, 629 month, 296 accused belonging to 116 gangs were arrested and stolen goods

worth Rs. 91.49 million were recovered. Motorcycles, mobile phones and cattle were recovered from the accused. The



The stolen goods were handed over proclaimed offenders and 437 court to the original owners. In various police fugitives were arrested last month. Last stations, 69 cases were registered last month while taking action against gambling and slip mafia. And 201 accused were arrested. A sum of Rs. 789,000 was recovered from the possession of the gambling mafia and playing accused were wanted in cases of theft, cards, slips, cards and other gambling

paraphernalia were seized by the police. During the operations against drug peddlers, the police registered 418 cases and recovered drugs from the accused. 142,700 kg of hashish, 3,700 kg of ice, 32,500 kg of heroin, 11,800 kg of opium and 3,685 liters of alcohol were recovered from the accused. Meanwhile, actions were taken against those in possession of illegal weapons. 365 cases of weapons were registered against them, in which 315 pistols, 8 Kalashnikovs, 23 rifles, 22 guns and several bullets and cartridges

The city police is continuing its crackdown to suppress criminal elements. Full action is being taken to ensure the rule of law and the protection of the lives and property of citizens. New strategies for effective patrolling, Elite and Dolphin Force operations, monitoring at the police station, circle and town levels, and measures are being taken to erad-

## Nine apprehended for doing wheelie on Eid days

MULTAN: To ensure road safety during the festive days of Chaand Raat and Eid, the Multan Traffic Police took stringent action against one-wheeling and reckless motorcycle riding.

Under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Sardar Mawarhan Khan, a special squad headed by Inspector Tahir Awan was deployed in various areas of the city where it successfully apprehended nine individuals involved in life-threatening stunts. The offenders had been booked under legal proceedings, and cases had been registered with the concerned police stations.

The CTO commended efforts of the special enforcement squad and reaffirmed the commitment of the Traffic Police to maintain discipline on roads. He stressed that road safety was a top priority, and strict action will continue to be taken against those who violate traffic rules, engage in dangerous stunts, and risk their lives as well as lives of others.





SERVICES		
Namaz Ti	mings	
Fajr		
Zohr	12:11 pm	
Asr	4:42 pm	
Maghrib	6:30 pm	
Isha	7:55 pm	

## EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
W

## **Women Police**

Stations		
	Islamabad	9222596
	Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQ	UIRY
Edhi Ambulance	11
PIA Flight Info	11-
PIA Cargo	928097

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

#### **HOSPITALS**

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### **COMPLAINTS** Water Tanker Service

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

## 43 vehicles impounded in Sargodha



district administration imposed hefty fines on transporters involved in overcharging and overloading during the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays.

According to Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Malik Muhammad Tahir, a thorough inspection of 1,265 vehicles was carried out during Eid days. He said that 70 vehicles were fined for overcharging and overloading, with 43 passenger vehicles being impounded in addition, a total fine of Rs. 153,500 was imposed.

The RTA secretary said the authority also succeeded in recovering Rs. 24,160 in excess fare from transporters, which was returned to passengers. Special monitoring squads were formed to oversee the situation during the holidays, with full support from the traffic police and assistant commissioners, he added.

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif gives green signal to Sahulat-on-the-Go' Bazaars Project

#### 跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The first and unique 'Sahulat-on-the-Go bazaars' of its kind will be established in Punjab. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has

'Sahulat-on-the-Go bazaars' project. The tions in Lahore. Chief Minister chaired a special meeting in which a briefing about 'Sahulat-

given in-principle approval to establish bazaars'pilot project at 14 various loca-

The CM has set a target of four months for the establishment of 'Sahulat-onon-the-Go bazaars' project. She sought a the-Go bazaars' pilot project. Governplan for establishing 'Sahulat-on-the-Go ment land will be used on the sides of

the road for establishing 'Sahulat-onthe-Go bazaars' project. 816 stalls will be set up in Lahore under the 'Sahulaton-the-Go bazaars' pilot project. The meeting was informed that 'Sahulat-onthe-Go bazaars' will be established on the Multan Road, Hanjarwal, Manga Mandi, Raiwind, G-1 Market, Faisal Town, Moon Market and Bedian Road.

Areas comprising E-Millat Road, Gulshan Ravi, Shahdara, Shadman and Singh Pura are also included in the project. In the Sahulat-on-the-Go bazaar, food items and essential edibles will be

available at uniform cottage-top shops surrounding the roads. Special arrangements will be made for a clean environment and security in the 'Sahulat-onthe-Go bazaars' project. The meeting agreed to launch 'Sahulat-on-the-Go bazaars' project in every tehsil of Punjab.

Chairman of the Punjab Model Bazaar Management Company Muhammad Afzal Khokhar presented a report to the Chief Minister on the model bazaar. She expressed satisfaction over the setting up of model bazaars during the month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak

## Protest against terrorists

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Zindabad Movement and civil society stage protest demonstration against terrorist organizations targeting country outside Press Club Peshawar.



# Pakistan's Business Community Gets Relief as Electricity Prices Plummet: Bakhtawari

#### 

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Member of the Central Core Committee of UBG, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, has stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement of a significant reduction in electricity prices for domestic and industrial consumers is a major economic step that will provide direct relief to both the business community and the general public.

He highlighted the relentless efforts and continuous endeavors of the UBG Group, Group Leader Gohar Ejaz, and Patron-in-Chief S. M. Tanveer behind this achievement. They have consistently raised the issues faced by traders and industrialists and played a crucial role in finding practical solutions in collaboration with the government.

Speaking to a high-level delegation of traders, he stated that, following this decision, the electricity price for domestic 7.59 rupees per unit, lowering it to 39.60 consumers has been reduced by 7.41 rupees



per unit, bringing the new rate to 34 rupees per unit. Similarly, for industrial consumers, the price has been reduced by

Ahsan Bakhtawari further emphasized that the leadership of the UBG Group has always represented the business community's concerns to the government and played a key role in securing this crucial decision.

#### 👺 Zain Khan

MULTAN: Renowned industrial-SM Group of Industries, as well as a member of the National Export Develhis Eid message, he highlighted the and productive members of the coun-

# Zulfiqar Ali Anjum extends Eid Greetings to the Nation

emphasizing that Eid is a day of blessings, gratitude, and social unity.

As a dedicated entrepreneur, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum firmly believes that success should not be measured by personal achievements alone, but by how much one contributes to the welfare of others. He expressed his lifelong commitment to expanding ist, philanthropist, and Chairman of his business to create employment opportunities, enabling people to transform their lives from deprivation opment Board, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali to prosperity. "It is my continuous effort Anjum, has extended his heartfelt to provide individuals with meaningful Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the nation. In opportunities, turning them into skilled

significance of this joyous occasion, try's industrial workforce. A peaceful and prosperous society can only be built when every individual is given equal opportunities for growth, and no one is left struggling due to poverty and lack of resources.

> Concluding his message, he prayed for peace, prosperity, and brotherhood in Pakistan, expressing hope that Eid would bring joy, love, and success for all. "May our nation flourish with harmony and goodwill, and may every individual lead a life of peace and contentment. Let us pledge this Eid to ease the lives of others and actively contribute to the progress of our country and nation." Eid Mubarak!

## **Kundi for** promoting unity among all parties

LARKANA:Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi Thursday emphasized the government's efforts to promote unity among all parties, aiming to bring political and economic stability to Pakistan.

Talking to media persons at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto, Kundi pointed out the contradictions within PTI, where leaders seek an NRO for their founder while party members make corruption allegations, yet no minister has been held accountable.

Governor highlighted the issue of water scarcity affecting the entire

PPP Punjab leader Nadeem Afzal Chan emphasized the PPP government's role in developing Pakistan's agriculture, stressing that wheat prices should be based on production costs.

## Nadeem Pehlwan appointed as Coordinator of Industry and Investment Punjab





News Desk

SHEIKHUPURA: PML-Q Lahore General Secretary Nadeem Pehlwan has been appointed as Coordinator of Industry and Investment Punjab. On this occasion, Chairperson Lahore National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony, Editor of Daily Sach Baat Ms. Bushra Hashmi and Coordinator Lahore Division National Peace Committee for Interfaith Harmony, Chief Editor of Daily Sach Baat Lahore, President Ittehad Press Club Farooqabad Syed Taqi Raza Bukhari and other friends congratulated Nadeem Pehlwan. Provincial Minister Shafi Hussain was also present on the occasion. Talking to journalists, Nadeem Pehlwan said that all possible facilities will be provided to industrial development and investors in Punjab.

## Pakistan and Uzbekistan Unite for a Green Future!

#### Spokesman Report

SAMARKAND: On and beautiful city of Samarkand will host a High-Level International Forum titled "Central Asia Facing Global Climate Chal-



lenges: Uniting for a Common Prosperity." Representing the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Mr. Musadik Masood Malik will participate in the forum.

The Minister will deliver a speech during the key session "Climate Change in Focus: Building the Future Through Joint Action," where he will share Pakistan's successful experience, environmental initiatives, and national priorities in combating the climate crisis. This visit follows the historic official visit of H. E. Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan in February 2025, and marks a significant step toward strengthening the strategic partnership between our two brotherly nations. Pakistan and Uzbekistan Unite for a Green Future! Under the lead-

ership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H. E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, our country is becoming a leading platform for global dialogue on the most pressing challenges of our time - climate change, ecology, and sustainable development.

Uzbekistan and Pakistan — two friendly nations bound by shared history and united goals in the 21st century. Together, we move forward toward an environmentally sustainable future!

### Dr. Alina Kiran: Strengthening Pakistan's Global Academic Influence in Technology Management

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Alina Kiran, a pioneering researcher and scholar in the field of Technology Management, is on the cusp of completing her Ph. D. at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), marking a significant milestone in her distinguished career. With expertise in transformational leadership and digital transformation, Dr. Kiran's work is already shaping global discussions in academia and industry, reinforcing Pakistan's growing pres-



ence in high-impact research and corporate leadership.

Dr. Kiran's academic journey is one of exceptional dedication and international recognition. Holding an MSc in Economics from Pakistan and an MS in Management & Finance from Birmingham City University, UK, her academic foundation is robust and globally respected. As a Senior Lecturer and Research Supervisor at Bahria University, Islamabad, Dr. Kiran mentored countless students, reinforcing Pakistan's academic strength.

Her Ph. D. research at UTeM focuses on transformational leadership practices within multinational corporations (MNCs) in Malaysia, offering valuable insights into leadership dynamics that are highly relevant to Pakistan's evolving corporate and technology sectors. Dr. Kiran's contributions have not gone unnoticed; her research has been extensively covered in prestigious international journals, including Frontiers in Psychology and International Journal of Emerging Markets. These publications have acknowledged her work as groundbreaking, highlighting her as an authority in leadership, corporate governance, and digital transformation.

## Editorial/Opinion

Friday, April 4, 2025

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## **UN condemns killing** of 1,000 Palestinians in Gaza since ceasefire collapse

N Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed grave concern on Wednesday over the human toll resulting from the intensified Israeli attacks in Gaza.

He condemned the reported killing of more than a thousand people, including women and children, since the collapse of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas on 18 March.

In his daily press briefing, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said that large-scale Israeli shelling and ground operations have resulted in widespread destruction and the displacement of more than 100,000 Palestinians from Rafah in the past two days alone, most of whom have been displaced multiple times.

"The Secretary-General is shocked by the attack of the Israeli army on a medical and emergency convoy on 23 March resulting in the killing of 15 medical personnel and humanitarian workers in Gaza," he said.

Dujarric stressed that all parties to the conflict must protect medical, humanitarian and emergency workers at all times, and respect and protect civilians, as required by international humanitarian law. He underscored the need to end the denial of life-saving assistance.

Since October 2023, at least 408 aid workers have been killed in Gaza, including 280 UN humanitarian personnel.

Dujarric said the Secretary-General honours all humanitarian workers killed in this conflict and demands a full, thorough and independent investigation into these incidents.

Guterres renewed his urgent call for the immediate resumption of the ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, and unhindered humanitarian access throughout Gaza.

Dujarric was asked about the plans Israel has announced to take control of more land in Gaza.

"The Secretary-General also reminds that Security Council resolution 2735 (2024) rejects any attempt at demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce the territory of Gaza," he said.

In this regard, the UN chief is increasingly concerned about inflammatory rhetoric which calls on the Israeli military to capture extensive territory that will be added to the State of Israel's security areas.

Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the Palestine refugee agency (UNRWA), reported on Wednesday that Israeli forces shelled one of its buildings in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

He said in a social media post that the building was previously a health centre and had been badly damaged earlier in the war. In Gaza, 'even ruins have become a target', he remarked.

## The Erosion of Civilian Supremacy

sial and unprecedented development has taken place involving a top-ranking official of Pakistan's premier intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), holding a political meeting with influential members of the Pakistani diaspora in Washington, D.C. The event, arranged officially through the Pakistani Embassy's military wing, has sparked intense debate both within the Pakistani community in the United States and across social media platforms.

What makes this meeting particularly concerning is not only its political nature but also the fact that it was led by an ISI official—a role that, by constitutional design, has no mandate in civilian governance or politics. Attendees included prominent Pakistani Americans—businesspeople, academics, community leaders—who were assured that the grievances of overseas Pakistanis, particularly regarding the political turmoil in Pakistan and the incarceration of Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister and founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), would be addressed. However, this assurance came not from elected representatives or diplomatic officials, but from a figure whose domain is intelligence and national security, not political arbitration.

The ISI has no legal or constitutional mandate to conduct political meetings, particularly abroad, with civilian populations. Matters concerning political grievances, democratic representation, and the justice system should lie exclusively within the purview of the elected civilian government. The ISI has no authority over judicial matters, prison administration, or legislative affairs—yet it is now evidently dictating or at least influencing all these

This development raises profound

n recent days, a highly controver- questions about the legitimacy of the and ensure its territorial integrity. current civilian setup. It reinforces the perception that the government in Islamabad functions merely as a facade for the decisions made by Rawalpindi. The very spirit of democracy and constitutional governance is being undermined. It is not only a betrayal of Pakistan's constitutional framework but also an insult to the intelligence of the Pakistani public, both at home and abroad

Worse still is the military's attempt to suppress overseas criticism. The diaspora, often considered Pakistan's soft power and economic lifeline due to the billions in annual remittances. is now being warned against speaking out. Diaspora voices, espe-

cially in democratic societies like the U.S., have every right to engage in advocacy, raise concerns, and demand justice. To label such engagement as "unpatriotic" or "against national interest" is an authoritarian tactic that contradicts the values of democratic freedom.

This pattern of the military engaging directly with various sectors-students, businesspeople, religious leaders, now even the overseas community—without the involvement of elected officials, reflects a dangerous expansion of its political footprint. If this trend continues unchecked, the distinction between state and government, between military and civilian authority, will be completely obliterated.

It must be emphasized that Pakistan is a constitutional republic. The military, while an essential and respected pillar of the state, must maintain civilian face. Article 243 of the Constitution clearly outlines the role of the armed forces: to defend Pakistan against external threats

Nowhere does it suggest that the military can hold political meetings, dictate civilian policy, or influence judicial matters.

In the current context, with Pakistan facing multiple external threats—from tensions with India, border instability with Afghanistan, and flare-ups with Iran—, threats of Donald Trump to Bomb Iran, if it doesn't enter into negotiation on its nuclear ambition, act of cross border

> terrorism from Afghanistan and internal separatists movement demand that military remains focused on its core oper ational duties.

Our armed forces are a national asset. They must be shielded from political controversies so that their credibility

remains intact when it is truly needed. The growing politicization of the military not only weakens civilian institutions but also erodes the public's confidence in the armed forces—a cost Pakistan can

It is equally important that Pakistan's universities, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, professional bodies, and business leaders, when receiving invitations from the military, should insist on a civilian head leading such engagements. The military representatives should play a supplementary role, supporting-rather than substituting—civilian leadership. This approach would help deflect criticism that the military is directly assuming political responsibilities and would prevent the perception that it is defending government actions that fall strictly within the civilian domain and lie outside the military's constitutional mandate.

A similar approach should be adopted in the case of meetings between foreign

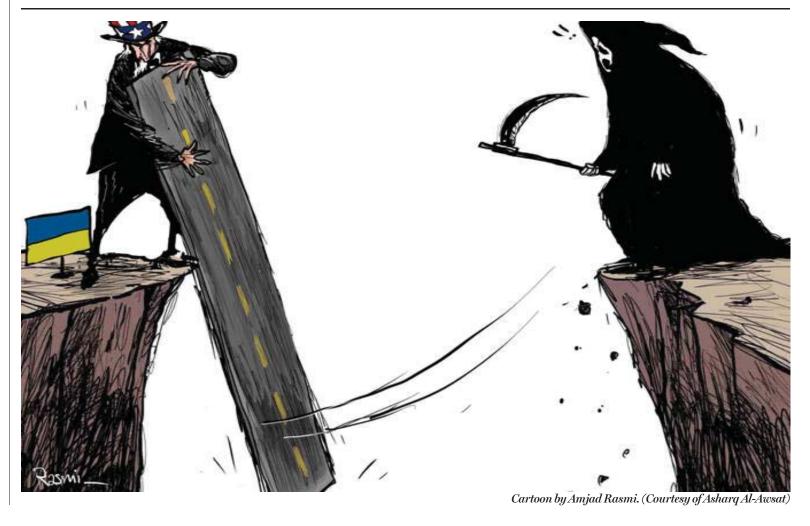
such meetings do occur, they should not be publicized in the media, in order to maintain at least the appearance of civilian leadership at the forefront. Engagements with the Pakistani state must be channeled through legitimate civilian representatives—not shadow figures from the security establishment. Diplomatic norms demand transparency and accountability—qualities sorely lacking in this recent episode.

Moving forward, the military leadership must reassess its approach. Rather than standing in front, it must step back and let the civilian government take the lead in political discourse, policy formulation, and international outreach. If coordination is required, it should happen behind closed doors and within the constitutional framework—not through public forums where military officials act as de facto heads of state.

A pragmatic path forward would involve restoring the primacy of civilian leadership. Let the foreign minister, ambassador, or prime minister engage with the diaspora. Let political grievances be addressed by elected representatives. Let the judiciary operate without interference. Let the media report without intimidation. In this model, the military would still retain its influence—but discreetly and constitutionally—thereby restoring a much-needed balance of power.

If this course correction is not undertaken, Pakistan risks further alienating its diaspora, losing global credibility, and deepening its internal political crisis. Civilian supremacy is not just a constitutional obligation—it is a democratic necessity.

Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



## European Union - Central Asia: regional consolidation and global partnership

#### Spokesman Research

n April 4, 2025, the first "Central Asia - European Union" official summit will be held in Samarkand, under the chairmanship of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This event is set to become a significant political milestone and will mark the beginning of a new phase in the relationship between the two regions.

An important prerequisite for the institutionalization of this format were the meetings of the leaders of Central Asian countries and the European Union in Astana and Cholpon-Ata in 2022 and 2023. The holding of the Samarkand summit demonstrates that the interaction between the countries of the Central Asian region and the EU has reached a new level, as well as the high strategic importance of the dialog for both sides.

It is important to note that the initiative to launch the "European Union-Central Asia" format at the highest level was put forward by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in 2022 during the Astana meeting of the heads of Central Asian states and the President of the

European Commission Charles Michel. Uzbekistan is taking an active position in the European Union-Central Asia multilateral format, while taking bilateral relations to a new

stage of engagement. In an interview with Euronews ahead of the first "Central Asia - European Union" summit in Samarkand, the President of Uzbekistan. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, stated: "We highly appreciate the European Union's support for our aspirations for the region's openness, prosperity and strengthening of its subjectivity. It is particularly important that the EU shares our goal of transforming Central Asia into a united and dynamic region, ready for open and equal partnership with

Since 2016, when political developments in our country paved the way for closer international cooperation and improved conditions for investment and growth, the European Union has been supporting Uzbekistan's ambitious transformation, which is crucial for ensuring more inclusive economic growth and improving the lives of citizens.

In 2018, the EU and Uzbekistan started negotiations on an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), which demonstrates a shared interest in modernizing and deepening relations. The Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement is initialed by the parties in July 2022. The new agreement will replace the current one, signed in 1996, and will expand the framework of relations both in economic terms and in other areas, bringing them more in line with today's realities.

In recognition of the ongoing fundamental reforms, our country was granted "GSP+" status on April 10, 2021, which opened new economic and trade opportunities.

An important event in the history of Uzbekistan-EU relations was the visit of European Council President Charles Michel to Tashkent in October 2022, during which key issues of bilateral  $cooperation\ were\ discussed, including\ EU\ support$ to reform, gender equality and successful partnership in the spheres of trade and investment.

The rapid development of Uzbek-European relations is also evidenced by the dynamics of mutual visits at the highest level. Thus. Uzbek President Shavkat Mirzivovev visited France (October 2018, March 2025), Germany (January 2019, May 2023), Italy (June 2023). In turn, European leaders have also paid official and state visits to Uzbekistan: French President Emmanuel Macron (November 2023), German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (May 2023), contribute to sustainable development, stability Italian President Sergio Materella (November

2023), German Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz (September 2024).

As a result of these visits, solid packages of documents were signed on the development of cooperation in various areas, the total amount of which exceeds tens of billions of dollars.

An important step in strengthening cooperation with the European Union was the approval of the Multi-Year Indicative Program of EU financial and technical assistance to Uzbekistan for 2021-2027, which opens new horizons for cooperation in such areas as digitalization, "green" economy, energy efficiency and water use.

Humanitarian projects are also being actively developed under these programs, including cultural exchanges and cooperation with the Louvre and the New Museum in Berlin, which allows Uzbekistan's rich cultural heritage to be presented in the international arena.

These successes, covering political-diplomatic, trade-economic, investment, tourism, cultural and humanitarian spheres, confirm the qualitative changes in relations between Uzbekistan and the EU, enhancing the image of Central Asia as an important and promising region in the international arena.

The holding of the first official summit in the "European Union-Central Asia" format in Uzbekistan, namely in the historic city of Samarkand, is a recognition of the country's consolidating role in the integration processes in the region and its active efforts to strengthen regional interaction and expand international cooperation on the platforms of "Central Asia+".

The outcomes of the upcoming summit are expected to open up broad prospects for both Central Asian countries and the EU, creating a solid basis for deepening economic, investment and humanitarian ties, expanding trade opportunities and implementing joint initiatives that will and prosperity of the two regions.

## **Udero Lal: The Saint of Sindh** and the Symbol of Harmony

#### Ramesh Raja

dero Lal, also known as Jhulelal and Palli Varu Pir. is a revered spiritual figure in Sindh, Pakistan, and among Sindhi communities worldwide. He is believed to be an incarnation of Daryah Shah, the River God, and is particularly venerated by Hindus as a divine protector and a symbol of Sindhi identity. His legacy, which embodies religious harmony and the deep connection between Sindhi culture and the Indus River, continues to be celebrated through the annual festival of Cheti Chand.

According to tradition, Udero Lal was born in Nasarpur in 1007 Sambat (Hindu calendar), in the house of Ratnarai Lohana. A miraculous event is associated with his birth: he did not drink his mother's milk until water from the Indus River was placed in his mouth. This event reinforced his identity as an incarnation of Varun Dev (the Water God), leading to his widespread veneration among the Sindhi Hindu community. Another legend states that during a time of religious oppression in Thatta, a ruler named Markh Shah attempted to forcibly convert Hindus to Islam. The persecuted Hindus prayed to Daryah Shah, and in response, a divine warrior on horseback emerged from the river, confronting Markh Shah and urging him to let Hindus and Muslims live in peace. Seeing his miraculous powers, the ruler agreed to religious tolerance. Later, this divine figure was born as Udero Lal and became a guiding force for unity and peace in Sindh.

Devotees from both Hindu and Muslim communities participate in various rituals at are sung in devotion, followed by the lighting of lamps to symbolize divine presence. Offerings of with special prayers offered to the Indus River. A lesson in peace, tolerance, and harmony.

significant tradition, the Bahrano ritual, involves placing a lamp in a brass plate along with flour

cakes, sugar nuggets, and sweets. Despite political and religious changes over centuries, Udero Lal's message of peace, unity, and devotion remains strong. The belief in his divine guidance has been preserved by both Hindus and Muslims, making his shrine a rare example of interfaith respect and harmony in Sindh. In Sanskrit, the word "Udu" means water, signifying Varun Dev, the god of the ocean. Over time, "Uduvar" became "Udero," strengthening the association of Udero Lal with water and life itself. He is also called Amar Lal (The Eternal One) and Zinda Pir (The Living Saint), reflecting the deep-rooted faith people continue to place

Udero Lal Dargah stands as a powerful symbol of religious harmony. Hindus and Muslims have coexisted peacefully here for centuries, worshiping at their respective places of worshipthe temple and mosque—situated side by side. The shrine is maintained collectively by both Hindu and Muslim custodians. During fairs and celebrations. Hindus donate for the upkeep of the mosque, and Muslims contribute to the temple. The custodian of the dargah, Abdullah Sheikh, affirms that the shrine promotes peace and tolerance, values cherished by all Sindhis. Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan expanded the original structure, further cementing its status as a shared spiritual heritage. The shrine has become a symbol of coexistence, similar to other Sufi shrines in Sindh, such as those of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar and Bhit Shah.

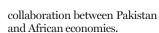
Udero Lal is more than a religious figure he is a symbol of Sindh's cultural and spiritual heritage. His legacy represents the coexistence Udero Lal Dargah. Religious hymns, or Panjras, of different faiths, the reverence for nature and water, and the resilience of the Sindhi people. In a world where divisions based on religion continue sweets, fruits, and roses are made before worship, to grow, Udero Lal's teachings offer a timeless

# Strengthening Bonds: PAEC & MOFA host prestigious Iftar to boost Pak-Africa ties

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: In a grand gesture of unity and economic diplomacy, the Africa Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), in collaboration with the Pakistan Africa Economic Council (PAEC), hosted an Iftar dinner that brought together diplomats, parliamentarians, and business leaders. The event underscored the commitment of Pakistan and African nations to strengthening bilateral ties and fostering deeper economic and diplomatic rela-

The prestigious gathering was graced by Ambassadors, dignitaries, and key stakeholders dedicated to expanding economic opportunities between Pakistan and African nations. Among the distinguished guests was the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, Jane Marriott, whose presence further elevated the event's significance. Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa), Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, formally welcomed the guests, emphasizing the immense potential of trade and business promoting economic partner-



During his address, Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan commended the Pakistan Africa Economic Council (PAEC) for its unwavering efforts in

ships. He highlighted Africa as an emerging economic hub, rich with untapped resources and investment opportunities, and stressed that Pakistan's business community must take full advantage of these prospects. Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Director General (Africa Division), provided a comprehensive overview of PAEC's objectives and its instrumental role in facilitating trade, investment, and cooperation between Pakistan and Africa. He reiterated the need for proactive engagement between the private sectors of both regions to ensure sustained economic growth and develop-

In recognition of their outstanding contributions, Shields of Honor were awarded to PAEC Chairman Dr. Shahbaz Ali Malik and Secretary General Mohammad Tauseef Zaman.

in advancing Pakistan-Africa economic relations. Their initiatives have led to a significant boost in bilateral trade, investments, and business collaborations, setting a strong foundation for the future. The Iftar dinner was more than just an occasion for breaking fast; it served as a



Ambassador Hamid Asghar and business leaders engaged in Khan presented the awards, meaningful discussions on trade acknowledging their relentpolicies, investment frameworks, less dedication and leadership and cultural exchanges, further cementing Pakistan's role as a strategic partner for African nations. Many attendees lauded the initiative, recognizing the importance of consistent engagement and such high-level gatherings in solidifying Pakistan's diplomatic standing in Africa. The discussions also touched vital platform for dialogue and upon the need for simplifying trade barriers, promoting joint networking, fostering goodwill among attendees. Diplomats ventures, and establishing a

robust framework to enhance economic interdependence.

PAEC has emerged as a leading organization dedicated to expanding trade, investment, and economic collaboration between Pakistan and African nations. Through strategic advocacy, policy recommendations, and business facilitation, PAEC continues to unlock new opportunities for growth and international cooperation. Dr. Shahbaz Ali Malik, PAEC Chairman, emphasized that Africa's markets present unprecedented opportunities for Pakistani businesses, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and information technology. He further stated that with the right policies and strategic partnerships, Pakistan can become a key trading ally for African nations.

The success of the Iftar dinner marks yet another milestone in Pakistan's engagement with Africa, demonstrating the country's commitment to strengthening economic diplomacy. As Pakistan and African nations continue to explore collaborative ventures, it is clear that such initiatives will pave the way for a more interconnected and prosperous future. With a growing focus on bilateral trade, cultural exchange, and investment-friendly policies, Pakistan is well-positioned to establish itself as a trusted economic and diplomatic partner for African countries. Events like this reinforce the shared values of cooperation and development, ensuring that both regions benefit from mutual progress and prosperity. 👺 Photos By Ramzan Mughal





# Pakistani Entrepreneur Thrives in Saudi Date Palm Business

跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz **Aurah** 

**SAUDI** MADINAH, ARABIA: Ijaz Ahmed Gondal, a resident of Khan Muhammad Wala village in Bheera tehsil, Sargodha district, has built a successful career in the date palm business after moving to Saudi Arabia in 2003. His journey, which began with a work visa in search of employment, has now blossomed into a thriving enterprise that exports dates worldwide.

Speaking to Daily The Spokesman, Gondal shared his deep-rooted passion for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his longstanding desire to visit Saudi come here, not just for work, but also to perform Umrah and Hajj," he said.



alongside his cousin, Hafiz Sakhawat Javed. However, products. We supply dates he soon found a new calling. "Allah changed my heart, and I decided to enter the date palm business. Unlike seasonal industries, this busi-Arabia. "I always wished to ness runs all year round and brings abundant blessings," he explained.

Now, with 13 years of expe-Gondal started his career rience in the trade, Gondal in Saudi Arabia working takes pride in running an faith, hard work, and perseat a poultry farm. He later ethical business that priormoved to a cloth factory itizes quality and integrity.

"We do not adulterate our across the globe with honesty because I believe that earning through honest means brings blessings," he said.

Gondal's business deals with around 15 different varieties of dates, catering to international markets. His story serves as an inspiring testament to the power of verance in achieving success

## Turkmenistan Marks 30th Anniversary of Neutrality

Spokesman Report

ARKADAG: On March 29, 2025, the International Conference "Year of Peace and Trust: Development of International Activities for he Sake of Children" was held in Arkadag city to mark the fourth anniversary of the establishment of the Charity Fund for Providing Assistance to Children in Need of Care named after Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

This significant event was attended by leadership and representatives of governmental structures and public organizations of the Republic of Austria, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of India, Republic of Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, French Republic, Russian



Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Türkiye, Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as international organi-

Among the participants of the conference were heads and representatives of ministries and departments of Turkmenistan, public organizations, higher educational

institutions and mass media. Anniversary of Neutrality Celebrating its fourth anniversary of establishment in the International Year of Peace and Trust and the 30th anniversary of the permanent neutrality of the Homeland, the Fund was founded upon the initiative of Hero-Ark-

Turkmenistan Marks 30th young generation is being

being built in all regions of the country, as well as favorable living conditions are being developed for happy children, allowing them to receive a full-fledged education, expand their world horizon and develop high moral qualities. Ensuring the healthy devel-

with International Confer-

ence on Children's WelfareIn

the Epoch of New Revival

of a powerful state under

the leadership of President

Serdar Berdimuhamedov, the

policy aimed at bringing up a

healthy and happy, patriotic,

Modern

opment of young generation, both physical and spiritual, and protecting the health of mothers and children is one of the most important areas of state policy of the country. Establishment of the Charity Fund for Providing Assistance to Children in Need of Care named after Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for this purpose is a proof of care for every child. Such noble deeds highly moral and courageous are rooted in the humane

successfully implemented.

schools, physical training

and health complexes are

kindergartens,

## Monal Foundation's Iftar Dastarkhwan: A Beacon of Kindness in the Heart of Islamabad

Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ramadan, the sacred month of fasting and self-reflection, is not only a time for devotion but also an opportunity to extend kindness to those in need. Inspired by the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), who said, "Every act of kindness is charity" (Sahih Bukhari 6021), Monal Foundation continues its tradition of hosting a grand Iftar Dastarkhwan daily throughout the holy month.

Monal Foundation's Iftar Dastarkhwan: A Beacon of Kindness in the Heart of IslamabadUnder the leadership of its chairman, Mr. Luqman Ali Afzal, Monal Foundation has set up an Iftar arrangement at F-7 Park, Islamabad, ensuring that no one, regardless of their social or economic background. is deprived of the blessings of Ramadan. The initiative is not just about providing meals; at Pir Sohawa, an establishment it's about fostering a sense of community, unity, and compassion, values that are deeply rooted in the Islamic tradition.

Monal Foundation's Iftar Dastarkhwan: A Beacon of



abadMr. Luqman Ali Afzal, a distinguished entrepreneur and philanthropist, is no stranger to challenges. He is the first Pakistani to receive the President's Pride of Performance award in the entrepreneurship category, a testament to his contributions to Pakistan's business and tourism sectors. As the founder of Monal Restaurant that became an iconic part of Islamabad's tourism landscape, his journey has been marked by both triumphs and setbacks.

The restaurant, initially established under General Kindness in the Heart of Islam- Pervez Musharraf's govern-

ment to boost tourism, became a defining feature of the federal capital. However, after 18 years of serving locals and tourists alike, Monal was controversially demolished following a Supreme Court ruling. The decision not only dismantled a landmark but also left hundreds of employees jobless, dealing a heavy blow to the hospitality sector in Islamabad. Despite these hardships, Luqman Ali Afzal has remained steadfast in his commitment to social service. His dedication to humanitarian causes is evident in the continuity of the Iftar Dastarkhwan, which has now



become a symbol of resilience and generosity in the city.

Monal Foundation's Iftar Dastarkhwan: A Beacon of Kindness in the Heart of IslamabadMonal Foundation's Iftar Dastarkhwan is not merely an initiative for the underprivileged; it has also attracted a diverse group of supporters, including diplomats, ambassadors, and prominent figures from the business and social sectors. The event serves as a platform where individuals from all walks of life come together to share a meal, reinforcing the spirit of inclusivity and compassion that Ramadan embodies.

Many guests attending the Iftar lauded Luqman Ali Afzal's unwavering dedication to social welfare, highlighting that initiatives like these reflect the true spirit of Islam, one of generosity, kindness, and community support. Diplomats and ambassadors present at the gathering commended the initiative, noting that it not only serves a humanitarian purpose but also helps promote Pakistan's image as a nation of warmth and

While the Monal Foundation's efforts during Ramadan are commendable, they also raise an important question:



How can such acts of generosity be sustained beyond the Afzal has continued to prioritize holy month? Addressing this, Luqman Ali Afzal emphasized the need for a culture of philan- strate that true leadership is not thropy that extends throughout just about business success but the year. He called upon businesses, individuals, and the As the Iftar Dastarkhwan government to contribute to social welfare programs that ensure food security for the less as a beacon of hope, reminding fortunate. The economic landscape of Pakistan remains challenging, with inflation and food insecurity affecting millions. an entire community. As the sun Initiatives like Monal Foundation's Iftar Dastarkhwan serve as a reminder that collective efforts at F-7 Park is a testament to the can make a significant differ- enduring power of generosity. In ence. If more businesses and a world often driven by self-inindividuals commit to similar terest, Monal Foundation's toward becoming a more inclu-

Despite personal and profes-

sional challenges, Luqman Ali community service. His efforts with Monal Foundation demonabout uplifting those in need. continues to serve thousands throughout Ramadan, it stands everyone of the power of kindness and the impact one individual's commitment can have on sets over Islamabad, the sight of hundreds gathering for a meal example of what can be achieved sive and compassionate society. when people come together to serve humanity.

Friday, April 4, 2025



Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
118,938.11	117,806.74	
Day's High	Day's Low	
119,179.45	117,508.07	
Index Value	Change	
19,482,852,756	+1131.37	
Percentage	Time	
+0.96%	3 Apr, 2025 3:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,472.63	-135.85	
Percentage	Time	
<b>–</b> 1.59%	3 Apr, 4:21 pm GMT+1	

	GIVI + I	
<b>USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average</b>		
Index Value	Change	
40,759.93	-1,465.39	
Percentage	Time	
-3.47%	3 Apr, 11:21 am GMT-4	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
34,735.93	-989.94	
Percentage	Time	
-2.77%	3 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

**Open Market Forex Rates** 

Open market i orex reates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	176.5	178.75
Bahrain Dinar	737.70	745.70
Canadian Dollar	195.85	198.25
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	40.16	40.56
Euro	301.50	304.25
Hong Kong Dollar	35.66	36.01
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27
Japanese Yen	1.87	1.93
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.90	906.40
Malaysian Ringgit	62.57	63.17
NewZealand \$	158.73	160.73
Norwegians Krone	26.4	26.70
Omani Riyal	722.00	730.50
Qatari Riyal	76.28	76.98
Saudi Riyal	74.35	74.90
Singapore Dollar	209.5	211.5
Swedish Korona	27.41	27.71
Swiss Franc	313.94	316.69
Thai Bhat	8.13	8.28
U.A.E Dirham	75.90	76.55
UK Pound Sterling	361.50	365
US Dollar	280.40	281.90

#### Govt's decision to reduce electricity price boosts industry's confidence

#### 👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry has welcomed the announcement by the Government of Pakistan to reduce the price of electricity per unit for industries by Rs 7.59. This decision will reduce the cost of industrial production, which will boost the country's economy and create new employment opportunities. Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh, President of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, appreciated the government's move and said that the reduction in the price of electricity will reduce the financial burden faced by industrialists and improve business activities. He said that this decision will increase exports and stabilize the economy. He further said that the government should provide more relief to the industrial sector so that domestic industries continue to progress and increase employment opportunities. He expressed the hope that such steps will be taken in the future as well, which will prove beneficial for the business community and the country's economy. The industrial and commercial circles have also welcomed this decision of the government and termed it a positive step that will play an important role in the development of the economy.

### Gold prices up by Rs.500 to Řs325,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed increased by Rs500 and was traded at Rs. 325,500 on Thursday against it sale at Rs. 325,000 the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs428 to Rs.279,063 from Rs.278,635 whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs.393 to

Rs.255,817 from Rs.255,424. The prices of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs3,580 and Rs.3,069, respectively.

# **FPCCI** hails PM's power tariff reduction as Eid Gift, says Atif Ikram Sheikh

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) has lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's electricity tariffs, terming it an "Eid gift" for the public and industrialists. The government unit. This move is expected to alleviate the

financial burden on industries and address their long-standing concerns regarding high energy costs.

FPCCI President Atif Akram Sheikh emphasized that the tariff reduction, coupled with the announcement of a significant reduction in recent decrease in the policy interest rate, will significantly resolve issues faced by industrialists. He credited the Prime Minister's task has reduced electricity prices by PKR 7.41 per force for its effective work in facilitating this



FPCCI Senior Vice President Saqib Fayyaz urged industrialists to capitalize on this development by boosting exports. He mentioned that 2025 will be a year of economical growth for Pakistan.

FPCCI Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer regarding the estimated PKR 600 billion of these measures on Pakistan's economy, losses due to theft within distribution companies (DISCOs). He said that the anticipated coming days.

privatization of DISCOs is expected to curb these losses

FPCCI officials expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister, the Chief of Army Staff, the task force, and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for their efforts. The highlighted the Prime Minister's statement FPCCI is optimistic about the positive impact

## Golden Crop

CHINIOT: A farmer is examining his crops field, in the outskirts of the City



## DTI and Tapal Tea empower women through Specialized Recruitment Drive for 'Uraan' Program



Tapal Tea, successfully conducted a Recruitment Drive aimed at hiring female electricians for its flagship women empowerment program, "Uraan". This initiative marks a significant milestone in DTI commitment to gender inclusion, opening new doors for women in technical roles traditionally dominated by men.

The recruitment drive received an encouraging response from aspiring female candidates, highlighting a growing interest in technical fields. As part of the "Uraan" program, Tapal Tea aims to create sustainable career opportunities come together to create an inclusive and

LAHORE: DTI, in collaboration with for women in industrial roles such as electrical work. Additionally, discussions were held with DTI to expand the program by introducing specialized training in workplace safety and forklift operations, further enhancing participants' skills and

Adding his thoughts, DTI General Manager Murtaza Ali shared, "We believe that skill development is the key to unlocking new opportunities for women in technical fields. Our collaboration with Tapal Tea on the 'Uraan' program is a great example of how industries can

skilled workforce for the future. We look forward to expanding this initiative and helping more women step confidently into technical careers."

DTI and Tapal Tea representatives praised the collaboration, emphasizing the vital role of industry partnerships in promoting social change and creating inclusive opportunities for women in Pakistan's workforce.

They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the "Uraan" program, ensuring women gain access to technical career pathways and the skills needed for long-term success.

## **Electricity** tariffs cut to boost Pakistan's industrial growth



**E** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Thursday said lower electricity tariffs will reduce the overall cost of production for industries, making Pakistani products more competitive in global

In a statement issued here today he said high energy costs have long been a burden their ability to expand and expenses.

compete internationally. With reduced tariffs, industries can enhance productivity, attract investment, and generate employment, ultimately boosting economic growth. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's decision to reduce electricity tariffs is a significant step toward economic relief for both industrial and general public.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said for domestic consumers, this decision brings muchneeded relief, especially amid inflationary pressures that have strained household budgets. Many families struggle to afford basic necessities due to high utility bills. Lower electricity tariffs will ease this burden, allowing consumers to allocate their on manufacturers, limiting earnings to other essential

## **Pakistan Furniture** Council seeks special incentives to revive sick industries



S Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council has called for a special incentive package, tax holidays, and provision of soft loans for revival of sick and closed industries in all provinces.

Chairing a board of Wednesday CEO PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq presented a number of proposals for revival of sick and closed industries. He stressed that revitalisation of sick and closed industries should be prioritised in the new preneurs.

Industrial Policy 2025-30. He lauded Punjab and KP governments initiatives for industrialisation to help boost trade and economic activities in their provinces. Speaking on the occasion advisor to PFC Dr Wagar Ch Arain called for revival of sick and closed indusdirectors meeting here tries under a comprehensive roadmap and sought a special economic package. He suggested that a fiveyear tax holiday for sick and closed industries should be announced, and soft loans should be extended to entre-

## Turkmenistan has launched the Neutrality website

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The UN General Assembly has declared 2025 the International Year of tion aims to strengthen global peace and trust through dialogue and diplomacy.

The International Year of Peace and Trust coincides with the 30th anniversary of the imously adopted a resoluuniversal recognition of Turk-

menistan's status of Perma- as the International Day of nent Neutrality. This status Neutrality. More recently, was first affirmed through the on March 21, 2025, during UN General Assembly resoluthe 61st plenary meeting of tion "Permanent Neutrality of the 79th session of the UN Peace and Trust. This declara- Turkmenistan," unanimously General Assembly, the resoadopted on December 12, lution "Permanent Neutrality 1995, and reaffirmed in 2015.

Further reinforcing this commitment, in 2017, the UN General Assembly, unantion declaring December 12

of Turkmenistan" was adopted by consensus under Agenda Item 61, "Peacebuilding and

Peacekeeping." Visitors to the website (www.neutrality.gov.tm) can



register for the forum by submitting an online application. Additionally, the platform features a news feed, a photo gallery showcasing key events in Turkmenistan's inter-

national engagements, and an archive of publications.

Serving as a digital hub for this prestigious event, the website not only supports the organization of the forum

but also enhances Turkmenistan's international standing, reinforcing its reputation as a committed advocate for peace and neutrality on the global

# Mohsin Naqvi assumes charge as President of Asian **Cricket Council**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has officially assumed charge as the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) on Thursday, reported 24NewsHD TV Channel.

According to ACC, Mohsin Naqvi's appointment ushers in a new chapter of leadership for Asian cricket.

"I am deeply honoured to assume the presidency of the Asian Cricket Council," said Mr. Naqvi. "Asia remains the heartbeat of world cricket, and I am  $committed \ to \ working \ with \ all \ member$ boards to accelerate the game's growth and global influence. Together, we will unlock new opportunities, foster greater collaboration, and take Asian cricket to unprecedented heights. I also extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing ACC President for his leadership and contributions to the ACC the ACC community: "It has been a region. I extend my gratitude to my prominence of Asian cricket.



during his tenure."

Mr. Naqvi succeeds Mr. Shammi Silva, President of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), reflecting on the transition, Mr. Silva shared his appreciation for in elevating ACC's stature across the engagement, and elevating the global

privilege to serve as President of the Asian Cricket Council. The steadfast commitment of our member boards

predecessor, Mr. Jay Shah, Chairman of the ICC, under whose leadership the ACC reached significant milestones - including securing the highest-ever value for the ACC Asia Cup commercial rights, introducing a new pathway events structure, and paving the way for the continued development of cricket in Asia. As I step down, I have full confidence that under Mr. Naqvi's capable leadership, the ACC will continue its remarkable journey and thrive."

According to ACC, Mr Naqvi brings a visionary approach focused on unity, innovation, and strategic growth, reinforcing Asia's position as the epicentre of world cricket. Under his leadership, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) looks forward to a dynamic and collaborative future, with an enhanced commitworking together has been pivotal ment to development programs, youth

## Snehal, Sana, Bismah look forward to ICC Women's WC 2025 qualifier

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The strength in the depth of women's cricket will be on full display at the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier in Pakistan.

ICC Manager Women's Cricket and former India international cricketer, Snehal Pradhan, is looking forward to the event in Pakistan where six teams will compete for two spots at the Women's Cricket World Cup in India later this year.

Hosts Pakistan will be joined by ICC Full Members Bangladesh, Ireland and West Indies along with Associate Members Thailand and Scotland, for the Qualifier, and Pradhan believes that with the standard rising across the board, predicting who will come through qualifying is almost impossible, said a press release.

She said, "Cricket with context, huge outcomes on the line, great opportunities so it's a brilliant tournament, everyone is excited about it. We've got four full members, two associate members, so this is an extremely competitive pack of



evident across the board in recent years, with New Zealand and South Africa playing out the last ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final, while Nigeria and USA produced some stellar performances at the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup earlier this year.

"We had a group of 16 teams who were eligible for an eight-team event. has welcomed that decision, and the come a long way and as a full member The volume of matches that we have seen

The growth of the game has been in the calendar because of the structure that the ICC Women's Championship has meant that the standard of cricket has gone up.

The result of this growth is a move towards expansion, both at T20 level, and also in ODIs, with the next World Cup set to be contested by 10 teams.

Looking forward to the event on home soil, she said, "One of the great things about the ICC Women's Championship, which I benefited from hugely in my career, is that it has been expanded to 10 teams. I feel that plays a huge role, especially for countries like Bangladesh and Ireland now that they have been part

"It is a very exciting time in women's cricket and if we keep doing things right, there will be more than four or five teams who people want to see playing against

"In the last World Cup, a lot of matches went down to the last couple of overs and that's what you want to see as an audience. Women's cricket is providing that."

Bismah Maroof, who succeeded Sana as Pakistan captain, added, "Women's cricket has improved massively in the past few years and it's going from strength to strength.

'The associate countries are playing Former Pakistan captain Sana Mir really well, Scotland and Thailand have approach taken by the ICC to grow the country, Ireland have grown a lot."

## Pakistan team set for Thailand clash in Women's World Cup Qualifier warm-up

LAHORE: The warm-up matches for the highly anticipated ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier will begin tomorrow in Lahore.

Pakistan's squad, led by captain Fatima Sana, has reported to a local hotel along with the team management and coaching staff.

The Pakistan women's cricket team will play its first warm-up match against Thailand on April 4 at Gaddafi stadium.

The sixth edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier will kick off on 9 April, featuring four full members - Pakistan, Bangladesh, West Indies, and Ireland - and associate members Scotland and Thailand.

The newly renovated Gaddafi Stadium and Lahore Cricket Club Association (LCCA) will host 15 matches will kick off between hosts Pakistan and ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier of the tournament. The event opener Ireland on April 9.



warm-up matches schedule:

Match 1: Bangladesh Women vs. Scotland Women at 09:30 AM PKT Match 2: Pakistan Women vs. Thailand Women at 09:30 PM PKT

Match 3: Ireland Women vs. West Indies Women at 09:30 PM PKT

Match 4: Bangladesh Women vs.

Ireland Women at 09:30 AM PKT Match 5: Pakistan Women vs. West

Indies Women at 09:30 PM PKT

Match 6: Scotland Women vs. Thailand Women at 09:30 PM PKT

Pakistan squad for Women's World Cup 2025 Qualifiers

Fatima Sana (captain), Muneeba Ali (vice-captain), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Gull Feroza, Najiha Alvi (wicket-keeper), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Rameen Shamim, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wicket-keeper) and Syeda Aroob Shah

## Rejuvenated IPL match-winner Siraj praised for 'fire in his belly'

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Praise was heaped on Mohammed Siraj Thursday after his match-winning spell for Gujarat Titans at his former club Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL.

Siraj, who was dropped By India for the Champions Trophy, looked like a man with a point to prove to the national selectors and the RCB management as he took 3-19 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, a venue that was his home for seven seasons.

RCB released Siraj after last season and the India fast bowler was bought by Gujarat for \$1.4 million in the November

Siraj has begun to justify his price tag by taking five wickets in three matches this season, bowling with pace and accuracy.

Former India opener Virender Sehwag said Siraj's IPL form was motivated by his omission from the Champions Trophy last month, which India won in Dubai.



"Somewhere I feel he is hurt that he wasn't part of the Champions Trophy squad, and I saw that fire," Sehwag said on website Cricbuzz.

"That's what we expect from a young fast bowler: 'Yeah, you didn't pick me? Now I will show you."

New Zealand's Kane Williamson, commentating on JioStar, said: "He bowled with real fire in his belly, led the attack with aggression, and bowled with some excellent pace."

Siraj's bowling helped restrict Bengaluru to 169-8, a total Gujarat overhauled and Bengaluru's first defeat this season.

by eight wickets with 13 balls to spare as England's Jos Buttler hit an unbeaten 73 off 39 deliveries.

"(Siraj) was deservedly named player of the match," Williamson added.

While Jos Buttler was outstanding and back to his best in the second innings, Siraj set the tone early on, making a signifi-

Siraj, 31, removed left-hander Devdutt Padikkal with a delivery that nipped away to hit off stump.

He then bowled Phil Salt after the England batsman had hit him for a six on the previous ball.

Siraj finished his spell with the wicket of England's Liam Livingstone, caught behind for 54. "It was emotional because I played for seven years here," Siraj said of returning to Bengaluru.

"There was some nervousness and some emotion but the moment I got the ball in my hand, it was full on."

It was Gujarat's second straight win

## Appointment of Pakistan Hockey Federation President Tariq Bugti challenged in Islamabad High Court

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The appointment of Tariq Hussain Masoori as President of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has been challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC), with the petitioner arguing that the caretaker government lacked the mandate to make such an appointment. The petition claims that Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar made an unconstitutional and illegal appointment. Advocate M Naseer Awan, representing the petitioner, said that the decision violates Section 230 of the Elections Act 2017, which limits the caretaker government's authority. He cited the Supreme Court ruling in "Khawaja Muhammad Asif vs Federation of Pakistan" to support the argument. The court, finding the matter worthy of further deliberation, has issued notices to all parties involved and directed them to submit responses within two weeks. The petition names former PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, the Ministry of IPC, PSB, POA and Tariq Hussain Bugti as respondents.

## Pakistan fined for slow overrate against NZ

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been fined five per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the second ODI in Hamilton on Wednesday.



Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Mohammad Rizwan's side was ruled to be one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration, said a press release.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Rizwan plead guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Michael Gough and Wayne Knights, third umpire Paul Reiffel and fourth umpire Chris Brown leveled

## Tickets sale for HBL PSL-X begins

**Sports Desk** 

MULTAN: sale of ticket for the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) X began on Thursday, with fans able to purchase tickets online through PCB's official website at pcb.tcs.com.pk. According to a



press release, issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), physical tickets will also be available at TCS Express Centres from April 7 across the country. Those purchasing tickets online can either collect them from designated TCS pickup points or have them delivered to their homes via TCS.

The much-anticipated tenth edition of HBL PSL will kick off on April 11, featuring six teams competing in Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi. The tournament will culminate in the grand final on May 18 at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

To make the experience even more exciting for fans, a ticket raffle will be held during every match, offering various prizes. Cricket lovers were advised to secure their tickets early to be part of the thrilling PSL action.

### Former fast bowler Farooq Hameed passes away

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board is saddened on the passing of the former Test cricketer Farooq Hameed at the age of 80 years.



Farooq Hameed was Pakistan's Test cap number 48 and

represented the country in one Test match against Australia in December 1964 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Former Australia captain Ian Chappell was his solitary Test wicket. Farooq, who was a right-arm fast bowler, played 43 first-class

matches and his career stretched from 1961-61 to 1969-70. He picked up 111 wickets at an average of 25.21 with the help of three five-wicket hauls. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday

Faroog Hameed The prime minister offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, praying for the elevation of ranks of the departed

expressed grief and sorrow over demise of former test cricketer

soul in Jannah. In a statement, he said that late  $\operatorname{Farooq}\nolimits$  Hamid brought great

honour to Pakistan through his performance in sports.

#### Saud Shakeel reveals his vision if he becomes PCB chairman

KARACHI: Pakistan Test vice-captain Saud Shakeel has expressed his thoughts over the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) revolving door policy, stating that he would ensure that a coach is appointed for the long term.

During a recent TV show, Saud was asked about his vision if he ever becomes a PCB chairman.

The southpaw replied that he would hire a permanent head coach and increase the pay scale of the domestic players.

"First of all, I would bring a head coach, who can not be removed by anyone even if I get dismissed from the chairmanship but he would remain the head coach for three years," said Shakeel "Secondly, I think, we need to uplift the standard of domestic

cricket in terms of money," he added. Saud Shakeel highlighted that the instability due to the revolving door policy also affects players.

The change in the coaching setup definitely affects the environment of the dressing room. If I say that it does not affect us at all, I would be lying," he said.

## Eid-ul-Fitr greetings

Chief of the Naval Staff interacting with personnel deployed at Forward Posts in Creeks area on the occasion of Eid ul Fitr



# **Naval Chief Reaffirms Commitment to Protecting** Country's Interests

#### **Spokesman Report**

Ashraf, visited forward posts Navy ships, to meet officers and sailors on duty.

Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to the KARACHI: Chief of the deployed personnel and Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed commended their unwavering dedication to duty. in Coastal and Creeks Areas, He emphasized that safe-

Naveed Ashraf extended in maintaining vigilance and operational readiness.

Navy's steadfast commitment to protect country's maritime borders, the Naval Chief as well as several Pakistan guarding national interests also highlighted its crucial remains paramount, even role in regional stability. He during festive occasions, encouraged the personnel to ering dedication and high During his visit, Admiral and lauded their sacrifices continue their mission with morale in undertaking the

the same professionalism task of defending this vital and resolve, appreciating Reaffirming Pakistan their vital contribution to nation's defence.

> While talking to the officers and men stationed at the forward posts, the Admiral commended their unwav-

frontier amidst harsh terrain of marshes, swamps, and unpredictable waterways. Naval Chief expressed his complete satisfaction with the operational preparedness of Pak Marines in the Creeks Area.

# Planning minister sets priorities for PSDP 2025-26

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday chaired a review meeting on the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2024-25, assessing third-quarter utilization, proposed projects and future allocations for PSDP 2025-26.

He directed the Economic Section to evaluate fund utilization, provide an update on block allocations, and submit a status report on the fourth-quarter release, a news release

Highlighting the importance of productive investments, Ahsan Iqbal stressed that development projects should create longterm economic benefits for local commu-

He directed to prioritise national level initiatives and Strategic initiatives for the upcoming PSDP. He highlighted that addressing energy challenges in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) remained a critical priority and directed that projects aimed at resolving this issue be given due focus.

To ensure an efficient and well-coordinated development framework, he instructed the convening of meetings with all federal secretaries to align ministerial priorities for PSDP 2025-26.

He also emphasized strengthening the evaluation process in iPAS, directing that only PC-1s meeting the required criteria be



included and that the system be further automated through the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance transparency and efficiency. In the education sector, the minister

stressed the need to review stalled projects and initiatives aimed at out-of-school children, ensuring timely intervention. He also reiterated the importance of

merit-based selection for scholarship programs, ensuring that public funds are utilized prudently and effectively.

To enhance project oversight, he called for an audit of slow-moving projects and emphasized leveraging SUPARCO's space technology to monitor on-ground project progress. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to utilizing modern technological solutions for transparent and resultsdriven development.

## FCCI welcomes decrease in power prices



**Abdul Majid** 

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Rehan Naseem Bharara has termed historic reduction in the electricity rates a positive and major step to bring much needed economic stability and put the country on the road to progress and prosperity.

Giving immediate reaction after the speech of Prime Sharif, he said that relief of Rs 7.41 and Rs 7.59 per unit has been given to the domestic and industrial consumers respectively. He termed it a major step to materialize the promise of sitting government to enhance national exports He said that industrial sector of industry.

Faisalabad was in shamble while most of the SME units were closed fomenting unemployment in the country. He paid best tribute to the Prime Minister and his economic managers who prudently handled the situation and not only saved the country from bankruptcy but also started providing relief to the people as well industries. He said that major decrease was witnessed in inflation and policy rate while revenue collection was Minister Muhammad Shehbaz also recorded historic increase of 35 percent. He said that high cost of electricity was a stumbling block for the industrial growth and Prime Minister openly admitted that government has to cut down electricity prices to make the industrial sector viable and give to 60 billion dollars within 5 years. maximum relief to the masses and

## **DPM** for selected proposals to bolster trade, investment ties with friendly countries



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday directed that selected proposals should be finalized, reaffirming Pakistan's priority to bolster economic, trade, and investment ties with friendly countries.

The DPM chaired the 4th inter-ministerial meeting, on investment project proposals with friendly countries. During the meeting, the SIFC, MoFA, Communications, committee reviewed briefs on poten- and other departments attended tial investments in key sectors, the meeting.

including infrastructure, petroleum, trade, and information technology (IT), a DPM's Office news release

The DPM also reiterated the government's unwavering focus on enhancing strategic partnerships and

fostering cross-sector collaboration. SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Federal Secretaries for Foreign Affairs, Petroleum, IT, and Economic Affairs, Chairman NHA, Special Secretary Finance & Petroleum, and senior officials from

## Gilani calls for unity, tribute to martyrs on Eid



👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Talking to the media after were discussed in the National Secuoffering Eid-ul-Fitr prayers at the rity Council. Efforts will be made shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed, to resolve the current situation Yousaf Raza Gilani said that on my regarding climate change in a demobehalf, I congratulate the Muslim—cratic manner, All political parties world on Eid.

The PPP has no objection to digging canals. All political parties should work together for the strength of the country. I also pay tribute to the Pakistani army.

I also congratulate the Muslim world on fasting. Gaza, Kashmir and

the youth who gave their martyrdom should not be forgotten. Many things should unite for the development of the country.

The Pakistani army has saved our tomorrow by sacrificing itself today. The Pakistani army has made the country safe by making sacrifices. The Pakistani army is continuously making sacrifices. It is being given.

## Karachi traders hail PM's Relief Package

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI,: The representative bodies of the trade and business community of Karachi, Thursday, highly appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his timely and impactful "historic intervention" to provide substantial power tariff relief to domestic and industrial consum-

The PM Shehbaz Sharif has initiative as a "historic intervention," announced a per unit reduction of Rs7.59 for industrial consumers and Rs7.41 for domestic consumers holds and thousands of businesses and the leadership of Businessmen across the country.

Group (BMG) and Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) termed it as a much needed critical move to alleviate the financial pres-

sure on both citizens and businesses. Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala, President KCCI Jawed Bilwani, and Tahir Khaliq, Anjum Nisar, Mian Abrar Ahmed, Zia ul Arfeen and other leaders, in a joint statement, recognized the Prime Minister's a bold step towards providing muchneeded relief to millions of house-

## Shahid Mahmood Khokhar the only hope for Print Media Employees

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the Implementation Tribunal for News Paper Employees (ITNE) Mr Shahid Mahmood Khokhar, has emerged as the only hope for the print media employees across Pakistan. Under his dedicated leadership, a long standing financial crisis for media workers has finally seen a break through as he successfuly ensured release of subtancial pending salaries and allounces from media organization owners.

Shahid Mahmood Khokhars unwavering comitment to justice and fairness has been a game changer for struggling media workers. His decisive actions has helped thousands of newspapers employees receive their rightful dues, reinforcing their interest in the judicial and administrative processes that govern their industry.



of wages and bene- orders but also his determination to implefits by media house ment them effectively. Unlike his predeowners. However, cessor, he has demonstrated the courage through relentless efforts and strict those dating back to 2010. implementation

of legal provisions. Mr Khokhar has ensured that His firm against powerful

owners and his dedicathe rights of journalist and news-For years, print media workers face severe the industry. What sets Shahid Mahmood

ential media owners, but Mr Khokhar has fairlessly upheld the role of law, ensuring justice is served. that long over due justice is finally delivered. In addition to recovering outstanding payment,. Mr Khokhar has advocated for systemic reforms to prevent similar financial injustices in the future. His leadership tion to up holding has reinvigorated confidence among journalist, proving that accountability and fair-

ness can prevail in the media sector. Further paper staff have details including the exact amounts recovset a precedent in ered and the names of the media organizations involved, will be disclosed in the



پیپلزپارٹی سیاف سنڌ

financial hardships due to the non payment Khokhar apart is not only his ability to pass next update. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi