

Samahan

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Pope expresses 'deep concern' over Israeli violence

Detailed News On Page-07

Saudi govt deploys air surveillance system: Amb.

Elahi urges PDM not to

turn politics

into personal

enmity

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab former

chief minister Parvez Elahi

urged the Pakistan Demo-

cratic Movement led govern-

ment to not turn politics into

personal hostility so that the

sovereignty of the country

was not affected. He met

with political leaders Fa-

rooq Amanullah Dareshak,

Dar Muhammad Dareshak

and Ali Amanullah Dareshk.

Talking about the decision of

the Supreme Court regard-

ing the Punjab elections,

he said when the CJP gave

verdict regarding the no-con-

fidence vote against Imran

Khan the PDM accepted his

decision but when the same

CIP gave verdict to hold

elections, the same PDM

had decided to oppose him.

Detailed News On Page-02



Lionel Messi stars as PSG go six points clear





Briefs

PM greets Christians on Easter

DNA



the Christian community around the world, particularly the Pakistani Christian brothers and sisters on celebrating Easter. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister wished a very happy Easter to the Christian community. "Let us all vow to do our bit in making the world a peaceful place where communities can live in harmony & build a tomorrow of hope," he further added. In a separate press release of PMOffice Media Wing, prime minister reiterated that govt was committed to protecting the basic rights, lives and properties of all the religious communities of the country.

Nagyi for early completion of projects

DNA

LAHORE: Caretaker Pun-Chief Minister Mo-Raza Naqvi has directed to

complete the ongoing road projects throughout the province on time, keeping in view the public convenience. Chief Minister Nagvi on Sunday chaired a meeting in Lahore held to review the road projects. He directed to complete construction of roads which connect cities with motorways on a priority basis. He also instructed to complete projects for constructing link roads on time. He asked the road authorities to give preference to pitch road construction and also build road shoulders. The meeting was told that 1,819 road projects are under construction in Punjab.



Sehr: 04:20 am Iftar: 06:37 pm

Fiqa-e-Jafria Sehr: 04:10 am Iftar: 06:47 pm

Inside.

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Saudis meet with top Houthi officials ahead of ceasefire talks Page 07

Ustad Asif Santoo enthralls audience with performance - Page 08



A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet meeting on Sunday. The cabinet will meet again today. - DNA

Forces determined to wipe out terrorism

Two terrorists killed in Wana operation

Soldier embraces martyrdom

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Razmak, North Waziristan District. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorist's location. Resultantly, 1 terrorist was sent to hell.

Janan who embraced

shahadat Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist. In another fierce encounter between own troops and terrorists in general area Karama, South Waziristan District own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, killing 1 terrorist. However, during intense exchange of fire, Naik Fazal Janan (age

Sanitization operation launched in Sibi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: From 7 Apr 23 onwards, an Intelligence Based sanitization Operation has been initiated to intercept a group of Terrorists operating in general area Mach, West of Sibi. The Terrorists are linked with targeting of civilians in the area besides harassment of coal mine owners to extort money from them. Based on credible information, multiple ambushes have been laid along different routes in the area frequented by Terrorists for last two days. Resultantly, a party of 3x Terrorists has been intercepted while moving towards

32 years, resident of District Hangu) hav-

ing fought gallantly, embraced shahadat.

Sanitization of the area is being carried

Continued on Page 06

PTI Senators to attend session

PTI to expose PDM through white paper

Khan asked to attend Islamabad court on Tuesday in Toshakhana case

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former premier Imran Khan will present a white paper against the Pakistan Democratic

Movement (PDM) government's performance over the last three years. He directed ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-

Mushahid sees 'grand national dialogue' vital

the PTI senators to attend the joint sitting Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Mushahid of the Parliament on Monday. Sources said Hussain Syed on Sunday while showthat the PTI chairman will issue a white pa- ing his serious concern over the curper on the economic situation via video link rent political state of affairs, suggested address. The former premier will compare a "grand national dialogue" for all polithis government's performance with that of ical parties to ease the situation. "The the incumbent PDM setup, whom he blamed political mercury which has touched for the looming threat of default. The former the new heights of confrontation ruling party is highly critical of the econom- needed to be brought down through ic performance of its rivals, the parties in table talks", he expressed these views

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

How 'foreign slave 'can launch Hageegi Azadi

Information Minister says ironically that Imran had also failed to give respect to his own daughter in the society

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a scathing criticism, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has accused the former premier and PTI Chairman Imran

Khan of hatching a

Continued on Page 06

Fawad says 'fascist' govt will last for few weeks only

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry said on conspiracy against the country only to stick Sunday that fascist government's days to power last year. Taking a jibe at PTI's had been numbered. Using his Twitter funding from foreign sources, she wondered handle, Fawad likened one year of the how a slave of foreign firms could launch a PDM coalition government with that of fight for Haqeeqi Azadi (real freedom). In a a long black night which was imposed statement, the minister for information and on people to blacken the bright future broadcasting termed Pakistan Tehreek-e-In- of Pakistan. The PTI leader said peosaf Chairman Imran Khan an "impudent and ple's struggle against that dark night coward" person for denying that he had a was a metaphor of brightness. He said daughter. She said ironically that Imran had God willing this dark night will see its also failed to give respect to his own daugh- end in just a few weeks and the powter in the society. "A man who hesitates er will be transferred to masses. Earto own his own daughter for the sake of lier on Thursday while addressing a

Continued on Page 06

Funding for Polls

Cabinet yet to evolve consensus

PM Shehbaz Sharif chairs cabinet meeting; matter to be taken up in the Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is chairing a meeting of the federal cabinet (Sunday) to mull over several matters pertaining to the recent political and constitutional crises in the country. In the meeting's agenda, according to the sources, the issue of funds for elections in Punjab will come under consideration, while the federal government will decide to either give or not give funds to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Officials have been asked to sit out the cabinet meeting.

It was also earlier quoted by the sources that the meeting will discuss President Dr Arif Alvi's decision to return the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill 2023, Justice Athar Minallah's dissenting note, Supreme Court's verdict on polls and deliberation on the country's political and economic issues would also come under discussion. The meeting, being held via video link with the premier and most ministers joining it online,

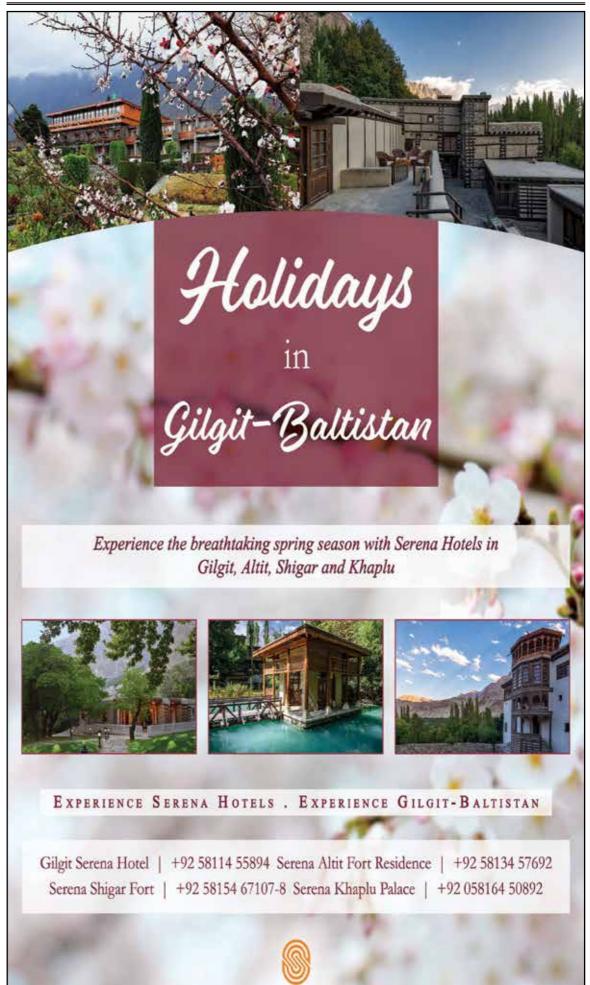
Continued on Page 06

CJP Bandial meets judges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has started consultations with colleague judges to end the division among them in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Sources say that CJP Umar Ata Bandial is holding separate meetings with fellow judges to end the rift among fellow judges. According to sources, the CJ made the benches for next week to end the impression of differences and create consensus among the judges. The Chief Justice has added the judges who gave dissenting notes in the election case to his bench.

Continued on Page 06



SERENA HOTELS

Macro-economic indicators start improving, says Bilal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Sunday said that due to hectic efforts by the incumbent government during the last 08 months, the micro-economic indicators of the national economy had started improving gradually. Addressing a press conference here, he said at the imposition of Imran government in 2018, the economy was on the path of sustainable economic growth with 6 percent GDP and less than 4 percent inflation. He said that work on energy production projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project

was also initiated to produce about 12,000 MW energy. Besides, a programme with International Monetary Fund (IMF) was completed and an

operation against terrorism was launched to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country. He said the PML-N government in 2013-18 led by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, pulled the country out of darkness and put it on a fast track for economic development, creating over 6 million job opportunities.

Then, he said Imran Khan was imposed and during four years of his government, inflation continuously increased, four finance ministers were changed in four consecutive years, adding that over 20 million people were pushed below the poverty line.

Bilal Azhar Kayani said the debt grew by 70 percent from Rs 2, 500 billion to Rs 4,400 billion in four years, which was the highest in the history of Pakistan. He said the debt taken during Pakistan Muslim League-N tenure was spent on the constitution of motorways, CPECP and maintaining peace and security in the country

He said that it was a matter of grave concern that the people who had destroyed the economy during the last 4 years were now delivering lectures on the economy.

He said the government, which came into power with a motto to reduce expenses, gave four budgets with a fiscal deficit. He said for the first time in the history of Pakistan after 1952, the national GDP witnessed negative growth, adding that electricity circular debt soared from Rs 11,00 billion to Rs 2,500 billion and the current account deficit was recorded at Rs 1,700 billion. He said all the hardships, which were being faced by the people in the country were the result of the IMF program that was initiated by Shaukat Tareen under the directives of Imran Khan. He

LWI.

said they not only negotiated a program with IMF but later they broke the agreement at a time when the foreign exchange reserves of the country were at the lowest level. Bilal Azhar Kayani said that the current account deficit during the last 8 months narrowed by 68 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year, whereas the trade deficit also reduced significantly. Besides, the fiscal deficit came down from 3.4 percent to 2.8 percent, he said adding that there is a primary surplus of 0.9 percent of GDP this year as compared to a primary deficit of 0.6 percent recorded during last year of PTI tenure. While condemning the criticism on the national economic policies of the incumbent government by Imran Khan and his economic team, Bilal said the current economic difficulties, including inflation have been directly caused by the disastrous decisions of the Imran Khan government, which destroyed Pakistan's economy in four years and deliberately pushed the country towards default before leaving the government. The current government has averted default and made significant progress towards stabilizing and rebuilding the economy, he added. "There is a primary surplus of 0.9 percent of GDP this year as compared to a primary deficit of 0.6 percent during last year," he said adding the current eco-

nomic difficulties, including inflation, have been directly caused by the disastrous decisions of the Imran Khan gov-



The launching ceremony of Heaven Agro Farms (Overseas Block) by Suddozai Builders was a resounding success, with attendees showing great interest in the project.

The event provided an excellent platform for investors, dealers, and entrepreneurs to learn about the project and explore investment opportunities. Suddozai Builders is committed to delivering high-quality real estate projects, and Heaven Agro Farms (Overseas Block) is another testament to their



Dastagir Khan and Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali during an Iftar dinner. -DNA

Ahmed, a British-Pakistani

Formula racer, set the

third-fastest time during

the morning session on the

2.4-mile road course at the

The road course comprises

14 corners and is renowned

for hosting some of the

world's most talented rac-

ing drivers. Only the elite

racers are hired by brands

prestigious

Motor Speedway.

Indianapolis

British-Pakistani, sets 3rd

fastest time at Indianapolis

of 1:14.62 was set by Hunter

Enaam Ahmed told this re-

porter that he is racing with

support from US-based Paki-

stani professionals who are

keen to see him compete

in the Greatest Spectacle

in Racing, Indianapolis 500

in 2024. Enaam Ahmed His

next race is on April 30th

at Barber Motorsports Park

in Birmingham, Alabama.

Enaam Ahmed is the first

ever and the only Pakistani

to be a World Champion in

Karting, beating the records

of Formula One drivers Lew-

is Hamilton and Max Verstap-

pen. Not only that, Enaam

Ahmed is also the British

Formula 3 Champion, the

first ever high-level Formula

Championship winner in the

history of Pakistan and beat-

ing the record of Ayrton Sen-

na by winning 13 races in one

season. The 23-year-old is go-

ing places around the world

with his winning streaks on

the dangerous tracks, driving

cars at an average 200 miles

McElrea of New Zealand.

General Bus Stand to be upgraded

PESHAWAR: Mayor of Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali Sunday issued orders to set up a special police counter for the convenience of passengers at the General Bus Stand besides upgrading it as summer friendly by installing modern electric water coolers for the supply of clean water immediately after Eid-ul-Fitr.

Provincial Minister Housing Shafiullah Khan and Police officials including SP SHO Ejaz Nabi were also ac-

and groups to drive cars on Faqirabad Dr. Umar Khan, these unusual tracks, says a message received here on companied by him. Zubair Sunday. The test took place Ali was informed in detail in preparation for Round 2 about the problems of the of the Firestone Indy NXT Bus Stand. Championship. The day The Mayor Peshawar visstarted on a chilling morning ited various places of the which led to an hour delay passenger stand and gave and cancellation of lunch important information to break. As soon as action the passengers about the started 20 drivers got down facilities provided to them. to business. Enaam was For the convenience and racing against several expesafety of passengers, Mayor rienced drivers in the series Peshawar has issued orders which made his third fastest to set up a special Police time of 1:14.86 even more counter at the bus stand so impressive. The fastest time that passengers can register theft, fraud and other complaints without having to go to the Police Station. Apart from this, he also issued orders for police patrolling in the General Bus Stand to prevent fraud with passengers and other incidents. In addition. Mayor Peshawar ordered for immediate installation of new fans in the waiting rooms and children areas in view of the increase in heat intensity. The Mayor day). of Peshawar also issued orders for the installation of modern electric water coolers for the supply of

clean water immediately after Eid-ul-Fitr. While doing this, he said that every day, come to Peshawar from dif-Kartarpur Sahib. ferent areas of Khyber Pa-The Additional Secretary khtunkhwa and other cities

of Evacuee Trust Property

Board Rana Shahid while talking to a private news channel, has welcomed the Sikh brothers and said all arrangements related to clean drinking water, clean washrooms, trains, sitting arrangements and security have been made available for the Sikh yatrees. After attending the main ceremony at the Gurdwara Panja Sahib (Hasanabdal), the pilgrims would also visit Nankana Sahib and other places, he added.

A Sikh delegate comment-

one of the brightest and most exciting young racing talents in motorsport. He has been winning Championships and breaking records from the age of 14. Enaam Ahmed is also the most successful Pakistani heritage racing driver ever in the history of motorsport because he is also known as the most successful British Formula 3 driver in history. Enaam Ahmed was born to Pakistani parents in London 23 years ago. It was at the age of eight that he started taking interest in racing. His parents started funding their son's passion by sending him to local Go-karting tracks for children but they had no idea that their son would become a European and world champion at the age of 14, winning it one year younger than Lewis Hamilton who was 15 when he became the

per hour - making sure that

his car carries both British

and Pakistani flags. Enaam is

Pakistan welcomes Sikh delegates

ISLAMABAD: More than 2,800 Sikh pilgrims from India reached Lahore via Wagah border to attend the annual Baisakhi festival starting from Sunday (to-

According to details, Sikh pilgrims from India will participate in the main event at Gurdwara Panja Sahib Hasan Abdal on April 14. During the visit, pilgrims will visit Dera Sahib, Panja Sahib, Nankana Sahib and Sikh pilgrims will leave for

ed that they were very hap-

py to come to Pakistan as its people give a message of brotherhood by promoting peace in the subcontinent. 'The arrangements made by the Pakistan government for us are impressive," said another delegate.

India on April 18 after performing religious rituals. It should be remembered that every year, a large number of Sikh pilgrims from India visit Pakistan to participate in various religious festivals and events.-APP



DNA

PESHAWAR: The first quarter of the new year has taken a heavy toll on the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, as there were 25 terrorist and targeted attacks on the force in three months, claiming the lives of 125

personnel. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is once again a target of terrorists, as the deteriorating law and order situation is reversing the hard-earned gains of peace and stability in the province. According to a departmental report, during just the first three months of this year, terrorist attacks have martyred 125 policemen in the province, including three DSPs. while more than 212 officers were injured.

Most of the attacks were carried out in the southern KP districts of Dera Ismail Khan and Lakki Marwat. As compared to the last year, the number of martyred policemen in KP has increased from 120 to 125, while the maximum number of 83 personnel were martyred in the Peshawar police lines blast, the report stated. The first quarter of the new year, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's police are busy 25 attacks in three months, 125 officers martyred, 212 injured 83 youths lost their lives in the police line blast, police report released Most of the attacks took place in southern districts, the re-

Launching ceremony of Heaven Agro Farms (Overseas Block)

The event provided an excellent platform for investors, dealers, and entrepreneurs to learn about the project and explore investment opportunities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Suddozai Builders, a renowned name in the real estate industry, successfully held the launching ceremony of their latest project, Heaven Agro Farms (Overseas Block), at the prestigious Shamadan Hall Serena Hotel in Islamabad on April 7th, 2023. The event was attended by over 450 investors, dealers, and entrepreneurs from Peshawar, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi. who showed great interest in the project.

The launching ceremony was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including Sardar Tahir Mehmood. President of Islamabad Estate Agent Association, who was the Chief Guest of the

event. Other key speakers at the event included Sardar Yasir Ilyas, CEO of Centauraus; Zummurud Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Sweet Home: and Sardar Shazib Shabbir, Vice Chairman of Gulf Empire. The project was introduced in detail by Sardar Haider, Director Sales of Heaven Agro Farms (Overseas Block).

During the event, Sardar Khurshid Ahmad, Chairman of Suddozai Builders and Heaven Agro Farms Overseas Block, delivered keynotes and expressed his gratitude to the attendees for their overwhelming response to the project. He highlighted the unique features and benefits of Heaven Agro Farms (Overseas Block) and expressed confidence in its success in the real estate market.

ers, located in Neela Dulha. It offers modern agro farms with state-of-the-art facilities, including advanced irrigation systems, modern tarm management, security measures. The project aims to provide an unparalleled experience to investors who are looking for a unique and profitable investment opportunity in the real estate sector.

commitment to excellence.

Families of martyrs will not be left alone in Balochistan: AIG

tor General (AIG) Police and Balochistan Commandant Constabulary Sulman Chaudhry on Sunday said

that the martyrs of the force

and their sacrifices would always be remembered. The children and families of the martyrs will not be left alone.

tunity. It is our moral, social and religious responsibility to remember the families of all martyrs on the occasion of Their support and problems Eid, he added. He expressed

these views while discussing the distribution of cash and gifts to the families of martyrs and injured jawans of the Balochistan Constabulary on the occasion of Eid.

thousands of passengers

of Pakistan through public

transport to which the dis-

trict government is taking

steps on a priority basis to

provide facilities to them.

his visit.-APP

A large number of passen-

Salman Chaudhry paid tribute to the sacrifices of the martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives to protect the lives and properties of the people. He said that police martyrs sacrificed their blood for the survival and security of the motherland and created an eternal story of sacrifice.-APP

Saudi govt deploys extensive air surveillance system for security of pilgrims, says ambassador Nawaf

to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki on Sunday said the Saudi government had deployed an extensive air surveillance system to ensure the safety and security of all the faithful preparing to embark on the annual Hajj pilgrimage to the Kingdom.

He, in an exclusive interview with APP, informed that the system was comprised of advanced aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to monitor the movements of the pilgrims and identify any potential security threats from the air. Ambassador Al-Malki said the aircraft was equipped with cutting-edge technology, including high-definition cameras, thermal imaging devices, and advanced sensors, enabling the detection of any suspicious activities in real time. The small and maneuverable UAVs, meanwhile, monitored the crowds and areas inaccessible to the aircraft, he said adding that this air surveillance system provided a comprehensive view of the entire

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador pilgrimage area, enabling security forces to identify any potential security risks and responding quickly to any emergencies that may arise. His excellency emphasized that the Saudi government had invested heavily in the air surveillance system to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims during the Hajj season, as part of a broader security framework, which included ground surveillance, communications networks, and advanced technologies.

The deployment of thousands of security personnel, the use of advanced technology such as facial recognition systems, and the implementation of health and safety protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were

other measures taken by the Saudi government to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims during the

Hajj season, he added. He underscored the importance of the Hajj pilgrimage as a significant event for Muslims worldwide, and the Saudi government's investment in advanced security technology demonstrated its commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for all pilgrims. He stated that the air surveillance system provided an additional lay-

er of security for pilgrims, ensur-

ing that they could perform their religious duties without fear or apprehension. The Saudi government's continued investment in advanced security technology highlighted its dedication to improving the Hajj pilgrimage experience for pilgrims coming from all over the

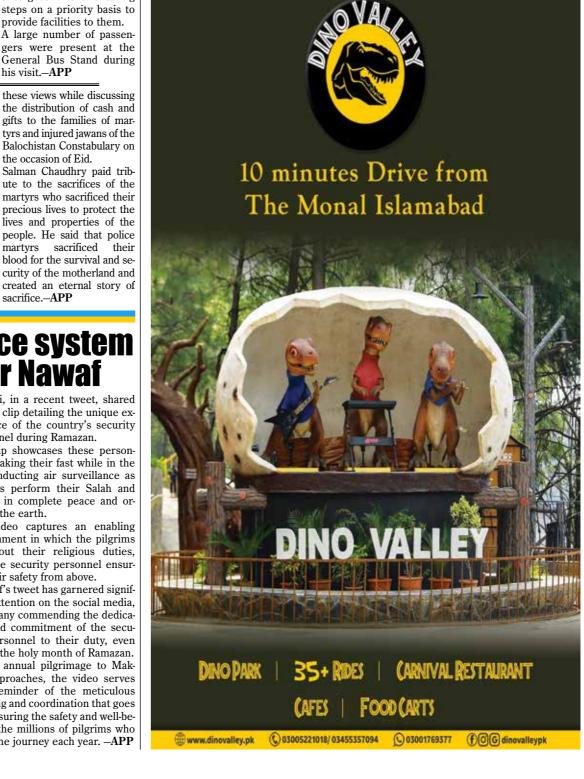
> world, he maintained. On the other hand, Saudi press attaché Dr. Naif

Alotaibi, in a recent tweet, shared a video clip detailing the unique experience of the country's security personnel during Ramazan.

The clip showcases these personnel breaking their fast while in the air, conducting air surveillance as pilgrims perform their Salah and Umrah in complete peace and order on the earth.

The video captures an enabling environment in which the pilgrims carry out their religious duties, with the security personnel ensuring their safety from above.

Dr. Naif's tweet has garnered significant attention on the social media, with many commending the dedication and commitment of the security personnel to their duty, even during the holy month of Ramazan. As the annual pilgrimage to Makkah approaches, the video serves as a reminder of the meticulous planning and coordination that goes into ensuring the safety and well-being of the millions of pilgrims who make the journey each year. –APP



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

April 18/Zimbabwe **Independence Day** April 24/Holy See Anniversary of His Pa-

Independence Day

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



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



qo y	
Edhi Ambulance	115
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CAA92810)92



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



Departments

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RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 PotoharTown......9209224 Rawal Town......5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Office bearers of Rotary Club Islamabad Metropolitan distributing food packs among the deserving people, at Pir Sohawa. The club members had contributed a handsome amount for the noble cause.-DNA

Harassment case of Air University female staff

President directs FOSPAH to afford hearing to parties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAH) to decide the matter of alleged sexual harassment at Air University, Islamabad afresh by affording opportunity of hearing to both the parties, stating that the Ombudsman had previously not given an opportunity to the parties, including the opportunity to produce evidence and had rejected the complaint of the woman complainant in a slipshod manner.

The President gave these remarks while deciding on a case where a woman employee of the Air University, Islamabad had filed a complaint before FOSPAH that she faced workplace harassment at

ISLAMABAD: The National

Assembly (NA) under the

leadership of Speaker Raja

Pervez Ashraf, is all set to

celebrate the 50th anniver-

sarv of the Constitution of

Pakistan 1973, a landmark

document that laid the

foundation of a democratic

and progressive society in

The month-long celebra-

tions will commence on

April 10, with a series of

events to commemorate

the founding principles of

federal parliamentary de-

mocracy, social justice, and

equality, as enshrined in

These activities have been

meticulously chalked out by

a Parliamentary Advisory

Committee, constituted by

the Speaker, drawing Mem-

bers from both Houses of

Parliament and headed by

seasoned parliamentarian

Senator Main Raza Rabba-

RDA to hold

public hearing

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpin-

di Development Authority

(RDA) would hold a public

hearing for finalization of

the Peri-Urban Structure

Plan and Site Development

Zone on April 10 in the of-

fice of the Assistant Com-

According to RDA spokes-

man, Assistant Commis-

sioner Gujar Khan, Mott

McDonald Pakistan Compa-

ny's team, Deputy Director

District Office Environ-

ment, Deputy Director Ag-

riculture Department, Di-

rector Admin and Finance

RDA and Deputy Director

Planning RDA would par-

ticipate in the public hear-

ing. He said that RDA on

the directives of the Direc-

tor General Muhammad

Saif Anwar Jappa had com-

pleted and uploaded on

the RDA's official website

www.rda.gop.pk.-APP

missioner Gujar Khan.

the Constitution, 1973.

the country.

in 2019 when she reported a serious matter of MBBS students using drugs in the college premises and their involvement in immoral activities. FOSPAH had rejected her complaint by stating that the complainant had failed to prove her case beyond reasonable doubt and that the Complainant had leveled allegations of general nature. Feeling aggrieved, the complainant filed a representation with the President.

While accepting President stated that the allegations narrated by the complainant against that accused were of serious nature which needed appropriate probe and evidence to reach the right conclusion. He noted that that the Ombudsman, instead of following the procedure, had drawn the conclusion on the basis of contents of the complaint

NA all set to celebrate golden

jubilee of Constitution 1973

manuscripts.

The celebrations will culmi-

nate in the National Assem-

bly Session (National Con-

stitution Convention) in the

main assembly hall, attend-

ed by parliamentarians and

people from all walks of life.

The Convention will be

chaired by the Speaker.

Prime Minister Muham-

mad Shehbaz Sharif, Chair-

man Advisory Committee

Senator Mian Raza Rabbani

and other attendees will

pay tribute to the framers

of the Constitution and re-

flect on how it has served

as a cornerstone of democ-

racy, justice, and equality in

The session will also pass

a number of resolutions re-

lated to the Constitution's

recognition as a binding

document, its incorpora-

tion into the national cur-

Pakistan.

The Speaker will inaugu-

rate the celebrations by lay-

ing the foundation stone of

the Constitution Monument

at the site approved by the

Advisory Committee, oppo-

site Parliamentary Lodges,

D-Chowk, Islamabad. The

monument will serve as a

permanent reminder of the

importance of the Constitu-

tion in the nation's history.

This will be followed by a

wreath-laying ceremony at

the Memorial of the Un-

sung Heroes of Democracy

in the Parliament House,

paving homage to those

who fought for democracy

and constitutionalism in

The Speaker will also inau-

gurate an exhibition show-

casing rare pictures of the

inspect a commemorative

stamp, and then head to the

framers,

Constitution's

levelled allegations of general nature against the administration, and that a representative of the organization appeared and told that none of the complaints had been ever filed and he belied the stance of the complainant.'

The President observed that the Ombudsman had placed reliance solely on the contents of the complaint and the statement of representative of the organization and as a sequel rejected the complaint. He added that no opportunity of producing evidence or cross examining the representative had been afforded to the complainant despite the fact that in the preliminary order, the learned Ombudsman had observed that the allegations leveled by the complainant were of grave nature which required evidence but subsequently with

building (old National Assembly Hall) as a National

The celebrations will be fol-

lowed by a joint session of

the Parliament, scheduled

for 2 pm, which will contin-

ue the discussions and re-

flections on the importance

of the Constitution in shap-

ing the destiny of Pakistan.

The golden jubilee cele-

brations of the Constitu-

tion 1973 promises to be

a landmark event in Paki-

stan's history, celebrating

the ideals and principles

that define the country's

democratic and progressive

The month-long activities

include speech contests

in educational institu-

tions, quiz competition,

exhibitions, special pro-

grammes by electronic

media, newspaper sup-

identity.

Monument.

der, no evidence was recorded and the complaint was rejected in a slipshod manner.

The President concluded that in view of the gravity of allegations, full opportunity of hearing to the parties should have been afforded including opportunity to produce respective evidence. He added that the denial to afford opportunity of producing evidence was violation of Article 10-A as enshrined in the Constitution, the provisions of the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 and the principles of natural justice. The President, therefore, set aside the order of FOSPAH and remitted the matter to the Ombudsman to decide it afresh by affording opportunity of hearing to

Al-Shifa screens over

the parties.

of treating half a million eye patients in rural and remote areas of the country during the last year through its 1500 free eye camps to reduce avoidable vision impairment. The patients included around two hundred and fifty thousand children who were provided best possible treatment. Maj Gen (R) Rehmat Khan, President of Al-Shifa Trust, said this while briefing media persons about the outreach program achievements in 2022-23. Pak Army has helped the trust in arranging free eye camps in different remote areas including Waziristan, Malakand, Pasni, Gawader, Zhob, Jiwani and far-flung areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, and Chitral, he added. He said that through these camps we aim to reduce the cases of avoidable vision impairment, alleviate the suffering of underprivileged patients, especially in deprived areas, improve the eye health of the community, raise health awareness and reduce the level of poverty associated with visual impairment. He said that free eye camps were held in the underprivileged areas including Loralai, Chaman, Skardu, Chitral, North and South Waziristan and Malakand where we received a very positive response. About 250000 children were screened for different eye diseases in girls' and boys' schools and surgical camps were established conducting 12000 surgeries, in rural areas of Pakistan, he said. Rehmat Khan said that Pak Army ensured foolproof security, transport and other facilities for teams of doctors conducting camps in difficult terrains. In some areas of South and North Waziristan, Army personnel provided food and accommo-

of 2.5 lakh children

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Eye Trust has set a new record

second floor of the Parliariculum, homage to the plements and an internadation and arranged all other things paving the way for ment to inspect the origi-Constitution's framers, and tional constitution connal Constitution and other vention on May 10.-APP treatment and surgeries for the people. -DNA declaring the State Bank

ISLAMABAD: Archbishop Shaw performing religious rituals to mark the celebrating the Easter at Fatima Church F-8 in the Federal Capital. -APP

Tailors, designers

ISLAMABAD: As the month of Ramazan nears to end, many seasonal tailors and renowned designers in the country are working extra hours and are busy making dresses for ladies, gents, youths, boys and girls for delivering their dresses before Eid day.

The majority of the tailors claimed that they have been receiving approximately double orders as compared to normal days as customers have been forced to continue booking new orders even till the last few days, a report aired by a private news channel said.

A tailor said enthusiastic women don't like waiting rather, they want their clothes by yesterday, adding, we are working overtime to meet the surge in orders ahead of Eid ul Fitr. Some of the owners of tailoring shops said that they would not like to take the order anymore after 22nd or 23rd day of Ramazan.

The tailors said they are passing a busy time in taking the order and supplying delivery ahead of Eid.

The customers are coming to make their various types of dresses like shirts, pants, shalwar kameez, pajamas, three-piece, two-piece etc, they added.

A designer said our tailoring house has a speciality in making dresses for women. We also stitch clothes for men and children. We do not compromise on quality, he added. Some customers, who were running late with their wardrobe plans said they had been turned away by a couple of tailors because they were fully booked. APP

PFC to take part in International Trade Fair

ISLAMABAD: Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in Rwanda International Trade Fair starting from July 26 to discover business opportunities and explore new markets access for Pakistani products.

Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq talking, while to a delegation of industrialists led by Zeeshan Elahi Arain CEO Marvel Cables here on Sunday, said that PFC along with Chenone would participate in this mega event.

He said that Chenone would also exhibit its high quality international standards products to capture their share in global market. He said that it was an excellent opportunity to showcase Pak products and develop business deals with international buyers. Over a hundred Pakistani companies will showcase their products which included furniture, textile, garments, leather garments, sports wear, sports goods engineering etc, he told.—APP

Commissioner for transparency

in SSC exams

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta has directed the authorities concerned of Rawalpindi Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (RBISE) to ensure transparency in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) annual examination system.

According to a Commissioner Office spokesman, the Commissioner while visiting different examination centers including Denny's school, Islamia High School No 4, Islamia Higher Secondary School No 1 and Divisional Public School reviewed the arrangements made by the RBISE for annual SSC exams.

The Commissioner visited various examination halls and rooms and inspected the arrangements and the exams holding process. The Commissioner also checked attendance sheets of the students, their roll number slips and seating plan. Strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against cheating mafia and no one would be allowed to violate the rules, the Commissioner said and informed that separate raiding teams had been formed to make the monitoring.—APP

Briefs

Tight monetary policy slowing down growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: -The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has said that the record high key policy rate coupled with strict fiscal measures, like energy price hike, have continued to slow down economic growth, which is now estimated to be significantly lower than the post-floods assessment for the fiscal year 2022-23.

Expressing serious concern over the recent hike of benchmark policy rate by 100 basis points to new record high at 21%, APBF President Sved Maaz Mahmood, said the action would not stop the elevated inflation reading rather the move might mitigate the estimated economic growth blow 2% for the current fiscal year.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said the IMF loan would have devastating effects on the economy, as with more taxes and increased rates of utilities, cost of production would further increase. This will render Pakistani exports uncompetitive in the global market. He warned the record inflation and high cost of doing business would hurt economic growth, demanding a careful policy to keep it in control. He said that the most serious threat to the economy in the current fiscal year would be inflation, as the government plan of approaching the International Monetary Fund for financial assistance has brought a fresh wave of price-hike, because inflation is already hitting due to continuous raise in oil prices and depreciation of local currency.

Ibrahim Qureshi predicted that inflation would remain high and may even increase further due to market frictions caused by relative demand and supply gap of essential items, exchange rate depreciation and recent upward adjustment of administered prices of petrol and diesel.

The APBF President said that due to the lagged effect of floods, production losses, especially of major agriculture crops, has not yet been fully recovered. Consequently, the shortage of essential items has emerged and persisted. Inflation may further jack up as a result of second round effect.

RDA gears up operation against illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General (DG) Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa has accelerated its ongoing operation against illegal

housing schemes. According to RDA spokesman, the authorities concerned in an operation against illegal housing schemes Cighu namely Housing Farmhouse

Scheme, mouza Chak Cighu, Royal Ghar Housing Scheme, mouza Pariyal, Chak Beli Khan Road and New Iqra City/Iqra Residencia, mouza Chakri, Jorian Rawat road, demolished booking offices, bill boards and main gates.

He said that the Enforce-

ment Squad was taking strict action against illegal housing schemes. Notices were also issued to the rules violators, he added. Earlier, MP&TE directorate had also issued notices to the owners of five illegal private housing schemes namely Green lake City at dhoke bhaia Rawat, Chak beli Khan Road, Safanza New Era at Ralla Gujrain Chak beli Khan Road, Royal Ghar (Apna Ghar) at Mouza Paryal Chak beli Khan Road, New Iqra City at Mouza dheri Jorian, Rawat and Hoon Farm House at

Mouza Adiala Road. The DG had also instructed the Director MP&TE to take action against illegal advertisements and marketing of illegal projects and lodge FIRs against the rules violators. The spokesman said that the owners and sponsors of illegal housing schemes were misleading the public through illegal advertisements. The Enforcement Squad including Incharge/Assistant Director Building Control, Deputy Incharge, Superintendent Scheme and others took part in the operation. -APP

ICCI urges Govt to resolve tax issues of furniture industry

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that the small furniture retailers should not be subjected to Sub-Sec-43A of Sec-2 of Sales Tax Act 1990 as they purchase furniture from unregistered manufacturers of the cottage industry and cannot provide input invoices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan has great potential to enhance the exports of furniture products by focusing on the furniture industry and urged that the government should resolve tax issues of this industry to facilitate its better growth. He said that tax authorities and field formations of FBR are issuing notices to furniture showrooms/shops to register as Tier-1 retailers, which is not practicable for all furniture businesses and urged that the furniture showrooms/shops covering area less than 2000 square feet should be exempted from sales tax registration to ease their problems. He said this while addressing a delegation of Pakistan Furniture Association that visited ICCI led by its Chairman Zahid Hussain. Mian Muhammad Ramzan Convener ICCI Tax Committee,



Khalid Chaudhry former Senior Vice President ICCI and others were present at the occasion. Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that the small furniture retailers should not be subjected

to Sub-Sec-43A of Sec-2 of Sales

Tax Act 1990 as they purchase furniture from unregistered manufacturers of the cottage industry and cannot provide input invoices. He said that those retailers who occupy even one square foot less area than 2000 sq. ft. are exempt-

ed, which creates an anomaly. He assured that ICCI would cooper-

ate with the Pakistan Furniture Association in resolving key issues of the furniture industry. Speaking at the occasion, Zahid Hussain, Chairman, Pakistan Fur-

niture Association stressed that the government should introduce fixed sales tax of Rs.5000/month for furniture showrooms/shops covering area of above 2000 sq. ft. up to 5000 sq ft., Rs. 10,000/ month for showrooms/shops covering area of above 5000 sq. ft. up to 10,000 sq. ft and Rs.15000/ month for showrooms/shops covering area of above 10,000 sq. ft up to 15,000 sq. ft. He said that such a fixed tax regime would protect the furniture businesses from unnecessary harassment and facilitate better growth of their business activities. Mian Muhammad Ramzan.

Convener, ICCI Tax Committee said that the furniture showrooms/shops which are not part of a national or international chain store nor are they located in air-conditioned malls, should be excluded from the category of Sub-Sec-43-A of Sec-2 of Sales Tax Act 1990 and should be declared as cottage industry with inclusion in Tier-2 regime.

'Lack of growth

cause of economic

challenges'

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associa-

tions Front (PIAF) on Sunday called for putting the economy

on a sustainable growth, asking the government to provide

incentives to the trade and industry, as the business confi-

dence has taken a significant hit due to ongoing political and

economic crises, leading to a lack of investment and growth.

exacerbating economic challenges further. PIAF Chairman

issues visas to 2,856 Sikh pilgrims for Baisakhi ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has

Pakistan

issued 2.856 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to participate in the annual Baisakhi celebrations.

The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued the visas under the framework of the Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974. The visas issued from New Delhi were in addition to the visas granted to the Sikh pilgrims participating in these events from other countries. Expressing his views on the auspicious occasion, chargé d'affaires of Pakistan High Commission, Salman Sharif, said Pakistan is committed to preserving sacred religious places and providing necessary facilitation to visiting pilgrims. –DNA

HEC conducts workshops on framework for financial autonomy

DNA

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE/ KARACHI: Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan under Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project conducted two extensive capacity-building sessions for public sector universities on financial autonomy in Lahore and Karachi. Over 45 senior finance officials including treasurers and registrars from various public sector higher education institutions (HEIs) attended the workshops.

The first capacity-build-

ing session of the quarter

was held at HEC Regional Centre Karachi, while the second was held in Lahore. HEDP has already trained more than 100 participants from different HEIs in the last three years of the project. In the first four-day training session in Karachi, more than 23 treasurers and allied staff of HEIs from across the country including the federal capital, Balochistan, Sindh and ing. The thematic areas of the training included the features of the framework for financial autonomy, better financial management, guidelines for endowment funds, internal and external audit, tax matters, and practical examples for the implementation of the framework. Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed also graced the occasion with his presence as keynote speaker. Vice Chancellor Dawood University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, Dr. Faizullah Abbasi and Vice Chancellor Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri were the chief guest of the opening and closing ceremonies respectively. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed stated that universities should keenly look for innovative ways to generate alternate revenue sources due to diminishing grants by the government. He also stressed the need to digitalise the HEIs processes for the availability of key data for decision-making at the click of a button instead of relying on paper-based reports. In his remarks, Dr. Faizullah Abbasi emphasised the need for improvement in the financial resource generation of public sector universities in the wake of dwindling federal government grants and mounting expenditures due to inflation. Dr. Marri shared his experiences regarding governance and financial management of public sector universities.

ing session in Lahore was attended by a cohort of around 25 registrars of public sector universities and their staff from across the country including federal capital, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The key thematic areas of the training included the features of the framework for financial autonomy, better financial management, improvement in the governance of public sector universities, and practical illustrations for implementation of the framework. The allocation of public funds for the higher education sector in Pakistan remains low compared to international standards owing to competing demands from other sectors. HEC is thus encouraging public sector HEIs to enhance the revenues from non-traditional

The second capacity-build-

Pak, Chinese Universities set up laboratory of intelligent transportation system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On April 3. National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan (NUST) and ShanDong JiaoTong University (SDJTU) launched the project of joint international laboratory of intelligent transportation

Jiang Huaping, Vice President of SDJTU via video signed a MoA with Dr Osman Hassan. Pro rector academics at NUST. Speaking at the ceremony,

Dr Osman Hassan indicat-

ed that this collaboration of SCEE, NUST analyzed marks a significant milestone in shared pursuit of both parties in the field of knowledge and innovation in transportation engineering.

"Collaborative efforts are essential to create sustainable solutions that directly impact society. Our partnership with SDJTU in the field of intelligent transportation aims to improve traffic demand management, enhance road safety, and address congestion issues. Another guest, Dr. Mu-

hammad Irfan, Principal

in detail the future plan of the joint lab, emphasizing "intelligent transportation systems can identify patterns in traffic flow parameters, analyze drive behaviors and detect anomalies in road conditions which lead to efficient traffic management

Thus, the research is envisaged to develop strategies and systems for traffic incident detection, traffic flow measurement. actuated signal control, accident management, traffic simulations, and

and increased safety."

transportation management which are vital components of sustainable transportation systems in urban mobility,

he noted. Beyond that, other attendees including Rector at NUST Engr Javed Mehmood Bukhari, Dr Coord Mr. Imran Malik, Hod Transportation Dr Arshad Hussain, Dir QA Dr Awais Kamboh, Dir China Study Center Ms xiang yang with team of CSC and Ms. Zhang Meng Meng, Dean of Transportation and Logistics Engineering School at SDJTU.

Faheem ur Rehman Saigol asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at competitive rates, as country's overall export proceeds continued to shrink, showing a pessimism about the conditions and prospects of the businesses amidst political instability combining with various economic crises to worsen business insecurity. He added that the current vicious uncertainty, which is aggravating each other's impact, is eroding business confidence, as the political tug of war and the inconsistent approach to the IMF program are leading to a trust deficit between the business community and the government and between the international community and the government. The PIAF chairman said that the export drop shows the government would find it difficult to achieve the industrial growth and export target.-DNA

Volatile rupee destroying trade, industry

of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) stressed need for a revisit of government policies, as the local currency continued to witness the intense fall while the key policy rate has constantly been escalated by the central bank to the record historic level, which will destroy the trade and industry completely.

FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anium Nisar said that volatile exchange rate, unprecedented hike in markup rate, repeated increases in electricity rates, gas shortage, price spiral, mismanagement and bad governance have now become the hallmarks of the govt. He observed the negative economic indicators and uncertainty over resumption of the International Monetary Fund program continued to push the rupee towards a new historic low against the US dollar. He said that massive fall of rupee value continued to damage the economy, as the rupee witnessed a huge depreciation; one of the highest devaluations of local currency in Pakistan's history.

Mian Anjum urged the policy makers to concentrate on increasing tax-to-GDP ratio which was the lowest in Pakistan in the region. The BMP leader warned if the government failed to take appropriate measures for economic revival, the trade and industry will face a complete shutdown, asking the government to convene a conference, taking the business community onboard. The rupee during the week closed at 287.29, a loss of Rs2.25 or 0.8%, which is the lowest level for the Pakistani rupee since it hit 285.02 against the greenback in March this year, as the uncertainty pertaining to the IMF program is causing pressure on the Pakistani rupee while the country's foreign exchange reserves have also declined, which is another source of concern for investors, he said. -DNA

Iftaar Dastarkhwaan organized at NUTECH



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the holy month of Ramadan, Stu-

dents of NUTECH Com-Service Club organized an "Iftaar Dastarkhwaan" for the generpremises. Students whole heartedly participated in complete organization of this event that included, purchases, food prepara-

birth to the stars we love

to watch on TV, let's say

the legendry Dilip Kumar,

Raj Kapoor and family

of Shahrukh Khan, their

tion, packing, mobilizing people and serving. Approximately 400 needy individuals were served with Iftaar and meal.

Munaza Kazmi

PESHAWAR: "Oldest Living City" of South Asia dating back 539 BC, keeping alive centuries old rituals of culture, music, cuisine and traditions. One of Peshawar's oldest and magnetizing aspects are the markets crisscrossing its various gates, passing enchanting Mughal Era architectural building, where merchants come from around the continent vending merchandize and leaving behind their stories.

Kabuli Gate is where Khyber Bazaar becomes Qissa Khawani, the old 'Market of Storytellers'. Peshawar's most famous bazaar, that served as an encampment for caravans visiting from Sub-Continent, Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. The market is said to be as old as the city itself, framing several tales of culture, bravery, and love. In the daylight the traders were as busy as bee, exchanging the delicacies they took from different lands however, when the night sets vail on to the sun,

Market of Storytellers

ting beside the fire, tasting tea and sharing the stories of their lands, their friends and the countries they travel around. It's believed from there the market took its name.

The market was of much grandeur that, a visitor can buy an ordinary item of rarest products, let's say varieties of spices, dry fruits, food items of different regions, sweets, leather commodities, exclusive breeds of birds, perfumes, finest clothes including silk and hand-woven rugs, metals including brass and copper, besides precious stones

Visiting Qissa Khwani Bazaar the Urdu name of it, yet today is as functional as in the past, it never disappoints its traveler, always welcoming with delicious foods, fascinating sights of historic building, marvelous delicacies and that principle aroma of tea. Be-

houses are among the fascinating tourist attraction of bazaar. Food rooted strongly itself in the old alleys, hence when you are done with all the shopping and sight-seeing, food is the priority. Old style cafes, playing the folk music, with the luxury of live cooking, serving appetizing foods like Chappal Kebab cooked into perfection by adding spices into fresh meat and then fried till it becomes golden brown, Mutton Karahi that is mutton cooked with yogurt and black pepper, Kabuli Pulao a rich combination of rice cooked with meat and garnish with carrots and raisin, Fried Fish and Charcoal Chicken covered with delicious flavors, lip smacking Kulfi Falooda that is a lush mix of ice-cream, vermicelli, dry fruits and sauces and their aromatic tea, however there's a specialty of Qissa Khawani you must try locally known as 'Sheen Da Payo", milk green tea. It's considered that,

there's little memory left of the traders and travelers that would gather here to swap tales, however in my opinion it's still meeting place for the travelers and merchants, since they still gather there, on the pretext of selling or buying and in some ways, they still sharing their tales and their journeys. Well, it's true that most of bazaar old teashops have given way to clothes and electrical shops, what used to be the old bird market have transformed into brass and copperware, the historic Mughal architectural buildings and gates are in miserable condition, that needs dire attention, the fashion and culture changed, but still the aroma of tea and spices carry a visitor to that ancient enterprise.

Regulating AI

he horse has not merely bolted; it is halfway down the road and picking up speed – and no one is sure where it's heading. The potential benefits of artificial intelligence – such as developing lifesaving drugs - are undeniable. But with the launch of hugely powerful text and image generative models such as ChatGPT-4 and Midjourney, the risks and challenges it poses are clearer than ever: from vast job losses to entrenched discrimination and an explosion of disinformation. The shock is not only how greatly the technology has progressed, but how fast it has done so. The concern is what happens as companies race to outdo each other.

The alarm is being sounded within the industry itself. This month more than 1,000 experts signed an open letter urging a pause in development - and saying that if researchers do not pull back in this "out-of-control race", governments should step in. A day later Italy became the first western country to temporarily ban ChatGPT. Full-scale legislation will take time.

Regulation will be difficult. But it is needed. Big tech firms may have flagged concerns, but they have been slashing ethics staff. And while decentralised, open source AI could help to balance corporate interests, it will also make it far harder to tackle potential threats to social justice or public security. Last month the US chamber of commerce, which is congenitally hostile to regulation, urged legislators to act. Germany could follow in Italy's footsteps by blocking ChatGPT over data security concerns.

China, which aspires to AI leadership, has led the drive to regulate - action sped by the absence of democratic scrutiny. But its priorities have only very partial overlap with those of democratic societies. In the US, currently the world leader, no comprehensive federal legislation is under way. In that gap, some are urging regulators such as the Federal Trade Commission to do much more with existing powers. It is the EU that has stepped forward, pressing ahead with an AI act that would prohibit some systems and enable significant penalties, although it is struggling to keep pace with technological developments.

Yet while Europe tries to grab the reins, the UK is watching the runaway horse gallop away. The AI white paper, released last month, proposed no new powers at all - let alone resources to give them heft. Even if existing regulations were capable of meeting the coming challenges, expecting overtasked and underfunded bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive to tackle the dangers is entirely unrealistic. Giving them 12 months to set out guidance is laughable given the speed of change. The government appears to think it will benefit the UK to lead a race to the bottom. If handled in the right way, the potential benefits of AI could be huge. But this current approach is less likely to boost the country's coffers and more likely to enrich entrepreneurs and investors while society is left to bear the costs.

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Afghan withdrawal

he fall of Kabul in August 2021 and the accompanying chaotic evacuation of US and UK forces, foreign nationals and limited numbers of Afghan civilians marked the end of a 20-year, western war-fighting and nation-building intervention in Afghanistan begun after the 9/11 attacks. It also marked the starkest, most humiliating reverse for US and British foreign policy in recent memory. It is extraordinary that, almost two years later, no one in either government has taken responsibility for this fiasco.

A report on the Afghan collapse, published last week by the Biden administration, perpetuates this brazen refusal to accept that ministers, senior officials and intelligence chiefs on both sides of the Atlantic fell down on the job. At least President Joe Biden and the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, were actually at their desks as the crisis unfolded. Boris Johnson, the then foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, the Afghanistan minister, Tariq Ahmad, and the Foreign Office permanent secretary, Philip Barton, all went on holiday.

The US report reads like a schoolboy's excuses for failing to do his homework: defensive, self-justificatory, unapologetic and even self-congratulatory. It is crystal clear that what the report calls "the intelligence and military consensus" in early 2021 that the Afghan army and security forces "would be able to effectively fight to defend their country and their capital, Kabul" after an allied withdrawal was hopelessly, foreseeably wrong.

The US says it has learned lessons. Future evacuations will be conducted earlier. It says the killing in a drone strike of 10 civilians after the airport bombing was a "tragic error" caused by a "high-risk and dynamic threat environment". And it reiterates Biden's view that the US performed well in "executing the largest airlift of non-combatants in [its] history

For some, the report looks like a partisan attempt to shift blame on to Trump, when Republicans are investigating Biden's actions. While politically self-serving, its skewering of Trump is fully justified. The master deal-maker condemned Afghanistan to a Taliban-ruled future through his giveaway 2020 Doha agreement, which excluded the Afghan government and pledged a rapid US military withdrawal and prisoner releases in exchange for risibly vague Taliban promises to talk peace. To some extent, the agreement tied Biden's hands. The US report uncomfortably recalls the UK government's self-exculpatory Afghan post-mortem, published last year, partly in response to excoriating criticism by the Commons foreign affairs committee. It conceded that there were "areas of its crisis response which need improvement". Tom Tugendhat, former committee chair, was blunter. "It is clear that leadership within the Foreign Office fell desperately short before, during and after the UK's withdrawal from Afghanistan," he said. As we have suggested before, it is never too late for Raab to resign. Retrospective inquiries are important but do little to help the Afghan people, day-to-day victims of a huge humanitarian crisis and a violently oppressive, misogynistic Taliban regime. Yet what is the government doing? It is slashing UK aid to Afghan women and girls while abjectly failing refugees and evacuees. The fall of Kabul represented a great betrayal. The betrayal continues.

AUKUS: Implication on Asian and global security

Muhammad Wali Jan



"China and Russia need to take more joint measures to protect our security and interests more effectively and that there is no formal alliance between the two countries." However, Chinese President "Xi Jinping" confirmed to his Russian counterpart, Putin that "this relationship goes beyond even the alliance between the two parties". Accordingly, the Chinese and Russian presidents began to form an "independent financial infrastructure", to reduce their heavy dependence on Western banks and their exposure

n December 2021, the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia announced a defensive nuclear agreement called AUKUS. Recently, they shared a joint plan to create a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines. This initiative is intended to counteract China's increasing dominance in the Indo-Pacific region. The question that arises is whether the AUKUS agreement increases the risk of a nuclear war between China, the United States, and their respective allies. Additionally, the allies will collaborate to establish a new fleet equipped with advanced technologies to counter China in South

The United States has taken steps to strengthen its alliances with NATO countries in Europe, as well as Japan and South Korea. In the Indo-Pacific region, the US has bolstered the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Alliance, which includes Australia, India, and Japan. These actions have made Beijing and Moscow uneasy, which warn that such moves could trigger a new cold war. According to a report by the Chinese state broadcaster, CCTV, citing a speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping,

"China and Russia need to take more joint measures to protect our security and interests more effectively and that there is no formal alliance between the two countries." However, Chinese President "Xi Jinping" confirmed to his Russian counterpart, Putin that "this relationship goes beyond even the alliance between the two parties". Accordingly, the Chinese and Russian presidents began to form an "independent financial infrastructure", to reduce their heavy dependence on Western banks and their exposure to punitive measures from the West. Through their proposal to hold a possible tripartite summit with India, it began with the visit of Russian President "Putin" to the capital, New Delhi, and his meeting with Indian Prime Minister "Narendra Modi", and then the two parties' agreement for India to obtain the S-500 missile system. All of these Russian and Chinese moves are to obstruct US influence in response to its existing alliances against them.

China has criticized the extensive collaborative effort, cautioning that the AUKUS nuclear defense agreement involving the United States, Australia, and Britain "a wrong path and a threat to regional and international security." China's UN delegation has also alleged that the western a significant development for Australia's miliallies, with the US at the helm, have impeded attempts to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The creation of multiple nuclear security and defense alliances, including the AUKUS agreement aimed at enhancing NATO's infrastructure in Asia, will likely result in a long-term conflict, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency's caution against nuclear proliferation in relation to the US, Australia, and Britain's nuclear-powered submarine program. The AUKUS nuclear agreement poses a significant threat to China as it marks the first instance of full coordination between the American, British, and Australian fleets in the Indo-Pacific region. This slogan of preserving freedom of navigation across the Atlantic and Indian oceans is viewed by China as a direct challenge to its regional influence and a danger to regional security. The AUKUS agreement also includes plans for the US and the UK to establish a base with a limited number of nuclear submarines in Western He also clarified that the nuclear-powered sub-Australia in 2027, with Canberra set to purchase three American Virginia-class submarines and potentially two more from Washington. This development further heightens China's anger and fear, as it is seen as a direct threat to its safety and security and is expected to result in long-standing confrontations between China and the AUKUS signatories. China has warned that the AUKUS agreement could trigger an arms race in the region and set back efforts to curb nuclear proliferation.

China is also wary of the growing proximity between Taiwan and the US, given America's longstanding military support for Taiwan against China. Chinese President Xi Jinping has accused the US of spearheading western efforts to contain and encircle China. In response, the US has pointed to China's threats to invade democratic Taiwan, which has raised concerns among several Asia-Pacific countries. The US has emphasized the need to protect the region surrounding China, given the nuclear threat posed by North Korea to its Japanese and South Korean neighbors and the overall security of the region. The AUKUS defense nuclear agreement represents tary capabilities and marks a major leap for the country. As a close ally of the US, Australia is the second country, after the UK, to acquire Washington's nuclear technology. The new submarines are faster and have greater operational capabilities than Australia's current fleet of diesel-powered submarines, enabling the country to launch long-range strikes against its enemies for the first time. As part of the AUKUS agreement, Australian Navy personnel will be sent to American and British submarine bases to receive training on how to operate the new nuclear submarines. This move marks a significant step forward in the tripartite partnership between the US, UK, and Australia, signed in 2021.

However US President "Joe Biden" has denied the accusations made by China and others, stating that the AUKUS agreement is intended to promote peace and stability in the region from the American perspective.

marines under the agreement are not equipped with nuclear weapons. During a meeting with the UK and Australian ministers, Rishi Sunak and Anthony Albanese, in San Diego, California, Biden emphasized that the agreement would not compromise Australia's commitment to being a nuclear-weapon-free country. In conclusion AUKUS (Nuclear defense agreement) has raised concerns among analysts and policymakers regarding the potential consequences for China and Russia. Some argue that the United States' actions could lead to a global military and nuclear conflict between the United States, China, and Russia. The US has been accused of reckless behavior in the foreign arena, creating alliances directed against these two countries, such as the AUKUS agreement and the Quadruple Alliance with Japan, South Korea, India, and Australia. The implications of these alliances and their potential impact on global security remain a subject of debate and concern.

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Punjab caretakers' fate After 90

Qamar Bashir

The constitution specifies 90-day and 60-day election periods. According to Article 224 (1), a general election to the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly must be held within sixty days of the day the Assembly's term is set to expire. According to Article 224 (2), when the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly is dissolved, a general election to the Assembly must be held within ninety days of the dissolution, and the results must be declared no later than fourteen days after the polls close. Article 254 does, however, provide a levee if the timeframes stipulated

n Wednesday, January 27, 2023, the caretaker government of Punjab took the oath of office. Its term expires on April 26, 2023, and the supreme court has ordered an election on May 14, 2023. This has raised a significant and difficult question about the legality and constitutionality of the existence of a caretaker government after expiry of its mandated period. The PTI's legal spokesperson, Ch. Fawad Hussain, has stated that the caretaker government will cease to exist on April 22nd, and any administrative or financial decisions made by it will be illegal and invalid. However, neither the PDM nor the caretaker government have released a narrative on this critical issue. Regardless of any political narrative, this question requires serious consideration and in-depth research because an extension in the date for holding elections, even if validated by the superior judiciary, may or may not imply that the caretaker government's mandate is automatically extended as well.

The caretaker government is appointed to oversee the country's administration in the run-up to general elections, with the mandate to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections, as well as to maintain law and order during the electoral process. If elections are not held within the timeframe specified by the constitution, the mandate of the caretaker government should typically end once the new government is elected and takes of fice. But this does not appear to be so simple, especially given the current political climate, in which no player appears to be in a position to tolerate and dismiss any legal or constitutional hiccup or issue without close scrutiny.

The constitution specifies 90-day and 60-day election periods. According to Article 224 (1), a general election to the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly must be held within sixty days of the day the Assembly's term is set to expire. According to Article 224 (2), when the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly is dissolved, a general election to the Assembly must be held within ninety days of the dissolution, and the results must be declared no later than fourteen days after the polls close. Article 254 does, however, provide a levee if the timeframes stipulated in the constitution cannot be met due to unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of the government or election commission. Article 254 states that when any act or thing is required by the Constitution to be done within a specific period and it is not done within that period, the act or thing is not invalid or otherwise ineffective solely because it was not done within that period. This means that if a legal act or action is not completed within the time frame specified by law, it does not necessarily render the act or action invalid or illegal. In other words, the provision allows for some flexibility in adhering to strict timelines and deadlines, and recognizes that circumstances may arise that make completing an action within the specified time frame difficult or impossible. However, this provision, understandably, does not provide unlimited flexibility or excuse intentional or deliberate violations of timelines or deadlines. The provision only applies in cases where a good-faith effort to comply with the requirements is made, but circumstances beyond one's control prevent timely completion of the action; therefore, it is critical to ensure that the provision is not abused to justify intentional or deliberate non-compliance with timelines or deadlines. However, how this provision is applied in the case of the Punjab caretaker government is open to interpretation. With a view to comprehend complexity of the matter there seems to be a need to benchmark best legal and constitutional best practices adopted by relevant organs of the state elsewhere in the world by examining some parallel cases to understand how the extension to the caretaker governments was granted and how actions taken by it were validated. Let us briefly examine the parallel cases of Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand. Bangladesh's national election was held on December 29, 2008, under the Caretaker government formed on January 13, 2007, with Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed as Chief Adviser. Even after its 120-day mandate expired on May 12, 2007, the Caretaker government continued to function without legislative authority. For the sake of legitimacy, all subsequent decisions were ratified by the parliament.

Due to political deadlock and the failure to hold elections on time in 2013, Nepal's caretaker government's term was extended by six months beyond the constitutional limit. The main political parties in Nepal reached a political agreement to extend the caretaker government's term. The President of Nepal issued a decree to extend the caretaker government's term, which was later challenged in Nepal's Supreme Court, which upheld the extension and ruled that it was constitutional in 2014. Due to political unrest and the inability to hold elections on time in Thailand in 2014, the caretaker government's term was extended beyond the constitutional limit. The Thai King issued a royal decree extending the caretaker government's term. The extension was later challenged in Thailand's Constitutional Court, which ruled in 2015 that it was constitutional, citing the need to maintain peace and order in the country. When we compare these examples to the possibility of extending the mandated period of the Punjab Caretaker Government, we can see three possible solutions to save the caretaker government during an unvalidated extended period. One solution is to amend the constitution to allow for election postponement and to extend the current caretaker government's term until elections are held. Although this is the best possible solution, it necessitates agreement among political parties to pass the resolution with a two-thirds majority, which is nearly impossible when the entire opposition is outside the parliament, the country is gripped by extreme political polarization and division, and parties have taken extreme positions against each other. The second option is for both the ruling and opposition parties to reach an agreement to allow the caretaker government to continue until elections are held and to validate its actions as soon as the constituted assembly convenes. However, due to the extreme political divide and the lack of an effective communication channel between the government and the opposition, this is not possible. In these circumstances, the best solution is to petition Pakistan's Supreme Court for an extension of the incumbent caretaker government until elections are held and the new government takes office. One significant challenge while implementing the third solution is to determine who will bell the cat. The Election Commission, which is mandated to hold elections in the country, may seek an extension through a writ petition or application. The attorney general may be the next best choice or any contesting political party that may feel aggrieved for an invalidated extension in the caretaker government may prefer a writ petition to either extend or appoint new caretaker government until the election is held and the new government takes oath. The validation of an extended period of caretaker government is critical because it ensures the continuity and stability of a country's democratic process during a transition period. It is also critical that the caretaker government has clear, defined, and limited timeframe in order to prevent it from extending its term and ensuring that the democratic process runs smoothly. However, in exceptional circumstances where an extension is unavoidable and additional time is required, the extended period must also be validated to avoid uncertainty and instability, which can be detrimental to the democratic process and overall state functioning. Political parties should have a heart, show some mercy to the

eople of Pakistan, and for the sake of the country, forego their extended egos, belligerent and aggressive postures, and agree on a formula to resolve this burning issue with consensus in order to keep the democratic process moving

-The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France

CJP Bandial

meets judges

From Page 01

Thus Justice Yahya Afridi

and Justice Athar Minallah

will be part of the Chief Justice's bench starting today. Justice Qazi Faiz Isa along with Justice Muhammad

Ali Mazhar will be part of

the other bench. Justice

Mansoor Ali Shah and Jus-

tice Ayesha Malik are also

included in the one bench.

Justice Athar Minallah will

be included in the bench

with Justice Muneeb

Akhtar and Justice Muza-

hir Ali Naqvi while a bench

comprising Justice Jamal

Mandukhel and Justice

Hasan Azhar Rizvi has also

How

'foreign slave 'can...

FORM PAGE 01

power is regarded as the

most shameless person,'

she added. She said Imran

was a "dishonorable per-

son" who used female mem-

bers of his family to launder

his ill-gotten money. The

PTI chief staged a drama

of "Haqeeqi Azadi" just to

ensure his return to the

power, she said, wondering

how a person who himself

was slave of a foreign lob-

bying firm could fight for

Marriyum said Imran was

such a "coward person"

who did not leave his house

without covering his head

with a black box. He did not

have courage to leave his

house without protection,

but ironically called Nawaz

Sharif a coward, the minis-

ter remarked sarcastically.

'Shameless and coward"

are those people who

used women and children

as human shield for their

protection," she said while

referring to Imran Khan,

who according to her, hid

under his bed to prevent

his arrest. She alleged that

Imran hatched a conspir-

acy against the country to

prevent his ouster from the

power last year when the

then opposition moved a no-

trust motion in the National

independence.

been constituted.

Briefs

Cabinet yet to evolve consensus

From Page 01 will devise a strategy to address matters surrounding the bill with the government's legal team in attendance. According to the sources, the federal cabinet meeting will also approve the decisions taken during the National Security Council (NSC) meeting that took place on Friday.

Ministers, who have joined the cabinet meeting from the PM House, include Inter-Provincial Coordination Minister Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Overseas Pakistanis Minister Sajid Toori, Housing Minister Maulana Abdul Wasay, State Minister Hashim Notezai, while the prime minister's advisor Ameer Muqam is also present in-person.

Those attending online include Economic Affairs Minister Ayaz Sadiq and Railway Minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq. A day earlier, President Alvi returned the bill curtailing the chief justice's powers with a request for reconsideration in order to meet the scrutiny about its validity. The bill is aimed at curtailing the powers of the chief justice – including the suo motu and the formation of benches. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has strongly condemned the move to pass the legislation and said it is an "attack on the judiciary".

The president returned the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 for reconsideration to the parliament as per the provisions of the Article 75 of the Constitution, stating that the bill prima-facie travels beyond the competence of the parliament and can be assailed as colourable legislation. President Alvi said that SC Rules 1980 had been "made and in force duly validated and adopted by the Constitution itself" under enabling provisions such as Article 191 of the Constitution which empowers the top court to make rules regulating the practice and procedure of the court.

PTI to expose PDM through...

From Page 01 the coalition government, accusing them of derailing the country ever since it was ousted from power in April last year. The party has continuously lashed out at the ruling alliance for making the wrong economic decisions. Yesterday, the former prime minister lambasted the PML-N su-

premo, saying that a coward

cannot become a leader but

becomes Nawaz Sharif.

Addressing the PTI workers and activists who had gathered at Zaman Park for iftar, Imran Khan stated that he is not an Islamic scholar and has learned everything from his life. The PTI chairman said that no country in the world has experienced a revolution comparable to the one brought by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He cited the Battle of Badr and Khalid Bin Waleed's leadership as proof that only free people, not slaves, stand for freedom. Imran asked to attend Islamabad court on Tuesday in Toshakhana case Meanwhilie, A district and sessions judge of Islamabad, while issuing notice to PTI chief Imran Khan, asked him on Sunday to appear in person before the court on April 11 in Toshakhana case.

Mushahid sees 'grand national...

From Page 01 while talking to a private news channel. The best forum for mutual consultations among politicians was the parliament but unfortunately, the PTI has already tendered resignations from this platform, he said, adding, PML-N had always opened its doors for opponents to address the issues through dialogues.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan should come into the parliament as it was the only way for civilian supremacy, he said, adding, it is a dire need to take matters seriously. Replying to a question, he said PML-N will continue to struggle for the survival of democracy, adding, "We are not scared of elections but need justice".

South Korea to raise spying concerns with US

The documents are the latest in a series of leaked files detailing the US war plans in Ukraine, its surveillance of its allies, and other "sensitive" material related to Ukraine, China, the Middle East, and terrorism

SEOUL: The South Korean leak of classified military documents with the US, Reuters reported on Sunday. The documents suggest that Washington spied on Seoul to determine that the South Koreans were hesitant to sell artillery ammunition to the US for fear it would end up in Ukraine.

The leaked documents appeared on social media at some point between late February and early April. According to a review by the New York Times on Sunday, the files relating to South Korea show that when

Seoul agreed to sell artillery shells to the US last year, Foreign Affairs Secretary Yi Munhui told his boss, National Security Adviser Kim Sung-han, that the government "was mired in concerns that the US would not be the end user if South Korea were to comply with a US request for ammunition.

Supposedly compiled by the Pentagon, the report was based on signals intelligence, meaning the United States covertly intercepted the communication between Yi and Kim, the newspaper noted. A South Korean presidential official told Reuters on Sunday that

Lionel Messi stars as

PSG go six points clear

Seoul will discuss the "issues raised" by the leak with Washington. The official, who declined to be identified, added that the government would study similar cases involving other nations to determine whether to lodge a formal complaint.

South Korean policy forbids the transfer of weapons to active conflict zones. According to the report, however, Kim suggested selling 330,000 artillery rounds to Poland knowing that the US planned on "getting the ammunition to Ukraine quickly.'

Yi stressed that Seoul could not violate its own policy, and

key saves and Dante was denied by the woodwork as PSG's

goal lived a charmed life on the Cote d'Azur. Ramos then

ended any doubt about the outcome when he headed in a

Messi corner with 14 minutes remaining, as PSG bounced

Those losses had piled the pressure on Galtier amid reports

he may not even see out the season. The result clearly meant

a lot to Galtier, who was in charge at Nice last season and

expressed his displeasure at a banner unfurled by the home

supporters aimed at his mother. "My mum is 83 and has just

had cancer. That's all. And if these people in the stands have

been watching games in Europe this season it is because of

the work I did last season," said Galtier, who led Nice to fifth

in his single campaign at the club. A win for PSG's nearest

challengers Lens on Friday had cut their lead at the top of

the table to just three points before this game, and before

the top two meet in Paris next weekend. "We knew we had

a lot of pressure on our shoulders both because of our poor

performances and because of Lens winning, and especially

because Nice are a really good team who have been on a

"It was definitely not our best performance of the season

but the players fought for each other and it is obviously

three important points." He added: "It is better to have a

six-point lead than be chasing after a six-point deficit but

we know we have a very important match next weekend."

It was a first defeat in 15 matches in all competitions for

Nice since former PSG midfielder Didier Digard replaced

Lucien Favre as coach in January. The Ineos-owned club re-

main eighth in the table. Messi's 14th Ligue 1 goal of the

campaign that opened the scoring came at the end of a week

in which it emerged he was likely to leave Paris when his

contract expires in the summer. Before that, Danilo Perei-

ra had already hit the woodwork for the visitors, who also

saw injury-prone midfielder Renato Sanches come off hurt

early on. Donnarumma saved well from Nicolas Pepe and

Terem Moffi before half-time, and Dante then sent an effort

off the underside of the bar six minutes into the second half,

with the ball bouncing down onto the line and then hitting

the post. It was an incredible let-off for the league leaders,

who were grateful to Donnarumma again as he made further

stops from Pepe and Youssouf Ndayishimiye.

great run," Galtier told broadcaster Canal Plus.

back from suffering consecutive home defeats.

expressed concern that US President Joe Biden would call his South Korean counterpart, Yoon Suk-yeol, and push him to change the policy.

Biden and Yoon are due to meet in Washington later this month. The South Korean official told Reuters that the country's policy on arming foreign combatants has not changed.

The documents are the latest in a series of leaked files detailing the US war plans in Ukraine, its surveillance of its allies, and other "sensitive" material related to Ukraine, China, the Middle East, and terrorism.

The Pentagon and Justice Department have both announced investigations into the leaks, which senior intelligence officials described as a "nightmare" for the US and its allies. The authenticity of the documents remains unverified, and it is currently unclear who published the files, the first batch of which appeared on the Discord chat platform in late February. Following the publication, US officials said they were working to remove the material from the internet, but many of the documents remain accessible on so-

cial media. - Agencies

Normalisation Committee, Shahid Niaz Khokhar, said that with the cooperation of the stakeholders he is confident that NC would be able to complete the statutory election process of the PFF this year. "We are hopeful that the things go smooth and stakeholders cooperate with NC and elections of the PFF will happen this year," Shahid told 'The News' in an interview. "After the scrutiny of the clubs will be completed and the districts elections are held, the rest of the election process at the provincial and PFF level constitutionally takes around four and a half months.

"The physical scrutiny is an essential need which we will try our level best to complete in minimum possible time. "From May 15 we intend to start the district elections process by initiating the clubs physical scrutiny." Shahid stressed that before going for clubs scrutiny every effort would be made to first ensure all registered clubs meet the constitutional requirements. "At the moment more than 5000 clubs have registered via Pakistan Football Connect (PFC) out of which only a few clubs meet the complete con-

He also said that they are working day and night to help the clubs to fulfill all the requirements which are demanded by the PFF Statutes. "We cannot violate the PFF Constitution which is very clear on the requirements for being a legitimate club" he said "We also are in contact with a national level bank and are working on the MoU and hopefully soon it will be signed. The clubs will then be able to open their accounts in various branches of the same bank across the country. We have already shared with the clubs a model constitution few weeks ago which they are using to fulfill one important statutory requirement. "There is no other opinion that the solution to the long-standing problems of Pakistan football lies in the holding of fair and transparent elections but instead of solving the problems the hastily conducted elections may create more complications." Appreciating the constructive and considerate approach of the international football community, Shahid said that the complex situation of football in Paki stan required such wisdom and patience which is demonstrated throughout by the global football family.

"FIFA and AFC have shown restraint in Pakistan's case, which is helping Pakistan's football to move forward and get discussed which have delayed the election process. – APP

'PFF elections will take place this year'

KARACHI: A senior member of the FIFA-appointed PFF

stitutional requirements of a club," Shahid said.

out of the deep quagmire" Shahid said. Shahid said that on March 20, NC held a meeting with the stakeholders legal representatives in Lahore in which such matters were also

Assembly against him. Fawad says 'fascist' govt will last...

From Page 01 press conference, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry had that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Marvam Nawaz Sharif wanted to see Minister Shehbaz Sharif getting disqualified.

Mr Chaudhry lambasted the incumbent government for tabling the resolution against the Supreme Court's (SC) ruling, saying that by tabling the resolution in the National Assembly against the apex court's verdict, the decision will not be changed.

Firing a broadside at the coalition government for "not being willing to contest elections", Mr Chaudhry said, "The constitution states that elections should be held within 90 days after the dissolution of assembly. But the government is not following the constitution of the country. The rulers believe they should take away the right of the people to vote."

Two terrorists killed in...

From Page 01 out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Pakistan's Security Forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Sanitization operation...

From Page 01

their hideout. On being blocked, they opened fire onto the Security Forces. During ensuing exchange of fire, two terrorists were sent to hell while another has been apprehended; a cache of arms and ammunition has also been recovered.

The clearance operation in the area continues to nab their remaining accomplices. Pakistan Ārmy, in step with the Nation, remains determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

New Zealand seal Paris berth

PARIS: Lionel Messi scored one goal and set up another

for Sergio Ramos as Paris Saint-Germain won 2-0 at Nice

on Saturday to restore their six-point lead at the top of the

Ligue 1 table and ease the pressure on coach Christophe

Galtier. Messi converted a Nuno Mendes cross in the 26th

minute before Gianluigi Donnarumma produced several

SINGAPORE: New Zealand booked their place at next year's Olympic Games and took a huge step towards winning this season's World Rugby Sevens Series after a hard-fought 19-17 victory over Argentina in Singapore on Sunday. With stops in Toulouse and London still to come, the All Blacks Sevens lead the series table with 164 points and are assured of a top-four finish. Argentina are second with 140 points and Fiji are third on 130, both sides looking likely to qualify for Paris. In the final at the National Stadium, New Zealand raced into a 12-point lead with tries by Dylan Collier and Moses Leo.

Argentina responded, with Joaquin Pellandini going over in the corner late in the first half and German Schulz narrowing the deficit to two points just after the interval. However, Brady Rush put New Zealand nine points up with a powerful run from his own 22. His side clung on for victory despite Argentina cutting into the lead late on with a converted try by Marcos Moneta. It was New Zealand's fourth title this season after earlier victories in Sydney, Los Angeles and Hong Kong. Their sixth sevens series final this season came after a 22-10 win over Great Britain in the quarter-finals and a 19-10 dethroning of defending Singapore Sevens champions Fiji in the last four. Argentina had overpowered Australia 29-12 in the quarter-finals before edging a dramatic semi-final against Samoa 24-19, with Moneta crossing over for the winning try in extra time. - Agencies

New Zealand tour: Islamabad Police assures 'foolproof security'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police said on Sunday that they are "fully equipped" to provide end-to-end "foolproof and world-class" to the New Zealand cricket team during their upcoming visit to Pakistan. The Black Caps are scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on April 9 for the limited-overs series set to begin on April 14 in Lahore.

Earlier on Saturday, sources in the police department had said that the police have refused to provide security, saying they "do not have resources" and claimed that it is the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) responsibility to ensure re-



sources for security. The sources said the police personnel are busy performing their duties at free flour distribution centres, ongoing census, and other activities related to the holy month of Ramadan. However, Inspector General of Police Dr Akbar Nasir Khan said that the Islamabad police have provided the highest level of security during the visit of the English cricket team and Pakistan Super League's (PSL) eighth edition "flawlessly" in 2022-23. "ICTP shall be playing a key role for provision of flawless security in collaboration with other stakeholders in Islamabad and Rawalpindi," he assured. The one-day internation-

Rawalpindi

to the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium for matches. Pakistan v New Zealand schedule: April 14 – 1st T20I, Lahore April 15 – 2nd T20I, Lahore April 17 – 3rd T20I, Lahore April 20 – 4th T20I, Rawalpindi April 24 - 5th T20I, Rawalpindi April 26 – 1st ODI,

national (T20I) series

are set to begin on April

14 in Lahore, with three

matches - one ODI and

two T20Is - taking place

in Rawalpindi. The tour-

ing teams stay at a hotel

in the capital and travel

April 30 - 2nd ODI, Karachi May 3 – 3rd ODI, Karachi May 5 – 4th ODI, Karachi May 7 – 5th ODI, Karachi.

Lazio beat Juve to cement 2nd place

Lazio, buoyed by their enthusiastic fans in the stands, took control of the match in the opening minutes, threatening to score through Milinkovic-Savic and Ciro Immobile

ROME: Sergej Milinkovic-Savic and Mattia Zaccagni scored as Lazio showed a ruthless attacking streak to beat Juventus 2-1 at home as Maurizio Sarri's side consolidated second place in Serie A. Lazio have 58 points, five ahead of AS Roma in third with nine matches left in the campaign. Juve, who are fighting for a place in the top six, are seventh with 44 points, four points behind Atalanta, who occupy the final European qualification spot.

"I am proud of the attitude of these players. The consistency we achieved months ago in training is slowly starting to bleed through to the match situations." Sarri said to DAZN, suggesting they might have benefited from their exits from the Europa Conference League and Coppa Italia. "In the league, we are a consistent team and the only setbacks tended to be in Europe. The only way we'll see if we truly have stepped up in terms of mentality is when we can do it every three days." Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri was absent from the match due to flu symptoms and assistant manager



Marco Landucci replaced him. Lazio, buoyed by their enthusiastic fans in the stands, took control of the match in the opening minutes, threatening to

score through Milinkovic-Savic and Ciro Immobile. The hosts broke the deadlock seven minutes before the interval when Milinkovic-Savic converted a cross in-

he thought he had scored a second, but he was offside when he tapped in Milinkovic-Savic's cross. Earlier on Saturday, Atalanta failed to take advantage of draws for Inter and AC Milan on Friday, losing 2-0 at home to Bologna. - Agencies

the bottom-left corner.

side the box with a half-volley from close

The goal was given after a VAR check af-

ter Juve defender Alex Sandro appeared to

be pushed prior to Milinkovic-Savic finding

the net. Yet the euphoria inside the Stadio

Olimpico lasted only four minutes before

Adrien Rabiot bundled in the equaliser

from a corner, after Lazio keeper Ivan Pro-

vedel had saved Gleison Bremer's header.

Although the match was evenly contested,

Lazio's second goal in the 53rd minute was

an impressive demonstration of the team's

attacking ability. Felipe Anderson pulled

the ball back from the right towards Luis

Alberto, who back-heeled it into the area

where an unmarked Zaccagni placed it into

In the moments following Zaccagni's goal,

International

community lauded

China"s **'mediating**

BEIJING:International

community lauded China"s role mediating between

Saudi Arabia & Iran, ac-

cording to a report pub-

lished by Gwadar Pro.

China facilitated the recent

high-level talks between top

envoys of Iran and Saudi

Arabia is sending a clear

message to the world about

China's constructive contri-

bution to promoting stabili-

ty in the Middle East as well

as growing an alliance that

could impact the world, ac-

cording to an article carried

by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

Last month, China played a

critical role in helping Iran

and Saudi Arabia reconcile

and end their longstanding

diplomatic dispute that had

fueled conflicts in the Mid-

dle East for years. China's

groundbreaking agreement

led to the historic meeting

between Saudi Arabia's

Foreign Minister Prince

Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud

and his Iranian counterpart

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian,

in Beijing, China, on April

6, 2023, marking the first

high-level diplomatic talks

between the two countries

The two nations have

reached a mutual agree-

ment to restore diplomatic

relations and resume em-

bassy operations, putting

an end to the tensions

that had plagued their re-

lationship for a considera-

ble time. This meeting is

demonstrating a change

in the world dynamics,

as well as the position of

China in promoting peace

and stability in the region.

Although the reconciliation

between Saudi Arabia and

Iran could potentially lead

to a reduction in regional

tensions.. - APP

in more than seven years.

Briefs

Chadian officials expel German ambassador

BERLIN: The German ambassador to Chad, declared persona non grata by the government for his "impolite attitude", was expelled from the country, officials in N'Djamena have said.

On Friday, the government of Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, who took power after his father, president Idriss Deby Itno, asked the German diplomat to leave within 48 hours for "non-respect of diplomatic practices".

"The ambassador of Germany to Chad, Jan Christian Gordon Kricke, took an Air France flight Saturday evening," said Foreign Minister Mahamat Saleh Annadif. His departure was also confirmed to AFP news agency on Sunday by government spokesperson Aziz Mahamat Saleh.

Officials did not specify the exact reasons for his expulsion. But a Chadian government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP that N'Djamena was critical of the diplomat for "interfering too much" in the "governance of the country", as well as for "remarks tending to divide Chadians". A German foreign ministry official on Friday deemed the reasons for expelling their ambassador, who had held the post since July 2021, "absolutely incomprehensible". Deby Itno, then a young 37-yearold general, took over the power on April 20, 2021, when rebels killed his father, who had led the vast Sahelian country for 30 years. The military junta initially promised to hand power to civilians through "free and democratic elections", however in October, Debv's rule was extended for two years. The move has been boycotted by the opposition and main rebel movements.-DNA

Last living Nuremberg prosecutor, dies at 103

WASHINGTON: The last living prosecutor from the Nuremberg trials, who secured guilty verdicts from 22 Nazis and dedicated his life to fighting international injustice, has died at age 103, his son told AFP Saturday. Benjamin Ferencz, an American who at age 27 and with no prior trial experience served as one of the trials' chief prosecutors, would go on to later battle for compensation and the return of stolen goods to victims and survivors of the Holocaust. He died peacefully in his sleep of natural causes Friday evening at an assisted living facility in Boynton Beach, Florida, his son Donald Ferencz said. The younger Ferencz told AFP that if his father were to have given a last statement, he was sure it would have been "law not war." Throughout much of his life, Ferencz advocated for the creation of an international criminal court - a dream that finally came to fruition with the establishment of the Hague-based ICC in 2002.-Agencies

Saudis meet with top Houthi officials ahead of ceasefire talks

The visit by Saudi officials to Sana'a is an indication of progress in Oman-mediated talks between the kingdom and the Ansarullah movement, which run in parallel to UN peace efforts

News Desk

SANA'A: A Saudi delegation has reportedly met with a number of high-ranking officials from the Yemeni Ansarullah resistance movement in Sana'a as part of preparations for talks to reach a final ceasefire agreement to end the eightyear Saudi war.

Yemeni media outlets reported that the Saudi delegates arrived in Sana'a on Saturday evening and have held a meeting with Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a senior member of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, as well as some high-profile figures of the Sana'a-based National Salvation Government. On Sunday, Yemeni media outlets published pictures of a Saudi official shaking hands with Houthi in Sana'a. The outlets added that the faces of the

high-ranking Saudi officials involved in the talks with Ansarullah officials have not been publicized at their request. Meanwhile, an informed source, who asked not to be named, told Yemen's official news agency Saba that the Saudis are going to negotiate "the removal of the tight naval and air blockade on Yemen, and and end to the eight-yearlong aggression, restoration of the Yemeni nation's rights, and the payment of civil servant salaries as well as a portion of oil and gas revenues" during talks with Mahdi al-Mashat, the chairman of the council. Local news agencies said Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Yemen Mohammed Saeed al-Jaber, who resides in the southern port city of Aden, arrived in Sana'a at the head of the Saudi delegation to meet with of-

ficials from the Ansarullah

movement and the National Salvation Government, hours after the arrival of an Omani delegation.

Saba reported that Omani delegates arrived on Saturday "to discuss the latest developments in the ongoing negotiations in Muscat with the leadership in Sana'a." "A delegation from Oman has arrived in Sana'a to hold talks" with Ansarullah's leaders "about the truce and the peace process," an unnamed source at Sana'a airport was quoted by AFP news agency as saying. The visit by Saudi officials

to Sana'a is an indication of progress in Oman-mediated talks between the kingdom and the Ansarullah movement, which run in parallel to UN peace efforts.

It is also a sign that regional rifts are easing after Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to restore diplomatic relations

last month after years of estrangement.

Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a member of Ansarullah's political bureau told Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network late on Friday that "there is an understanding between Saudi Arabia and Yemen," without going into details. He said that the understandings, as well as initiatives for peaceful settlement of the Yemen crisis, will be announced in two phases: One before Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, and the other at another time.

"We support any proposals and efforts by Saudi Arabia or other parties to pacify the Yemeni crisis and reach a comprehensive political resolution of the conflict," the senior Ansarullah official said. On Friday, al-Mayadeen television news network, citing informed sources, reported that Saudi officials had recently held a closed-door meeting with the chairman and members of the so-called Yemeni presidential leadership council, which was established last April after the resignation of ex-president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, to inform them about a peace plan for Yemen. Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman briefed the council on Riyadh's solution to end the crisis in Yemen, sources said, adding that the Saudis' vision is to renew the existing UN-brokered truce for a year in an understanding with the Sana'a government. Riyadh will pledge to pay the salaries of public servants, open Hudaydah port, and help settle the cur-

rency problems of Yemen

in exchange for Sana'a's

acceptance of the truce. according to the report. Saudi Arabia launched the bloody war against Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allies and with arms and logistics support from the US and several Western states to reinstall Hadi, who resigned from the presidency in late 2014 and later fled to Riyadh amid a political conflict with the popular Houthi Ansarullah movement.

The war objective was also to crush the Ansarullah movement, which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government in Yemen. However, it has stopped well shy of all of its goals, despite killing tens of thousands of Yemenis and turning the entire country into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian

India's tiger population rises above 3,000

NEW DELHI: India's wild tiger population - by far the largest in the world - has risen above 3,000, according to a census released Sunday, boosting efforts to conserve the endangered species. The largest of all cats, tigers once roamed throughout central, eastern and southern Asia.

But in the past 100 years the tiger has lost more than 93 per cent of its historic range and now only survives in scattered populations in 13 countries, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Indian census estimated there were 3,167 tigers in the wild across the country, up from 2,967 reported in the last such exercise. Surveys are conducted every four years, using camera traps and computer programs to individually identify each



Saddam's image scrubbed from Baghdad

Foreign Desk

BAGHDAD: Of his countless stories of his life as a hairdresser in Iraq, the one joys retelling is about the day April 9, 2003, when he watched Iragis and American Marines pull down the statue of Saddam Hussein in front of his salon in Baghdad's Firdos Square. The 12-meter (39-foot) statue of the Iraqi dictator extending his right hand had been erected just a year earlier to celebrate his 65th birthday. "There were lots of younger Iragis from around the country with the American troops topping the statue - who naturally wanted their freedom," al-Sharaa told The Associated Press. "The statue showed the face of a man everyone feared." For the world, it became an iconic moment of the U.S.-led invasion; live TV coverage as Marines tied the statue to a vehicle to pull the statue down inflated it into a symbol of the end of Saddam's quarter century rule. In reality, the Firdos Square statue was a minor part of the huge number of monuments and palaces that Saddam erected to show off his power. All his statues and images are long gone now, 20 years after that day.



ISLAMABAD: A vender is cleaning the water melons at road side setup to attract customers at Fruit and Vegetables Market,

Pope expresses 'deep concern' over Israeli violence

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis noted his "deep concern" on Sunday over a flare-up in tensions between Israel and Palestinians and violence of Israeli occupied forces, delivering an Easter Mass in which he denounced the barriers to peace in the world. He said the renewed violence "threatens the desired climate of trust and mutual respect needed to resume dialogue", addressing a crowd of some 100,000 gathered in Saint Peter's Square. The Argentine pontiff, a week after leaving hospital, also cited a string of "stumbling blocks" to peace in the world during his traditional Easter message, making special mention of the war in Ukraine. "Help the beloved Ukrainian people on their journey towards peace, and shed the light of Easter upon the people of Russia," he said. "Comfort the wounded and all those who have lost loved ones because of the war, and grant that prisoners may return safe and sound to their families." He drew attention to conflicts around the world, from Syria to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and offered prayers for victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. This week has seen a surge in violence and unrest between Israel and Palestinians at the same time as the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, Jewish Passover and Christian Easter have coincided. The pope called for a resumption in dialogue to ensure peace "in the Holy City (of Jerusalem) and in the entire region". On Wednesday, Israeli police stormed the prayer hall of Al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third-holiest site, in a pre-dawn raid aimed at dislodging "law-breaking youths.—APP

ICCI donates Rs.20 mn, 50 kanal land to PakSweet Homes Kanal land for PHS and said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry hosted a Barkat-e-Sehar program in collaboration with Serena Hotels, Islamabad and collected donations of around Rs.20 million for Pakistan Sweet Homes. Prominent traders and industrialists of the city attended the pro-

Addressing the event, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced to give 50 kanal land in Chakwal to Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSH) for constructing its branch in that area. He paid tributes to the services of Zamrud Khan, Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes, who has dedicated his life for the welfare of orphans.

He said that Zamrud Khan was grooming and educating orphans like a father which was commendable. He urged the members of the business community to fully cooperate with Pakistan Sweet Homes so that this institution could continue to provide better care to the orphans and enable them to become productive citizens of the country. He thanked the traders and industrialists for making rich donations for PSH and assured that ICCI would continue to cooperate with

PSH in this noble cause. Speaking on the occasion, Zamurrad Khan Patron in Chief, Pakistan Sweet Homes thanked ICCI members for contributing to the welfare of angels and fairies of Pakistan Sweet Homes. He also thanked Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI for announcing 50

that soon, the construction of a center of PHS would be built on that land. He said that with the blessings of Allah the Almighty and the cooperation of philanthropists, PSH has been making good progress day by day and has set up many centres across the country. He said that with the help of philanthropists, the first cadet college in the history of the world has been set up on an area of 80 kanals for orphans on GT Road in Sohawa in which hundreds of students are currently studying. He said that his aim was to make the children of Pakistan Sweet Homes proud citizens of Pakistan so that they could not only play an active role in the development of Pakistan but also make the country proud of them. He said that

ICCI has always cooper-

ated with PSH and hoped that this tradition would be maintained in future as well. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General UBG said that Zamurrad Khan has brought a revolution in serving the orphan children as he has built many centres for them. He said that Zamurrad Khan has been given Hilal-e-Imtiaz in recognition of his services for orphans and hoped that a day will come when he will be given the Nobel Prize that would make him pride of Pakistan. Faad Waheed Senior Vice

President, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Sheikh Baser Daud, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Akhtar Hussain, Dr. Usman, Humayun Kabir, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Khalid Chaudhry, Faheem Khan and others were present at the occasion.

Iran-Israel conflict escalates amid Persian Gulf normalization wave TEHRAN: In the wee hours

of Wednesday, semi-official Iranian media outlets reported that a drone attack on a military complex in central Isfahan city was thwarted by air defense systems. Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi refused to confirm or deny the incident, saying more investigation was required.

It happened two months after a similar attack at the same site was blamed on Israel. Notably, the latest incident came amid heightened tensions between the two arch-foes following Israeli air raids in northern Syria that killed two officers of Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC). The slain officers were given mass funerals Tuesday in Tehran, followed by burials in their respective hometowns in the presence of senior political and military officials. At the burial ceremony of Milad Heydari, one of the slain "military advisors," senior IRGC commander Mohammad Reza Naqdi warned of a "firm and decisive response" to the killings. "Israelis know they have received and will receive a harsher blow compared to what they have dealt to us," he said at the ceremony in Western Kordestan province. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani also issued a statement that said Iran "reserves the right to respond" to the Israeli airstrikes "in due place and

time.' Israel has never publicly claimed responsibility for attacks on Syrian or Iranian military installations but it has also not outrightly denied claims made by Tehran. Hours before Kanaani's statement, Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu at a weekly Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem fired a salvo at Iran without naming the country. "We are exacting a high price from the regimes that support terrorism, beyond Israel's borders. I suggest that our enemies not err," he was quoted as saying, adding that the political crisis in Tel Aviv will not distract it from acting "wherever and whenever necessary." On Wednesday, Israel's military chief, Herzi Halevi, reiterated the warn-

ing more explicitly, saying

his county is "ready" to act against Iran and it has the ability to strike "in distant countries and near home."

"We know how to act alone. We are a sovereign nation that reserves the right to make its own decisions. It would be good to have the United States on our side, but it is not an obligation," he said. Iran has lost many of its military officers stationed in Syria in recent years and it has almost always accused Israel for their killings. In November, Daoud Jafari, a senior officer in the IRGC's aerospace division, was killed in a roadside bomb explosion on the outskirts of Damascus. In March 2022, two IRGC officers were killed in an airstrike on the outskirts of Damascus, which was followed by Iran targeting what it referred to as the Israeli "strategic center" in Erbil in northern Iraq. "Any repetition of attacks by Israel will be met with a harsh, decisive and destructive response," an IRGC statement said at the time, a week after the killing of two Iranian officers.-Agencies

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Briefs

RCCI to organize BUILD **2023 Expo**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is going to organize the third BUILD 2023 Expo in the third week of May.

The president of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce Saqib Rafiq in a statement has said that with an aim of empowering businesses, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) always endeavored to promote and strengthen the industry by organizing multitude of events on both National and International level including various conferences and exhibitions. Previously, RCCI had successfully or ganized premium events of the sector: Build-2021 Construction Trade Fair and ICEE. Subsequent to that success and in view of the strategic importance of this sector, RCCI is organizing Build Expo 2023 on May 19th-21st 2023 at Topi Rakh Complex, Rawalpindi. He further informed that the exhibition will have stalls based on various products including Property, Builders Developers, Construction and allied industry related materials, ceramics, tiles, electric cables, interior, paint and hardware.

US deploys nuclear submarine in Mid East

DNA

ABU DHABI: The US Navy has said that it has deployed a nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine in the Middle East in the wake of heightening tensions with Iran, reported media.

Commander Timothy Hawkins said in a statement that The USS Florida entered the region on Thursday and began transiting the Suez Canal on Friday, adding that "It is capable of carrying up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles and is deployed to US 5th Fleet to help ensure regional maritime security and stability." The spokesperson of the 5th Fleet did not provide additional details about the purpose of the submarine or the area where it is headed.

Serena Hotels hosts a Soulful Qawwali Night

Ustad Asif Santoo enthralls audience with performance

The Mehfil began at midnight and was well attended by diplomats, members of the corporate sector, government dignitaries, and media personnel

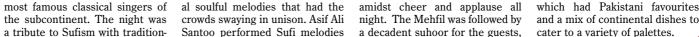
DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted a soulful qawwali night featuring the world-renowned qawwal Ustnd Asif Ali Santoo Khan on April 07, 2023, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. The event was hosted under the Cultural Diplomacy initiative of Serena Hotels which aims to promote discourse around plural thought, cultural appreciation and to further mutual understanding and tolerance amongst all.

The evening began with Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, South and Central Asia, and Mrs. Wigar Boolani greeting the guests as they were served a selection of delectable Hors D'oeuvres and a variety of beverages. The Mehfil began at midnight and was well attended by diplomats, members of the corporate sector, government dignitaries, and media personnel. Ustad Santoo is a shagird of the legend Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. Qawwal Asif Ali Santoo Khan is the youngest son of the famous music producer Manzoor Hussain and belongs to the world-famous musical family Santoo Family whose musical heritage can be traced back 350 years including his great grandfa-







senior positions. The Israeli military "sees the State of Syria responsible for all activities occurring within its territory and will not allow any attempts to violate Israeli sovereignty," the Israeli Defense

The Syrian defence ministry said its air defences had responded to the Israeli attacks and intercepted some Israeli missiles. It said no casualties had been reported with only material damage caused by the strikes.

Sirens had sounded earlier near towns in the Golan Heights as rockets were launched from Syrian territory, but no damage or casualties were reported. Israel seized the Golan Heights in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed the 1,200-square-km territory in 1981, a move not recognised by most of the international community. Only three of the rockets crossed into Israeli-controlled territory, with two falling on open ground and a third intercepted by air defence systems, the military said.

Iran "successfully" tests kamikaze drone

a decadent suhoor for the guests, cater to a variety of palettes.

TEHRAN: Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has successfully tested a homemade long-range, high-precision kamikaze drone equipped with a 50-kilogram warhead, said an official on Sunday. Ali Kouhestani, the head of the Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the IRGC's Ground Force, announced during an interview with the semi-official Tasnim news agency. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), named "Meraj-532," has a range of 450 kilometers, and is capable of flying at a maximum altitude of 12,000 feet for three straight hours, said Kouhestani, noting that the drone can hit targets with pinpoint accuracy. The suicide drone is equipped with a piston engine and can take off from a vehicle, Koube assembled and prepared for flight easily, making it suitable for rapid reaction operations. Iran has made significant progress in the area of manufacturing UAVs over the past years. The country is currently producing drones capable of carrying out a wide range of missions. - DNA

Saudi, Omani envoys to hold talks with Houthis

DNA

SANAA: Saudi and Omani delegations have arrived in Yemeni capital Sanaa to hold talks with the head of Yemen's Houthi Supreme Political Council, Houthirun news agency Saba said on Sunday. Quoting a source in the Houthi presidential council, Saba said the delegations and Mahdi Al-Mashat would discuss "lifting the siege with all its repercussions," an end to aggression, and the restoration of the Yemeni people's rights, including paying the salaries of all state employees from oil and gas revenue.

A day earlier, Saudi Arabia has freed more than a dozen Houthi detainees ahead of a wider prisoner release agreed upon by the warring sides, according to a spokesman for the Yemeni rebel group. The release on Saturday came as Omani officials arrived in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, as part of international efforts to end Yemen's years-long conflict.

Ukraine brings back 31 children from Russia

KYIV: The head of a Ukrainian rescue organization said that the organization has brought back 31 children from Russia, where they had been taken during the war. Mykola Kuleba said at a news conference in Kyiv that the children were expected to arrive in the capital later in the day. Kuleba is the executive director of the Save Ukraine organization and is the presidential commissioner for children's rights.

Deportations of Ukrainian children have been a concern since Russia's Feb. 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine. The International Criminal Court increased pressure on Russia when it issued arrest warrants on March 17 for President Vladimir Putin and Russian children's rights commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova, accusing them of abducting children from Ukraine. - Agencies

Israel hits Syria after rockets fired on Golan Heights

Tensions rise in Al-Aqsa Mosque compound

News Desk

TEL AVIV: Israeli jets hit Syrian military targets on Sunday in response to rockets launched towards Israeli-controlled territory overnight, Israel's military said, as violence flared again following cross-border exchanges of fire during the week. State media in Syria reported explosions in the vicinity of the capital Damascus as Israel said its forces continued to hit Syrian territory after six rockets were fired overnight towards the Golan Heights.

Israel said artillery and drone strikes hit the rocket launchers and were followed by airstrikes against a Syrian army compound, military radar systems and artillery posts. Meanwhile, thousands of Jewish worshippers gathered at the city's Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray, for a mass priestly benediction prayer service for the Passover holiday. At the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a walled esplanade above the Western Wall, hundreds of Palestinians performed prayers as part of observances during the Muslim holy

Hundreds of Jews also visited the Al-Aqsa compound under heavy police guard Sunday, to whistles and religious chants from Palestinians protesting their presence.

Such tours by religious and nationalist Jews have increased in size and frequency over the years, and are viewed with suspicion by many Palestinians who fear that Israel plans one day to take over the site or partition it. Israeli officials say they have no intention of changing long-standing arrangements that allow Jews to visit, but not pray in the Muslim-administered site. However, the country is now governed by the most right-wing government in its history, with ultra-nationalists in

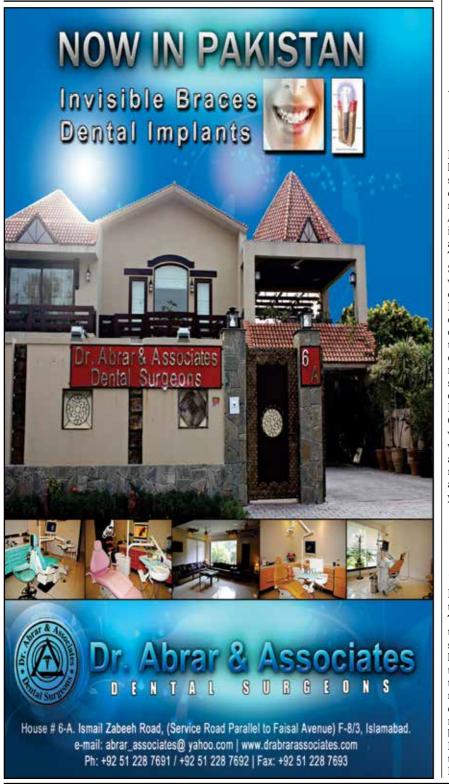
Forces said in a statement.

WEB DESK

KYIV: A 50-year-old man and his 11-yearold daughter were killed after Russian forces struck a residential building in the south-eastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia early on Sunday, authorities said. Ukraine's state emergency service also reported that a 46-year-old woman, who it described as the wife and mother of the victims, was pulled from the wreckage.

Two killed in **Russian strike** on Zaporizhzhia

City council secretary Anatoliy Kurtev said two missiles had destroyed one building and damaged dozens of others during the overnight strike.



China simulates hitting 'key targets' on Taiwan

WEB DESK

BEIJING: China has simulated precision strikes against key targets on Taiwan and its surrounding waters during a second day of military drills. The drills - which Beijing has called a "stern warning" to the self-governing island - are a response to Taiwan's president visiting the US last week. As the Chinese military simulated an encirclement of the island, the US urged China to show restraint. Taiwan said at least 71 Chinese jets flew around the island on Saturday. Taiwan also said 45 warplanes either crossed the Taiwan Strait median line - the unofficial dividing line between Taiwanese and Chinese territory - or flew into the south-western part of Taiwan's air defence identification zone.

Nine Chinese ships were also spotted. The operation, dubbed "Joint Sword" by Beijing, will continue until Monday. Taiwanese officials have been enraged by the operation. On Saturday defence officials in Taipei accused Beijing of using President Tsai's US visit as an "excuse to conduct military exercises, which has seriously undermined peace, stability and security in the region". On day one of the drills, one of China's ships fired a round as it sailed near Pingtan island, China's closest point to Taiwan. Taiwan's Ocean Affairs Council, which runs the Coast Guard, issued video footage showing one of its ships shadowing a Chinese warship, though did not provide a location. In the footage a sailor can be heard telling the Chinese ship through a radio: "You are seriously harming regional peace, stability and security. Please immediately turn around and leave. If you continue to proceed we will take expulsion measures."

Rangers, police arrest 2 TTP men in Karachi

KARACHI: Pakistan Rangers Sindh on Sunday claimed to have arrested two suspects belonging to the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and involved in an extortion racket and targeted killings in Karachi. A press release said that a joint operation was conducted with Karachi police, which resulted in the arrest of two suspects "belonging to the TTP" who were allegedly involved in extortion and targeted killings in the city's Saddar, Manghopir and Banaras areas. The statement said a trader had submitted a complaint that he was receiving calls demanding extortion money from different Afghan and Pakistani phone numbers. It said that the suspects, identified as Abdul Qadir and Muhammad Kamal Khan, were involved in extortion and targeted killings at the directives of TTP "terrorist officer" Khan alias Arshad residing in Afghanistan. - DNA

