

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 Daanis 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

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 who 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

Continued on Page 06



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 wipeout the menace of terrorism from the country.

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

Citing IS threats

France, Spain tighten

security for UCL

emergency in the country and would dole out all possible

Continued on Page 06

Briefs **PTI treading** on path of chaos: Asif Says, decisions of the majority could not be rejected

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD:Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad on Tuesday alleged Asif 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 urge the federal government to intervene and address the deteriorating law and order situation in Sindh.

PTI spokesperson calls past two years darkest

Amid political chaos

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 Khanled 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 ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Bar

Continued on Page 06

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 politburo 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 politburo met today and decided this." Another Hamas official had earlier told Reuters that no progress

Continued on Page 06

IBC denounces reference against Justice Kay-ani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

political and economic instability, where Council (IBC) on Tuesday condemned violation of constitutional and law reigned and denounced a "baseless" and "frivsupreme. PTI Spokesperson, in a strong- olous reference" against Islamabad ly-worked reaction over the completion of High Court's (IHC) senior puisne judge two years of the regime change conspiracy Mohsin Akhtar Kay-ani. A day earlier. against the elected democratic government it emerged that a former official of the and destruction of the state system, said that Islam-abad High Court Bar Associaa conspiracy was hatched a well-performing tion (IHCBA) had moved the Supreme democratic government under an external Judicial Council (SJC) aga-inst Jusdictations and vested interests to put the tice Kay-ani. Justice Kayani is among country an endless chain of destruction the six judges who recently wrote a

Continued on Page 06

APRIL 2024

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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. **Continued on Page 06**

rity 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. Par-

PARIS: France and Spain will step up secu-

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 Paki-

stan 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 "uncon-

stitutional" due to an "incomplete house".

Continued on Page 06

is-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

Continued on Page 06



Var 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

Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Ashrafi praises PM's Saudi visit for economic ties

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

Adil Shaheen

02

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 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 (IIOJK). 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

discussions held during the visit 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 IIOJK. 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

mittee Chowk Underpass,

Fowara Chowk, Gakhar

Plaza Sadar, Metro Sta-

tion Sadar, GIGA Mall,

GPO Chowk Sadar, Tench

Bhata Last Stop, Khawa-

ja Corporation, Adiala

Road and No. 22 Chongi

Chowk. Major Eid prayer

processions, public parks,

children's parks will be

monitored, he said. Like-

wise, special posts would

be established in Jami

Masjid Faizan Madina

Adiala Road, 22 No Chon-

gi Chowk, Captain Bilal

Shaheed Chowk Chaklala

Scheme 3, Jami Masjid GT

Road Gujar Khan, Masjid

Aqsa Thana Road Kallar

Syeddan, Jamia Masjid

Nusti etc. The District

Emergency Officer has

further advised the gener-

al public to drive carefully

while travelling to home-



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 Rat 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 valu-

able services for serving the

community.- APP

Dr. Shehzad warns against antismoking 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 Monitory 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, aware-

ness 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.

Excise Minister reviews laws on unregistered vehicles

KARACHI : Sindh Minister Control department here for Information, Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Sharjeel Inam Memon Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics

Inam Memon stated that and deliberated on legislathe Excise department will tion regarding unregistered take steps to prevent unregvehicles and drug control istered vehicles from being efforts, among other issues. driven on the roads, and the law will be amended to en-Speaking at the meeting, force this measure.-DNA Sindh Minister Sharjeel

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 Eidul-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 Imambar-She said,"Addigahs. tional police personnels should be deployed in markets, bazaars and shopping centers." She police of added,"Senior ficers should also be in the field to review security arrangements on Chand 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.

RAWALPINDI : Emergency Services Department

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 personnel 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

on high alert on Eid mechanisms throughout the district. He also felici-Rawalpindi (Rescue 1122) tated the nation on Eid ul

Rescue 1122 to be

Fitr. Giving details of the

plan, Rescue-1122 spokes-

man 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 emer-

gency cover in case of any

emergency. The spokes-

man further informed that

special duties of rescue

personnel have been as-

signed to District Control

Room, Emergency Rescue

Stations, Emergency Am-

bulances. Fire Tenders.

Water Bowsers and Mo-

torcycle Rescue Services.

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

Ramazan urged for strict monitoring of enhanced cy points will be made at Eid holidays to avoid pos-coordination and response Commercial Market, Commonitoring of enhanced

On Chand Raat, emergen-

towns before and after the

City Admn imposes fine against profiteers

KARACHI : In order to stop the increasing artificial price hikes during the holy month of Ramzan, 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 Ramazan. 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 (): 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 indoc-

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



10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



Islamabad POST ERROILER Wednesday, April 10, 2024

National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

03

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......051-28261210334-5421812 Monal.





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



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 Malavsia, and an honorary doctorate from the United Nations's 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.

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



Enguiry

EdhiAmbulance.....115 PIA Flight Info.....114 PIA Cargo.....9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA ...9281092



Hospitals

| СМН5611111 | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| MH561116 | |
| Cantt Hospital9270907-11 | |
| DHQ5556311-4 | |
| RGH9290301-7 | |
| Holy Family9290322-7 | |
| PIMS9261170-79 | |
| Polyclinic9218300-09 | |
| Shifa International 4603666 | |

ZAHRA ALI

Pakistan, a gifted terrain, a country

endowed with rich natural resources,

diverse landscapes, a vibrant culture

and heritage, and a talented popula-

tion 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 ex-

perienced periods of political turmoil,

and weak governance, often character-

ized by self-entitled ruling elites pri-

oritizing personal gain over national

The rampant corruption and self-serv-

ing entitlements enjoyed by Politi-

cians, Members of Parliament, and

Civil Bureaucracy in Pakistan stark-

ly exemplify the deep-rooted issues

plaguing the country. In a nation bur-

dened by debt and plagued by poverty,

the lavish lifestyles and extravagant

development.



Departments

| - | |
|--------------|----------------|
| CDA | 9221334-43 |
| CDA | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office | 9250360-6 |
| RDA | 5555864 |
| ТМА | 5770886 |
| Cantonment B | oard 9270151-3 |

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480 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 combatting 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

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

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.



perks enjoyed by the ruling elite stand

04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Wednesday, April 10 , 2024

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 Ghivas 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 Naeem, 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 Khayber 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 borders of the country, on Federation of Pakistan which the whole nation sa-Chambers of Commerce and lutes all of you. Atif Ikram Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh said that Commander Sheikh has paid tribute to the Asim Munir is also working Armed Forces of Pakistan to improve the economic

the defense of the country. entire business community While performing the great is standing side by side with duty of security, guard the 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 destroy-

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

Celebrating the legacy of lftikhar Ali Malik

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Leaders of United Business Group (UBG) SM Tanveer, Zubair Tufail, Zafar Bakhtauri, Hanif Gohar, Syed Mazhar Ali Nasir, Malik Khuda Bakhsh 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 COV-ID-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**

and other security forces on the occasion of Eid and said that under the leadership of Commander Sved Asim Munir, the Armed Forces of Pakistan have strengthened

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

including Buddhism, Hindu-

ism, and Jainism. "Last year

while serving as Chairman of

ing 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.

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.

Prime Minister's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism, I had He urged that the bill was an attempt at exploring identified 50 potential Gandopportunities for strengthhara sites in all provinces. ening Pakistan's economy as which already included well as projecting a positive Mohenjo-daro remains and image of the country, as estabstupas located in Sindh as lishing a high-level facilitation well. Out of 50 sites, 38 center at the federal level to are related to Buddhism, 10 are of Hinduism and promote Gandhara faith pilgrimage with the collaboration two belong to Jainism," Dr of provinces would not violate Ramesh responded to the the 18th Amendment which criticism for not introducensures provincial autonomy. ing the bill on Indus civilization. "The proposed Dr Vankwani further stated in his letter that Gandhara should Gandhara Corridor would also demonstrate that the not only be limited to the remains or archeological sites as state of Pakistan supports Gandhara civilisation is actually Non-Muslims to enjoy relibased on tolerance, harmony gious freedom, as guaranand brotherhood among differteed in the Constitution of ent faiths, communities and Pakistan and international segments of human society. laws," he further explained According to him, Gandhara his role as an minority parcivilisation comprises several liamentarian in the Nationhistorical archaeological sites al Assembly. "It is worth spread across Pakistan and mentioning that the President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali has the potential to attract the followers of Dharmic re-Zardari was the man behind

ligions of the subcontinent, 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 parliament tary history of National As sembly, 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

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



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Decoupling from China

S Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen arrived in China on Thursday, marking her second visit to China in less than a year. He Lifeng, Chinese vice premier and the Chinese lead person for China-US economic and trade affairs, held several rounds of talks with Yellen in the city of Guangzhou in South China's Guangdong Province. Yellen's choice to start her visit in Guangzhou is reasonable, as the city is quickly becoming one of the most important bay areas in the world, known for its technological advancements and breakthroughs. During her time in Guangzhou, she also met with US, European and Japanese business representatives. This is a visit of pragmatism and realism that aims to enable Yellen to better understand the business environment in China as a whole. Yellen's visit coincides with Washington's hyped-up rhetoric surrounding purported "Chinese overcapacity" in the clean energy sector, particularly in electric vehicles (EVs), lithium batteries and solar panels. I would tend to disagree with her description of overcapacity or this labeling put by the US government on EVs. The EV business is a sunrise business, and it is just starting not only in China but throughout the world. If there is any competition, the competition is between the EV industry and the traditional fuel industry. This competition is inevitable, and eventually the transformation from fuel cars to EVs is inevitable, and for the benefit of mankind. This is not the time to make accusations of overcapacity. Such claims are often a cover for trade protectionism, and could prevent the US from embracing EV technology and the EV market. China has already established a strong presence in EV production. I think the sooner the US starts to engage in this inevitable transformation, the better. China can help the US make this transformation from fuel cars to EV cars. Yellen talked a lot about China and the US not decoupling from each other, which not only reflects her own view but also that of US President Joe Biden. I hope Yellen, Biden and other government officials will refrain from discussing decoupling, as it is not a feasible option. No one knows what the consequences of decoupling between China and the US will be, but it's certain that decoupling will bring great disasters to the US.

Beijing and Washington need to realize that, whatever problems exist between China and the US, they need to be solved through peaceful negotiation. It's hoped that China and the US will deal with each other as equals, rather than trying to impose their own version of the truth onto the other side. From the Chinese perspective, the US is not an enemy, adversary or rival, but rather an important country for China to engage with for mutual benefit on equal terms. China and the US need to get along with each other well. It is hence encouraging to see that President Xi Jinping and President Biden recently had a phone call. Also, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will soon visit China, and an annual working group meeting of the China-US Military Maritime Consultative Agreement was held in Hawaii recently. These actions suggest that both China and the US are willing to do their part to prevent any further deterioration of bilateral relations. From the Chinese perspective, we want to deal with the US on equal terms and prevent the deterioration of relations between China and the US. If we lose stability, peace, mutual respect and mutual benefit in China-US relations, I can't foresee a world with peace, prosperity and development.

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New leader of global South

HE world stage often seems sepia-toned, dominated by the dusty international structures of the post-second world war era, favouring the world's richest countries. However, it is increasingly clear that this setup isn't sufficient to respond to the interests of the global south, including combating climate breakdown and expanding economic development. Recognising this mismatch, Brazil under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has positioned itself as an international leader, focused on the agenda of emerging economic powers who prize stability, and in fact have much to lose from conflict and power struggles between rich countries. But in a world that is increasingly focused on competition between major powers like China and the US, Lula's "active nonalignment", which seeks to balance engagement between powers without picking one side, is often interpreted with suspicion. The Brics alliance that Brazil has championed as a forum for global south priorities - such as the reform of global financial institutions like the IMF, where developing states hold only a fraction of voting power - is consistently interpreted as "anti-west" by US and European analysts. This year will be a test for Lula's global strategy. Brazil holds the rotating presidency of the G20, and Brazil's agenda for it is firmly grounded in the priorities of the global south. Lula promised to focus work on "the reduction of inequalities", including social inclusion and hunger reduction; energy transition and sustainable development; and global governance reform. And next year, Brazil will host the UN Cop30 climate change conference in the Amazonian city of Belém.

Lula's foreign policy has also long sought to reshape global institutions like the UN security council to create permanent seats for developing nations in addition to the existing cold war-era veto power balance. He has elevated Brazil's negotiating power along with other emerging markets in the Brics alliance: Russia, India, China and South Africa. And he has sought a global role for Brazil in mediating international conflict, from Ukraine to tensions between Venezuela and Guyana. But nonalignment is more difficult these days, as competing superpowers have hyper-polarised perspectives. "What I see is a more complicated world, with more closed spaces. As if it were a game, a jigsaw puzzle in which the pieces are very close, not fitted together, but very close, and where the space to act is less," Celso Amorim, a special adviser to Brazil's president and a former foreign minister, told me. Brics (which this year expanded to include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates) will be difficult to sell as an nonaligned group - or one that doesn't threaten western interests - when the leaders' summit takes place in Russia later this year. Lost in the uproar is the fact that Lula spoke those words in Ethiopia, at the close of the African Union summit - an example of how Brazil's foreign policy has lateral connections to the developing world, outside the western-dominated international institutions.

Ahead of Indian polls, Bollywood propaganda films get to work

Nilosree Biswas

Critiques: However not all films were supportive of the government and its function. Some heavily criticised India's rising inequalities, hunger, unemployment and the untimely failure of the people's dream that Nehru had envisioned for the country. This film is an adaption of classic novel 'Crime and Punishment' by Fyodor Dostoevsky. It was a box office hit film. These were films like Footpath (1953), Pyaasa (Thirsty, 1957) and Phir Subah Hogi (There will be Dawn Again, 1958). Interestingly, Dilip Kumar who has been attributed as the ultimate face of the onscreen Nehruvian hero did not hesitate to play complex, rather negative role of Noshu in Footpath – a film that visibly criticised the government. In the film, Kumar played an erstwhile honest journalist compelled to choose smuggling as a living

NDIAN voters will head to the polls this month to elect their next political leaders. Sitting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are contesting for a third consecutive term. He will square off against an opposition coalition that includes leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee and others. Political campaigns usually revolve around traditional modes of reaching out to the masses. But the BJP campaign is now supplementing this approach with soft influencing tools like propaganda films, churned out of Bollywood amid a changing ecosystem. Some of the movies have already been released, while others are slated to hit the silver screen during the two-month-long electoral process, which starts April 19. These films widely align with the BJP's politics, and stand a chance to influence and bolster public opinion on political issues on a range of issues. This includes but is not limited to how to govern Indian-administered Kashmir, the role of Muslims in Indian society and redefining the heroes of India's Independence movement.

In other words, the films aim to boost and justify the sitting government's policies and most certainly retell history in a Hindu nationalist way. How it started Propaganda films first came into force during World War I, when Britain began to understand the power of cinema in shaping public opinion. "Battle of Somme," an early propaganda film, was released in the autumn of 1916 across 34 movie theatres in London, and a further 100 screens countrywide. Shot partly as a documentary and partly a dramatisation, this was England's first cinematic attempt at glorifying their men during the staggering war. The idea was to whip up public sentiment through images that went beyond imagination by showing the lives of English soldiers on the battlefront, facing hardship while fighting the "enemy" day in and day out. Soon the Soviets and the Germans also began propagating their political ideologies and goals through cinema. Nazi filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl made the most prominent film of her career, "Triumph of Will," in 1935. The movie, which contained exclusive footage of Adolf Hitler, went on to win the best artistry award in the World Exhibition in Paris in 1937. During this time period, German propaganda cinema was well-defined. Its sole purpose was to uphold Hitler's ideology, and included virulent antisemitism uncannily similar to how propaganda cinema is being used in the Hindutva regime of current India. To be fair, earlier Indian politicians have also infused nationalism and political message ing in cinema. But the dynamics were quite different. Nehruvian cinema: For India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, cinema was areligious and anti-caste, as Partha Ghosh writes in "Nehru's Hero, Dilip Kumar in the Life of India (2004)." This was in tandem with the original idea of Indian nationalism as a "a form of territorial nationalism, wherein all individuals inhabiting the state's political borders are deemed to be not only citizens but also members of the nation," according to scholar Tridib Bhattachariya. Nehru applied this understanding to everything including cinema, which he believed was an important medium to reach the masses. He went on to establish the Films Division in 1948, a government agency dedicated to film production and distribution. He also involved leading celebrities of his time like Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Nargis, Prithvi Raj Kapoor, Mehboob Khan and Mohammad Rafi to help spread the dreams and goals of a free India through cinema. In that sense, films produced in the 1950s and '60s were Nehruvian.

the less-resourced - an overall reflection of an egalitarian society. Some of the many films produced with this political messaging include: Kalpana (Imagination, 1948), which was directed by legendary dancer Uday Shankar. This was a fantasy film about a young man's dream project of starting a progressive dance academy, where the artist's expression of freedom would be held high. Among the songs in the film was one that spoke directly about Nehru's agricultural policy, including the lyrics "Hindustan Ka Bal Hai Hal" (the power of Hindustan lies in its plough). This expressed the urgent need for food security and industrialising farming methods, affirming the herculean power of Indian farmers. Meanwhile, Jagriti (Awakening) hit movie screens in 1954, voicing the need for universal school education, an issue that the Nehru government had prioritised from the start of his term. The script highlighted the importance of liberated education systems with a progressive slant on the teacher-student relationship. Then there was Khwaja Ahmed Abbas' Awaara (The Vagabond, 1951), a crime drama that picked up Nehru's socialist discourse by tying it finely into a story about an accidental thief and a privileged woman. The childhood sweethearts were played by Raj (Raj Kapoor) and Rita (Nargis). Abbas emphasised humanising criminals, which aligned with Nehru's approach to social reforms. Dhool Ka Phool (Flower of Dust, 1959) followed by Dharamputra(Son of Faith, 1961) were both directed by Yash Chopra and explored communal harmony at its best. While the former is about a Muslim man raising a Hindu child single handedly, Dharamputra reverses the scenario and questions Hindu fundamentalism when showing a Muslim child raised by a Hindu family. Yet in these films, the propaganda-esque ones and their counterfoils, there was no "otherization," divisiveness or contrarian understanding of India's composite society. Nor did the government oppose the release of movies that showed India's plight. In fact, Nehru countered criticism that Pather Panchali (Song of the Little Road, 1955) peddled poverty of India to the world, Partha Ghosh writes in Nehruvian Cinema and Politics, 2019. "He argued, what was wrong about showing India's poverty? Everyone knows that we are a poor country. The question is: Are we Indians sensitive to our poverty or insensitive to it? (Legendary Indian filmmaker Satyajit) Ray has shown it with an extraordinary sense of beauty and sensitiveness." Nehruvian cinema reached the masses albeit by being wholesome. On the contrary, current propaganda films mostly made after 2014 are heavily polarised and openly divisive. This owes to a reactionary understanding of nationalism in which "Hindutva" (or Hindu-ness, short for Hindu nationalism) followers in India conjure up an image of a peaceful Hindu self versus the threatening minority, writes Dibyesh Anand in Hindu Nationalism and the Politics of Fear, 2011. Hindutva playbook: Even before emboldened propaganda films were systematically churned out, there existed movies that bordered on propaganda with their crude, low-budget demeanour. Vivek Agnihotri. known for The Kashmir Files (2022), produced The Tashkent Files - Who Killed Shastri in 2019, based on the controversial death of India's second prime minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri. Agnihotri's film implicated Indira Gandhi and her Congress Party rule, without naming anyone. In The Kashmir Files, he is far more systematic in dehumanising all who are not favourable to his version of the story, meaning Kashmiri Muslims. Relevantly, tickets to watch The Kashmir Files and The Kerala Story were made

tax-free in BJP-controlled states in order to reach wider audiences. Despite being critiqued for their high quotient of halfbaked information laced with Islamophobia, both movies were super hits at the box office. Between 2014-24, there have been many films highlighting government's wins and policies like, Toilet Ek Prem Katha (Toilet A Love Story, 2017), championing the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or Clean India Mission.

There was also Mission Mangal (Mission to Mars), based on India's space programme Mars Orbiter Mission. While these films were about achievements and as such contained minimal jingoism, others like the blockbuster Uri – The Surgical Strike (2019) compensated with the retelling of an attack by Kashmiri militants on Indian Armed Forces.

Modi heaped praise on the film and has even publicly quoted some dialogue. "How is the Josh" soon went viral.

After Uri, at least half a dozen films have situated Pakistan as the "enemy" in the past five years. These films rode on ultra-nationalist pride and championed the prowess of India as a geopolitical power. The most recent one was the big-budget Fighter (2024). Released on India's Republic Day in January, it stars A-listers like Deepika Padukone, Hrithik Roshan and

The storylines spoke of an India where religion was of the least consideration. Instead, the scripts were about human aspiration, harmony, development and empathy towards Anil Kapoor. As if these utterly aggressive epic war films were not enough, period films simultaneously stoke national Hindutva pride, portraying the Mughals and any Muslim ruler in a bad light. They are painted as brutal, animalistic, grotesque and anti-Hindu in films including Padmaavat (2018), Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior (2020) and Samrat Prithviraj (Emperor Prithviraj, 2022). Padmaavat was a lavishly mounted historical drama, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The story based on the namesake epic poem from 1540 by Sufi poet Malik Mohammad Jayasi is about a Hindu Rajput queen called Padmavati, who chooses to commit suicide along with other women of the palace instead of surrendering to Sultan Alauddin Khilji. According to American film critic Roger Ebert's website, "Padmaavat is after a certain point, propaganda for a pseudo-traditional and highly romanticised fundamentalist attitude.' Historical films made in recent years have often been called out for their inaccurate information and vile depiction of Muslim rulers, but that has not stopped Bollywood from retelling the "real" story, or basically purging Indo-Islamic history. Ahead of general elections, the list of recently released or upcoming films that involve polarising topics is rather long. It includes biopics like Main Atal Hoon (I am Atal), about the life of former PM Atal Behari Vajpayee, a BJP co-founder); and Swatantrya Veer Savarkar (biopic of Hindu nationalist ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar); and films related to government decisions and policies like Article 370 about Indian-administered Kashmir. The list also has films that touch on public lives like Razakar - The Silent Genocide of Hyderabad, Emergency (on Indira Gandhi's Emergency period in 1977), The Sabarmati Report and Accident or Conspiracy: Godhra, both based on the 2002 Godhra train burning. There's also JNU: Jahangir National University on Jawaharlal Nehru University, perhaps the last bastion of liberal education in India. It is not really coincidental to have an outpouring of movies that promote the governing party's interest. There were a slew of releases before the 2019 elections as well, including Uri, The Accidental Prime Minister, ManiKarnika and The Tashkent Files. Every time a propaganda film has been released, polarisation amid citizens has only become sharper. What needs to be watched this time is how beneficial the films act in propagating Hindutva nationalism and how much more divided the nation can get.

Laying bare the extent of Netanyahu's undoing

Hannan Hussain

Consider Netanyahu's highly controversial religious draft as well. He pitched a divisive plan to extend military service exemptions for "Israel's" ultra-Orthodox, a key stakeholder in sustaining Netanyahu's coalition. But significant blows to occupation forces on ground and failure to achieve any of the so-called Israeli war "goals" have made it difficult for many Israeli political quarters... SRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently claimed that he would deliver so-called "victory" to Israelis and signaled his unwarranted support to further the occupation's ongoing genocide in Gaza. "There will be no ceasefire without the return of hostages. It just won't happen," he said in a recent address as families of the same hostages slam Netanyahu's hollow rhetoric.

Let's be clear. Behind Netanyahu's manufactured 'victory' narrative is a damning reality staring his in the eye: his own political survival is on the ropes. Begin with the streets. Tens of thousands of Israelis took to the streets over the weekend, calling for Netanyahu's ouster and demonstrating firm defiance to his continuity of rule. These mass protests are estimated to border on the 100,000 mark. It also includes families of hostages that have long construed Netanyahu's warmongering rhetoric as an admission of failure. Israeli strikes on those hostages continue to validate that sense of failure among the masses. Without any tangible plan in place, the chief Israeli war criminal is one step away from his own political capitulation.

Consider Netanyahu's highly controversial religious draft as well. He pitched a divisive plan to extend military service exemptions for "Israel's" ultra-Orthodox, a key stakeholder in sustaining Netanyahu's coalition. But significant blows to occupation forces on ground and failure to achieve any of the so-called Israeli war "goals" have made it difficult for many Israeli political quarters to exempt this segment of society from mandatory service. That sentiment now extends to Netanyahu's fragile coalition, including his three-member war cabinet that has elicited a call for resignation if Netanyahu insists on placating the ultra-Orthodox at the occupation's expense.

Those frictions show no signs of waning. Many within the Israeli occupation forces have grown sour on Netanyahu's political favoritism, interpreting his push to placate coalition allies as increasingly costly. On the other hand, "Israel's" economy has shrunk far beyond popular projections, and sustained borrowing to aid the genocide is all set to sap its growth and economic standing. Meanwhile, the ultra-Orthodox allies are already angry at Netanyahu for an escalating fight involving military service, underlining the fragility of his rule and waning command. Significant calls for early elections, including from war cabinet partner Benny Gantz, add to a substantial survival challenge, confirming the extent of Netanyahu's shambolic, belligerent and self-destructive performance post-October 7. "We [Israelis] must agree on a date for elections in September, about a year from the war," he said in a recent televised briefing. Interestingly, Netanyahu's blatant myth of a total "victory' in Gaza never stuck from the start, but is set to shatter with enormous strength hereon. Look to the Israeli occupation forces in southern Gaza: they have withdrawn after months of confrontation, inflicted casualties, and ineffective responses to sophisticated, high-precision ambush attacks. There are also reports that nearly all Israeli occupation forces combat units have withdrawn from the Gaza Strip while majority of Israelis back early elections and contest the so-called success of Netanyahu's genocidal actions for months. It is a fact that the disgraced Israeli premier cannot lean heavily on his far-right allies to get a lifeline at the center. After all, a possible ejection of ultra-Orthodox parties from his coalition will drive the entire coalition arrangement to the ground,

while the far-right insists that Netanyahu needs to up the ante against innocent Palestinians in Gaza, particularly in Rafah. There are limits to how much Netanyahu can lean in that direction: he risks further straining "Israel's" relationship with Washington, which has made Israeli actions in Rafah a critical consideration for the future. Moreover, from a political standpoint, Netanyahu needs concrete actions to secure Israeli captives, but the view from the ground is that there is no coherent plan in place.

Months of brutal bombardment of besieged Palestinians, their homes, and critical infrastructure have not brought hostages home. Rather, it has killed scores of them. The strengthening of the resistance in the midst of Israeli onslaught has also made clear that the illegal occupation itself is the root of all problems, and that there is no alternative to the path for justice for Palestinians. Netanyahu's war leadership has seen his own forces kill Israeli hostages, effectively weakening his present narrative that he will secure their return and win over public sentiment.

Even the occupation's chief backers in Washington have sought to sidestep Netanyahu to advance dialogue with his fierce political opponents. It is a sign of the rampant political and diplomatic isolation of Netanyahu. His strategy is to buy time, but conflicting pressures from his centerright, right-wing, and ultra-nationalist partners suggest that he would have to break even somehow or witness his own capitulation. According to a senior Israeli source, the pullout of occupation troops was linked to ongoing negotiations with Hamas over Israeli hostages, and Netanyahu is "desperate" for a ceasefire deal. Be it domestic or international, no meaningful leverage rests with Netanyahu.

06

WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Shehbaz says, Will impose education...

Briefs PAK vs NZ: Imad, Amir return as Pakistan squad announced

FROM PAGE 01

resources to educate particularly the children from disadvantaged families. He told the gathering of federal ministers, bureaucrats, heads of international institutions, educationists and students that the Daanish Schools project was initi-ated under PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif's vision and that the students were making an impact in debate, sports and other fields internationally. Recounting the journey of the visionary project, the prime minister said they resisted the immense criticism of the initiative just to support the children from low-income groups with quality education at par with elite-class education institutions. He also recalled that under Nawaz Sharif's leadership, the PML-N government in the past gave away laptops to the students which became an earning tool for them. Besides, the then Punjab government also recruited around 200,000 teachers purely on merit.

The Pakistan vs New Zealand T20I series will begin on April 18

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Uncapped batter Usman Khan as well as returning Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim are selected in the Pakistan squad for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand on Tuesday. The national selection committee members Abdul Razzaq, Asad Shafiq, Bilal Afzal, Mohammad Yousuf and Wahab Riaz announced the 17-member Pakistan squad for the five-match T20I series. Amir and Wasim recently came out of international retirement and made themselves available for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup 2024 and the series leading up to the mega-event. Amir last played for Pakistan in 2020, while Wasim played during New Zealand's last tour of Pakistan in 2023. Usman Khan, who played the previous two editions of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) as an overseas player from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), impressed the selection committee with his consistent batting exploits. He was then approached by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to consider representing his homeland and



was subsequently selected for the fitness

camp held in Kakul. The top-order batter

scored 430 runs in seven outings during

PSL 9 last month, including two centuries.

Uncapped right-handed batter Irfan Khan

Niazi also earned his maiden call-up on the

back of his impressive performance in the

PSL, scoring 171 runs in eight outings at a

brilliant strike rate of 140.16.

Pace bowler Naseem Shah, who had been out of action since the Asia Cup in 2019, made his comeback in the Pakistan Super League (PSL). Subsequently, he found his way back into the national team for the series against New Zealand. Allrounder Mohammad Nawaz was dropped due to his bad

form. while Haris Rauf is out with a shoulder injury, suffered during the PSL 9 game between Lahore Qalandars and Karachi Kings. Notably, this will be Babar Azam's first assignment after his reinstatement as the white-ball captain of Pakistan. New Zealand are slated to reach Pakistan

on April 14 for the crucial series, leading to the ICC Men's T20I World Cup.

Rawalpindi's Pindi Cricket Stadium will host the first three T20Is between Pakistan and New Zealand on 18, 20 and 21 April. The two sides will then travel to Lahore to lock horns in the remaining two T20Is on 25 and 27 April, respectively.

Pakistan squad for T20I series against New Zealand:

Babar Azam (c), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Amir, Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Usman Khan, Zaman Khan, Usama Mir. Non-travelling reserve: Sahibzada Farhan, Haseebullah Khan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mohammad Ali, Salman Ali Agha

Gilani, Saidal elected Senate...

FROM PAGE 01 President Asif Ali Zardari had summoned the house to meet for its inaugural session today for the oath-taking of newly-elected members and the election of the Senate chairman and deputy chairman. When the session began today with Senator Ishaq Dar as the presiding officer, the PTI members launched the protest and demanded adjournment of the house till the election of senators from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Speaking on the floor of the house, PTI leader Senator Ali Zafar demanded the Senate election be deferred as Article 59 of the Constitution requires 96 members to be present in the house for the election of its chairman and that the "process would be unconstitutional till the house is complete". "We will not ac-cept this illegal election till the senators from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are duly elected and are present here,' he insisted. Lamenting that Senate polls in Punjab were held excluding the reserved seats, the PTI leader said that the election of the house's chairman and deputy chairman are being made "controversial".

Israeli proposal failed...

FROM PAGE 01 had been made in the negotiations. "There is no change in the position of the occupation (Israel) and therefore, there is nothing new in the Cairo talks," the Hamas official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. "There is no progress yet." Israel said it was keen to reach a prisoners-for-hostages deal, by which it would free a number of Palestinians jailed in its prisons in return for the hostages in Gaza, but it wasn't ready to end the military offensive before it invaded Rafah. Hamas wants any agreement to secure an end to Israeli military offensive, get Israeli forces out of Gaza and allow the displaced to return to their homes across the enclave. Rafah is the last

Prime Minister exchanges...

FROM PAGE 01 the unity of the Muslim Ummah and for the prosperity of Pakistan and Qatar. Besides, they also expressed their resolve to further deepening and solidifying relations between the two nations. Earlier, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone call with President of Republic of Turkiye, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to convey greetings on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul Fitr. Both leaders exchanged Eid greetings and sincere wishes for peace, prosperity and unity for the people of Pakistan and Turkiye.

PTI Spokesperson calls past.

RIYADH: Al Nassr star Cristiano Ronaldo was teased ns with "Messi"

SPORTS DESK

at the referee, The Sun rival team Al Hilal and the reported. Frustration took match referee on Monday night. Al Nassr went headover the former Manchesto-head against Saudi Pro ter United star, 39, as his League leaders Al Hilal and team was behind 2-0 before Ronaldo was not elated as heated up Al Hilal defender Al Bulayhi, 34, attempted to prevent Ronaldo from grabbing the

R OF CH

ball for a quick throw-in after he slipped it out of play. However, he appeared to square up the Portuguese footballer after he nudged him out of the way.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner allegedly rammed his elbow into Al Bulayhi's chest taking him down in a heap. The former Real Madrid star gestured to attempting to throw the ball at the referee before sarcastically flashing thumbs up to him after the official gave him a red card.

As he left the pitch, Ronaldo was taunted by "Messi" chants from the crowd. This is not the first time

that Al-Bulayhi has upset Ronaldo. Ronaldo accused Al Bulayhi of play-acting in a Saudi Pro League match last season, leading to Al Bulayhi being sent off after receiving two yellow cards. After Ronaldo was sent off the field, Sadio Mane scored a goal for Al NasPHF's negotiations with Oltmans break down

The PHF has decided in principle that a foreign coach except Oltmans will be hired

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF)'s ne-

not Oltmans. Negotiations have already started with a couple of international coaches from Spain and Holland. Hopefully, within the next few days we will be in a position to finalize the best available contender for the key post. There were some hurdles in hiring Oltmans as the head coach which turned out to be the reasons for not going ahead with our earlier plan," a PHF official, when contacted, said. The PHF within the next few days will announce the names of camp commandant and assistant coaches for the camp that gets underway in Islamabad from 16th. "All other team officials barring the head coach will be locals." The

departure for Azlan Shah Cup starting in Ipoh on May 4th.

Ronaldo shown red card during Al-Nassr vs Al-Hilal

gotiations with Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans broke down ahead of the start of the national hockey camp here at the Bunda Ground from April 16. The News has learnt that the PHF now looks for other options as the head coach of the national team for the two back-to-back international events starting with the Azlan Shah Cup from May 4-10 in Malaysia. The PHF has decided in principle that a foreign coach except Oltmans will be hired as the head coach for these internationals and also for the commitments ahead.

"We have decided to hire a foreigner as a head coach but first phase of the camp will start on April 16 till the team's

FROM PAGE 01 the country, ushering a new era of lawlessness, violation of the constitution law and democratic values in Pakistan. He stated that the independence of the judiciary was destroyed at all levels and it was made as the main facilitator in murdering the justice during these two years, adding that judges who insisted on the supremacy of the constitution and law were subjected of revenge and the judiciary was virtually rendered ineffective through open accusations, insults and division. PTI Spokesperson recalled that despite formal warnings by the Prime Minister Imran Khan and the then Finance Minister, the economy, which was growing at the rate of 6 percent per year, was brought below zero due to the ensuing political instability.

IBC denounces reference...

FROM PAGE 01 letter to the SJC detailing alleged harassment at the hands of state institutions. In the letter, the judges had accused the country's intelligence apparatus of interference in judicial affairs, including attempts to pressure judges through abduction and torture of their relatives and secret surveillance inside their homes. IHCBA former general secretary Mohammad Waqas alleged that IHC Justice Kayani "waged a war against the forces of Pakistan in a planned manner by inducing and convincing other judges of high court".

Dar appointed leader of...

FROM PAGE 01 Prime Minister to represent Government and to regulate Government business in the Senate with effect from April 9, 2024," said the notification. Earlier, PPP Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani was elected unopposed Senate chairman and PML-N's Syedaal Khan Nasar deputy chairman on Tuesday.

as he was sent off the field he seemingly got physical after a heated interaction with his opponents from

with his opponents and resisted throwing the ball

Arsenal eager

to contribute to

Munich's woes

LONDON: Arsenal head coach Mikel Arteta is eager to

contribute to Bayern Munich's ongoing woes as the Gun-

ners prepare to host the Bavarians at the Emirates Stadi-

um in the UEFA Champions League (UCL) quarter-finals

on Tuesday. Arsenal currently sit on the top of the Premier

League points table as they continue to fight with Liver-

pool and Manchester City for the league title while Bayern

are just one match away from losing the Bundesliga for the

first time since 2012. There is a strong chance that Thom-

as Tuchel's side goes trophyless as they have already lost

the league title and DFP Pokal and the Champions League

is their only salvage but Arteta would make sure that the

Bayern have dominated Arsenal in their UCL encoun-

ters in the past but as per Arteta, that is all history and

the Gunners are a much better side than they used to

be back in days. "That's history. When you look at their

history in the competition it's clear. We have to prove

"Football is such a competitive environment and it's so

"We are really enjoying the moment because this is where

we want to be. We are in a really good position in the Pre-

mier League and we are in a good position in the Cham-

pions League. "We have a big task ahead of us against

one of the [most] successful teams in Europe. That's the

hurdle we have to overcome and we are really looking for-

ward to it. "A lot of passion and emotion. We haven't had

this opportunity for 15 years so that tells you how special

this night is going to be for us. We are going to have put

everything into every ball to make it happen. - Agencies

hard to be consistent that this can happen to anybody.

Bavarians do not proceed to the next round.

that, that's for sure," Arteta said on Monday.

but the lost 2-1, sending Al Hilal to the

NZ announces venues for **England** Tests WELLINGTON: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Tues

day confirmed venues for the three-match Test series against England, scheduled later this year. The first two of the three World Test Championship matches will be played at Hagley Oval, Christchurch, from November 28 and at the Basin Reserve, Wellington, from December 6. The third and final Test will be at Hamilton's Seddon Park beginning December 14. There were capacity crowds for the first three days of both of New Zealand's recent home Tests against Australia and New Zealand five-day games against

Cricket (NZC) hope the England will also bring in fans in huge numbers. "In the past, there's often been a lot of talk in New Zealand about the popularity of Test cricket - without that translating into ticket sales or viewership numbers," NZC chief executive Scott Ween-

ink said. - Agencies

Saudi Super Cup where they will face Al Ittihad.

Besides Pakistan, New Zealand, Korea, Malaysia, Japan and Canada are to participate in the Azlan Shah Hockey. **Massive boost for Arshad** ahead of elusive event

Arshad will be trained by the world's most popular coach Terseus Liebenberg

WEB DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan's star javelin thrower Nadeem will depart for South Africa from Lahore on Thursday to undergo training for five weeks. Arshad confirmed his departure while talking to this correspondent on Monday. "Yes, I will fly on Thursday night," Arshad told The News. Arshad will be trained by the world's most

popular coach Terseus Liebenberg at the facility of the North West University. Terseus was named as the best coach of the past two decades by the South Africa Athletics Annual, a publication of the South Africa Athletics Statisticians in 2021-2022. Arshad will undergo training until May 15 before returning home. He will then focus on his progression under his local coach Salman Butt who has handled his rehab and training for the last few weeks here at the Punjab Stadium. Terseus has the world's best facilities at his disposal and it is a golden opportunity for Arshad to learn some new things and further enrich his knowledge of the game. He is a big sole Paris Olympics medal hope for Pakistan. In recent years he has been outstanding, having won double golds inside few days in the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and Turkey Islamic Games. In Birmingham he managed Games record throw of 90.18 metre which is also Arshad's best effort. Arshad recently underwent a laser surgery of his right knee under Dr Bajwa in Cambridge. He is under thorough watch of Bajwa who also has accompanied Arshad on various international events in the past. "We have worked hard on rehab," Arshad's coach Salman Butt told The News. "He has started managing standing throws. He is yet to throw with a run up and that's he manages while walking. We are going slowly so that we could give good enough time to injury to heal up," Butt said. "We are working on his different muscles. It was a ligament injury and the joint which it has held is a muscle structure. The ligament is also being healed," Butt said. "We have spent overtime in rehab and he is MashaAllah progressing well," Butt said. "I share with Terseus the areas on which I have worked and I tell him that these things are weak. They have a big set up, a massive machinery and we can say that they have top level javelin centre in the world," Butt said.

refuge for Palestinian civilians displaced by relentless Israeli bombardments that have flattened their home neighborhoods. It is also last significant redoubt of Hamas combat units, Israel says.

France, Spain tighten...

FROM PAGE 01

Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid, who face Manchester City and Borussia Dortmund respectively. In London, Arsenal take on Bayern Munich in their quarter-final on Tuesday night. Spanish police forces will deploy 2.000 extra officers to boost security in the capital for the two games, government spokesperson Pilar Alegria told reporters on Tuesday. She said the terrorism alert level had been raised to 4 on a scale of 5. Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the recent attack on a Moscow concert hall that killed at least 143 people.

KSE-100 crosses 70,000 mark

FROM PAGE 01 The benchmark KSE-100 index gained 694.73 points or 1% during the intraday trading to reach 70,314.71 points, up from the previous close of 69,619.98 points. Saudi Arabia pledged to accelerate the first instalment of a \$5 billion investment in Pakistan, with Islamabad vowing to streamline the process to bolster economic cooperation between the two nations. This commitment was made during a meeting between Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Makkah on Sunday night. The prime minister was on a threeday visit to seek economic assistance from the kingdom. Mohammed Sohail. CEO of Topline Securities, in a post-market note, said the stock market crossed 70,000 mark amid positive news on Saudi investment and deposits. "Continuous foreign buying [is] also helping equities. KSE-100 is now up almost 70% from June end," he added.

Atletico and Dortmund see rare UCL opportunity The duo are the underdog sides remaining in this season's quarter-finals

MADRID: Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund do has won virtually every trophy possible with the Rojiblanbattle on Wednesday with both teams conscious the tie offers their best chance of reaching the Champions League semi-finals in years. The duo are the underdog sides remaining in this season's quarter-finals, with the other six teams either among the elite, spending as if they were or boasting trophy-laden European histories. Atletico, who suffered a humiliating group stage exit last season, are fighting desperately to finish in the top four in La Liga, under pressure from Athletic Bilbao for the final Champions League qualifying spot.

Dortmund are languishing in fifth in the Bundesliga, although they did manage to escape a tricky group featuring Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan and Newcastle United. Spanish champions in 2014 and 2021, Atletico will consider themselves the stronger of the two sides, even though Diego Simeone's team oft prefer to be the unfancied outsiders. "We drew a very tough opponent, the Germans are always strong and there will be a great atmosphere in the return leg, so we need a good first leg," said Simeone in March. "We find a team that fought to win its league last year and that this year is experiencing a season similar to ours - it will be tough." The coach, 53, is one victory away from his 50th win in the Champions League, with only eight coaches reaching that figure prior. Simeone led Atletico to the semi-finals in 2017 and suffered agonising final defeats against arch-rivals Real Madrid in 2014 and 2016. Simeone

cos but Champions League failure remains the thorn in their side. Atletico defeated last season's runner-ups Inter Milan in the last 16 on penalties, showing they have the ability to go all the way. Defender Axel Witsel, who played at Dortmund for four years before joining Atletico in 2022,



has been one of his team's most consistent performers this season. Unlike Atletico, Dortmund have won the Champions League, albeit back in 1997 when they beat Juventus in the final. They were beaten by their own bitter rivals Bayern Munich in the 2013 final at Wembley, which was also the last time they managed to reach the semi-finals. While their domestic performances have left much to be desired, Dortmund did beat Bayern in March and have played well in Europe, with coach Edin Terzic taking it as a cause for hope. "It makes us a little frustrated when you see what we did against Bayern and in the Champions League and (I) wonder what might have happened had we shown this face more often," he said.

"Now we have a few more chances to show this face again." Dortmund have only suffered two defeats in 2024 across all competitions, albeit the second coming on Saturday against Stuttgart, and are the only German team to have won at Atletico's stadium in the Champions League.With current holders City, record 14-time winners Real Madrid, German giants Bayern Munich and the strongest Arsenal side in years in the other half of the draw, Atletico or Dortmund could even go one step further. The winner faces Barcelona or Paris Saint-Germain in the semi-finals, two sides far from their best level and with weaknesses to exploit. Yet more reason to believe for two hopefuls looking to break through Europe's glass ceiling in the 21st century. - Agencies

07

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Pertussis cases surge in Philippines, 54 deaths

MANILA : The Philippines Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday said that the contagious bacterial disease called pertussis continues to spread in the country, noting that 54 children have died from the respiratory disease.

From Jan. 1 to March 30, the DOH tallied 1,112 cases, or "almost 34 times that of the same period last year," with 54 deaths. "All 54 deaths are less than 5 years old," DOH Assis Agencies

Turkish forces nab 13 suspected Daesh militants

ANKARA : Turkish security forces have held 14 individuals with suspected links to the Daesh terrorist group within the scope of Operation Bozdogan-22, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya has said in a statement.

Simultaneous operations were carried out in central Eskisehir, southeastern Gaziantep, northern Samsun and northwestern Yalova provinces by the relevant police directorates, under the coordination of the chief public prosecutor's offices, the General Directorate of Security and counter-terrorism department, the minister said on Tuesday. Yerlikava said five suspects were captured in Eskisehir, six in Yalova, two in Gaziantep and another in Samsun during the operations. Carrving out over a thousand operations against Daesh since June 1, 2023, Turkish police apprehended over two thousand suspects. Türkiye, being one of the first countries to designate Daesh as a terrorist organisation, has faced multiple attacks by the group.-APP

Nigeria struggles with exodus of doctors and nurses

Israel's explanation for aid worker deaths unsatisfactory



Islamabad **POST**

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Australian PM Albanese said that he would consider diplomatic sanctions should Israel fail to provide more information

News Desk

SYDNEY: Israel is yet to provide a satisfactory explanation for the death of seven aid workers last week, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said as Australia appointed a senior former military official to study Israel's inquiry into the incident. Israel said on Friday its soldiers mistakenly believed they were attacking Hamas gunmen when airstrikes killed the mostly international group of World Central Kitchen staff, including Australian "Zomi" Frankcom. Two officers have been dismissed and others reprimanded. Albanese said the explanation for the deaths was not adequate. Given that almost 200 aid workers had been killed in the conflict, Israel also needed to provide more information about what it would do to prevent similar events in the future, he added. "We don't find the explanations satisfactory to this point," he said in an interview on state broadcaster. "We need proper accountability, full transparency about the circumstances and I think that is what the Australian public would expect." Al-



banese declined to say what actions Australia would consider adequate or whether he would consider diplomatic sanctions should Israel fail to provide more information. On Monday, Australia appointed a retired Air Force general to study Israel's investigation and advise Canberra whether the inquiry was sufficient and whether further action was needed to hold those responsible accountable. Foreign Minister Penny Wong said last month Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

was undermining his countrv's international standing with his approach to the war. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong has appointed retired defense force chief Mark Binskin as a special adviser working with Israel's military on continuing investigations. She said Australia "has made clear to the Israeli government our expectation and trust that this engagement will be facilitated." She said the Australian government "has been clear that we expect full accounta-

bility for these deaths." Wong said Binskin, a highly respected senior officer who also led Australia's air force, would examine "measures taken to hold those responsible for accounting." She added that he would also advise the Australian government on whether further investigations or consequences were warranted. US-based World Central Kitchen - founded by Spanish-American celebrity chef Jose Andres - said a "targeted attack" by Israeli forces had killed the seven aid workers. The group included 43-year-old Australian national Frankcom and British, Palestinian, Polish and US-Canadian employees. eanwhile, Albanese said Frankcom's vehicle had been clearly identified as belonging to an aid organisation and should not have been at risk. "Her being killed in this way is a catastrophic event that is devastating for her family but is also felt keenly by our nation," he said. The Australian leader said he had spoken with Netanyahu the previous day to demand "full accountability" and that Israel must conduct a transparent investigation whose findings

are made public "so that we find out how exactly this can occur.""There have been too many innocent lives lost in Gaza ... It shouldn't be the case that innocent Palestinians or people assisting them are made to pay the price for the actions of the terrorist group Hamas," he said. In a video message on Tuesday, Netanyahu said the killings were unintended and tragic but that "this happens in war". Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported on Tuesday that an Israeli drone had fired three missiles at the WCK convoy out of a mistaken belief that a Hamas member was travelling with them.

The report, which cited unnamed Israeli military sources, said the drone fired on three separate vehicles in succession, despite them being clearly marked with the WCK logo and even after the aid workers informed the Israeli military that they had been attacked.

WCK CEO Jose Andres said in an interview with Reuters on Wednesday that the Israeli military had targeted his employees "systematically, car by car".

Irish parliament to confirm Simon Harris as new PM order. Harris will become political rise. He joined the

WEB DESK

DUBLIN : Simon Harris will be formally appointed as Ireland's prime minister by parliament on Tuesday, replacing Leo Varadkar after he abruptly quit last month citing personal and political reasons. The centre-right Fine Gael party - part of a three-party governing coalition - selected the 37-year-old Harris as leader following an uncontested election after Varadkar's resignation. Pledging to re-energise and "reset" his party, Harris told a weekend conference of its members that he plans to

youth branch of Fine Gael Ireland's youngest ever "taoiseach" - a Gaelic word at the age of 16 and quickfor "chieftain" or "leader" ly rose through its ranks. pronounced "tee-shock" -A county councillor at the beating Varadkar, who was age of 22, he was elected to 38 when he took the role parliament as a 24-year-old in 2017. Varadkar, who was in 2011. t the time he was the youngest MP and was in his second stint as prime minister and at 45 still one nicknamed "Baby of the of Europe's youngest lead-Dail" (Irish parliament). He ers, said when he resigned was appointed health minister in 2016 aged just 29 he felt he was no longer the "best person" to lead and higher education minthe country. "Politicians ister in 2020. Even critics concede he is a talented are human beings. We have our limitations," he said on communicator. Harris's March 20 in Dublin, surprominence on social merounded by his Fine Gael dia, especially TikTok, has cabinet colleagues. "We made him one of the most give it everything until we visible politicians in Irecan't any more and then we land. The new taoiseach

ness crises, and criticism of government policy on asylum seekers. One of his first jobs will be to choose his cabinet of ministers. Harris said last week that some contenders will be "rightly delighted", while others will "feel a sense of personal disappointment". will do my very best to use the best judgment that I have in the mandate I've been given by this party to put together the best cabinet," he added. When he was selected last month, Harris told party's members that he would repay their faith with "hard work, with blood, sweat and tears, day in and day

Tesla settles lawsuit on autopilot crash death

WASHINGTON : Electric carmaker Tesla has settled a lawsuit brought by the family of an Apple engineer who was killed when his Model X swerved off a California highway while on autopilot. Tesla settled with the family of Wei Lun Huang in the wrongful death suit they filed over the crash in Mountain View, California in 2018, court filings showed on Monday. The settlement means that Tesla will avoid a jury trial that would have focused scrutiny on its self-driving technology months ahead of the scheduled launch of its self-driving Robotaxi in August. The amount Tesla paid to settle the case was not disclosed in court documents after the company asked that it remain under seal. Huang's family filed a negligence and wrongful death lawsuit in 2019 accusing Tesla of liability due to exaggerated claims about the firm's self-driving technology. They argued that Tesla's Autopilot feature was promoted in such a way as to make customers believe they did not have to remain alert when behind the wheel. Tesla materials warn that its self-driving requires a "fully attentive driver" who can "take over at any moment". Tesla's lawyers had argued Huang did not use the Autopilot system properly as he was playing a video game just before the accident. A 2018 investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board found both Tesla and Huang to be at fault in the crash. Tesla faces at least one other lawsuit over a fatal crash in 2019 that involved its self-driving technology.-DNA

MAPUTO :More than 100 people died after a ferry boat sank off the northern coast of Mozambique, President Filipe Nyusi said, and almost 20 others were still missing. An official from the country's Maritime Transport Institute (INTR-ASMAR) said the vessel carrying 130 passengers was an overloaded fishing boat and was not licensed to transport people. It was ferrying people from Lunga in Nampula province to Mozambique Island on Sunday, Lourenco Machado, an administrator of IN-TRASMAR, said on state television, adding that initial reports indicated that it was hit by a tidal wave. The passengers were reportedly fleeing a cholera outbreak, the Office of the Secretary of State for Nampula province said in a statement, adding that 10 people had been rescued and nearly 20 others were still missing. Nvusi said he was saddened by the tragedy and directed the southern African nation's transport minister to visit the island for investigation. "The Mozambican Government will meet tomorrow to assess the situation and take necessary measures to minimize the impact of this incident," his office said. Videos obtained by Reuters showed many bodies lying on a beach and some people carrying the bodies of children. Mozambique and other countries in Southern Africa have been battling cholera outbreaks since last year.-APP

Tokyo shares open higher after US tech gains

DNA

TOKYO : Tokyo stocks opened higher on Tuesday following gains of tech-related shares on Wall Street, with investors looking ahead to key US inflation data. The benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.56 percent, or 219.69 points, to while the broad er Topix index added 0.43 percent, or 11.81 points, to 2,740.13. The dollar fetched 151.82 yen against 151.85 yen in New York and 151.78 yen in Tokyo on Monday. "Japanese shares are expected to grow steadily, mainly as the yen continues to weaken against the dollar in the 151 yen range," Monex senior market analyst Toshiyuki Kanayama said. Traders were also waiting for key US consumer price readings due Wednesdav that are expected to influence the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy decisions. Wall Street stocks finished near flat Monday, but the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index nudged higher and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index also closed up. In Tokyo trading, semiconductor-linked shares were higher, with Tokyo Electron jumping 1.96 percent to 38,400 and Advantest rising 1.16 percent to 6,037 yen. Shin-Etsu Chemical gained 3.15 percent to 6,387 yen after the Nikkei business daily reported that the firm would build its first new plant to make chip materials in Japan in 56 years. Sony Group advanced 0.16 percent to 12,820 yen, while Uniqlo operator Fast Retailing rose 1.09 percent to 45,340 yen.

LAGOS: Faced with skyhigh inflation, low salaries and an overstretched healthcare system, doctors and nurses are leaving Nigeria in their thousands every year for better opportunities abroad. Between 15,000 and 16,000 doctors have departed in the past five years, according to Nigeria's Health Minister Muhammad Ali Pate. Todav, Africa's most populous country has just 55,000 doctors for a population of 220 million, he said. The exodus of healthcare workers has heaped extra strain on those who stay, and made choices tough for students thinking about their future. On his way to the Lagos State University College of Medicine, second-year medical student Hassan Adewunmi told AFP he was reluctantly prepared to find work elsewhere after graduating. "The elites prefer to seek treatment abroad rather than in Nigeria, and that says a lot about the state of hospitals in the country," the 19-year-old said. "And we ask why doctors and nurses don't want to stay."-APP

Google workers revolt over contract with Israel

NEW YORK: A growing number of Google employees have joined protests calling on the company to drop the \$1.2 billion contract that provides Israel with cloud and machine learning services, codenamed Project Nimbus.

Time magazine's recent coverage highlights the increasing influence of No Tech For Apartheid, a protest group that has taken a stand against Google's collaboration with Israel and now has around 40 Google staff among its members. Last week, Eddie Hatfield, a 23-year-old Google Cloud software engineer, stood up at Mind the Tech, an annual conference promoting the Israeli tech industry, shouting, "I am a Google Cloud software engineer, and I refuse to build technology that powers genocide, apartheid, or surveillance!" - Agencies

have to move on," he added. steer it back towards core values" like promoting business, farming, and law and minister caps a meteoric

France unearths

tragic migrant

had given him 50 euros before setting off and had kept the

same amount for himself. As Behzad was a Shiite Muslim,

"his family asked us to put a black cloth on his grave and to

place a special cake on top of it," Guerey said.-APP

Harris' crowning as prime

will face a formidable todo list, including tackling housing and homeless-

with responsibility, out, with humility and with civility".



BAKU : Bilal Hayee Held a farewell meeting with dear friend and Ambassador of China to Azerbaijan Ms. GUO Min. She is leaving Baku after completing her term. I was fortunate to benefit from Ambassador's deep understanding of the region and geostrategic environment of South Caucuses.-DNA

EU rights court condemns Switzerland over climate inaction The EU's top rights court rejected a similar claim against France filed by a former mayor and rejected as inadmissible a case against 32 states brought by a group of Portuguese youths

FOREIGN DESK

BERN :The EU's top rights court on Tuesday condemned Switzerland for violating the Convention on Human Rights through its inaction in the face of climate change in a landmark case brought by an association of elderly women. But the court rejected a similar claim against France filed by a former mayor and rejected as inadmissible a case against 32 states brought by a group of Portuguese youths. Protesters hold pennants during a rally before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decides in three separate cases if states are doing enough in the face of global warming. Protesters hold pennants during a rally before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decides in three separate cases if states are

doing enough in the face of global warming in rulings that could force them to do more, in Strasbourg, eastern France.

Europe's highest human rights court threw out cases Tuesday brought by six Portuguese youths and a French mayor aimed at forcing countries to meet international obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but sided with a group of senior Swiss women who also sought such measures. The European Court of Human Rights came down with decisions in a trio of cases brought by a French mayor, the six Portuguese youngsters and more than 2,000 members of Senior Women for Climate Protection, who say their governments are not doing enough to combat climate change. Lawyers for all three had hoped the Strasbourg court would find that national governments have

a legal duty to make sure global warming is held to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, in line with the goals of the Paris climate agreement. But Judge Siofra O'Leary, the president of the European Court of Human Rights, came down with mixed judgements. Judgments from the European Court of Human Rights aren't legally binding for all 46 of the European Council's member states, but they set a legal precedent against which future lawsuits would be judged. Although activists have had successes with lawsuits in domestic proceedings, this was the first time an international court ruled on climate change. Ahead of the ruling, a large crowd gathered in front of the court building to cheer and wave flags, including climate activist Greta Thunberg, who was

coming off of multiple arrests during a demonstration in The Hague over the weekend. "We're nervous. Nervous and excited," said Cláudia Agostinho, a 24-year-old who is one of the six Portuguese who brought the case to the Strasbourg court. The decisions have "the potential to be a watershed moment in the global fight for a livable future. A victory for any of the three cases would be one of the most significant developments on climate change since the signing of the Paris Agreement" said Gerry Liston, a lawyer with the Global Legal Action Network, which is supporting the Portuguese students. The European Union, which doesn't include Switzerland, currently has a target to be climate-neutral by 2050. Many governments have said that meeting a 2030 goal would be economically unattainable.

The groups were confident that the 17 judges would rule in their favor, but the mixed decision could undermine a previous ruling in the Netherlands. In 2019, the Dutch Supreme Court ordered the government to cut emissions by at least 25% by the end of 2020 from benchmark 1990 levels. The Urgenda decision, referring to the climate group that brought the case, relied on the European Convention of Human Rights. It could be overturned if Tuesday's decision concludes there is no legal obligation for countries to combat climate change. "A court ruling is binding on all countries," said Dennis van Berkel, who represented Urgenda in the Netherlands. Such considerations were not predominantly on the mind of 16-year-old André dos Santos Oliveira of Portugal.

Mongolia issues warning over heavy dust, snow storms

ULAN BATOR, April 9 (Xinhua/APP):Heavy dust and snow storms will hit large parts of Mongolia starting Thursday, the country's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said Tuesday.

The wind speed is expected to reach 24 meters per second (86.4 km per hour) causing poor road visibility, the agency said, adding that the unstable weather conditions are expected to continue through the weekend. NEMA urged citizens, especially nomadic herders, to take extra precautions against possible disasters.

Mongolia has a harsh continental climate, and strong winds, dust and snow storms are common in spring.-DNA







Briefs **Turkiye** imposes export restrictions on Israel

ANKARA: Turkiye will impose restrictions on the export of products from 54 different categories to Israe until a ceasefire is declared in Gaza, the Turkish Trade Ministry said on Tuesday, adding the measures would take effect immediately.

In a statement following Ankara's announcement that it would be taking measures after Israel rejected its request to take part in an aid air-drop, the ministry said the restrictions would include iron and steel construction products, equipment and products, machines and more. Israel vowed Tuesday to take steps against Turkiye, accusing it of violating trade deals between the two

countries after Ankara announced trade restrictions over the war in Gaza. "Turkiye is unilaterally violating the trade agreements with Israel, and Israel will adopt the necessary steps against it," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz sharply criticized Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for the decision. "Erdogan has sacrificed the economic interest of Turkiye's people for the sake of his support of Hamas murders in Gaza," Katz said on X. "Israel will not submit to violence and extortion... and will adopt against Turkiye similar steps that will harm the Turkish economy.' Israel is now preparing an "expanded list of products" it intends to stop importing from Turkiye, the ministry said, including construction materials like steel and cement. - Agencies

UK Foreign SecyCameron meets with Trump

FM Wang: China to 'strengthen strategic coop' with Russia

"Xi Jinping [...] was among the first ones to send congratulations to the president-elect Putin, and we are overall grateful to our Chinese friends for this support," Lavrov said, according to a video of the meeting

News Desk

BEIJING: China's top diplomat said on Tuesday that Beijing would strengthen strategic cooperation with Moscow and that the two must stand on the side of "fairness and justice" as he met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. Lavrov arrived in China for a two-day official visit on Monday, with the two countries looking to deepen diplomatic ties as Russia's war in Ukraine grinds on. Russia and China have in recent years ramped up contacts, and their strategic partnership has only grown closer since the invasion of Ukraine. Lavrov held discussions with President Xi Jinping on Tuesday afternoon, Chinese state media announced, in a previously undisclosed meeting.

State broadcaster CCTV showed footage of chairs arranged around a glossy table in an opulent room in Beijing's Great Hall of the People ahead of the talks. In earlier meetings on Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi promised: "China will support Russia's stable development under the leadership of (Vladimir) Putin. "Beijing and Moscow will continue to strengthen strategic cooperation on the world stage and provide each other with strong support," Wang said, according to Russia's RIA Novosti news agency. "Under the strong leadership of President Putin, the Russian people will have a bright future," he said. Lavrov, in turn, thanked China for its "support" after Putin's recent re-election, in which he was unchallenged by any meaningful opposition. "Xi Jinping [...] was among the first ones to send congratulations to the presi-

dent-elect Putin, and we are overall grateful to our Chinese friends for this support," Lavrov said, according to a video of the meeting shared by Izvestia on Telegram. "The election results confirmed the deep trust of the Russian people in our leader and the ongoing domestic and foreign policies," he added, according to RIA Novosti. "This applies not least to the course to strengthen strategic interaction and partnership with the PRC," the top diplomat said, referring in the relationship with Russia, with its sway growing as Moscow's international isolation deepens following its invasion of Ukraine. That asymmetry is still "changing in China's favour" as it enables Moscow "to continue the war by providing very necessary materials for the Russian war machine", Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, told AFP. "Integrating Russia's economy, brainpower, and military technology into... a Chinese-led order with Eurasia at its geographic heart, is the only way Russia can sustain its confrontation with the West," he wrote in Foreign Policy magazine this week.

"China has stronger bargaining power and many more options than does Russia, and its leverage over its northern neighbour is

Demanding army deployment Sindh home minister **Lanjarslams MQM-P**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar Tuesday slammed the leadership of the MuttahidaQa-umi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) over their statement demanding that Karachi be handed over to the Pakistan Army owing to its worsening law and order situation. The minister also termed statements made by MQM-P

growing all the time," he added. "Russia is now locking itself into vassalage to China." 'Unlawful sanctions' US officials have recently warned Beijing against providing indirect aid to the Russian war effort and regularly urge China to wield its influence to help bring about peace in Ukraine.

In Brussels last week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters that "China continues to provide materials to support Russia's defence industrial base". And Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who wrapped up a visit to China on Monday, said she had warned officials of the consequences of supporting Russia's military procurement. But Lavrov on Tuesday drew a parallel between the West's "unlawful sanctions" and efforts to curb China's access to sensitive US-made technologies. At a press conference following bilateral talks, he accused the West of seeking to impede China's "economic, technological development opportunities, to put it simply in order to eliminate the competitors". Wang, in turn, declared that Russia and China "always stick to the correct path on great matters of principle". "China and Russia must take a clear-cut stand on the side of historical progress, on the side of

fairness and justice," he said. "(We must) oppose all acts of hegemony, tyranny and bullying; oppose Cold War thinking and separatist provocations; and actively push for the construction of a common future for all humankind," he said. "As a force for peace and stability, China will stick to playing a constructive role on the international stage [...] and will never add oil to the flames," he added.

Ukraine **'losing' war: Schumer**

WASHINGTON: US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer says Ukraine is "losing" the war against Russia as it is running out of ammunition, calling on the Republican-led House of Representatives to pass billions of dollars in aid for Kiev. Speaking on the Senate floor on Monday, Schumer urged Speaker Mike Johnson and House Republicans to "snap out of their paralysis and pass the Senate's national security supplemental" as, "The situation in Ukraine is desperate."

In February, the Senate passed a \$95.3 billion aid package, backed by President Joe Biden, which includes about \$60 billion to support Ukraine. It has been stalled for weeks in the House as Republican Johnson has refused to allow a vote. Noting that Kiev "continues to run out" of ammunition and soldiers, Schumer described the aid package as "the best, quickest, and most realistic way to get Ukraine the help it needs". "Let's be blunt: the biggest reason Ukraine is losing the war is because the hard-right in the Congress has paralyzed the United States from acting," he added. Russia launched what it calls "a special military operation" in Ukraine on February 24, 2022, to 'defend people' there from Kiev and over perceived threat of ex-Soviet republic joining NATO. - Agencies

viding protection to the life and property of citizens," the politician said in a statement, questioning Lanjar why the police were not taking action to apprehend street criminals. While citizens remain vulnerable to street crimes in Karachi, the home minister said he is satisfied with the city's law and order situation, adding that it will take some time for it to come under control. The minister also claimed that action was taken by the police against criminals with several accused arrested in the last few days. "No criminal will be spared," the minister maintained. Lanjar added that action will also be taken against the police officer in the area where the crime is committed.

A day earlier, a private news channel reported the killing of at least 19 citizens during mugging incidents in the holy month of Ramadan. As per the report, 6,780 incidents took place in Karachi in one street crime month, while 20 vehicles were snatched and more than 130 others stolen. The report further revealed that 830 motorcycles were snatched and 4,200 others stolen during Ramadan. Whereas, the number of mobile phones snatched was 1,600, it said. Speaking about the issue of dacoits in kaccha areas of Sindh, the minister said that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon is currently in Ghotki to observe the situation. "The government will give the dacoits of kaccha areas a chance to surrender," he said.



restored in Pakistan

after brief outage

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: British Foreign Secretary David Cameron has met with ex-president Donald Trump in Florida ahead of a visit to Washington to meet his US counterpart as the UK is affirming support for Ukraine and Israel. According to media reports. Cameron met Trump on Monday night, on the eve of a planned trip to Washington. In a statement on Monday, a Foreign Office spokesperson had announced that the foreign secretary would meet Trump in Florida. "It is standard practice for ministers to meet with opposition candidates as part of their routine international engagement," the spokesperson added. The meeting took place as the UK is pushing to shore up support for Ukraine and unblock a new package of aid that hinges on ratification from the House of Representatives. In February, the Senate passed a \$95.3 billion aid package, backed by President Joe Biden. The bill, which includes about \$60 billion to support Ukraine, has been stalled for weeks in the House as Republican Speaker Johnson has refused to allow a vote. The Telegraph reported that Cameron and the presumptive Republican presidential candidate also discussed the future of NATO and the Israeli war on Gaza.

on Tuesday. While no reason could be identified for the brief disruption in internet connectivity, sources within the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) told Geo News that the outage could have been caused by the submarine cable being affected. Sources in the telecom industry shared said that the outage appears to be an internal matter. It should be noted that restoring internet suspension is the responsibility of PTA and telecom operators.

Mehtab Pirzada

ISLAMABAD: Internet services across the

country were restored after a brief outage

The users of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd. internet service also reported the outage as recorded on Downdetector, an online platform showing real-time information on various websites and services. Meanwhile, other services also showed a dip in connectivity on the platform. This is the second time in the last two months that internet connectivity has been disrupted in Pakistan.

Earlier, the telecom regulator shut

larly when visiting polling stations. On the other hand, social media platform X, formerly Twitter, has remained suspended

down the internet for almost an entire

The internet was shut down citing security

reasons with citizens facing connectivity

issues throughout the election day, particu-

day on February 8.

since February 17 in Pakistan. The closure of the micro-blogging site has been challenged in the Islamabad High Court with Chief Justice Aamer Farooq summoning the interior secretary on April 17. the next date of the case's hearing.

Last month, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi sought a review of social media laws to "stop its misuse"

His statement came after Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atta Tarar's admission that the social networking app was suspended in the country. Tarar, responding to queries regarding

X's suspension, said that the platform was already banned when they came to power, whereas, there was no official notification regarding the ban.

third AAP leader detained in the case was given bail this month after being imprisoned for six months.

Court rejects plea challenging Kejriwal 's arrest

NEW DELHI:An Indian court on Tuesday rejected an appeal against the arrest of opposition leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a graft case, an order that disappointed the opposition 10 days before general elections.

Kejriwal, 55, was arrested by the financial crime-fighting agency Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in connection with corruption allegations related to Delhi's liquor policy, sparking protests in the capital and the northern state of Punjab, also governed by his AamAadmi Party (AAP).

A city court last week extended Kejriwal's detention until April 15 and moved him to Delhi's Tihar jail, where two senior AAP leaders are also held in the same case. A In its order on Tuesday, the Delhi High Court said Kejriwal's arrest was not in contravention of the law and "cannot be termed as illegal". AAP said it would appeal to the Supreme Court and reiterated its position that the high-profile leader was arrested in a "fabricated" case in an attempt by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government to "finish" him. The government and BJP have denied the accusations.

"It is the biggest conspiracy of India's history ... to finish Arvind Kejriwal, his political party, and his two governments in Delhi and Punjab," AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj told reporters. "We are not satisfied with this decision and we will go to the Supreme Court against this decision," he said. The BJP said the court's decision was based on hard facts and had "shattered the arrogance" of AAP and its "self-proclaimed honest" leader. - Agencies

leaders as a stunt for cheap fame, adding that the army is only called in during a war-like situation. "According to the Constitution, there is a procedure for calling the army. The army is only called in during a situation of war," said Lanjar, responding to the statements amid the city's deteriorating law and order situation. A day earlier, MQM-P leader Syed Mustafa Kamal demanded that Karachi be handed over to Pakistan Army for three months to control the rising rate of crimes in the city. "Karachi should be handed over to the army for three months as the Sindh government is not serious in pro-



ICCI President hails KSA's decision to invest \$5 billion in Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has highly appreciated Saudi Arabia's decision to fast track the initial tranche of \$5 billion investment in Pakistan. It is important to mention here that the decision has been taken in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman in Makkah the other day. Last year Saudi Arabia had promised to invest \$25 billion within next 5 years under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) seeking investment in energy IT, minerals, defence and agriculture sectors from the Arab countries. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari in a statement said that along with sitting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the last visits of COAS General Asim Munir, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-HaqKakar and Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Gohar Eiaz played a significant role in materializing the deal.

He said that Saudi Arabia has always played a supportive role for strengthening Pakistan's economy and people's welfare in general. Adding that it is crucial for both Pakistani and Saudi businessmen to determine areas of complementarity and comparative advantage between the two countries. The chambers of commerce on both ends need

more frequent interaction and a framework for required legal reforms, which will ensure a smooth return on investments. Furthermore, Pakistan-Saudi traders' exhibitions should take place in major cities to market resources and attract FDI into Pakistan. A free trade agreement is also possible. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari added that business community of Pakistan especially the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry is determined to stimulate the business and commercial activities in Pakistan with the coordination of international partners to make the country a paradise for foreign investors

He said that there are huge trade opportunities between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The current economic and political environment has made Saudi Arabia an important partner for economic development and lucrative market for exports of Pakistan. There are huge potentials available for Pakistan to enhance its trade and investment ties with Saudi Arabia in textile, pharmaceutical, rice, leather, seafood, dairy farming and other sector which need to be explored for enhancement of Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia. He concluded the statement by saying that Saudi Arabia has always stood shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan in difficult times and that this time also the Saudi investment will go a long way in pulling the cash stashed Pakistan to come out of the prevailing economic mess.

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