



Islamabad POST

Monday, May 01, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

UN chief Guterres, envoys in key talks on Afghanistan

Detailed News On Page-01

Iranian envoy bids farewell call on Dar

Detailed News On Page-02

Modric could recover faster than expected

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Iran's Raisi to visit Syria

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi will go to Damascus on Wednesday at the official invitation of the Syrian president for a "very important" two-day visit, state media reported. "Dr Raisi's trip to Damascus next Wednesday is very important due to the changes and developments that are taking place in the region," IRNA state news agency on Sunday quoted Iran's ambassador to Syria, Hossein Akbari, as saying. The visit comes against the backdrop of a rapprochement between regional rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia and increased Arab engagement with Damascus.

Govt wants elections after budget

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah says Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's decision to disband provincial assemblies is a blatant attempt to derail democracy. Talking to a private news channel, he said the one-point agenda of negotiations with PTI is to hold elections simultaneously in the entire country and let the National Assembly complete its constitutional term. The Interior Minister said the government is of the opinion that the elections should be held after the budget.

Ex-CJP Saqib warns Khawaja Asif

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Mian Saqib Nisar has expressed displeasure over Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's press conference, asking the PML-N leader "to stay within limits", media reported. In a statement, the former chief justice has lambasted Khawaja Asif and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz for "speaking lies", saying that these people will hide their faces if he starts speaking truth.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review countrywide wheat procurement drive. - DNA

PM, Hina Khar's discussion on ties with the US leaked

As per the documents, Khar says Pak should avoid appeasing the West

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Record of an important discussion between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar was leaked wherein the two, along with an assistant, were talking about Pakistan's ties with the United States. The record of the discussion on crucial foreign policy, which has been named 'Discord Leaks', also reveals the premier's conversation on the United Nations' voting on the Ukraine and Russia conflict, according to the Washington Post. During the discussion, an assistant advised the prime minister that supporting the resolution could jeopardise Pakistan's trade and energy deals with

Continued on Page 06

PM directs buying wheat from farmers

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has asked PASSCO and provincial food departments to directly purchase wheat from farmers to ensure benefit to them. Presiding over a meeting to review countrywide wheat procurement drive in Lahore,

Continued on Page 06

Sudan: Fighting rages as ceasefire collapses

The army said it was attacking the capital from all directions

NEWS DESK

KHARTOUM: Fighting has intensified in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, shattering the latest ceasefire aimed at allowing people to flee to safety. On Sunday the army said it was attacking the city from all directions, with air strikes and heavy artillery, to flush out its paramilitary rivals. The truce was due to end at midnight on Sunday. Millions remain trapped in the capital, where food is running short. The first major aid flight, laden with medical supplies, has arrived in Sudan. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says a plane landed at Port Sudan with eight tonnes of relief supplies,

including health kits for hospitals. "With hostilities still ongoing, ICRC teams will need guarantees of safe passage from the parties to the conflict to deliver this material to medical facilities in locations with active fighting, such as Khartoum," a statement said. More than 70% of health facilities in the capital have been forced to close as a result of the fighting that erupted on 15 April. More than 500 people have been reported killed, with the actual total number of dead and injured expected to be much higher. The fighting pits the regular army against the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Continued on Page 06

UN chief, envoys in key talks on Afghanistan

UNSG is to give an update on a review of world body's critical relief operation in Afghanistan

DNA

DOHA: UN chief Antonio Guterres will gather international envoys at a secret location in Doha on Monday in an increasingly desperate bid to find ways to influence Afghanistan's Taliban rulers. Considered the world's biggest humanitarian crisis by the United Nations, Guterres' quandary has been deepened by the Taliban administration's move to stop girls from going to school and most women from working, even for UN agencies. The Taliban government, which took back power in August 2021, will be absent from the talks with representatives from about 25 countries and international organisations, according to diplomats. Ahead of the talks, a small group of women staged a protest in Kabul on Saturday to oppose any international recognition of the Taliban government. But the UN and Western powers are adamant this will not be discussed. "Any kind of recognition of the Taliban is completely off the table," said US State Department spokesman Vedant Patel.

Continued on Page 06

Afghan women march against UN recognition

KABUL: Afghan women marched in Afghanistan's capital Kabul to urge the UN not to formally recognize the Taliban government at a UN summit scheduled for next week. Approximately two dozen women took to the streets despite the Taliban government's increasingly strict crackdowns on women. During the march, protesters chanted that they would fight and die for their rights and condemned the UN, stating that the recognition of the Taliban would be a violation of women's rights. An upcoming UN summit on Afghanistan scheduled for May 1 and 2 in Doha, Qatar sparked the protests. UN Secretary-General António Guterres is

Continued on Page 06

Talks to resume Tuesday

Doubts raised over success of dialogue

Khawaja Asif says PTI only making arguments, PTI's Asad Umar doubts govts intentions

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are all set to hold the 'final round' of election talks on Tuesday, leaders from both the opposition and ruling alliance cast doubt on the success of negotiations. Speaking to the media in Punjab's Sialkot on Sunday, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif raised questions over the ongoing parleys between the opposition PTI and the PDM teams to evolve consensus on holding the elections across the country simultaneously. "What will be the result of the negotiations? They [PTI] are only making arguments," the senior PML-N leader remarked. Referring to the negotiation teams, the defence minister questioned: "Whether the Panchayat [council] has been set up in a legitimate way or in an illegitimate way". The PML-N leader said PTI chief Imran Khan had announced holding rallies in three different cities. "He should start the rallies quickly so that the negotiation process can be done away with."

President returns NAB Bill to parliament

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has sent back National Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2023 to parliament for reconsideration after observing that the amendments brought earlier in the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 were sub-judice before the Supreme Court. The president sent back

Continued on Page 06

Strategy in place if talks fail: Fawad

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Sunday that his party wanted negotiations with the government - on the impasse on elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - to be successful but at the same time contended that it had a "strategy" in place if the talks failed. "PTI wants the success of negotiations [with the government], but it has formulated a strategy in case of failure," the former minister tweeted. "It is not possible for the PTI to sit silently if the Constitution is

Continued on Page 06



Holidays in Gilgit-Baltistan

Experience the breathtaking spring season with Serena Hotels in Gilgit, Altit, Shigar and Khaplu



EXPERIENCE SERENA HOTELS . EXPERIENCE GILGIT-BALTISTAN

at Serena Hotel | +92 58114 55894 Serena Altit Fort Residence | +92 58134 55894
Serena Shigar Fort | +92 58154 67107-8 Serena Khaplu Palace | +92 058164 50894



Inside...

- Islamabad mosque offers free marriage hall to poor families - Page 02
- Shaping minds and bodies: Do we have the facilities? - Page 03
- Japanese Govt decorates Pakistan former Amb. Imtiaz - Page 04
- Follow the constitution or set aside - Page 05
- Toulouse demolish Nantes to win French Cup - Page 06
- ICCI mulls to organize a mango festival in diplomatic area - Page 07
- Bakhmut: Ukraine says it controls key supply route - Page 08

Attock police held 4000 criminals in April

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: Attock Patrolling Police Punjab has apprehended more than 4000 thousand criminals including proclaimed offenders along with recovery of 2000 thousand suspicious vehicles other booty items worth of rupees millions during the massive crackdowns launched during the month of April, 2023. A spokesman of Punjab Patrolling Police Kotkay Attock told to media here on Sunday that following the directives of the District Officer Patrolling Police Attock Syed Zulfiqar Gillani, patrolling squad led by incharge Patrolling Post Kotkay Attock Sub Inspector Mr. Zahid Iqbal has conducted the checking on the exit points of inter provincial bordering territory Attock. The checking squad arrested more than 4000 criminals include proclaimed absconders with recovery of more than 2000 stolen and suspicious vehicles and other valuables from their possession by using modern instruments as well as IT related techniques of investigation. The police also intercepted various accused persons involved in creating illegal hurdles in the smooth movement of people and impediments in official duties besides handing over violators of traffic rules to the district traffic police. The Patrolling police Attock also reunited more than 50 stranded persons to their real families and made briefing the people to control over wrong driving of their untrained children, he added.

FDE launches training workshop

ISLAMABAD: Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) is organizing a series of training workshops for teachers of geography subject in collaboration with Islamabad Model Postgraduate College (IMPC) H-8. According to FDE, the workshop is scheduled to begin on May 2 and will end on May 24, 2023. Approximately 120 school teachers who are teaching geography to grades VI-VIII will attend the training workshop in 4 batches. The workshop will be for 3 days for each batch, with around 5 hours of lectures/hands-on sessions on each day. The workshop is targeted at geography teachers working in ICT educational institutions and it is open to all, regardless of their level of experience. The workshop will be conducted by a team of experienced and qualified trainers who specialize in geography education. The training sessions will cover various topics related to geography teaching, including lesson planning, effective use of technology in the classroom, student engagement techniques, and assessment strategies. The chairman of the Department of Geography, IMPC H-8 Professor Muhammad Javaid told media persons that the participants will have the opportunity to interact through group working sessions. —APP

Islamabad mosque offers free marriage hall to poor families

This compassionate initiative aims to make the special day of deserving families even more memorable by providing a free-of-charge marriage hall equipped with a stage for the bride and groom, as well as crockery, tables, chairs, and trained waiters

ISLAMABAD: The Masjid Rehmat ul Alamin F/8 in Islamabad has established a free-of-charge marriage hall to help deserving families celebrate their daughters' weddings with respect and dignity. This compassionate initiative aims to make the special day of deserving families even more memorable by providing a free-of-charge marriage hall equipped with a stage for the bride and groom, as well as crockery, tables, chairs, and

trained waiters to serve food to the guests of orphan and deserving brides. Furthermore, the initiative ensures that newlywed brides are sent to their new homes with respect and dignity. This compassionate initiative by Masjid Rehmat ul Alamin F/8, Islamabad aims to provide deserving families with a memorable and dignified wedding experience, besides alleviating the financial burden on poor families and enabling them to celebrate their special occa-

sion with joy and honour. The hall has a three-hour time limit and includes a stage for the bride and groom. The mosque management allows parents to either solemnize the Nikkah of their daughter themselves or choose a Khateeb of their choice for the ceremony. To book the hall, deserving parents can contact the mosque management committee. Taj Qamar, a member of the mosque committee, told APP that the marriage-related activities will contin-

ue uninterrupted even during prayer times. He advised people to associate the departure of their daughters with the call to prayer (Adhan) and prayer (Salah) to eliminate some superstitions and create a blessed environment that will facilitate a new life. According to Qamar, the mosque recommends that families planning to attend the event should limit the number of guests to 100 or 120 individuals, with an equal number of men and wom-

en, and prioritize Islamic teachings while avoiding extravagance by religious teachings. To ensure a successful event, three men and three women from the family should take responsibility for arranging and maintaining order, with one man and one woman appointed to oversee the event and ensure that the mosque administration does not participate in the ceremony. Taj Qamar, encourages families to link their daughters' departure

with the call to prayer and salah, adding that superstitions will decrease and wastefulness and burden on poor families will be eliminated. After the ceremony concludes, the mosque must be thoroughly cleaned, and arrangements can be made for a departure ceremony that meets the family's needs. The initiative aims to establish a dignified system for white-clothed people and relieve the burden on poor fathers of marrying off their daughters.

Police foil an attempt of kidnapping

PESHAWAR: The Police of the Bhana Mari Police Station Sunday foiled an attempt of kidnapping young girls and arrested the alleged kidnapper red-handedly. According to detail, the team of Bhana Mari Police Station in a rapid response took immediate action and arrested an alleged kidnapper red-handed while thwarting the attempt to kidnap a young minor girl from Mushtaqabad area. The arrested alleged accused Kamran son of Murad belongs to Landi Arbab Peshawar. The accused tried to kidnap the young minor girl as soon as he got the opportunity. The local police and local residents immediately reached the spot and arrested the accused who was involved in his nefarious intentions.

Iranian envoy bids farewell call to Finance minister Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini on Sunday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar warmly welcomed the Ambassador and extended compliments on the successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan, said a press release issued here.

Dar highlighted deep-rooted cordial relations between Pakistan and Iran based on age-old common religious and cultural similarities. He expressed that Pakistan holds its brotherly relations with Iran in very high regard. He also highlighted the country's economic outlook and said that despite economic challenges, the country is destined to progress and develop.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar lauded the Ambassador's contributions in enhancing and cementing



the decades-old brotherly ties and fostering economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Appreciating the tenure of the Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan, the Finance Minister bid farewell to him and extended best wishes and

good luck on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan for his future assignments.

Ambassador Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini also stressed the potential held by both countries for mutual cooperation and ap-

preciated the cooperation and support of the present government in enhancing bilateral relations in various fields.

He also thanked the Finance Minister for his support and cooperation in strengthening economic

and trade relations between the two countries during his stay in Pakistan. He expressed good memories of his stay in Pakistan and the support of the people and government of Pakistan in shaping his tenure successful.

FPCCI to sign trade accords with Ethiopian counterpart

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry will sign accords with its counterpart from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in May to boost the bilateral trade and commerce ties between the two countries.

FPCCI Senior Vice President Muhammad Suleman Chawla expressed the commitment during a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Islamic Republic of Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula on Sunday, said a news release.

The ambassador proposed the signing of trade agreements between the FPCCI and the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (ECCSA) during the upcoming "Ethiopia-Pakistan Business Fo-

rum", scheduled in Karachi during the second week of May.

He informed the FPCCI representatives about the arrival of high-level officials and business delegations from his country during the next month.

Jemal Beker said the signing of agreements would be instrumental in promoting institutional linkages between Ethiopia and Pakistan that had huge potential for business, trade and investment in diverse sectors of their economies.

Ethiopia and Pakistan had minimal trade despite such a huge potential, he said while expressing the hope for a significant boost in bilateral trade in the coming months especially in the backdrop of a recent visit of a big business delegation from Pakistan.

He said the Pakistani business community was keen to increase bilateral trade between the two countries since the ongoing development in Ethiopia's diverse economic sectors had really impressed them during their recent visit to the capital city Addis Ababa.

FPCCI Senior Vice President Muhammad Suleman Chawla assured the ambassador of their full support in organizing the business forum in Karachi. The FPCCI would full participate in the forum to make it a success, he said.

He also lauded the efforts of Jemal Beker for playing a key role in the upcoming launch of the Ethiopian Airlines which was crucial to bolster people-to-people and business-to-business ties between the two countries. —DNA

Muqam felicitates labourers community

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr. Amir Muqam has conveyed his heartfelt felicitations and earnest wishes to the country's entire labourers community on the occasion of Labour Day. In his message on Sunday, the Adviser to PM reiterated the government's resolve to protect the rights of labour community and to work for their collective well being. He said that today, we pay tribute to the valiant workers of Pakistan and around the world and reaffirm our commitment to the dignity of labour. Engr Amir Muqam said that every year, the first day of May provides us the opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of workers to the development and prosperity of their nations across the globe. —APP

83 % Pakistanis have no access to library

PESHAWAR: Around 83 per cent of Pakistanis do not have access to any library and 60 per cent of Pakistanis have no playground access, revealed in the latest research study of Pakistan's Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) titled: "Shaping Minds and Bodies: Do We Have the Fa-

cilities?" which is the fifth BASICS Note of the Series, here on Sunday. According to a Press Release issued by the PIDE, Dr Durra Nayab, Pro Vice Chancellor of National Think Tank, in her latest research, showed a very low level of social and civic engagement among the

people of Pakistan. Social connection between people is essential to stay mentally and physically alive. There should be enough libraries and playgrounds for all age groups to remain socially connected so youth can shape and nourish their minds and bodies. —DNA



Open House for Diplomatic Missions

Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

How to celebrate 1st May as Labor Day?

SAYED SAJID SHAH
BOKHARI

To utilize Human talent properly and exploit the resources for ones own prestige and income had always remained the top most priority of rulers in the past. Even in the scientific period of today's world with the creation of mechanic robots the workload of human labors could not be minimized. The use of human potential by capitalist as labor is still not only cheapest but manipulation as well. From time immemorial the same pattern had been in continuation with worst practices. Cashing the workers output by the industrialist in 19th century had badly aggravated the society and was also major cause of deprivations and frustration for the labors, workers and peasants. The industrialists, capitalist, leoffer, aced had been in use to keep the poor bagged and defenseless. Thats why B.Russel says, man is born free but everywhere he is in chains. Every year more than 80 countries in the world celebrate 1st May as International Labor Day. The American however celebrates the day in the month of September. What is the significance of the Day and why this Day is still observed with dignity and honor? The simple answer to the question lies in hard work and struggle made by workers worldwide. However the basic concept of the Day is quite

clear to understand that this day actually represent the working class and their achievement in the society. It encouraged the efforts of working class for their work. This Day demands respect and allegories, facilities and opportunities for them. The TIME Magazine once explained the magnitude of day, in 1929 as for the old fashioned people, May Day means flowers, grass, picnics, children that's why they don't celebrate the day on 1st May. To -up- and doing socialists and communists it means speech making, parading, bombing and violence. Although May Day, 1886, had historic appearance when some 2,50,000 U.S workmen engineered a nationwide strike for an eight hours day work. Soon the workers from other parts joined the strike and it becomes a great momentum in the history for their organized demands and wages they had option for. In Russia the labor day is called the day of international solidarity of workers or spring day. The May Day is vehemently observed in communist countries like China, Vitenam, Cuba, North Korea and Russia, Hungary, Poland with great pomp and show. Actually the Day celebration means to support the cause, achievements, contribution of labors, workers, peasants and to work for their rights and protection as well.

The prophet Mohammad (PBUH) says, that pay the amount to workers before their sweat fall from their fore-

head. The first Khalifa of Islam Hazrat Abubakr Sadique (RA) once said to the In charge of BaitulMal that increase of his pay will be conditional to the pay getting by workers and he will get the amount as much as a labor get. In fact, the only religion which stress on the rights of workers and promote their genuine demands is Islam. There are many approaches to life for explaining how to live? The Marxis theory and the philosophical approaches are followed by the socialist countries in the world as economic theories with many repercussions.

However the theory related to workers and peasants had defined well by our prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in quite different manner. In Islam a labour deserves to be respected because he earns his livelihood by his sweat. The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is reported to have said your employees are your brothers upon whom Allah has given you authority. So be kind to them and treat them like your brothers. If a Muslim has another person under his control, he/she should feed them with the like of what one eats and clothe them with the like of what one wears and you should not over burden them. So we should set example for the world to follow us. Unfortunately, we are far behind of the objectives and standards the UNO and world has fixed for the welfare of labors. Our hotels, factories, private enterprises, home servants

presents worst examples of human exploitation.

The Karl Marx has explained the theory of work very clearly to say, that the value of labor power must depend on the number of labor hours. It takes in society, on average, to feed, clothe and shelter a worker so that he or she has the capacity to work with dignity. The magnificent building of Taj Mahal in Agra, the Burji Khalifa in UAE and the Great Wall of China took many years in completion.

Just imagine how many workers lost their lives and amputated their bodies while constructing these superb buildings. The workers burn their energy and dissolved their exudation to build a nation. We should see the plight of labors from different angles. Just see how the workers had gathered to clean the glasses on 124th floor of world largest building burji Khalifa in UAE. In the developed world the labour force could be involved in constructing heavy bridges, buildings, parks. Similarly, the workers can be seen in glass industries, coal mines industries and in brickmaking industries in the worst form of laboring but what they get at the end is dilemma? In a poor system of developing countries we need to change and review our policies. Although the Labor Day starts with the workers who stood against the demands of low wage, layoffs and firings in Chicago.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

APRIL

April 04/Senegal
National Day

April 07/W. H. O.
World Health Day

April 12/Somalia
Armed Forces Day

April 15/DPR Korea
The Day of the Sun

April 16/Denmark
National Day

April 17/Iran
Army Day

April 17/Syria
Independence Day

April 18/Zimbabwe
Independence Day

April 24/Holy See
Anniversary of His Pa-
pacy of his Pontificate

April 25/DPR Korea
Armed Forces Day

April 26/Tanzania
National Day

April 27/Sierra Leone
Independence Day

April 27/South Africa
Freedom Day

April 30/Sweden
Birthday of His Majesty

April 30/Netherlands
Birthday of Queen



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work at Steel Mill in Industrial area of Capital City, to earn daily wages for the livelihood of their families, unaware from the International Labor Day, Which is commemorating annually on 1st May, for the rights of Labor around the World.—Online

Shaping minds and bodies: Do we have the facilities?

83% of Pakistanis do not have access to any library & 60% of Pakistanis have no playground access: PIDE Latest Research

DNA

ISLAMABAD: If people are rarely engaged socially, how are they keeping themselves mentally and physically alive? Are there enough libraries and playgrounds available to do so? Not that other ages do not need these, but with the number of youth present in the country, the importance of having facilities where the young can shape and nourish their minds and bodies become all the more important.

According to a Press Release issued by the PIDE, Dr. Durre Nayab, Pro Vice-chancellor of National Think Tank, in her latest research, showed a very low level of social and civic engagement among the people of Pakistan. The libraries provide not just information but also contribute to building communities. Public libraries can be a great equalizer by providing information and education to those who otherwise cannot afford it. The PIDE's research titled "Shaping Minds and Bodies: Do We Have

the Facilities?" which is the fifth BASICS Note of the Series, shows that a vast majority of Pakistanis (83%) do not have access to any library, with only a tiny proportion (4.5%) being very happy with the one they can access. Access remains low for both sexes, but females have more inadequate access than their male counterparts for all age groups. Dr. Nayab further elaborated in the report that it is worth mentioning here that this is reported access. A facility might exist but still remain inaccessible for a variety of reasons. Some of these reasons can be the awareness about its presence, distance to the facility, opening timings, and it being gender-inclusive/exclusive. Factors like these can explain the lower reported accessibility by females than males in the study. While the research shows that education improves a person's reported accessibility to a library, it may be mentioned here that education can bring awareness and information, which a person without it can lack. The presence of a facility can

remain unknown to a person who is not interested in it or lacks knowledge about its existence. Additionally, Accessibility to a library increases with increasing education levels, while increasing income levels do not improve accessibility to a library by any significant margin.

How many Pakistanis have access to playgrounds? It may be clarified here that this question asks if the respondent can access a playground, not if they actually do it. The research shows that 60% of Pakistanis have no playground access. While one-third urban population lacks access to a playground, the proportion is three-fourths for their rural counterparts. Along with low accessibility, satisfaction too is much lower in the rural areas, expressed in the unhappy/very unhappy responses. Punjab fares the best among the four provinces, followed by Balochistan and Sindh. KP shows the highest proportion of those not having access to a playground (67.8%). GB contin-

ues to show better trends than other territories, having the lowest proportion of those not having access to a playground (46.3%). AJK lags behind other territories, with 62.3% needing more access to a playground.

In her report, PIDE Pro VC described that the education level positively correlates with the accessibility of a playground. The proportion of not having access to a playground declines as we go up the educational ladder from 75.1% for those who have never been to school; it reduces to 41% who have achieved more than a high school education. Those happy/very happy also increase with increasing educational level. Lastly, we see how income levels, expressed in quintiles, relate to the accessibility of a playground. Income has a positive effect on the accessibility of a playground only after a certain level, as we see some reduction in those lacking access after reaching the third income quintile.

Agri production under threat due to climate change affects

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHH-SA) Shahzad Ali Malik said agricultural production is under threat due to climate change in food-insecure regions, especially in Asian countries. Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Momin Ali said here today that various climate-driven extremes, i.e. drought, heat waves, erratic and intense rainfall patterns, storms, floods, and emerging insect pests have adversely affected the livelihood of the farmers.

He said future climatic predictions showed a significant increase in temperature, and erratic rainfall with higher intensity while variability exists in climatic patterns for climate extremes prediction. For mid-century (2040-2069), it is projected that there will be a rise of 2.8°C in maximum temperature and 2.2°C in minimum temperature in Pakistan.

To respond to the adverse effects of climate change scenarios, there is a need to optimize the climate-smart and resilient agricultural practices and technology for sustainable productivity. He said therefore a case study was carried out to quantify climate change effects on rice and wheat crops and to develop adaptation strategies for the rice-wheat cropping system during the mid-century (2040-2069) as these two crops have significant contributions to food production.

For the quantification of adverse impacts of climate change in farmer fields, a multidisciplinary approach consisted of five climate models that predicted that there would be a yield reduction of 15.2% in rice and 14.1% in wheat and another model showed that there would be a yield reduction of 17.2% in rice and 12% in wheat. Adaptation technology, by modification in crop management like sowing time and density, nitrogen, and irrigation application have the potential to enhance the overall productivity and profitability of the rice-wheat cropping system under climate change scenarios. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: IG Islamabad Police presenting souvenir to SP Farhat Abbas Kazmi who is retired from service after serving in the department for 40 years. DNA

PTV Flix to reconnect viewers with PTV's golden era

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday expressed her

delight at the launch #PTV Flix today which would connect the viewers with a national treasure including

the golden era of the PTV. In a tweet, she said the project was initiated in July 2022, a new video streaming OTT platform on which users globally can access PTV's vast library of content, including TV shows, dramas, documentaries, sports, and other programs. The minister said that over the years, PTV has produced content that has become a national treasure. "Popular dramas and PTV shows like Dhoop Kangar, and Aynakwala Jin have become a part of our collective memory", she maintained. PTV Flix has a rich library of current and old content that users can easily access, she said.—APP

China helps evacuate 216 Pakistani citizens from Sudan

ISLAMABAD: The spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has expressed gratitude towards China for evacuating a group of 216 Pakistani citizens from Port Sudan to

Jeddah aboard China's Weishanhu naval vessel. In a tweet, the spokesperson wrote: "A batch of 216 Pakistani nationals arrive in Jeddah from Port Sudan aboard Chinese Navy's Weishanhu today. We are

grateful to our Chinese friends for this gesture of support and friendship." Currently, 573 Pakistani citizens have been safely evacuated from Sudan through the collaborative efforts of Pakistan.—DNA

IRSA releases 139,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 139,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 135,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1441.71 feet and was 43.71 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,100 cusecs while outflow as 45,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1121.35 feet, which was 71.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 55,300 cusecs.—APP

Kyrgyz envoy for exploiting trade potential with Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiev Sunday stressed the urgent need to fully exploit the existing trade and economic potentials between the two countries on priority to further bolster regional economic integration.

Chairing a ceremony dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the 95th Anniversary of the People's writer of Kyrgyzstan Chyngyz Aitmatov, he said overall, the deep

cultural heritage of our countries should also be spread among the people of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. He said both countries are strongly interconnected and with the right approach can create a significantly efficient partnership and friendship for the benefit of our people. In this regard, he called upon all of us to actively work and cooperate to grow Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations on a qualitatively new level. He said Kyrgyzstan is a country with a very deep and broad history and the Kyrgyz nation itself is considered to be one of the most ancient in the

world. The earliest records about the ethnonym "Kyrgyz" were found in Chinese transcriptions, which were written more than 2200 years ago he added.

At different times Kyrgyzstan was becoming a massive state, ruling in Central Asia and expanding its influence to the entire East Asian region he added.

He said both countries are bounded by strong historical links, as well as the same religion and close culture. As it is known, the founder of the Mongol Empire, Zahiriddin Babur originated from the South of Kyrgyzstan. His house is today the historical site at the top of the mountain "Sulaiman-Too".

Talking about Constitution, Ambassador Ulanbek said that this document is the fundamental legal basis of the entire state, which defines the main rules and principles of all the spheres within the country, as well as its foreign policy.



ISLAMABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LTD (IESCO) (ایسکو)

INVITATION OF PROPOSAL FOR INVESTMENT OF RS. 1,857 MILLION IN TERM DEPOSIT RECEIPT (TDR)

Islamabad Electric Supply Company Ltd (IESCO) is one of the leading Power Distribution Company of Pakistan having over 3.5 Million consumers. IESCO is committed to light the lives of the people by providing quality service to its consumers through its vast, efficient and well organized Power Distribution network, spread from River Indus to River Neelum (AJ&K).

Through this advertisement, IESCO invites offers from banks for making advertisement in TDRs. The said offer indicating specific profit rates are required through sealed proposals from those Public and Private Sector Banks including Islamic Banks; which fulfill the criteria of having a minimum Short-Term Rating of "A1+" along with a minimum Long-Term Rating of "AAA" as determined from latest Credit Rating available at the website of the State Bank of Pakistan.

Other terms & conditions are as under:

- 1- In order to participate, each bank must have minimum Short Term rating of "A1+" along with a minimum Long-Term Rating of "AAA" as determined from latest Credit Rating available at the website of the State Bank of Pakistan.
- 2- The required offer must in respect of the following:

Sr.#	Amount in PKR Million	Period/ Tenor	Profit Payment	Maturity of existing TDRs
1	1,857	12 Months	Yearly	New Investment with the option of roll over subject to approval of IESCO's competent authority as per Policy

- 3- Each eligible bank is required to send the offer letter through its Authorized representative in sealed envelope on 09-05-2023 at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room of IESCO Headquarter, Street 40, Sector G-7/4 Islamabad;
- 4- The offer letter must indicate the bank's current Short term as well as Long term rating as issued by SBP;
- 5- IESCO will not invest more than 20% of its fund base in a single bank and in this regard, it is to be noted that each round of investment represents around 20% of total investible fund base;
- 6- Each of the eligible Bank is requested to send its representative well on time;
- 7- 30 Minutes after the given time, the Committee Room will be closed for entrance of all the participant bankers and attendance will be marked;
- 8- The validity of Profit Rates should be at least 07 days w.e.f 09-05-2023 extendable on the request of IESCO;
- 9- The Management Investment Committee of IESCO has the right to cancel the bidding process without assigning any reason and
- 10- The decision of the Management Investment Committee will be final.

SECRETARY PID. 6572-22
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
IESCO Head Quarter, Street #40, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad, Phone No. +92-51-9253285
ڈہہ داری نہایتی بجلی پچائیں

Briefs

Passport delivery times reduced

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani authorities have reduced the delivery times for issuing passports of all categories. The Director General Immigration and Passports has issued an official notification the other day announcing changes to passport delivery times. According to the notification, the delivery times for normal, urgent and fast-track passport services have been reduced to 10 days, four days and two days respectively. The previous delivery times for normal, urgent and fast-track passport services were 21 days, seven days, and four days respectively. The reduction in delivery times is expected to provide significant relief to passport applicants who were previously facing delays in receiving their passports. The decision to lower the delivery times is believed to have been taken due to the increased number of passport applicants in recent times. The DG Immigration and Passports has been receiving a large number of applications for passports, and the new delivery times are aimed at improving the efficiency of the passport delivery system and reducing the backlog of pending applications. —DNA

ICCI, NPC to work together for uplift of local economy

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President visited National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad to congratulate its newly elected office bearers. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that ICCI would work with NPC for the better development of the city and uplift of the local economy. He lauded the role of NPC for the welfare of the journalistic community and stressed that the government should provide better facilities to the journalists to enable them to serve the nation more effectively. He demanded that CDA and all housing societies in Islamabad should reserve a specific quota of plots on discounted rates for the business community, journalists, lawyers and labor class. He said that NPC should cooperate in highlighting the key issues of the business community that would help in better growth of business activities. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with NPC in resolving the issues of journalistic fraternity. —DNA

Toshakhana case hearing put off till May 3

ISLAMABAD: The hearing of the Toshakhana case against former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan put off till May 3 without any court proceeding on Saturday. The court hearing of the case could not be held on Saturday as Additional Sessions Judge Hamayun Dilawar has gone on leave. Barrister Gohar Ali and Khalid Chaudhry Advocate appeared before the court to represent Imran Khan. Today was the first hearing of the Toshakhana case after its transfer to the new judge. The case was shifted to Judge Hamayun after the transfer of Judge Zafar Iqbal. The Election Commission of Pakistan on November 22, 2022 sent the Toshakhana reference to the trial court for initiating criminal proceedings against former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan under sections 137, 170 and 167 of the Election Act, 2017. Meanwhile, a local court in Islamabad has summoned PTI Chief Imran Khan in personal capacity on May 30 in a case related to incidents of violence and arson during the PTI's long march. Judge Mubashar Hassan Chishti heard the case on Saturday. The judge observed that authorities failed to comply with the court summons for Imran in a proper manner. He directed Imran's lawyers to ensure the PTI chief's presence in the court on May 30. —DNA

Japanese Govt decorates Pak former Amb. Imtiaz

Imtiaz Ahmad had served as a diplomat in Japan four times, for more than 16 years and had held almost every post from young diplomat to the Ambassador in Japan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has announced the 2023 Spring Conferment of Decorations and H.E. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, former Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Japan, will be decorated with "the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star", in

recognition of his contribution to strengthen bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and Pakistan. H.E. Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad had served as a diplomat in Japan four times, for more than 16 years and had held almost every post from young diplomat to the Ambassador in Japan. He has also acquired a broad knowledge of Japanese language, culture



and history, which led to his significant contribution to the enhancement of our relations in many fields. In addition to the regular diplomatic activities, he has done a great contribution to Japanese people. During his tenure as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Pakistan in Tokyo, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred on March 11, 2011. Af-

ter the earthquake, he reached out to the Pakistani community in Tokyo and visited the affected areas with them every weekend to serve Pakistani food and distribute relief supplies. Many Japanese people were moved by the dedication from him and Pakistani people, and his presence with the disaster victims was highly praised by the Pakistani and Japanese media.

Climate resistant crops, an emerging challenge

Last year floods that destroyed crops on vast tracts of land and recent torrential rains and hail and wind storms that badly affected the wheat crops have already rung alarm bells for the policymakers and experts working in the agricultural sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In recently observed harsh weather phenomena, research on climate-resistant crops is emerging as a major challenge for agricultural researchers. Last year floods that destroyed crops on vast tracts of land and recent torrential rains and hail and wind storms that badly affected the wheat crops have already rung alarm bells for the policymakers and experts working in the agricultural sector. The nation will also be facing serious food security issues with its population almost nearing to 240 million and it is high time to seriously move for-

ward to produce climate-resistant and high-yielding crops. Although scientists at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) Faisalabad are working on climate-resilient varieties of wheat, rice, maize, sugarcane, cotton, pulses, vegetable and oil-seed yet this process needs to be prompted at a mass scale. "Climatic changes are badly affecting countries including Pakistan not only by changing seasons duration but also affected crops sustenance and yield," said Dr Naveed Siddiqui, Director Agronomy Department Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI). Mentioning to after-effects of hail storms and floods, he said, it damages fertility and af-

fects crop sowing cycles. "As the climate change has shrunk winter duration, we are working on seeds with the ability for late sowing and early ripening crops." "Our focus is to reduce the duration of different crops to obtain produce within minimum time, avoiding the storm season and harsh weather. We hope to get secure and more yielding crops through this mechanism," he stated. He said that intensive cultivation is yet another factor for getting more yield by sowing maximum number of plants in an acre. He informed that the Institute is also working on combination of various crops to enhance overall crops productivity with one crop supplementing the

other and helping the farmers to harvest one after another crop instead of preparing bed for other crops after harvesting the one. Dr Fahd Rasul, Associate Professor Department of Agronomy at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) also stresses the promotion of climate-resistant crops in view of changing weather patterns. "We are also researching on climate resistant crop varieties with ability to get maximum yield and enduring harsh weather impacts like floods, storms and droughts," he stated. "For this purpose, we have developed a research group on crops for changing environments."

400 recruits passed-out from Anti-Terrorist School

ISLAMABAD: 400 recruits of Islamabad capital police have passed out from Anti-Terrorist School Simli and received training in physical, weapon handling, recovery of hostages, control of armed elements and maintaining of law and order situation, a police public relations officer said. He said that, 400 recruits have passed out from Anti-Terrorist School Simli and received training in physical, weapon handling, recovery of hostages, control of armed elements and maintaining law and order situation. In this regard, a prestigious ceremony was organized at Anti-Terrorist School Simli, CPO Law and Order Islamabad attended the ceremony as the chief guest. —DNA

Economic decline, skilled workers leaving country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said skilled workers and professionals are leaving the country in record numbers for better opportunities which is a great threat to the economy. Industry and other sectors are finding it difficult to find skilled workers and professionals adding to the economic downturn, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that the country is going through uncertainty,

people are worried about the economic situation, the political environment is tense and due to lack of purposeful politics, the situation is getting worse with time. The country is facing several economic and political crises and the whole situation has further weakened the already weak economy, and has made it difficult for people to feed themselves and their children, forcing them to seek a better life elsewhere, he added. The business leader said that almost a million Pakistanis left the country in just one year for better opportunities and a better life. The number of Pakistanis going abroad increased by 300 percent in

one year which is a perfect recipe for disaster, he said, adding that on average few hundred thousand Pakistanis use to go abroad but now this number has increased to one million, he added. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the desire to leave the country is highest among the youth aged 15 to 24 years and those leaving the country are professionals, including doctors, engineers, IT specialists, accountants, associate engineers, teachers and nurses, who are in search of better jobs and a better standard of living. This is a trend that is becoming common and it is causing a lot of problems for the country.

Expressway Project to be completed by June end

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Noor ul Amin Mengal announced on his official Twitter account that the Islamabad Expressway project from PWD to Korang is set to be completed by the end of June this year. Furthermore, he stated that the project would continue onwards to T Chowk and is expected to be finished by early next year. In light of the inconvenience caused to the public during the construction period, Mengal expressed his regret. Mengal further added that the travel time for those heading towards Kashmir, Murri, or Galiyath would soon be reduced to less than five minutes while passing through Barakahu. He also stated that the difficult phase of the project has been successfully completed. The completion of the Islamabad Expressway project is set to provide significant relief to commuters traveling from PWD to T Chowk, as well as those heading towards the northern areas of Pakistan. With the expected reduction in travel time, the project is expected to boost economic activity in the region and improve the overall quality of life for the residents of Islamabad. The CDA chairman's announcement has been met with positive feedback from the public, who have eagerly awaited the completion of the project. —DNA

IMF's delay part of plan, actual target is CPEC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said the conditions of the IMF are not coming to an end which is a conspiracy. He said that the real target of the international institution is CPEC therefore, it wants to delay the loan to weaken Pakistan so that it is made to obey orders that are against its national interests. The lender will not give a loan to Pakistan until we step back from CPEC. "That is why, despite fulfilling dozens of conditions, the IMF continues to make lame excuses," he added. Aslam Khan said that the lame justifications of the IMF have made its intentions clear to all, so Pakistan should part ways with it as soon as possible. He said that Pakistan will have to learn to live without the IMF, for which elitism will have to be abandoned. Due to the delay in the agreement between Pakistan and the IMF, the country's economy has been greatly affected, and the public has also had to pay a heavy price for it. According to many economists, due to the current economic conditions in Pakistan, the country has no option other than the IMF, as other international financial institutions and many countries have linked the loan to Pakistan with the revival of the IMF programme. He noted that further loans will be available to Pakistan only after the issuance of instalment by the lender. He said that the delay in agreement with the IMF has created a situation of uncertainty resulting in the depreciation of the rupee, loss of investment, and adverse effects in the financial market, due to which Pakistan's credit rating continues to decline. The depreciation of the rupee has made many things expensive, as everything from food to oil is imported. The decision to suddenly increase electricity, gas, and interest rates was wrong, which has put a lot of burden on the people and the business community. The government should try hard to get out of the clutches of the IMF as soon as the situation improves, he demanded.

Carpet sector seeks support to capture \$30 bn market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ijazur Rehman said that due to non-availability of government patronage and unfavorable conditions, Pakistan's traditional khadi finished products and hand-woven carpets industry is failing to capture its desired share of the over \$30 billion global export trade. In a statement issued here on Sunday, Ijazur Rehman said these products have been the unique identity and heritage of Pakistan in the world that I why urgent steps are needed to rebuild it as a proud national industry. He said they invite the private sector to utilize the facilities available at the Carpet Training Institute under the Joint Venture and to promote employment opportunities through modernized Khadi. He further said that unfortunately, due to continuous neglect at the government level, this industry of handmade carpets of Pakistan is suffering from a severe condition.



ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper is displaying Room Air Coolers outside his shop along the IJP road, to attract customers as due to the increasing temperature the demands of such appliances are increased in Federal Capital. —Online

SC bench to hear judicial reforms bill tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) on Saturday fixed for hearing a plea against the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023 on May 2. The 8-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial will hear the case on Tuesday. The apex court has also issued notices to the Attorney General of Pakistan, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Pakistan Bar Council (PBC). The court also issued notices to 9 political parties including Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and others. In previous hearing, the apex court had stepped the implementation of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, aimed at clipping the powers of the CJP. It is pertinent to mention here that despite Supreme Court's directive, the National Assembly last Friday notified the conversion of Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023 - which aims to curtail the suo motu powers of the office of the chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) - into an act. National Assembly Secretariat notified that the bill of the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) deemed to have been assented by the president (with effect from April 21, 2023) under Clause (2) of the Article 75 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The bill was approved by the federal cabinet on March 28 and then passed by both houses of parliament - the National Assembly and Senate. The passed bill - the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 - aims at giving the power of taking suo motu notice to a three-member committee comprising senior judges including Chief Justice. It also aims to have transparent proceedings in the apex court and includes the right to appeal. Regarding the constitution of benches, the bill states that every cause, matter or appeal before the apex court would be heard and disposed of by a bench constituted by a committee comprising the CJP and the two senior-most judges. It added that the decisions of the committee would be taken by a majority. —DNA

APRIL 2023

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pl

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

Tariff weaponization shoots US in the foot

No matter whether US President Joe Biden vetoes or not the congressional efforts to overturn his two-year tariff waiver on solar panels from four Southeast Asian nations this week, it is the United States that has paid and will continue to pay for his administration's self-deceptive weaponization of tariffs. In June, Biden waived tariffs on panels from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam in an effort to create a "bridge" while the US ramps up manufacturing enough to end its reliance on solar panels from China to achieve its climate change goals. More than eight months into the tariff waiver, with the four Southeast Asian countries now accounting for about 80 percent of the US' solar panel supplies, US manufacturers are urging lawmakers to block the executive order of the president to restore the tariffs otherwise they cannot compete with the cheap panels made overseas. The legislation, in support of those calls, and which both Democrats and Republicans endorse, is expected to come up for a full vote in the House as soon as this week. However, the Biden administration thinks its policy has worked well and points to an increase in domestic solar manufacturing capacity since it took office, although without giving any statistics. "This legislation would sabotage US energy security," Ali Zaidi, Biden's national climate adviser, told the media. "It's not about slowing things down. It's about fundamentally undermining our progress toward increased energy security and having the tools we need to attack the climate crisis." That means, although it has not stated it directly, the Biden administration thinks that US solar panel manufacturers are not yet competitive enough to outcompete Chinese companies, since to block that tariff waiver now means to reopen the US market to Chinese panels again after an eight-month respite. The Biden administration has also ignored a question lawmakers demand it answer: What if Chinese manufacturers relocate their production lines to the four Southeast Asian countries to take advantage of its zero-tariff policy to access the US market. Due to their unparalleled cost-performance, China's share in all the manufacturing stages of solar panels exceeds 80 percent. It is almost impossible for the US, and other major consumers of solar panels, to shun away from Chinese equipment completely. What's more, the fact that the Biden administration has been able to advance its ambitious green energy program at home is largely attributable to its zero-tariff policy for solar panels. That has been done without the energy security of the US being compromised or threatened by China.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 227

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Turkey elections

Turkey's strongman, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is looking a little weaker this weekend after dramatically falling ill on live television during campaigning for 14 May presidential and parliamentary elections. Erdogan, 69, has ruthlessly wielded power, as prime minister and president, for 20 years. His carefully cultivated image is of a tough, indestructible leader. Yet suddenly he appears frail. Whatever the truth, the episode has added to a growing sense that an authoritarian figure who has come to dominate almost every aspect of Turkish life, personally dictating domestic, security and foreign policy, is due a reckoning – and that it's time for a change. The fact that Erdogan, unusually, is trailing slightly in the polls behind his presidential rival, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, head of the People's Republican party and leader of a six-party opposition alliance, is a sign that the political ground may be shifting. Analysts suggest that Erdogan's Justice and Development party and its ultra-nationalist allies may also lose control of parliament, following previous, significant local election defeats in Istanbul and Ankara. Another potentially election-deciding shift came on Friday when the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic party (HDP) – whose leader, Selahattin Demirtaş, was jailed seven years ago on spurious terrorism charges – threw its weight behind the opposition alliance. Kurds represent about one fifth of Turkey's 85 million population. In past elections the HDP, which Erdogan is trying to ban, has attracted about 10% of the national vote. Key election issues include the economy. Extraordinarily high inflation and a cost of living crisis are widely blamed on Erdogan's mismanagement. Such problems, affecting everyone, could undermine the rural base on which the ruling party traditionally depends. The perceived inadequate government response to February's earthquakes, which killed more than 50,000 people, and anger over corrupt building practices overlooked by the state, could also sway many voters. Yet these elections are also about legacy and history, which seem to be catching up with the most powerful Turkish leader since Kemal Atatürk. Constitutional changes pushed through by Erdogan, giving him sweeping executive powers, mean he is held primarily and personally responsible for the country's problems. His aggressive efforts to silence independent critics and media have not prevented a rising public backlash. Erdogan's insistence, stemming from his Islamic beliefs, that a woman's principal role should be child-raising and home-making threatens to alienate younger voters, as well as older, more conservative women who previously welcomed his removal of a headscarf ban but resent his didactic behaviour. About 20,000 mosques have been built in Turkey since he took power – part of his drive to "Islamicise" society and overturn Atatürk's secular legacy. This, too, may now be backfiring. Kurdish antipathies are fuelled by memories of a violent government crackdown begun in 2015, ostensibly aimed at supporters of the separatist Kurdistan Workers' party, proscribed as a terrorist organisation. Thousands of activists were jailed, elected Kurdish mayors deposed. Nor have civil society groups, judges, journalists and public servants forgotten the purges and mass arrests that followed a failed 2016 military coup. On the international stage, Erdogan has often angered Turkey's friends and allies by his interventions in Syria and Iraq, his courting of a fellow authoritarian leader, Russia's Vladimir Putin, and, most recently, his de facto veto of Sweden's bid to join Nato. Foreign governments don't have a vote. But Turkey's people do. It's time for a change.

Follow the constitution or set aside

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



There is a question, in which circumstances and by whose authority should national security concerns take precedence over constitutional obligations and the rule of law? Confrontational views intensified when the Electoral Commission of Pakistan, claiming its inability to hold fair and just elections in light of the security situation and financial problems, mandated

Pakistan's soaring political tension is an opportunistic struggle for power. It has pushed the country in a political tinderbox. Not any regard is displayed on either side for the ongoing suffering of ordinary Pakistanis, who continue to pay the price for the country's long history of political instability.

Today's deadlock between Pakistan's federal government and the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over the conduct of elections is continuing. The PTI has held a big meeting at the famous Minare-Pakistan Tower grounds in Lahore as the opening of election campaign. Addressing to a large gathering of supporters, party workers and former parliament members, Former Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced a program to save Pakistan's failing economy. A series of events has persisted nearly a year in his quest to return to the Prime minister office. Khan's campaign is enjoying widespread popular support and has succeeded in mobilizing the public, which is building pressure on the ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif who is not agree for early elections. The coalition government, however, is determined to hold off polling as long as possible for provincial and national assembly elections. To justify the delay, the embattled government has referred to the country's unpreparedness for the elections because of security threats from the

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militant group in the coming months. It has justified the possibility of terrorist attacks against officials and innocent civilian population. But behind this argument lies what has been a unfamiliar constitutional dilemma for Pakistan. There is a question, in which circumstances and by whose authority should national security concerns take precedence over constitutional obligations and the rule of law?

Confrontational views intensified when the Electoral Commission of Pakistan, claiming its inability to hold fair and just elections in light of the security situation and financial problems, mandated late April to early October and ignored the constitution by postponing the given provincial elections. This came after the army announced its failure to provide security for the polls due to continued engagement in counter-terrorism operations.

Khan, who is currently dealing with multiple government-initiated charges for alleged criminal behavior, has sought the intervention of Pakistan's Supreme Courts. In the recent moves of the PTI leader stated that the Election Commission and the Sharif government are engaging to break the constitution. To pushing back the government, PTI went to the Supreme Court to get legal support. Through a suo motu notice the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan suspended

the Election Commission and government's extra-constitutional measures.

Now, what did the Supreme Court Chief Justice Umar Atta Bandial play his role to break the political deadlock in Pakistan is whether acceptable for all stake holders? Against a backdrop of such questions about the rapprochement and impartiality of the judiciary among bar associations and senior judges, the chief justice has emerged as a central character in the political drama but many believe that the verdict of the Chief Justice is controversial.

Khan has become a victorious in the Supreme Court; however, there is a possibility that the government and the security establishment will play a significant role in the game of Pakistani politics, whether or not they choose to implement their decision.

For the first time in Pakistan's history, the ruling coalition government appeared to be trying to implement the country's infamous "ideological necessity" without formally announcing it or seeking the approval of the Supreme Court. In response to the question of who has the authority to make extraordinary changes in the timing of general elections in Pakistan, in the past, there is not any precedent, it is the military establishment and the political elite are responsible that will determine when the situation is constitutional and we have to follow the constitution or to set aside.

Russia's new foreign policy vision for 2023

Gul.i.Ayesha Bhatti



Its main goal is to accelerate integration and find a system of all-encompassing cooperation based on Central Asian republics and the united CIS and EAEU that benefits all parties.

Russia wants to deepen its strategic partnership with China and India. It will boost connections with Middle Eastern and North African countries by combining the resources of all regional governments and interstate coalitions, such as the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The new concept also claims that Russia shares African

Russia's geography, history, and the dynamics of global power have all had a role in shaping its approach to international affairs. The Primakov Doctrine, named after former Russian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, is one noteworthy foreign policy strategy that has arisen in recent decades. For approximately 20 years, this doctrine served as the cornerstone of Russian foreign policy. It has important implications for global power politics and stresses the significance of a multipolar world order where power is balanced among many big states. It suggests a triangular alliance between Russia, China, and India to thwart the ascent of the United States as the only powerhouse in the world. The RIC has long been hailed as the non-Western center for dialogue and cooperation that would usher in a new multipolar world. It also signifies a change from Russia's early pro-Western position following the fall of the Soviet Union, which now focuses on boosting Russia's power inside its own region and abroad. The Primakov Doctrine's tenets can be summed up as follows: multipolarity, strategic autonomy, regional integration—which emphasizes the significance of regional integration—pragmatism, and non-intervention. This doctrine is evident in Russia's new foreign policy document, which was authorized by Presidential Executive Order No. 229 of March 31, 2023, was published on March 31 on the website of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in English, Spanish, and French). The 42-page paper has six sections and 76 paragraphs in all. The concept's prior edition was approved in November 2016. Here are a few key components of the new strategy, which is primarily based on the Russian Federation Constitution, including its strategic aims, significant objectives, and priority areas. The new Russian foreign policy upholds international law and seeks equitable international involvement to solve

shared concerns and advance shared interests. Peaceful, open, reliable, and pragmatic. Russia's stance depends on foreign nations and interstate organisations' friendliness, neutrality, or cooperation.

Its main goal is to accelerate integration and find a system of all-encompassing cooperation based on Central Asian republics and the united CIS and EAEU that benefits all parties. Russia wants to deepen its strategic partnership with China and India. It will boost connections with Middle Eastern and North African countries by combining the resources of all regional governments and interstate coalitions, such as the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The new concept also claims that Russia shares African nations' aspirations for a more just polycentric world and the abolition of social and economic inequality, which are rising due to some industrialised nations' sophisticated neocolonial practises against Africa. Russia wants to help Africa become a global growth hub. The African Union and the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum are the key venues for bilateral and multilateral Russian-African cooperation.

The Russian Federation wants to develop practical, de-ideological, and mutually beneficial relations with Latin American and Caribbean states to help them secure sovereignty and independence from the United States and its allies. Latin American and Caribbean republics are increasing their autonomy and varied potential. It prioritises strengthening links with other Latin American states while taking into mind their independence and constructive relations with the Russian Federation. This includes diverse, mutually advantageous partnerships with Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. It also stressed that most European nations have an aggressive foreign policy towards Russia that seeks to undermine Russia's security and sovereignty, gain economic advantages, undermine domestic political stability, erode tra-

ditional Russian spiritual and moral values, and obstruct Russia's relations with allies and partners. The Russian Federation will defend its national interests in the EU. The U.S. is a major sovereign centre of global development and the main driver, organiser, and implementer of the West's aggressive anti-Russian policy, which threatens the security of the Russian Federation, international peace, and humanity's balanced, equitable, and forward-moving development. Russia's U.S. policy considers this. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the new plan encompasses the 2021 National Security Strategy. "The logic of the document reflects changing geopolitical realities—revolutionary advances on the outer contour, which have received a visible acceleration with the start of a special military operation." He continued, "In particular, the unprecedented level of international tension over the past decade is stated. Unfriendly states pose grave threats to our security and prosperity. US-led hybrid warfare against Russia. Being a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, a participant in the major international organizations and associations, one of the two largest nuclear powers, and the successor (continuing legal personality) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Russia has significant resources in all spheres of human endeavor. And its independent and multifaceted foreign policy approach, guided by both the country's own interests and its specific obligation to uphold international and regional peace and security. Moreover, it is a strong indicator of the emergence of a multipolar world in which states are devising broader strategies to protect their own interests in this period of transition. They are more preoccupied with optimizing their political benefit and influence in global politics.

—The Writer is PhD Scholar International Relations Islamabad guleayeshbhatti@gmail.com

Briefs

China evacuates 940 citizens from conflict-hit Sudan

BEIJING: China has evacuated 940 citizens from conflict-torn Sudan amid ongoing clashes between the army and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), according to the country's National Defense Ministry on Saturday.

Two Chinese People's Liberation Army naval vessels transported the Chinese citizens, as well as 231 foreigners to a port in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from Wednesday till Saturday, the ministry's spokesperson Tan Kefei said in a statement.

"The Chinese military has always been the guardian of the people, and a staunch force to defend national sovereignty, security, and development interests," Tan added.

Earlier, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said a total of 1,300 Chinese citizens were evacuated from the African country.

At least 528 people have been killed and more than 4,500 injured in clashes between two rival generals, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the commander of the armed forces, and Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the head of the RSF, since April 15, according to Sudan's Health Ministry.—APP

Immunization prevents 5M deaths every year

NEW YORK: Immunization currently prevents between 3.5 million and 5 million deaths every year from diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and measles, said a World Health Organization official. On the occasion of World Immunization Week, Batyr Berdyklychev, WHO Türkiye representative, told Anadolu: "These days we have vaccines to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier." The last week of April is celebrated as World Immunization Week, aiming to highlight the collective action needed to protect people from vaccine-preventable diseases, said Berdyklychev. He said that vaccines not only give people healthier lives but also keep them away from falling into poverty. "Health and well-being are closely linked. A sick person has less productivity, may lose income, and fall into catastrophic health expenditures. Therefore, it is estimated that vaccines will help keep approximately 24 million people from falling into poverty by 2030," said Berdyklychev. "We can say that immunization is one of the best health investments money can buy," he added.

Speaking on vaccine hesitancy, Berdyklychev said that it is one of the top 10 global health threats.—Agencies

Gas leak kills 11 in India

AMRITSAR: A gas leak killed 11 people in India on Sunday, an official said, in the latest deadly industrial accident in the vast developing economy of 1.4 billion people. The gas leak happened in Giaspura, an industrial area of Ludhiana in the northern state of Punjab. "Eleven deaths are confirmed," Mandeep Singh Sidhu, police commissioner of Ludhiana, told reporters, adding that four people were hospitalised. The cause of the leak was yet to be ascertained, Sidhu added. "When the blood sample is matched with the sample that the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) team takes, only then will we be able to tell you the exact cause, which kind of gas," the police commissioner said. Five women were among those who died, broadcaster NDTV reported. The six other victims included two boys aged 10 and 13, the report added. Industrial gas leaks blamed on poor safety standards and insufficient checks are common in India. Last August, at least 112 women were hospitalised after a gas leak at an apparel manufacturing plant in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. That followed a similar accident in June when around 200 women fell unconscious after a gas leak in the same area, NDTV reported.—Agencies

ICCI mulls to organize a mango festival in diplomatic area

Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI & Secretary General UBG, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Raja Imtiaz Abbasi, Akhtar Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry, Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Babar Chaudhry and others were in the ICCI delegation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) along with a delegation visited Fruit & Vegetable Market and held a meeting with Chairman Sajid Abbasi, Vice Chairman Safdar Siddique, Member Tahir Ayub and other members of the ICT Market Committee to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the Fruits & Vegetable Market of Islamabad is located at an important place as it supplies fruits & vegetables to twin cities, KPK, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and many other areas, so by developing this market on modern lines, significant increase in exports of fruits & vegetables can be made. He said that ICCI intends to organize a mango festival in the diplomatic area to showcase the export potential of Pakistan's mangoes and other agricultural products to the foreign diplomats with the



aim to improve their exports. He stressed that the Market Committee should cooperate with ICCI in this venture. He said that despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan has to import agricultural commodities worth over USD 5 billion per

annum. However, by developing agriculture on modern lines, Pakistan can increase the exports of the agricultural sector by over USD 10 billion, which will improve the economy. He also invited the Chairman Market Committee to visit ICCI to discuss

the important problems of traders related to his domain in order to address them. Addressing the delegation, Sajid Abbasi, Chairman, ICT Market Committee said that he is a public representative and the Market Committee will

be used in the best interests of the people. He said that he will devise a strategy to provide fruits and vegetables and other commodities to the citizens of Islamabad at reasonable prices. He said that for the convenience of the citizens, he will try to arrange fruit, vegetable and meat shops in every market of the Capital on the pattern of flower shops in collaboration with ICCI. He said that he will solve the problems of the wholesale fruit market of Islamabad in consultation with ICCI.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Sajid Abbasi is a public representative and hoped that he will deliver up to the expectations of the people. He said that the Market Committee should take ICCI in loop on important matters of traders. Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI & Secretary General UBG, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Raja Imtiaz Abbasi, Akhtar Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry, Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Babar Chaudhry and others were in the ICCI delegation.

UN chief, envoys in key talks on Afghanistan crisis

DNA

DOHA: UN chief Antonio Guterres will gather international envoys at a secret location in Doha on Monday in an increasingly desperate bid to find ways to influence Afghanistan's Taliban rulers.

The Taliban government, which took back power in August 2021, will be absent from the talks with representatives from about 25 countries and international organisations, according to diplomats.

The UN secretary-general is to give an update on a review of the world body's

critical relief operation in Afghanistan, ordered in April after the authorities there stopped Afghan women working with UN agencies, diplomats said.

The UN has said it faces an "appalling choice" over whether to maintain its huge operation in the country of 38 million.

Torn apart over the Ukraine war and other global tensions, the UN Security Council powers united on Thursday to condemn the curbs on Afghan women and girls and urge all countries to seek "an urgent reversal" of the policies.

The Afghan foreign ministry rejected the call and

said the ban "is an internal social matter of Afghanistan". "There are lots of differences among Security Council members over Afghanistan. But everyone, including Russia and China, agrees it is better to have the UN in Kabul than not." The United Nations has given few indications of what proposals could be made at the meeting.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on Friday the aim "is to reinvigorate international engagement around common objectives for a durable way forward on Afghanistan". The global body also wants "unity or commonality of

message" on women's and human rights, countering terrorism and drug trafficking. Recognition is not an issue," Dujarric insisted. Whether the Taliban government takes up Afghanistan's UN seat is for the UN General Assembly to decide. But the UN and other groups have been holding increasingly intense discussions on how to engage with the Taliban and possibly offer incentives for change. US Afghanistan envoy Thomas West has been travelling across West Asia in recent weeks meeting different governments and groups.

Key nations sit out US standoff with Russia, China, leaks show

WASHINGTON: President Biden's global agenda faces significant challenges as major developing nations seek to evade the intensifying standoff between the United States, Russia and China and, in some cases, exploit that rivalry for their own gain, classified American intelligence assessments show. The documents, among a trove of U.S. secrets leaked online through the Discord messaging platform, provide a rare glimpse into the private calculations by key emerging powers, including India, Brazil, Pakistan and Egypt, as they attempt to straddle allegiances in an era when America is no longer the world's unchallenged superpower. The leaked intelligence findings, which have not been previously disclosed, also offer new insights on the obstacles Biden faces in securing global support for his efforts to reject the spread of authoritarianism, contain Russia's belligerence beyond its borders and counter China's growing global reach — as influential regional powers try to remain on the sidelines. The White House did not respond to a request for comment. The Defense Department, where many of the documents were briefed to senior leaders before being leaked online, declined to comment.—DNA

Evacuation missions from Sudan by Pakistan Air Force in Full Swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Evacuation missions by Pakistan Air Force to repatriate stranded Pakistanis from war-torn Sudan are in full swing. PAF Airbus carrying 140 fellow countrymen including children and families has landed back at Karachi. Pakistan Air Force in coordination with Ministry of Foreign Affairs is carrying out these evacuation missions with a pledge to fly every single stranded Pakistani from the conflict zone.

**Drop in CAD to compromise economic growth not acceptable**

Mian Anjum Nisar says no benefit of macroeconomic stability at cost of halt in industrial growth. As the country has registered a current account surplus of \$654 million in March 2023 first time after Nov 2020 the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has warned the authorities that drop in Current Account Deficit (CAD) at cost of industrial growth has no benefit, as the current account deficit reduction should be based on growth in exports, resulting into expansion in industrial production as well as employment generation. FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) chairman Mian Anjum Nisar noted that cumulatively current account deficit declined to \$3.4 billion dollars Jul-Mar 2023 against a deficit of \$13 billion of same period but this macroeconomic stability has been achieved at the cost of halt in industrial growth and import restrictions which is not acceptable. Unfortunately the present turnaround is largely due to the fall in imports that has accompanied by sharp slowdown in growth after the currency devaluation and gradual increase in interest rates, which sent shockwaves through the economy. This transformation from deficit into surplus should have been due to recovery in exports and increase in remittances with the support from policies and administrative initiatives of the government but this is not the fact, unfortunately.—DNA

Pakistan National pavilion opens in Langfang China

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan's national pavilion is opened at the Skill International Arts Center in China's Langfang.

The pavilion displays the diversity of the country's products, cultural heritage, and economic potential.

The pavilion is themed "Emerging Pakistan," and aims to showcase Pakistan's dedication to economic development and traditional products in China, Gwadar Pro reported.

The opening ceremony was graced by the Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin ul Haque, and the pavilion includes a range of exhibits, from a traditional Pakistani truck decorated with intricate motifs to handcrafted products and cultural displays highlighting the country's rich diversity. According to the ambassador, this is Langfang's first National Pavilion.



"I'm delighted to inaugurate the Pakistan National Pavilion, and Pakistan is the first country to establish its National Pavilion in the Skill International Arts center," he said. He

stated that the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence was celebrated in this center last year, and the event was a resounding success despite the Covid-19 pandemic, at

tracting around 10,000 visitors and contributing to the establishment of the Pakistan National Pavilion here. He believes that the pavilion will attract millions of visitors here.

First shaft penstock successfully installed at Suki Kinari HPP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In another major development at the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project (SKHPP), a team of Chinese engineers has successfully installed the first shaft penstock, which will provide a solid foundation for the water storage and power generation of the hydropower station.

Penstocks are pressure vessels that carry water from the source to the turbine for power generation. These are key elements in the operation of the hydroelectric system. According to Gwadar Pro, "The penstock was successfully installed on April 26," an SKHPP official confirmed, adding that the installation was warmly celebrated by the Chinese engineers-led team. The 884 MW SKHPP is developed under the umbrella of

the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at River Kunhar (a tributary of River Jhelum) at Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). CGGC Ltd. is the sponsor of the project, which is being executed by Suki Kinari Hydro (Pvt) Ltd. Last year, in October, the Chinese engineers completed the excavation of the deepest

pressure shaft system at SKHPP. The overall construction of SKHPP is going at a fast pace, and, according to insiders, 90% of the construction has been completed. As the construction of the project is heading to completion, the installation of a heavy transmission line to evacuate electricity from SKHPP in

Kaghan Valley is going on at full speed, with heavy transmission poles being installed in Balakot mountains. The total investment in the project is \$1.96 billion. The project has created more than 4,000 jobs during its construction. Upon completion, the project will each year produce 3.2 billion kWh for Pakistan.

**Uzbeks vote in referendum**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The voting for the constitutional referendum in Uzbekistan continues with enthusiasm on Sunday, which will be of extreme importance in determining the constitutional and political direction in the country.

Today on Sunday, at 08.00, the referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the reform of the Constitution of the Republic began, Chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Uzbekistan, Zayniddin Nizomxodjayev said this while addressing a press conference here in (Tashkent) Uzbekistan on Sunday. In accordance with the decisions of the members of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the day of the referendum was set as April 30, 2023, and one question on the ballot: "Do you accept the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan?" it was written, he said.

Chairman of CEC of Uzbekistan, today at 8:00 am, 10,703 referendum polling stations in our country opened their doors to citizens voting in the referendum. He said that 55 referendum holding grounds established at diplomatic and other representative offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 39 foreign countries, including referendum precincts established in Eastern countries, have started working. He informed that 19 million 722 thousand 809 voting citizens were included in the single electronic voter list. Zayniddin Nizomxodjayev said that a total of 307 thousand 895 citizens were included in the list of voters in 55 referendum precincts created abroad. He said that citizens of Uzbekistan used the right to early voting for the first time in the referendum held on April 19-26th of this year. 611,320 citizens voted early.

During the previous referendums, the legislation did not provide for such opportunities, he added.

Türkiye set to join nuclear club: Former OPEC SG

ANKARA: Türkiye is well on its way to becoming part of the club of nations using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes amid its efforts to diversify energy resources, according to an expert.

Adnan Shihab-Eldin, former acting secretary-general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), spoke to Daily Sabah in Istanbul Friday as part of the Future Leaders Executive Program (FLEP). The event was organized by the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), the umbrella youth group of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Member states organize events to promote international cooperation between the youth and with the participation of governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide with a vision of economic and cultural development.

Türkiye is making significant strides toward achieving a diverse energy mix, Shihab-Eldin said and pointed out that this is the most efficient and logical way to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Shihab-Eldin emphasized the importance of exploring and deploying all possible decarbonization technologies to achieve low carbon or net zero emission targets by 2050. He commended Türkiye's efforts to pursue a diverse energy mix that includes nuclear power, renewables and natural gas with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). He highlighted the recent milestone of Türkiye receiving the first nuclear fuel shipment for its first nuclear reactor, marking the country's progress in becoming part of the nuclear club of nations for peaceful purposes. "Türkiye has thought about nuclear for a long time but the fact that it continued to explore it, and when the opportunity came, they went ahead decisively with the plans, cooperating with Russia and benefiting from what Russia is offering," he said. "We saw the celebration on the occasion of the arrival of the first nuclear fuel shipment for the first reactor when it arrived.—DNA

Briefs

First Republic auction underway with deal expected

WASHINGTON: U.S. regulators are trying to clinch a sale of First Republic Bank (FRC.N) over the weekend, with roughly half a dozen banks bidding, sources said on Saturday, in what is likely to be the third major U.S. bank to fail in two months.

Citizens Financial Group Inc (CFG.N), PNC Financial Services Group (PNC.N) and JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) are among bidders vying for First Republic in an auction process being run by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp, according to sources familiar with the matter. US Bancorp (USB.N) was also among banks the FDIC had asked to submit a bid, according to Bloomberg. Guggenheim Securities is advising the FDIC, two sources familiar with the matter said.

The FDIC process kicked off this week, three of the sources said. The bidders were asked to give non-binding offers by Friday and were studying First Republic's books over the weekend, one of the sources said.

A deal is expected to be announced on Sunday night before Asian markets open, with the regulator likely to say at the same time that it had seized the lender, three of the sources said.

Bids are due by Sunday noon, one of the sources said. Currently, the interested banks are evaluating options to see what they would like to bid for, one of the sources said, adding that it is likely that lenders will bid for all of FRC's deposits, a sizable chunk of its assets and some of its liabilities. - Agencies

Four people shot dead in Portugal

MONITORING DESK

LISBON: A man shot three people dead and then committed suicide on Sunday in the Portuguese city of Setubal, about 45 km (28 miles) south of the capital, media said. PSP police commissioner Joao Freire told Reuters that "there are four bodies, which were supposedly the result of a shooting, but the causes and details are not yet known". The police criminal cases agency PJ was at the scene investigating, Freire said. CNN Portugal said the shooting took place at around 8 a.m. in a poor neighbourhood of Setubal called Bairro Azul, and that the gunman committed suicide when police officers arrived on the scene.

SERENA HOTELS HOST POLO CUP 2023



ISLAMABAD: Winners of the Serena Hotels Polo Cup final posing for picture with the Chief Guest First Lady Begum Samina Alvi. Also seen in the picture are CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani, Mrs. Boolani, Ambassadors of Bosnia, Palestine, Jordan, Morocco, Kenya, Indonesia, France and Italy. The final was held under the banner of Serena Hotels Sports Diplomacy. - DNA

Bakhmut: Ukraine says it controls key supply route

Ukraine's top military command said in its daily update on Sunday that its forces had repelled 58 Russian attacks over the past day along the part of frontline stretching from Bakhmut through Avdiivka and on to Maryinka further south in Donetsk region

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Ukraine remains in control of a key supply route into Bakhmut, a military spokesperson said, as the head of Russia's mercenary Wagner Group threatened to withdraw some of his troops from the eastern city if Moscow did not send more ammunition. Russian forces have been trying for 10 months to punch their way into the shattered remains of what was once a city of 70,000. Kyiv has pledged to defend Bakhmut, which Russia sees as a stepping stone to attacking other cities.

"For several weeks, the Russians have been talking about seizing the 'road of life,' as well as about constant fire control over

it," SerhiyCherevatyi, a spokesperson for Ukrainian troops in the east, said in an interview with local news website Dzerkalo-Tyzhnia. "Yes, it is really difficult there ... (but) the defence forces have not allowed the Russians to 'cut off' our logistics." The "road of life" is a vital road between the ruined Bakhmut and the nearby town ChasivYar to the west - a distance of just over 17 km (10.56 miles).

Ukraine's top military command said in its daily update on Sunday that its forces had repelled 58 Russian attacks over the past day along the part of frontline stretching from Bakhmut through Avdiivka and on to Maryinka further south in the Donetsk region. If Bakhmut fell, ChasivYar would probably be next to come under Russian at-

tack according to military analysts, though it is on higher ground and Ukrainian forces are believed to have built defensive fortifications nearby. Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of Russia's Wagner Group, who has often claimed unverifiable successes, said that his forces have advanced some 100 to 150 metres (109 to 164 yards) in Bakhmut, leaving just under 3 square km of the city in Ukrainian hands.

But he said he lost 94 troops. "It would have had been five times fewer if we had more ammunition," Prigozhin said in an audio statement published on the Telegram messaging app of his press service on Saturday evening. Separately, in a nearly 90-minute video interview with Russian military blogger SemyonPegov published

on Saturday, Prigozhin threatened to withdraw troops from Bakhmut, saying they had enough ammunition left only for days.

"If the shortage of ammunition is not replenished, then ... most likely, we will be forced to withdraw part of the units," Prigozhin said, quoting a letter he said was sent to Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, giving an April 28 deadline.

It was not immediately known when the interview was recorded. Prigozhin has often said the regular armed forces are not giving his men the ammunition they need and has sometimes accused top brass of betrayal. "We need to stop deceiving the population and telling them that everything is fine," Prigozhin said in the interview. "I must honestly say: Russia is on the brink of a disaster."

Sante Polo wins Serena Challenge Polo Cup 2023

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Team Sante Polo clinched the Serena Challenge Polo Cup 2023, beating strong Beretta Asean by close margin which was played at the lush green Islamabad Polo Club on Sunday organised by Serena Hotels.

The thrilling final match saw both the teams - Beretta Asean and Sante Polo Team who made it to the finals after putting up a great performance in the preliminary matches. The match was intense, with fire-with-fire till the end and when the final whistle after the fourth chukker was blown, the match was tied at 4.1/2-4. Babar Naseem hammered the match-winning goal to steer Sante Polo team to a nail-biting victory in the final.

The significant contribution of Ahmed Ali Tiwana of two tremendous goals for Team Sante, emerged as best player of the final while his teammates Maisam Baloch and Umer Minhas also played out their hearts and banged in a brace each. Maisam Baloch was also declared the best emerging Player of the polo cup.

The players of Beretta Asean also played wonderfully to show their best skills specially Hamza Nawaz looked superb with polo pony and kept on attacking the opponents' goals but his all efforts went into vain after losing the decisive final.

Imran meets German Ambassador

- Says govt deems itself rightful to defect from constitution, democracy

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan held a meeting with German Ambassador Alfred Grannas and highlighted the 'human rights violation' in Pakistan. In a statement issued on PTI's official Twitter handle, the former premier and German Ambassador discussed 'matters related to bilateral issues and mutual interest' during the meeting. The meeting underscored the exchange of thoughts on matters of mutual interest, PTI's political philosophy, human rights violations in Pakistan, and the effects of the government's unconstitutional actions on the country's

democracy. The two personalities also discussed 'negative impact' of deviation from the Constitution on democracy. Mr Grannas highlighted the effects of human rights violations on the GSP+ status of a country. Meanwhile, Alfred Grannas highlighted the implications for GSP Plus status awarded to Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Imran Khan maintained that his party was fully active for the supremacy of constitution and law and promotion of democracy. He pointed out that democracy was based on guarantee of fundamental rights and establishment of government on the basis of public


opinion. "PTI considers the people as the source of power in national decision-making in the light of the constitution", he added. Imran Khan has said that the country was being ruled by a government that deemed itself rightful to defect from the democracy and the constitution. The said the PTI was struggling for the supremacy of the constitution and democratic values in the country adding that the basic right to vote and public mandate made the foundation of a democracy. "People empower leaders to make policies," he added. Mr Khan said people were being deprived of the right to vote adding that interim governments were ruling in Punjab and KP despite elapsing 90 days after the dissolution of both assemblies. - DNA

Balochistan: Dozens of houses damaged in heavy rainfall

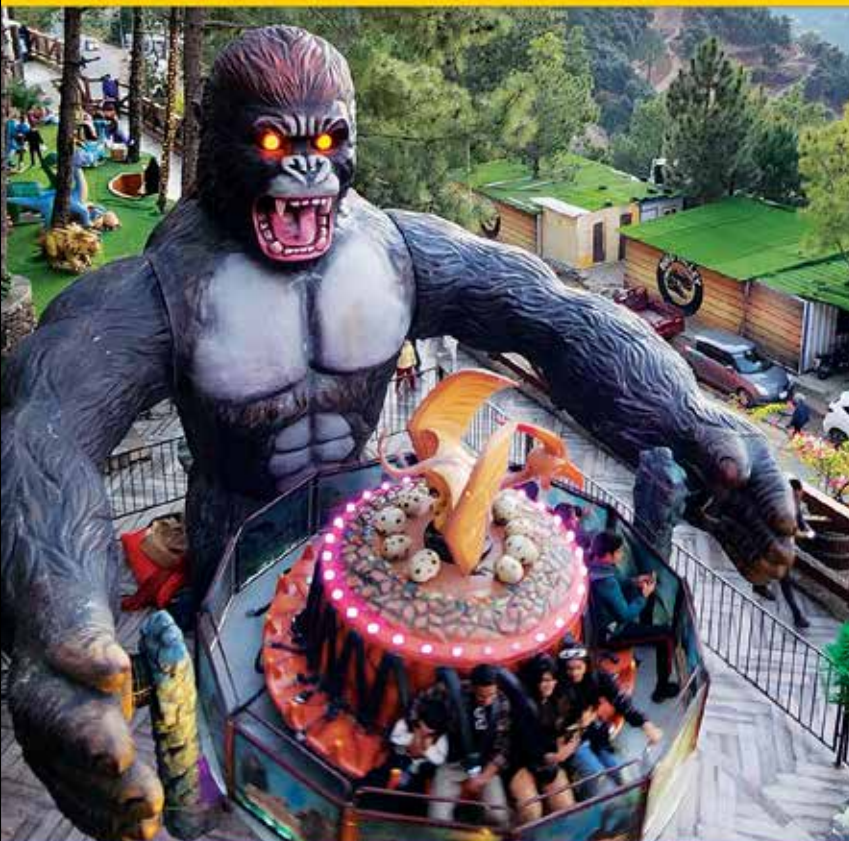
QUETTA: Heavy rainfall has battered various parts of Balochistan, including Quetta, over the last four days causing damage to dozens of houses over the last four days, it emerged on Sunday. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Naseer Ahmed told media four people had died in rain-related incidents on April 27. He said that one person had died in a road accident in Turbat, a woman had died in Lasbela after being struck by lightning, and two children had died in Khuzdar after lightning struck their house. "Dozens of houses have been damaged due to yesterday's rainfall in Panjgur district," he went on to say, adding that PDMA and district officials had shifted citizens to safer areas. He said that currently, more than 20 districts of the province were under the grip of monsoon rains, adding that the PDMA had already issued alerts and deployed teams. - DNA

PM's energy conservation plan saving national resources

ISLAMABAD: The country's energy conservation plan is witnessing the successful implementation of energy-efficient measures that aim at judicious utilization of national resources. Launched by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif this January, the multi-pronged plan focuses on steps including austerity in the usage of electricity and fuel besides utilization of alternative modes such as solar technology and electric vehicles. Through the plan, the government is encouraging the nation to amend its behavioural patterns by shunning the culture of wasting national resources. The departments of the federal government have started implementing the official notification of avoiding unnecessary usage of electricity. The step will help ensure a 30 per cent reduction in the usage of energy. According to official estimates, the country consumed 29,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity last summer and 12,000 MW in the winter. Further 17,000 MW was used in summer including 5,300 MW due to air-conditioners and 12,000 MW by fans. To cut power consumption, the government has chalked out a programme which introduces the use of energy-efficient fans. An additional duty will be imposed on inefficient electric fans and their production will halt from July 1, 2023. The use of energy-efficient fans will help save Rs 15 billion annually as they consume 40 to 60 watts of electricity compared to the ones with dated technology that consume 120 to 130 watts. After February 1st, the production of incandescent bulbs has also been stopped with a duty imposed on them. The step will save Rs 23 billion annually. Also, reforms have been introduced in the by-laws of housing societies and building codes to ensure energy-efficient infrastructure. The installation of conical baffles in geysers within a period of one year has been made mandatory. The baffle provides cost-intensive heating for warm water as it traps heat using less energy. The step is expected to save Rs 92 billion per year. - DNA



10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



☎ 051 8770065 / 66 / 67 📞 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335
 UAN: 051 111 777 778 🌐 dinovalley.pk 🌐 dinovalley.pk



WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE



For Sales & Supply Contact:
 Rizvi Abbas Qaiser Waheed Riaz Muhammad
 03325599169 03325808422 0335 511043