



# Islamabad POST

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**China to 'strengthen Strategic coop' with Russia: FM Wang Yi**

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**UK Foreign Secy Cameron meets with Trump**

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**Ronaldo sees red as Al-Hilal wins semi-final**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Announces Daanish Schools expansion

# Shehbaz says, will impose education emergency in Pak

There can be no bigger national service or the fulfillment of the responsibility than enrolling these out-of-school children

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that the federal government would establish Daanish Schools in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan and remote areas of Balochistan and Sindh to fulfill the aspiration of Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan by delivering quality education to children coming from economically disadvantaged families. "This is not the fault of the poor children if their parents cannot afford quality education despite working hard or those who are orphans...If the iron gates of the Aitchison College or Grammar School are obstructing their way (to quality education), the door of Daanish Schools are open for them," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony of inspection of site for Daanish School being established in Kuri area of the federal capital. To be established over 30 acres of land, the school will provide free education and accommodation to the children from the capital city and its suburbs with a vision to provide equal opportunity for quality education. Calling the alarming figure of 26 million out-of-school children a "criminal negligence", the prime minister said Quaid-e-Azam's dream about Pakistan would remain unfulfilled without making arrangements for their education. "There can be no bigger national service or the fulfillment of the responsibility than enrolling these out-of-school children," he said and announced that the federal government would fully bear the expenses of constructing Daanish Schools in AJK, GB, remote areas of Balochistan and Sindh. Prime Minister Shehbaz also announced that the federal government would declare an education emergency in the country and would dole out all possible

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## PM exchanges Eid greetings with Erdogan, Qatari emir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday held a telephonic conversation with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and extended greetings on the occasion of EidulFitr. Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated the close fraternal ties between Pakistan and Qatar and reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to closely working with Qatar in all areas of common interest. He reiterated his government's commitment to deepen economic and trade relations between the two countries. The Emir of Qatar warmly reciprocated Eid greetings and conveyed his best wishes to the people of Pakistan. The prime minister reiterated his invitation to the Emir of Qatar to undertake an official visit to Pakistan that he assured that he was keen to visit Pakistan at an early date. Both the leaders renewed their commitment to work closely with each other and further broaden the cooperation in all mutually beneficial fields. Last year marked the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Later, the prime minister wrote on X that during the conversation, they prayed for

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets a student of Danish School, Jand Attock in the ceremony at the proposed site of Danish School. – DNA

## 2 terrorists killed in South Waziristan IBO



STAFF REPORT  
RAWALPINDI: On 09 April 24, Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation in South Waziristan District. During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange, two terrorists were successfully neutralised and sent to hell. Weapons along with a large quantity of explosives were also recovered from killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area. Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country.

KSE-100 crosses 70,000 mark  
Continuous foreign buying [is] also helping equities

MONITORING DESK  
KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) reaches historic milestone as the benchmark index crossed the 70,000 mark on Tuesday on factors including hopes of a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal.

## Amid PTI protest Gilani, Saidal elected Senate chairman, deputy unopposed

In response to the objections raised by the opposition members, Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeem Tarar stressed that Article 60 of the Constitution provisions elections for the posts of the Senate chairman and deputy chairman as soon as the key posts are vacated

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Saidal Nasir Khan Tuesday were elected as the Senate chairman and deputy chairman "unopposed" amid protests by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). No candidate submitted nomination papers against them for the coveted Senate posts. Earlier today, 41 newly-elected senators took oath as PTI members protests on the floor of the house, terming the process of election of chairman and deputy chairman as "unconstitutional" due to an "incomplete house".

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## Dar appointed leader of House in Senate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar was appointed as leader of the House in the Senate on Tuesday, according to a notification issued by the Senate Secretariat. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is also the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), appointed Dar to the post. "Dar will act as leader of the House on behalf of the

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## Citing IS threats France, Spain tighten security for UCL

PARIS: France and Spain will step up security ahead of the Champions League quarter-finals being held in Madrid and in Paris on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, top government officials said, citing threats from the Islamic State (IS). "Regarding the game that will take place in the Paris region, the head of police has considerably strengthened security," French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told reporters at a press event on Olympic Games security. Paris-St-Germain are due to play Barcelona in Paris on Tuesday night. "We have seen, among other things, a communication from the Islamic State that particularly targets stadiums. It is not new," he added. Islamic State was alleged to have threatened four venues for this week's Champions League matches, including the Parc des Princes in Paris and two games in Madrid hosted by

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## Briefs

### PTI treading on path of chaos: Asif

Says, decisions of the majority could not be rejected

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday alleged that PTI was treading on the path of chaos and destruction by inciting the politics of denial, violence and hatred. Talking to media outside the Parliament House, the Defence Minister expressed his stance on the Sunni Tehreek-PTI led Opposition in the Senate to boycott the Chairman and Deputy Chairman Senate elections. Khawaja Asif said the decisions of the majority could not be rejected as in order continuation of the democratic system, no one's decisions could be imposed on the other.

### Memon vows to control street crime

Sharjeel Memon acknowledges efforts of police, Rangers

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Tuesday vowed to control street crime in Sindh. According to details, Memon said: "The new interior minister and IG are making all-out efforts to curb street crime. Karachi is a big city, and handling illegal immigrants is a challenge." "We are making efforts to send the illegal immigrants back to their country as soon as possible," he added. He acknowledged the efforts of police and Rangers, saying, "The police and Rangers are making all-out efforts to control street crime." Few days back, MQM-P had urged the federal government to intervene and address the deteriorating law and order situation in Sindh.

## Amid political chaos

### PTI spokesperson calls past two years darkest

Country plunge into worst political, economic instability through regime change conspiracy: PTI Spokesperson

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf dubbed the past two years after the ouster of an elected public mandated Imran Khan-led government through regime change conspiracy as the darkest and most catastrophic years in the history of Pakistan, as the cabal of crooks imposed on the nation through intrigue plunged the country into the worst political and economic instability, where violation of constitutional and law reigned supreme. PTI Spokesperson, in a strongly-worked reaction over the completion of two years of the regime change conspiracy against the elected democratic government and destruction of the state system, said that a conspiracy was hatched a well-performing democratic government under an external dictations and vested interests to put the country an endless chain of destruction

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### IBC denounces reference against Justice Kay-ani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Bar Council (IBC) on Tuesday condemned and denounced a "baseless" and "frivolous reference" against Islamabad High Court's (IHC) senior puisne judge Mohsin Akhtar Kay-ani. A day earlier, it emerged that a former official of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) had moved the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against Justice Kay-ani. Justice Kayani is among the six judges who recently wrote a

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### Israeli proposal failed to meet Palestinian demands

Senior Hamas official Ali Baraka told media: "We reject the latest Israeli proposals that the Egyptian side informed us of. The politbuuro met today and decided this"

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: Hamas said early on Tuesday Israel's proposal that it received from Qatari and Egyptian mediators did not meet any of the demands of Palestinian factions. However, the group added in a statement it would study the proposal, which it described as "intransigent", and deliver its response to the mediators. A Hamas official told Reuters on Monday that the group has rejected the Israeli ceasefire proposal made at talks in Cairo, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a date was set for an invasion of Rafah, Gaza's last refuge for displaced Palestinians. Israel and Hamas sent teams to Egypt on Sunday for talks that included Qatari and Egyptian mediators as well as CIA Director William Burns. Burn's presence underlined rising pressure from Israel's main ally the US for a deal that would free Israeli hostages held in Gaza and get aid to Palestinian civilians left destitute by six months of conflict. But senior Hamas official Ali Baraka told Reuters: "We reject the latest Israeli proposals that the Egyptian side informed us of. The politbuuro met today and decided this." Another Hamas official had earlier told Reuters that no progress

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# Ashrafi praises PM's Saudi visit for economic ties

Ashrafi said that Prime Minister and Crown Prince discuss Gaza and IOJK crisis in comprehensive meeting

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday lauded Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Saudi Arabia, highlighting its potential to foster economic cooperation and fortify bilateral relations between the two nations. In a media talk, he said both the countries are keen in expanding their partnership in various sectors.

Ashrafi emphasized the significance of prime minister's diplomatic outreach, particularly in the realm of economic cooperation adding that the visit holds the promise of unlocking new avenues of economic opportunities for both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Highlighting historical, cultural, and religious bonds, he expressed optimism that the

discussions held during the visit would yield tangible results leading to enhance collaboration in diverse fields, including trade, investment, and infrastructure development. He commended the prime minister's proactive approach in exploring avenues for cooperation and advancing bilateral ties to new heights. He said in the meeting between prime minister and crown prince, a comprehensive discussion was also held regarding the escalating situation in Gaza and the ongoing crisis in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). The meeting, aimed at addressing regional instability and promoting peace, emphasized the importance of international intervention to halt Israeli aggression and ensure compliance with international law. Ashrafi said both leaders expressed grave concerns over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza and stressed the need for

the international community's involvement. They called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, access to humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza, and adherence to international legal frameworks, he added. Furthermore, the leaders reiterated their commitment to advancing the peace process in line with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, Ashrafi said adding that they emphasized the necessity of achieving a comprehensive solution that includes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. In addition to the Gaza crisis, he said the leaders also delved into the longstanding issue of IOJK. Recognizing the significance of resolving this conflict for regional peace and stability, Ashrafi said, they engaged in detailed discussions aimed at finding peaceful solutions of lingering dispute between India and Pakistan.



FAISALABAD: Passengers at Railway Station for depart to their hometowns to spend Eid ul Fitr holidays with their families.—APP

## DPO reviews Eid traffic for citizen convenience

DERA ISMAIL KHAN : District Police Officer (DPO), Nasir Mahmood on Tuesday undertook a visit to the traffic headquarters and reviewed arrangements made for ensuring smooth flow of traffic and peace especially on the Chand Raat and Eidul Fitr. According to the police spokesman, the DPO was warmly received by the traffic staff upon his arrival where he examined the infrastructure of the Traffic Headquarters building and reviewed the security arrangements. The traffic Moharar briefed on the various security arrangements in place to safeguard the premises and its personnel. On this occasion, the DPO underlined the need for taking solid measures to address public grievances related to traffic issues promptly and effectively. He appreciated the traffic staff officers for their dedication and professionalism while regulating traffic in the city. In this regard, the DPO awarded cash awards to the traffic officers in recognition for their hard work. He said that it would motivate them to continue their valuable services for serving the community.—APP

## Dr. Shehzad warns against anti-smoking guideline deviation

Think tank raises alarm against pushing the government to deviate from WHO guidelines

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD : Capital Calling, an Islamabad-based think tank, has raised alarm against the surge in the campaign by multinational cigarette companies to resist the guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international bodies regarding budgetary and other checks on their business.

The think tank has stated that International Monetary Fund (IMF) has duly recommended to the government that there should be uniformed tax on all cigarettes being manufactured in Pakistan, regardless of their local or foreign brands.

Dr Hassan Shehzad, from IIUI, said that in reality, cigarette prices are lower in Pakistan compared to other regional countries. He said that there is a direct link between reduction in smoking and increase in cigarette prices. He said it is unfortunate that representatives of cigarette companies dominate public debate, expressing the need for the government to contain this practice as per the WHO protocols that require of the governments to be vigilant about promotion of cigarette business. He also pressed on the anti-smoking groups to carry out genuine research as the data they have been presenting to the policymakers is old, which needs to be reexplored. Similarly, awareness about tobacco is almost non-existent on digital media which is an anachronism in this modern age. Dr Shehzad said that it are these weaknesses that multinational companies conveniently capitalize on to push forward their agenda. He said it has been observed that these companies are competing with one another to increase smoking in the society but they come on the same page to influence the government into facilitation of their business, which by and large is a health hazard. Dr Hassan Shehzad is the ace researcher on anti smoking. The only research IMF has referred to in its recommendations for tax reforms in the country.

## CM Maryam directs fool-proof security on Chaand Raat

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to ensure fool-proof security arrangements on Chaand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr. She said, "Police and law enforcement agencies should be vigilant on Chaand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr." Madam Chief Minister also directed to ensure best security arrangements for Eid-ul-Fitr gatherings, especially in mosques and Imambargahs. She said, "Additional police personnels should be deployed in markets, bazaars and shopping centers." She added, "Senior police officers should also be in the field to review security arrangements on Chaand Raat and Eid-ul-Fitr." Madam Chief Minister highlighted, "The police will have to work diligently to maintain public order." She added, "The security plan devised for the occasion should be implemented in letter and spirit.

## 14 profiteers booked in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH : District administration got registered 14 FIRs against profiteers during a special campaign to discourage artificial inflation, here in district Muzaffargarh. According to official sources, Price Control Magistrates on Tuesday inspected 5000 shops in scattered areas of district Muzaffargarh. They imposed a fine of Rs 215,000 on different shopkeepers. The Price Control Magistrates also got another 20 shopkeepers arrested for severe violation of prices. The official sources claimed that the action against the profiteers would continue in the future. Nobody will be allowed to extract money from the masses illegally.—APP

## Rescue 1122 to be on high alert on Eid

RAWALPINDI : Emergency Services Department Rawalpindi (Rescue 1122) including all Tehsils of the district will be on high alert for emergency assistance during the Eid al-Fitr holidays. A meeting in this regard was held here on Tuesday with Engineer Sibghatullah, District Emergency Officer (DEO) in the chair. A comprehensive plan for emergency response mechanisms was discussed in detail. The meeting was apprised of the regional preparedness regarding any untoward situation. The deliberation by the participants culminated in a detailed plan during Eid holidays. DEO while appreciating the emergency service teams for services already rendered by them during the holy month of Ramadan urged for strict monitoring of enhanced coordination and response

mechanisms throughout the district. He also felicitated the nation on Eid ul Fitr. Giving details of the plan, Rescue-1122 spokesman Muhammad Usman Gujjar said emergency ambulances, motorbike rescue services and fire tenders would be deployed at all major emergency posts from Chand Raat till Eid holidays. He informed that trained emergency paramedical staff would be available to provide emergency cover in case of any emergency. The spokesman further informed that special duties of rescue personnel have been assigned to District Control Room, Emergency Rescue Stations, Emergency Ambulances, Fire Tenders, Water Bowsers and Motorcycle Rescue Services. On Chand Raat, emergency points will be made at Commercial Market, Com-

mittee Chowk Underpass, Fowara Chowk, Gakhar Plaza Sadar, Metro Station Sadar, GIGA Mall, GPO Chowk Sadar, Tench Bhata Last Stop, Khawaja Corporation, Adiala Road and No. 22 Chongi Chowk. Major Eid prayer processions, public parks, children's parks will be monitored, he said. Likewise, special posts would be established in Jami Masjid Faizan Madina Adiala Road, 22 No Chongi Chowk, Captain Bilal Shaheed Chowk Chaklala Scheme 3, Jami Masjid GT Road Gujar Khan, Masjid Aqa Thana Road Kallar Syeddan, Jami Masjid Nusti etc. The District Emergency Officer has further advised the general public to drive carefully while travelling to hometowns before and after the Eid holidays to avoid possible accidents.

## City Admn imposes fine against profiteers

KARACHI : In order to stop the increasing artificial price hikes during the holy month of Ramadan, the Karachi administration has speed up action against hoarders and profiteers, and a fine of Rs 1854000 was imposed against 61 violators on Monday. The administration officials checked prices at 505 points in different areas of the Metropolitan city and 61 shopkeepers and traders charged higher prices as compared to government fixed rates. According to a statement issued by the Commissioner's spokesman here on Tuesday, action has been taken in all seven districts of Karachi division and profiteers were fined for not implementing government fixed rates of daily use items. Commissioner Muhammad Saleem Rajput directed all Deputy Commissioners to expedite action against violators so that citizens could be provided relief during Ramadan. The magistrates were asked to visit markets and check rate lists and action must be taken against those who were found involved in profiteering and hoarding.—APP

## Twelve Pak technicians receive geodetic datum training in China

ISLAMABAD, Apr 9 (Q): The second technical training for establishing new generation national geodetic datum of Pakistan was recently completed, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Some 12 Pakistani technicians participated in the course to improve and update their knowledge and technology of surveying and mapping. In 2011, the Pakistani government requested assistance from the Chinese government to establish a Next-Generation Geodetic Datum of Pakistan. This Geographic Information System mapping and surveying project is expected to encourage research and innovation in the fields of economy and society. Its linkages would promote cooperation between science and technology, public institutions and government agencies. In May 2017, the Chinese and Pakistani governments signed letters of exchange and the Chinese government pledged financial support for the project. According to the organizer, geodetic datum provides an essential spatial reference framework for mapping and construction activities along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, ensuring accuracy and alignment with project objectives. This training course has equipped a team of professionals with expertise in mapping technology, leading to the strengthening of bilateral relations and propelling both countries to a more advanced stage of innovative development.—DNA

## J&K Freedom League chairman greets Muslims for Eid

He emphasized that Muslim governments should uphold the principles of Eid and adhere to the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah if they aim to lead the Muslim world

ISLAMABAD : Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Chairman of J&K People's Freedom League and former Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference AJ&K Chapter, extends his heartfelt Eid greetings to all Muslims who fasted during Ramadan, the month of the Quran's revelation on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), offering guidance to humanity. Talking to APP, he called on Muslim leaders to reform their policies and mindset, and urged the UN to enforce its Charter and resolutions to prevent the devastating consequences of war perpetuated by inimical powers and their allies. He emphasized that Muslim governments should uphold the principles of Eid

and adhere to the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah if they aim to lead the Muslim world. Rehmani, warned of grave challenges facing Muslims in regions like Palestine, Jammu and Kashmir, and Myanmar. He cautioned against the horrors of racism and fascism, urging vigilance and solidarity. Highlighting the reasons behind modern imperialism's aggression towards Muslims, he emphasized Islam's global popularity despite organized propaganda by fanatics. This has unsettled imperialist forces, leading to aggressive measures aimed at hindering Islam's progress and denying humanity its benefits. He compared the tragedy in Jammu and Kashmir to that of Palestine, stating that In-

dia's Modi regime, akin to the Zionist regime, has massacred around one hundred thousand Kashmiri Muslims over the last three decades before annexing Kashmir as a Union Territory. He criticized the abrogation of State laws in Kashmir, including the Residence Law, which now allows non-state Indians to obtain Kashmiri domicile, violating UNSC resolutions and longstanding citizenship laws. Basic human rights and civil liberties are suppressed, turning the state into a concentration camp. Maharashtra is the first Indian state to acquire land near Srinagar airport for its own State Bhawan, with other states set to follow. The BJP-led government has established 1,250 schools in the Valley to indoctrinate Muslim children with Hindutva ideology, aiming to replace Islam with Hinduism in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that killings, both targeted and widespread, are common, with thousands of Kashmiris held in Indian jails for years. The existing laws violate fundamental rights and grant intelligence agencies unchecked authority to arrest Kashmiri youth or charge individuals with treason. He accused India of seeking to destabilize the region through conflict with Pakistan, alongside ongoing oppression of Kashmiris and persecution of its Muslim minority through methods like lynching and the implementation of the newly adopted Citizens Amendment Act (CAA).—DNA

trinate Muslim children with Hindutva ideology, aiming to replace Islam with Hinduism in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that killings, both targeted and widespread, are common, with thousands of Kashmiris held in Indian jails for years. The existing laws violate fundamental rights and grant intelligence agencies unchecked authority to arrest Kashmiri youth or charge individuals with treason. He accused India of seeking to destabilize the region through conflict with Pakistan, alongside ongoing oppression of Kashmiris and persecution of its Muslim minority through methods like lynching and the implementation of the newly adopted Citizens Amendment Act (CAA).—DNA



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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### April

- April 04/Senegal National Day
- April 07/W. H. O. World Health Day
- April 12/Somalia Armed Forces Day
- April 15/DPR Korea The Day of the Sun
- April 16/Denmark National Day
- April 17/Iran Army Day
- April 17/Syria Independence Day
- April 18/Zimbabwe Independence Day
- April 24/Holy See Anniversary of His Papacy of his Pontificate
- April 25/DPR Korea Armed Forces Day
- April 26/Tanzania National Day
- April 27/Sierra Leone Independence Day
- April 27/South Africa Freedom Day
- April 30/Sweden Birthday of His Majesty
- April 30/Netherlands Birthday of Queen

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



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

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PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
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Railway Exchange 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489  
CAA.....9281092



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Members of the Rawalpindi, Islamabad Tax Bar Association presenting a cheque of Rs two million for the people of Gaza, to the Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei. The Ambassador thanked the Bar members for their support and best wishes for the Gaza people. The ambassador also thanked the Pakistan government for extending whole-hearted support. The delegation comprised Faisal Latif FCA, Faraz Fazal Sheikh President RITBA, M Idress Sheikh Advocates Supreme Court, Zafran Yousaf Advocate and Abdul Basir Khan Advocate.—DNA

# Saudi scholar to lead Eid prayers at Faisal mosque

Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa likely to meet key govt functionaries during 10 day visit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa stands as a towering figure in the contemporary Islamic world, renowned for his steadfast commitment to promoting moderate Islam and fostering interfaith harmony on a global scale. As the Secretary-General of Muslim World League (MWL) and the head of the Intellectual Warfare Center, Dr. Al-Issa has dedicated his life to combatting extremism and advocating for the true message of Islam—empathy, understanding, and cooperation among all people. Dr. Al-Issa's leadership has been marked by groundbreaking interfaith efforts aimed at fostering understanding and reconciliation among different communities, faiths, and nations. Notable among these initiatives were his historic visit to Auschwitz in January 2020, where he led the most senior Islamic delegation ever to visit the site. This visit, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the death camp, symbolized Dr. Al-Issa's commitment to combating anti-Semitism and promoting mutual respect. He has been honored by various organizations, including the American Jewish Committee and the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement, for his leadership in combating anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and hate speech worldwide. In 2019, Dr. Al-Issa orchestrated an agreement for peace and solidarity among representatives of the Abrahamic religions in France, further demonstrating his dedication to fostering harmony and understanding.



Dr. Al-Issa's efforts have garnered praise from leaders across religious and political spectrums. Cardinal Timothy Dolan hailed him as "the most eloquent spokesman in the Islamic world for reconciliation and friendship among the religions." United States Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom Sam Brownback commended Dr. Al-Issa as "a constituent of the future" and applauded his partnership in bringing together Abrahamic faiths to combat hate. Since assuming the role of Secretary-General of the Muslim World

League in 2016, Dr. Al-Issa has embarked on a journey to promote dialogue and cooperation globally. He has expanded representation within the MWL to ensure inclusivity of all Muslim communities worldwide. Under his leadership, the MWL has signed numerous cooperation agreements with Jewish institutions, promoting common values and interfaith understanding. One of Dr. Al-Issa's most significant contributions is the Charter of Makkah, which calls for combatting hate speech, violence, extremism, and terrorism while advancing the principles of moderate Islam and interfaith partnership. Endorsed by over 1,200 Muslim scholars, this charter underscores Dr. Al-Issa's commitment to fostering dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among diverse religious and cultural groups. Dr. Al-Issa's tireless efforts have earned him numerous accolades, including the Norwegian Bridge Builder Award, the Prophet's Hijra Award from Malaysia, and an honorary doctorate from the United Nations' University of Peace. His leadership in promoting peace, tolerance, and intercultural harmony has been recognized globally, from Russia to Sri Lanka, Senegal to Italy. Dr. Mohammad Al-Issa's remarkable journey—from his early career in Saudi Arabia to his current role as a global advocate for peace and moderation—stands as a testament to the transformative power of dialogue and cooperation. His unwavering dedication to fostering understanding and reconciliation among people of different faiths serves as a beacon of hope in an increasingly divided world. As he continues to champion the principles of empathy, tolerance, and mutual respect, Dr. Al-Issa remains a symbol of inspiration for generations to come.

## Tobacco exports increase 32.09% to \$60.581 mln in 8 months

ISLAMABAD: The exports of tobacco witnessed an increase of 32.09 per cent during the first eight months of the financial year 2023-24, as against the exports of the corresponding months of last year. The tobacco exports from the country were recorded at US \$60.581 million during July-February (2023-24) against the exports of US \$45.863 million during July-February (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of tobacco also surged by 3.80 per cent going up from 16,742 metric tons to 17,378 metric tons, according to the data. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the export of tobacco however decreased by 50.62 per cent during the month of February 2024 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of tobacco from the country during February 2024 were recorded at US \$4.132 million against the exports of US \$8.368 million in February 2023. On a month-on-month basis, exports of tobacco also dipped by 64.17 per cent during February 2024 when compared to the exports of US \$11.531 million in January 2024.—APP

## Self-Entitled Ruling Elites and Corruption Chronicles



ZAHRA ALI

Pakistan, a gifted terrain, a country endowed with rich natural resources, diverse landscapes, a vibrant culture and heritage, and a talented population yet it has struggled to realize its potential at the hands of politicians and government officials marred by corruption, political patronage, and weak institutions. The country has experienced periods of political turmoil, and weak governance, often characterized by self-entitled ruling elites prioritizing personal gain over national development. The rampant corruption and self-serving entitlements enjoyed by Politicians, Members of Parliament, and Civil Bureaucracy in Pakistan starkly exemplify the deep-rooted issues plaguing the country. In a nation burdened by debt and plagued by poverty, the lavish lifestyles and extravagant

perks enjoyed by the ruling elite stand as a grotesque mockery of the struggles faced by ordinary citizens. The Prime Minister of Pakistan resides in a palatial house spread over 12,000 square yards, while a significant portion of the population lives below the poverty line, lacking access to basic necessities such as clean water, education, and healthcare. The allocation of public funds and taxations towards luxurious accommodations and perks for politicians, including exorbitant salaries, allowances, and privileges, is not justifiable in a country where millions struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis. To quote just a few more, Members of Parliament in Pakistan are entitled to a basic salary of Rs.150,000 per month, along with a plethora of allowances and perks that far exceed the means of the average citizen. These perks include an office maintenance allowance of Rs.8,000 per month, a telephone allowance of Rs.10,000 per month, and a sumptuary allowance of Rs.5,000 per month. Furthermore, Members of the Parliament receive luxurious benefits such as free installation of a residential telephone, 25 business class return air tickets every year, and travel vouchers of Rs.300,000 annually for themselves and their families within the country. Additionally, Members of the Parliament receive various daily allowances, including a special daily allowance of Rs.4,800 per day, an ordinary daily allowance of Rs2,800 per day, and a conveyance allowance of Rs2,000

per day to incentivize their commute from home to parliament. Additionally, free medical treatment and official blue passports for themselves and their spouses. While the self-entitled ruling elite indulge in lavish benefits and entitlements, extravagant perks and allowances which stand in stark contrast to the struggles faced by ordinary citizens who often find it difficult to manage household expenses, provide education for their children, and access adequate healthcare with meager salaries and minimal benefits like pension. As well as grapple with the harsh realities of poverty, unemployment, and other inadequate social services. The disparity in wealth and opportunity exacerbates social divisions and cultivates resentment towards the government, undermining trust in democratic institutions and hindering efforts towards meaningful reform. For the country to truly thrive and progress, it must address the systemic corruption and inequality that pervades its political and bureaucratic systems. Reforms aimed at curbing corruption, increasing transparency, and promoting accountability are imperative to ensure that public funds are used responsibly and equitably to uplift the lives of all citizens, rather than enriching a select few. Without such measures, Pakistan will continue to languish in poverty and underdevelopment, its potential stifled by the greed and incompetence of its self-entitled ruling elite. This would disgust even the richest and most wealthiest nations of the world.

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## Briefs

## Consumers to get decreased bills in current month

ISLAMABAD: The Spokesperson Power Division on Tuesday said the consumers would get decreased bills during the current month as compared to last month owing to fuel price adjustment mechanism. According to NEPRA's notification, power tariff has reduced Rs 2.90 per unit for April, said a statement issued here. Fuel price adjustment for the current month has reduced to Rs 4.92 per unit from Rs 7 per unit, it further said. —APP

## Fool-proof security plan issued

DNA

ATTOCK: District Police Officer Attock Dr Sardar Ghayas Gul Khan has said that it is the responsibility of the police to protect the lives and property of the people in the district. While Attock Police is performing the best security duties on normal days, special plans are made for security on special days as well. Talking to APP on Tuesday, PRO Malik Muhammad Naem, CSO Taimur Khan Ali Zai, and senior journalist Nisar Ali Khan were also present on the occasion. The DPO said that a fool-proof security plan has been issued for Eid-ul-Fitr, according to which Eid prayers will be offered at 350 mosques, 14 open places, and 27 Imambargahs on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr across the district. 600 police officers and youths, 13 elite sections, and 707 volunteers have been deployed. There will be a zero-tolerance policy against aerial firing and pranksters on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and strict action will be taken against those who violate the law. Additional police personnel will be stationed at the police headquarters to deal with any unexpected situation. DPO Attock in his message to the police officers said that on the joyous occasion of Eid, they should treat the public with good manners and no negligence and laxity in duty will be tolerated.

## UAE Red Crescent launches food distribution program

The UAE Ambassador H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, praised the generous support provided by charitable organizations to the Pakistani people, and expressed appreciation to sincere brotherhood between the UAE and Pakistan linked by the historical ties between the two countries



DNA  
ISLAMABAD: In the framework of the Embassy of United Arab

Emirates in Islamabad humanitarian initiatives during the Month of Ramadhan, the UAE Red Crescent launches the Winter Clothing and Food Distribution Program among

the needy people in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The distribution campaign was held in various regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in close coordination with the local Pakistani authori-

ties in order to deliver food for every needy family. The UAE Ambassador H.E. Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, praised the generous support provided by charitable organizations to the

Pakistani people, and expressed appreciation to sincere brotherhood between the UAE and Pakistan linked by the historical ties between the two countries.

## Army Chief trying to take Pak towards improvement

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Commander Asim Munir is also working to improve the economic situation of the country and a forum like SIFC has been formed which is working tirelessly to bring investment in the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh has paid tribute to the Armed Forces of Pakistan and other security forces on the occasion of Eid and said that under the leadership of Commander Syed Asim Munir, the Armed Forces of Pakistan have strengthened

the defense of the country. While performing the great duty of security, guard the borders of the country, on which the whole nation salutes all of you. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Commander Asim Munir is also working to improve the economic situation of the country and a forum like SIFC has been formed which is working tirelessly to bring investment in the country. President Atif Ikram said that the

entire business community is standing side by side with its armed forces and other security forces and wherever in need, we will step by step. While extending greetings on the occasion of Eid, we reiterate that there is no place to hide in our country for destroying peace, terrorists and facilitators. The people of Pakistan who loved most with country, as always, will foil the nefarious design of the forces creating chaos in the country.

## Tight security arrangements finalized for Eid

The CPO said that the safety of life and property of the people is a priority of the police for which all resources are being utilized. Foolproof security would be ensured by using all possible resources, he added

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police have finalized a foolproof security plan for Eid-ul-Fitr while over 2500 cops would be on duty outside 659 mosques, 76 imambargahs, and 77 open places to provide security to the worshippers, said a police spokesman. He informed that 32 special pickets had been set up across the city, with over 450 officers on duty during Chand Raat to bolster the security measures. To tackle the issue of one-wheeling, over 300 officers from Rawalpindi district police and Traffic Police would also be on duty. Moreover, a contingent of 500 Traffic Police Officers would be managing the city's traffic flow to prevent congestion and ensure smooth movement. The security plan extends beyond prayer spaces, with 250 officers stationed at public places, parks, and approximately 300 at important cemeteries. City Police Officer (CPO) Khalid Mehmood Hamdani directed that policemen deployed on security duty should have metal detectors with them to search the participants. Walk-through gates would be installed in important places where the events of Eid congregations to be held, he added. He said that special directives have been passed on to police officials to ensure patrolling in their respective areas. The CPO warned that negligence on the part of officials concerned would not be tolerated at any cost and strict departmental action would be taken against them. He urged the public to cooperate with the police in curbing the elements and immediately inform the authorities after observing any suspicious movement in any area of the city. The CPO said that the safety of life and property of the people is a priority of the police for which all resources are being utilized. Foolproof security would be ensured by using all possible resources, he added. —DNA

## Celebrating the legacy of Iftikhar Ali Malik

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Leaders of United Business Group (UBG) SM Tanveer, Zubair Tufail, Zafar Bakhtauri, Hanif Gohar, Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir, Malik Khuda Baksh and others ex-chairman UBG, ex-president SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Former President FPCCI and Regional Tiger of Business Community Iftikhar Ali Malik, a distinguished leader, industrialist, and philanthropist whose unwavering dedication and patriotism is an invaluable asset to Pakistan. Throughout his illustrious career spanning over four decades, Iftikhar Ali Malik has played a pivotal role in bolstering Pakistan's economy, both domestically and internationally. His visionary leadership has been instrumental in the establishment of key infrastructure projects, including the FPCCI Headquarters in Karachi, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and various regional offices across the country including FPCCI Regional office in Lahore and FPCCI capital office in Islamabad. As the former President of SAARC, Iftikhar Ali Malik navigated unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet managed to uphold the spirit of regional cooperation, ensuring that SAARC CCI's activities continued unabated. He also made the SAARC Head Quarter in Islamabad and Islamic Chamber Head Office in Karachi. —APP

## IRSA releases 80,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 80,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 78,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1417.17 feet and was 19.17 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 19,100 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1103.75 feet, which was 53.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 28,300 cusecs and 20,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 45,900, 38,100, 29,000. —APP

## Dr Ramesh clarifies CM KPK 's unjust criticism over Gandhara Corridor Bill

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly (MNA) Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani has requested Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to join hands for transforming Gandhara as an international role model for the faith tourism with the active collaboration of federal and all provincial stakeholders. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister in response to criticism of the newly introduced bill in the National Assembly for establishing the Gandhara Corridor to connect Pakistan with the Buddhist world, Dr Vankwani clarified that the bill is not at all a part of any conspiracy to snatch or take over the Gandhara Civilization remains in KP, emphasizing that "It is, in fact, to ensure that the provinces receive due facilitation and support from the federal government to promote and market Gandhara for increasing revenue through systematic arrival of international pilgrims via the federal capital Islamabad."

He urged that the bill was an attempt at exploring opportunities for strengthening Pakistan's economy as well as projecting a positive image of the country, as establishing a high-level facilitation center at the federal level to promote Gandhara faith pilgrimage with the collaboration of provinces would not violate the 18th Amendment which ensures provincial autonomy. Dr Vankwani further stated in his letter that Gandhara should not only be limited to the remains or archeological sites as Gandhara civilisation is actually based on tolerance, harmony and brotherhood among different faiths, communities and segments of human society. According to him, Gandhara civilisation comprises several historical archaeological sites spread across Pakistan and has the potential to attract the followers of Dharmic religions of the subcontinent, including Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism. "Last year while serving as Chairman of Prime Minister's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism, I had identified 50 potential Gandhara sites in all provinces, which already included Mohenjo-daro remains and stupas located in Sindh as well. Out of 50 sites, 38 are related to Buddhism, 10 are of Hinduism and two belong to Jainism," Dr Ramesh responded to the criticism for not introducing the bill on Indus civilization. "The proposed Gandhara Corridor would also demonstrate that the state of Pakistan supports Non-Muslims to enjoy religious freedom, as guaranteed in the Constitution of Pakistan and international laws," he further explained his role as a minority parliamentarian in the National Assembly. "It is worth mentioning that the President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari was the man behind

the 18th Amendment Bill who signed it to empower provinces," Dr Vankwani wrote, regretting that "it is ironic, baseless and unfair to criticize myself, a minority member of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), for violation of 18th Amendment which ensures Provincial Autonomy." "I would like to request you to kindly arrange my meeting with all the stakeholders of KP under your leadership at the CM House, Peshawar, on a priority basis to address the reservations that have arisen regarding the Gandhara Bill," Dr Vankwani stated, adding that "I am quite confident that we will remove all kinds of doubts and reservations on the Gandhara Corridor Bill, once we sit at the table." Recently, Dr Vankwani had introduced one of the most significant private member bills in parliamentary history of National Assembly, aimed at establishing the Gandhara Corridor to connect Pakistan with the Buddhist world.



ISLAMABAD: Women getting their hands decorated with hina on the occasion of Eid.— APP

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