

Islamabad POST



Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Australian HC opens 'The guiding light' exhibition

Detailed News On Page-08

Russia warns of direct clash with West

Detailed News On Page-07

Babar Azam opens up on loss against NZ

Detailed News On Page-06

Turning point in bilateral ties

Pak-Iran trade volume to be taken to \$10 bn

Pakistan, Iran agree on joint efforts to eradicate terrorism, promote cooperation in diverse fields

ARID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi has said the trade volume between the two countries is not up to the mark therefore we have resolved to take this volume to \$10 billion per year. He made this disclosure during a joint press stakeout after signing the MoU in various sectors. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also spoke on the occasion. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, in a meeting held here at the PM House on Friday, agreed to bolster bilateral relations in diverse fields, particularly in combating terrorism in the region. The meeting saw a comprehensive exchange on enhancing Iran-Pakistan relations across various sectors, underscoring the significance of fostering stronger ties between the two nations. Key areas of discussion included strategies to augment trade volumes and bolster communication networks, reflecting a shared commitment to advancing economic collaboration. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the historical significance of President Raisi's visit, marking it as the first head of state visit to Pakistan following the February 2024 general elections, a gesture warmly embraced by the Pakistani nation. President Raisi, upon his arrival at the PM House, was accorded a guard of honor, showcasing the esteemed welcome extended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation. President Raisi's three-day official visit, accompanied by a delegation comprising ministers and businessmen, underscores the depth of bilateral engagement between the two countries. Pakistan, Iran sign eight accords to strengthen bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors. Pakistan and Iran on Monday signed a total of eight accords on various subjects to enhance cooperation in

Islamabad's 11th avenue renamed as 'Iran Avenue'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Close on the heels of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's official visit to Pakistan, the federal government on Monday renamed Islamabad's 11th Avenue as 'Iran Avenue', a sign of the strengthening and consolidation of bilateral ties and friendship between the neighbouring countries. According to details, the Interior Ministry has, after the approval, written a letter to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) seeking the implementation on the order to rename the highway running through the capital. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi touched down in Islamabad on a three-day Pakistan visit on Monday morning. Upon arrival at the Nur Khan Airbase, Raisi was warmly received by Federal Minister Riaz Hussain Pirzada. This is the first visit by any head of state to Pakistan after the general elections in February 2024. During his stay in Pakistan, Raisi will meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq,

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

PTI leaders' names removed from ECL

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development, the federal government on Monday removed the names of Murad Saeed among other Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, who were part of the then cabinet, from Exit Control List (ECL), a private news channel reported citing sources. Sources told that the federal cabinet approved the removal of their names from the ECL on recommendation of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and sent copies of a notification issued in this regard to all the authorities concerned.

Nawaz to 'undergo health checkup' in China

Nawaz will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif will embark on a five-day "personal visit" to China on Monday, sources told Geo News. According to sources within the party, Nawaz's visit is of a personal nature during which he will undergo a medical checkup. The sources revealed that the former premier would also hold meetings related to the development works of Punjab. The former premier, the sources shared, is also scheduled to meet the owners of Chinese companies. Nawaz, on his five-day visit, will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. No more details are available regarding the visit of PML-N leaders.

PTI to hold protests

Spy chiefs should apologize for 'meddling' in polls

Hamid Raza seeks filing of FIR under Article 6 against ECP, Punjab govt

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced to hold a strong protest demonstrations across the country against the blatant and brazenly rigged bypolls on Friday and demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to withhold the notifications of those who fraudulently secured victory because it could not be called an elections in anyway but a farce. Addressing the press conference along with PTI Secretary General and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan and Suni-tised Council (SNC) Chairman Sahabzada Hamid Raza, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the by-elections were to hold the government accountable, but unfortunately, what was done on the day of the by-elections in Punjab it was a dark and shameful day for democracy. He said that the mandate thieves resorted to such shameful and vindictive steps to coercive people and officials to rig elections in presence of

Continued on Page 06

PML-N claims victory on most NA, provincial seats

PML-N wins 2 out of 5 NA, 10 out of 16 provincial assembly seats.

PPP, PTI/SIC, IPP, PML-Q win 1 provincial assembly seat each.

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) workers and supporters celebrated after the party emerged victorious on most National and provincial assembly seats in the April 22 by-elections following the announcement of unofficial results. The party, according to the unofficial and inconclusive results, claimed at least two out of five National Assembly seats,

Continued on Page 06

Mr. PM national game is at the verge of annihilation

The Azlan Shah Hockey Cup in Malaysia is fast approaching, slated for the first week of May. However, there's still uncertainty looming over which team will represent Pakistan in the tournament: the one currently undergoing rigorous training in Islamabad or the contingent stationed in Karachi

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In the fabric of a nation's identity, few threads are as vibrant and enduring as its national game. It symbolizes unity, heritage, and the collective spirit of its people. Yet, behind the cheers of victory and the camaraderie of competition, there lies a sobering reality: the imminent threat of annihilation facing our national game. The roots of this crisis run deep, stemming from a variety of factors that have gradually eroded the foundation of our national game. Economic constraints, dwindling interest among the youth, and neglect from authorities have all contributed to its decline. What was once a source of national pride and

passion has now been reduced to a mere shadow of its former self. At the heart of this predicament lies a lack of vision and commitment from those in positions of power. The custodians of our national game, including policymakers and sports administrators, have failed to institute meaningful reforms and initiatives to revitalize its dwindling fortunes. Instead, bureaucratic inertia and short-sighted decision-making have allowed the decay to fester unchecked. Presently, Pakistan's hockey landscape is divided into two factions, each asserting its authority over the Pakistan Hockey Federation. Teriq Baigti, appointed by caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, helms one faction, while the other is led by Karachi MP Ms. Shehla Raza.

Continued on Page 06



Israel fails to provide evidence for allegations against UNRWA staff

AGENCIES

LONDON: Israel has not provided evidence to support claims that staff members of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, participated in the Oct. 7 attacks, an independent review led by the former French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna revealed. The Colonna review, drafted with the assistance of three Nordic research institutes, underscores the lack of substantiation for broader allegations made by Israel in March, accusing numerous UNRWA employees of affiliating with

Continued on Page 06

11 terrorists killed in NW, DI Khan: ISPR

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: On 21/22 April 24, eleven terrorists have been sent to hell in two different operations in Muzher Pakhtunkhwa. An intelligence based operation was conducted in Dera Ismail Khan District on reported presence of terrorists. During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange, ten terrorists were successfully neutralised and sent to hell. In another encounter in North Waziristan

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan on track to secure new loan from IMF

Aurangzeb anticipates decrease in inflation to single digits by next year

KSE-100 index breaches 71,000

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed confidence in securing a fresh and bigger IMF loan, and highlighted the positive shifts in macroeconomic factors, aiming to bolster the country's struggling economy. In an interview with an international newspaper, the FM noted stabilization in the currency and anticipated a decrease in inflation to single digits by next year. The interview came following discussions at the recent IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington. Aurangzeb said, "We have entered as a country this year in a better shape, compared to where we were this time last year." He said that macroeconomic indicators were moving in Pakistan's favour. "He also sounded optimistic that Pakistan's currency has finally stabilized and

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

TURKISH AIRLINES

BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY

Stopover IN ISTANBUL

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/turkishairlines) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/turkishairlines) [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/turkishairlines)

+91 21 264 86 332 | FREEMETEL.OTTEL.COM

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

EASY VISA

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

FREE ACCOMMODATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

BISP and NAVTTC sign MoU for skills training

ISLAMABAD: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) at BISP HQs today. The primary objective of this MoU is to establish a robust framework for cooperation between NAVTTC and BISP in executing the Skills Training Vouchers Programme. This initiative is specifically designed to extend access to high-quality technical and vocational education to members of BISP beneficiary families.

The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of distinguished personalities, including Chairperson BISP, Dr. Muhammad Anis Saqib, who witnessed the historic moment. Representing BISP, Ms. Saira Atta, Director General (CI), and from NAVTTC, Mr. Shafiq Khokhar, Director General (VET), formally inked the agreement, symbolising a commitment to mutual cooperation and shared objectives. Among the esteemed participants were Mr. Amir Jan, Executive Director NAVTTC, and Ms. Guimna Bilal Ahmed, Director General NAVTTC, alongside Director Generals from BISP, collectively underscoring the significance and collective dedication towards this collaborative endeavour.—APP

Youth commits suicide

SARGODHA: A youth committed suicide over a marriage issue in Sillanwala police limits on Monday. Police said that Samar Hayat of Chak No 128 NB took his own life by consuming poisonous pills over the marriage issue. He was shifted to a local hospital in serious condition but he died. Police handed over the body to the family after completing formalities.—APP

DC for cutting down use of plastic on World Earth Day

BAHAWALPUR: Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaher Anwar Jappa has stated that the misuse of plastic and the safe management of waste are essential for human life survival and environmental protection. The Punjab government is imposing a complete ban on the use of plastic bags from June 5. This decision was communicated during a briefing held in the committee room of the Bahawalpur Waste Management Company and the Department of Environment Protection Bahawalpur on the occasion of Earth Day on April 22. Various representatives from the city's merchant community and brands were briefed on the importance of not using plastic. The briefing was led by CEO BWMC Muhammad Naem Akhtar, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Taveer Shah, Manager Operations BWMC Imtiazullah, and others were present at the occasion. CEO BWMC Muhammad Naem Akhtar highlighted the dangerous effects of plastic usage and emphasised that the use of plastic, especially polythene bags, is prohibited worldwide due to its harmful impacts. He mentioned that the Punjab government is taking strict measures to prevent the use of plastic bags in Pakistan.—APP

WASA cuts off 60 sewerage connections

FAISALABAD: The revenue teams of Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) disconnected sewerage connections of 60 defaulters during the last week. According to officials, the revenue department of the agency also made a recovery of Rs 2.6 million during the week. As many as 35 connections were disconnected in the west zone and recovery of over Rs 982,672 was made while 25 connections were disconnected in the east zone in addition to recovery of over Rs 1.8 million from consumers.—APP

President ICCI urges diaspora investment in Pakistan

Pakistan is an excellent destination for foreign investments and Pakistani diaspora should come forward to play its more active role in the development of the country

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan is an excellent destination for foreign investments and Pakistani diaspora should come forward to play its more active role in the development of the country through investments not only by itself but alluring foreign investors as well. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said this while talking to Pakistani-American, Chairman and CEO of Falcon Holding LLC Texas, United States who called on him along with a delegation here on Monday. He said that there exists huge potential for investments in infrastructure development, construction of hospitals and especially in the development of the industrial sector to enhance exports of the country. He added that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry will extend



every help to the diaspora and foreign investors to facilitate them on this count. Chairman and CEO of Falcon Holding LLC Texas, United States apprised the President and

other attendees about the working of his entity and expressed keen interest in making investments in different areas of his interest. He also informed the participants about the social services he in his

personal capacity extending in the form of a delegation for exploring avenues of joint ventures. Chairman Founder Group, Khalid Iqbal Malik drew attention of the guests towards to alarming low literacy standard in the country and impressed for giving priority to the sector for enhancing the literacy rate. Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistani diaspora is actually the Ambassadors of Pakistan and we have utmost respect for it and hope that they will continue to contribute for the betterment of the country. Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zahir Ahmed Malik described the diaspora as great asset of Pakistan by assuring all out support for its businesses in Pakistan. The attendees include Assad Aziz, Malik Nadeem Akhtar, Masood Talib, Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, Khalid Chaudhry, Ch. Mohammad Ali and other.

Mobilink bank carries out nationwide plantation drive

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers

MEHRTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Living up to its standing as a responsible corporate entity, Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, carried out a nationwide plantation drive to help enhance the country's forest cover as well as mitigate the looming impacts of climate change. Mobilink Bank's teams from all 106 branches nationwide participated in the drive with remarkable enthusiasm and planted approximately 5000 saplings to protect the environment and hand down a serene and greener Pakistan to future generations. The campaign was part of Mobilink Bank's Climate

Action Program, Change to Sustain, which envisions a sustainable and prosperous Pakistan that is resilient and effectively shielded against the far-reaching impacts of climate change. Sustainability is at the heart of the Bank's corporate philosophy, which seeks to replicate through impactful social responsibility initiatives for the broader societal benefit. Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of world's population. Apart from the teams from Mobilink Bank branches,

senior officials from district administration, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), faculty members of various educational institutions, and members of civil society also attended the plantation drives in multiple cities and towns. They expressed hope that the endeavor will boost environmental protection, besides improving air quality and the natural beauty of the urban and rural centers, thereby positively impacting the lives of citizens. Sharing his thoughts regarding the plantation drive, Chief Operating Officer of Mobilink Bank, Harris Mahmood Chaudhary, said, "Mobilink Bank is proud to achieve the remarkable milestone of planting approximately

5000 trees nationwide under its Climate Action Program, Change to Sustain. The program stems from our organizational values of sustainability and social responsibility, where we seek to create shared value for the communities we serve. The need for aggressive plantation cannot be overstated, as Pakistan is amongst the top eight countries most affected by climate change. Our program strengthens the sustainability commitments, mainly women. We firmly believe we can build a sustainable and prosperous future for our country."

IMF's \$3B package spurs call for tax reform: Dr Aftab

Dr Aftab Madni stressed that the IMF has explicitly recommended that there has to be uniformed tax on cigarettes regardless of their national or multinational brand

KARACHI: Dean of Indus University, Dr Aftab Madni has said that it is encouraging that Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has green light to the masses that the country could get \$3 billion package from International Monetary Fund (IMF) considered to be vital for sustenance of falling economy. However, he underlined the need to implement the recommendations of the IMF regarding tax reforms in a true spirit. "Pik and chos wouldn't help the reform process" he said. In a statement on Monday, Dr Aftab Madni stressed that the IMF has explicitly recommended that there has to be uniformed tax on cigarettes regardless of their national or multinational brand. He said that this alone will generate revenue in billions. He said cigarette was a non-essential item and the government wouldn't face any public backlash if it moves ahead as per IMF recommendations. About 9 percent of Pakistanis were smokers and the volume of second-hand smoking still has to be explored, he said adding that the cigarettes need to be made expensive in any case. The Dean of Indus University said that cigarette causes disease and deaths that have to be accounted for. He appreciated Dr Hassan Shehzad from International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU), for being the only researcher whose report has been referred to by the IMF in its recommendations for tax reforms. Dr Madni said that the report has clearly established a link between consumption and affordability. Dr Shehzad quoted the minister as saying, "The country's current \$3 billion arrangement with the fund runs out in late April and the government is seeking a long-term and bigger loan to help bring permanence to macroeconomic stability as well as an umbrella under which the country can execute much-needed structural reforms." He added that reports have mentioned that cigarette industry was responsible for a loss of \$657 billion to the national exchequer in less than a decade. He said that the finance minister has a profound background in banking and it was normal for a banker to understand the volume of losses a product injurious to human health can cause. Imposing uniformed tax on tobacco products was too little and too late, he said, but it has to be done.—DNA

Iranian president's Pakvisit promises future trade deals :Atif Ikram Sheikh

Establishing a joint special economic zone at government-to-government level will benefit the economy



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Atif Ikram Sheikh, has welcomed the visit of the Iranian President to Pakistan and stated that the establishment of a joint special

economic zone between Pakistan and Iran is a positive step towards enhancing economic relations between the two countries. Pakistan and Iran have huge opportunities for cooperation in agriculture, trade, investment and IT sectors. Both countries not only desire mutual cooperation but have also achieved the goal of enhancing bilateral trade up to five billion dollars under a treaty, he added. President Federation Atif Ikram said that Establishing strong trade relations with Iran is a positive step for the economy and we should aim to strengthen the Pakistan-Iran agenda by enhancing cooperation in various sectors such as trade, energy and agriculture. During the Iranian President's visit to Pakistan, the possibility of signing joint agreements is promising and the establishment of a bilateral economic zone at the government-to-government level will benefit the economy. Atif Ikram added that Trade relations between Pakistan and Iran have been established for years but the current trade volume is much lower than its potential. To enhance this, both countries need to make positive progress in bilateral trade cooperation, remove barriers in two-way trade, finalize free trade agreements and establish institutional links between private sectors.

PPP progresses in resolving city issues

NAZIR SYAL

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Peoples Party is clearly progressing towards resolving the city's issues. In the elections, our manifesto was clear - serving the people. Old City Area of Karachi was being revitalized with a budget of Rs 10 million. Every worker of the Peoples Party will be dedicated to solving the citizens' problems. He mentioned this while talking to media representatives after lying the foundation stone for CC flooring and roads in Fish Market and surrounding ar-

esses along with Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad. President of PPP district South Khalid Hossain, Mayor Karachi's representative for political affairs Karanullah Waqas, and other elected representatives of South District and local leaders were also present on this occasion. Murtaza Wahab stated that Bilqees Eddi Park was constructed in the same area and many streets were paved a year ago, which provided convenience to the residents. Efforts will be made to complete the ongoing projects here as soon as possible, he said. The development and progress

of Karachi was the vision of the Peoples Party, and we will undertake further development projects to enhance municipal services and make them more sustainable in every area of Karachi, he said. In response to a question, Mayor Karachi mentioned that when he came into office, he conducted an operation against the water mafia and disconnected illegal connections. Water supply scheme from Hub Dam has been prepared and released in the work on Hub Canal will be visible in the next year. Projects worth two billion rupees are also starting soon in Malir district, he said.

KP tourism advisor urges swift project completion

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism Culture, and Archeology, Zahid Chanzab has stressed on the urgent completion of tourism activities and projects to achieve 100 percent set goals for the development of tourism.

He indicated that the government would evaluate the performance of the departments based on the achievement of the targets and would release funds as per the performance, adding that the institutions will perform would be strongly encouraged and funded. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of Khyber De-

velopment Authority (KDA) at Paktunkhwa, said a press release issued here Monday. The Tourism Advisor issued clear instructions to the KDA to take concrete steps to develop tourism in the area and provide more facilities to tourists. He said that the development strategy should include provision of quality services in hotels and restaurants, washrooms and drinking water to tourists at the spots as well as on the sides of the highways at a suitable distance. He said that the owners of the local hotels and restaurants should be asked to manage the facilities on road side.

The Smart Moving Connection

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING






Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Customs Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage



Head Office:
3rd Floor, Main Plaza, 74-Ave, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 282828, 227273, 282271, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 285552, 2242207
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Branch
10th Floor, 10th Avenue, Islamabad
New York, NY 10018, USA
London, UK
New York, NY 10018, USA
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471
E-mail: branch@freelinemovers.com

Office
10th Floor, 10th Avenue, Islamabad
New York, NY 10018, USA
London, UK
New York, NY 10018, USA
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471
E-mail: office@freelinemovers.com

Head Office
3rd Floor, Main Plaza, 74-Ave, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 282828, 227273, 282271, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 285552, 2242207
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Branch
10th Floor, 10th Avenue, Islamabad
New York, NY 10018, USA
London, UK
New York, NY 10018, USA
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471
E-mail: branch@freelinemovers.com

National Days and Armed Forces Days

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

Hotels & Restaurants

- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
- Marriott.....051-2826121
- Monal.....0334-5421812
- Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

- Rescue (Police).....15
- Bomb Disposal.....15
- Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
- Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.....4451122
- Motorway Police.....9286944
- Motorway Police.....9270601-20
- Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
- Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Enquiry

- Ethi Ambulance.....315
- PIA Flight Info.....114
- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Inquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi.....5555849
- CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611116
- Cant Hospital.....9270907-11
- DHQ.....5556311-4
- BGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218306-09
- Shifa International 4603666

Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
- CDA.....9208301-44
- Met Office.....9256360-46
- RDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Contention Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

On Earth Day: PM calls for a plastic-free society

He appealed the people for a pledge to reduce the use of single-use plastics, embrace recycling and eco-friendly alternatives, and advocate for stronger environmental policies at every level of society

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the international community observes the annual Earth Day on Monday, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif urged the countrymen to reaffirm their commitment to using plastic responsibly to reduce plastic waste and embrace recycling and eco-friendly alternatives. Observed annually on April 22, this year's Earth Day is being observed under the theme of "Planet vs. Plastics." "As we unite to observe this day under the theme, "Planet vs. Plastics" that calls for a 60% reduction in plastic use by 2040, let us reaffirm our commitment to use plastic responsibly to reduce plastic waste that is not only polluting our oceans, lakes, and rivers but

are also making inroads into our food systems, posing a direct and serious threat to human health," the prime minister, in a message to the nation. He appealed the people for a pledge to reduce the use of single-use plastics, embrace recycling and eco-friendly alternatives, and advocate for stronger environmental policies at every level of society. Calling Earth Day a reminder of shared responsibility towards protecting our planet - for now and for future generations, he said though Pakistan was among one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, there was little awareness about the risks of climate change threatening the development, the well-being, and economic security of the citizens. "Year after year, we

are witnessing its devastating impacts - from changing seasonal weather patterns, rising temperatures, variability of monsoons, and melting of glaciers in the north, further compounded with recurrent extreme weather events and natural disasters - to the slower onset events of sea level rise, warming seas and loss of ecosystems." The prime minister said that the effects of climate change had exacerbated over the years, which puts the country at an even greater economic and physical risk. Hence, we understand the urgency of taking bold and decisive steps to confront these challenges and build resilience in the face of adversity, he added. He said the government was leading the charge and remained committed to making its contribution as it had initiated an exhaustive consultative process with the line ministries, provincial environment departments, ICT administration, industries and other relevant stakeholders for developing Single-Use Plastics (Prohibition) Regulations, 2023 as well as restriction on use of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottles in federal ministries/divisions. "These initiatives underscore our commitment towards promoting a sustainable circular economy for plastics by reducing waste, and consumption, and encouraging reuse, recycling, and material recovery. To achieve a plastic-free society and effectively combat the escalating issue of plastic pollution in Pakistan, it is imperative to address the underlying causes and promote a holistic approach for managing plastic waste," the prime minister remarked. Highlighting the role of provincial governments and local authorities as of prime importance, he urged the citizens to play their role in safeguarding the planet for the prosperity of all. Recounting nature's bounties for Pakistan in the form of awe-inspiring mountains, dense forests and pristine lakes and coasts, he emphasised the society's responsibility to protect them. "From preserving nature to mitigating the effects of climate change on people and their livelihoods, Pakistan will continue its stride towards building a sustainable, cleaner and greener future," he resolved.



ISLAMABAD : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President H.E. Dr. Syed Ebrahim Raisi plant a tree in the lawn of Prime Minister House in view of Earth Hour. —DNA

Govt disburses Rs 33,166.64 mln for power sector schemes

ISLAMABAD: The government had released an amount of Rs 33,166.64 million for various power sector NTPC/PEPCO schemes under the annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) so far in the current fiscal year 2023-24. According to the official data issued by the Planning Commission, the government had specified a sum of Rs 55,277.4 million for various NTPC/PEPCO projects in PSDP 2023-24. Out of the total release amount, the local component stood at Rs 29,639.13 million while the foreign aid component was Rs 25,638.61 million. A sum of Rs 19,819.75 million had been spent on various water-related projects so far. Under ongoing schemes, an amount of Rs 12,000 million has been allocated for installation of 2460 MW coal-fired power project GENCO-1 Jamshoro, Rs 2,536.47 million for interconnection of isolated Makran Network, Rs 1600 million each for 220KV Hairpur Substation, 220KV Swabi Substation, Rs 1200 million for 500KV Allama Iqbal Industrial City for 600 MW Demand of the Special Economic Zone, Rs 1,059 million for replacement of LT Bare conductor with ABC Cable in Peshawar Khyber Circle and Bannu Circle, Rs 1,439 million for 220/132 KV GS substation Dhabaji, Rs 964 million for electrification works at different valleys of District Chitral and Rs 900 million for 220 KV Quaid-e-Azam Apparel and Business Park in the PSDP for FY 2023-24. Similarly, a sum of Rs 13,800 million has been specified for evacuation of power from Sukh Kinari, Kotaha, Mahal HPPs, Rs 5,967.094 million for evacuation of power from 2100 MW Dana stage-1, 16,099.255 million for 500 KV HVDC Transmission System between Tajikistan and Pakistan (CASA-1000), Rs 3,904.500 million for 500KV Lahore North, 2,324 million for Upgradation of NTPC's Telecommunication, Rs 7,000 million for augmentation of existing 500KV and 220 KV grid stations, Rs 3000 million for power distribution enhancement investment programme-II (Advance Metering Infrastructure Project), Rs 850 million for evacuation of power from 1,224 MW wind power plants at Jhanjeri and others ongoing projects. Under new schemes, Rs 2,658 million has been allocated for Land acquisition for the installation of a 1200 MW Solar Power Plant at Sher Garh (Layyah), Rs 1,133 million for land acquisition for the installation of a 600 MW Solar Power Plant at Tahsil Akhara Hazari (Jhang), Rs 1900 million for 500 KV Islamabad West, Rs 1000 million each for electricity distribution efficiency improvement projects in MEPCO and HESCO, Rs 1300 million for augmentation of 2x160 MVA transformers with 2x250 MVA Yousafzai, Rs 639 million for Installation of wide area monitoring system and Rs 500 million for 220KV Na Shah Grid Station in the PSDP for FY2023-24. —APP

Chinese buses roll into Mirpur Khas

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Transport, Sindh Mass Transit Authority (SMTA) formally launched the People's Bus Service (PBS) in Mirpur Khas district of the province to provide people with cheap, green, and hassle-free commuting. Governor reported, Mirpur Khas, Hyderabad, and Sukkur districts, Chinese buses have now commenced operations under the PBS in Mirpur Khas, known as the city of mangoes. "In line with the PPP leadership's vision, the Sindh Government will soon spread PBS in every district of the province," said Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. In the first phase, the buses cover the main route between Mirpur Khas Bus Stand to Jawari Shikri and cover areas like Ring Road, Sindh Revenue Board, DC Office, Charnimar Chowk, Station Road, Old Buses Stand and Chandani Chowk and other adjoining areas. The buses, manufactured by Higer Company in China, have been imported and are fully compliant with environmental protocols. These 12-meter-long buses have a capacity of 34 passengers, with two special seats for differently-abled individuals. PBS is not only providing greater mobility and calm commuting to passengers but also contributing to women's empowerment in transportation. This is evident in Karachi, where women are included as drivers of urban pink buses. —DNA

IRSA releases 165,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 165,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 244,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1441.48 feet and was 43.48 feet higher than its dead level of 1398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 40,500 cusecs and 5,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1134.60 feet, which was 84.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded 63,500 cusecs and 20,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalamang, Thanes, Gudu and Sukkur was recorded as 100,500, 56,000, 97,800 and 33,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly from River Kabul, a total of 116,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshar and 16,000 cusecs were retained from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

CDNS achieves Rs1250b targets in fresh bond

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved a target of Rs 1250 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year from July 1 to April 19. The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Monday. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. "The CDNS has set a revised saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country," he said. Given the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new returns and incentives were being introduced. "At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added. The official added that the directorate had set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he added. —APP

Operation against illegal constructions

These teams include officials from various departments who were briefed about their responsibilities. The objective of this initiative is to effectively complete the operation against illegal constructions, the spokesman informed

RAWALPINDI: Murree administration on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Amir Khattak, have formed three teams to conduct operations against illegal constructions. According to a Commissioner's Office spokesman, Murree district administration had launched a crackdown against illegal constructions in the light of the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz. Deputy Commissioner, Murree, Agha Zahoor Abbas Shirazi was supervising the operation, he added. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Amner Khattak had issued instructions to the district administration to form three teams to accelerate the operations against illegal constructions, he said. The administration had formed three teams that were taking strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators, he added. Teams were conducting raids and demolishing illegal constructions under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue, Murree Capt. (R) Qasim Ijaz, Assistant Commissioner Murree, Capt. (R) Abdul Wahab Khan, and DPO Murree. These teams include officials from various departments who were briefed about their responsibilities. The objective of this initiative is to effectively complete the operation against illegal constructions, the spokesman informed. —APP

ICT admin arrests over 900 alms-seekers

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory Administration in coordination with the police has arrested more than 900 alms-seekers in a month under its campaign against the professional begging. Out of the total arrested beggars, 45 per cent of them were male, 38 per cent female, 7 per cent of minors and 10 per cent of trans genders, an official told APP on Monday. The said teams were constituted which headed by the relevant Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates to run the anti-begging campaign across the capital. In a recent update provided by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Spokesman, Dr. Abdulhif Tahaqum, it was revealed that in March, 921 individuals engaged in begging were apprehended over the last one month, spanning from March to April. He said that beggars' mafia became more active during the holy month of Ramadan. —APP

ANF recovers 252 kg drugs in seven operations; arrests eight

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 252 kg drugs and arrested eight suspected individuals, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 470 intoxicated tablets and 18 kg hashish were recovered from a parcel booked for UK at a courier office in Rawalpindi, 78 kg opium and 73.2 kg hashish were recovered from an accused arrested with the help of the Motorway Police from Pindi Bhattian, 56.4 kg hashish and 15.6 kg opium were recovered from two suspects netted near Ring Road Peshawar, 1.2 kg opium and 10.8 kg hashish were recovered from the possession of a woman arrested near Sangini Toll Plaza Islamabad, 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from three suspects on JIP Road Islamabad. —APP

APRIL 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pk
www.islamabaddpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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

CENTRELINE
Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

Briefs

Maqam congratulates PML-N newly elected members

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SARON) and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engr Amir Maqam on Monday felicitated Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) newly elected members of National and Provincial Assemblies in the by elections. Engr Amir Maqam, who is also the president of Pakistan Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said that the victory of the newly elected members of PML-N was reflection of trust of people, said a statement issued here. The minister said that this victory was also an expression of the people's confidence in party leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz and the entire party leadership. He said that PML-N will work for the welfare of the people and provide maximum relief. The minister said that PML-N had proved in the past that our leadership has always played crucial role in the development of the country. —APP

Three killed, 10 injured in Mansehra road accident

ISLAMABAD: At least three people were killed while 10 others sustained injuries after a passenger van plunged into a ditch on Monday near the Pafang area of Mansehra district. As reported by a private news channel, the accident occurred due to a malfunction in the vehicle's brakes, causing the van to veer off the road and plunge into a ditch. Police and rescue teams promptly responded to the scene, and transported the injured to a civil hospital in Balakot for medical treatment. Police sources confirmed that among the injured were women and children and condition of a few were reported critical and were subsequently transferred to King Abdullah Teaching Hospital Mansehra. —APP

Nine drug peddlers, bootleggers netted

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers here on Monday arrested nine accused besides recovering over two kg charras, 40 liters liquor, two liquor bottles and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Pirwadhai police held Sajid Sohail for having 1800 grams charras while Patriata police netted Khizer Mehmood for possessing 600 grams charras. Taxila police netted Rafique with 20 liters liquor and another accused namely Adeel for having a liquor bottle. Civil Lines police arrested Tehar and recovered five liters liquor, Abid, Faizan and Rizwan for having 10 liters and a liquor bottle. Sufiabad police in their operation managed to net an accused namely Muhammad Abid and recovered five liters liquor. —APP

NPO, APO collaborate to enhance Pakistan's gemstone Industry

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO), Pakistan in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan is organizing an International Workshop on value addition of gemstone products for compliance with international standards from 22nd to 25th April 2024. The said workshop is attended by 18 overseas participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam from APO member countries, 11 local participants and sessions will be delivered by the international resource speakers from Thailand. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Mrs. Raisi spouse of President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in NUML university addressing in the inauguration ceremony of H.E. Book—DNA

APHC calls for unity to counter Indian aggression in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has strongly condemned the political, religious, and cultural aggression by the Bharatiya Janata Party government against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement in Srinagar emphasized the need for unity within the organization to counter the BJP's anti-Kashmir and anti-peace agenda. The BJP's hostile policy towards Kashmir is driven by its racial bias, Hinduist ideology, and its aim to establish a Hindu Rashtra. The APHC spokesperson urged the members of the organization to unite and resist India's attempts to erase the political, cultural, and religious identity of the Kashmiri people. The Indian government is not only trying to erase the Kashmiri identity but also suppressing political activities and silencing the voices of the oppressed. Harassment against civil society, religious scholars, academics, journalists, and human rights defenders continues unabated. —APP

Pak-Qatar Family Tafakul offers Voluntary Pension Scheme

ISLAMABAD: April 22, 2024 - Pak-Qatar Family Tafakul (PQFTL), part of PakQatar Group, Pakistan's premier and pioneer Islamic financial services group, becomes Pakistan's first ever Tafakul operator to introduce a Voluntary Pension Scheme (VPS). By offering VPS, PQFTL brings a unique investment option to the public which benefits them to save for their retirement, while at the same time helps in reducing tax liability up to 20%. Individuals can opt for the plan with a contribution as low as PKR 1,000. The product also provides complementary Tafakul coverage against natural death up to PKR 10 million or two times of investment balance (whichever is lower) and an accidental death coverage up to PKR 20 million or four times of investment balance (whichever is lower). By investing in VPS you can also avoid discounted rates on additional coverage for Family Sehat (Individual health), Motor Tafakul and House Tafakul. —APP

80% work for 10 MW electricity to Gwadar Free Zone completed

"The Deep Sea Port sole Grid Station was established in 2019 exclusively for Gwadar port and Free Zone through 3 feeders. Since inadequate power was available at the disposal of the QEPSC, Grid Station had to rely on diesel generators for production of thermal power using expensive fossil fuel at high cost in past,"

FAISAL SHEIKH
ISLAMABAD: Almost 80 per cent work has been completed to provide 10 Mega Watt (MW) electricity in Gwadar North Free Zone, a shot in the arms for investors and companies desperately seeking power supply since the establishment of Gwadar North Free Zone. Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) as executing agency will complete entire work in the third week of May. Instead over the ground, 300 meters long underground power cables are being laid down from Deep Sea Port grid station

with a sub-station recently constructed at the entrance of North Free Zone. Gwadar Port reported on Monday. The sub-station has the control panels, ITF room and cabinets to manage supply of electricity to the factories in the zone. From the substation a 5 km long 132 KV distribution line carrying two feeders of 5 MW each are being laid. On reaching the factories' premises inside North Free Zone where companies including Han Geng and Aqven are operating, step-down transformers will be installed to supply electricity as per their demands. Sigma, a Karachi based company is con-

structing the distribution network in the Gwadar North Free Zone. Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) the official toll Gwadar Port that in light of joint feasibility survey conducted by Quetta Electric Power Supply Company (QEPSC) and China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) is executing the entire process with full throttle. Power supply will start from Gwadar Port Grid Station to main entrance of North Free Zone, he explained. "The Deep Sea Port sole Grid Station was established in 2019 exclusively for Gwadar port and

Free Zone through 3 feeders. Since inadequate power was available at the disposal of the QEPSC, Grid Station had to rely on diesel generators for production of thermal power using expensive fossil fuel at high cost in past," he added. On a query, he said, "after power supply work completes the good news is that we will turn off 8.5 MW Diesel Generator and will link up Gwadar Port's sole Grid Station with three sources." "One source is national grid station of Quetta. Second source is Gah-Rendhan of Iran border. Third source is Nag-Besima section of another

Iran border," he added. COPHC official said that as matter of fact electricity being produced through 8.5 MW Diesel Generator costs around Rs. 90 per unit. However, after availability of 10 MW power in Gwadar North Free Zone, electricity cost to be around Rs. 55 per unit. It means investors and factory owners will enjoy the saving of around Rs. 35 per unit. This will directly impact financial leverage and production growth not only for current enterprises but also for potential investors." COPHC official said.

New IG Islamabad takes charge

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Ali Nasir Rizvi, a BS 20 officer of police service of Pakistan, Monday assumed charge as the new inspector general of police in Islamabad. The Islamabad Police said in a statement on Monday. Taking to X, formerly Twitter, the Islamabad Capital Police stated that the newly-appointed chief visited the Martyrs Memorial for fatiha before assuming charge. The new Islamabad IG took charge of office 22 days after his appointment notification was issued, as a dispute in relation to his appointment continued between the interior ministry and Punjab. Rizvi was appointed after former IG Police Akbar Nasir Khan performed his duties as deputy inspector general operations Lahore



was relieved by the Punjab government. He was earlier performing his duties as deputy inspector general operations Lahore and belongs to the 31st Common batch of the PSP. He has earlier served as an assistant superintendent of police, superintendent of police, senior superintendent of police, city police chief, deputy inspector general in nine Punjab districts.

A clear policy should be adopted for the sale of PIA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that adopting a clear policy for the sale of PIA is necessary as confusion will not serve any purpose. He said that every state-run organization squandering trillions of rupees ought to be sold, as the masses have been paying the price for their losses for a long time. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the government has not yet made it clear that this institution will be sold entirely or that the government will retain some shares. He stated that the country's interest lies in selling PIA altogether to avoid the annual loss of billions of rupees. The business leader stated that the sale of Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore airports could only occur after the PIA sale. He said that selling national assets is undesirable, but Pakistan has no other option. He continued, saying that despite spending trillions of rupees, the government has not yet been able to turn the sick units into profitable businesses. In addition to PIA, we should sell all other institutions that squander trillions of rupees to alleviate the burden on low-income individuals. On the other hand, the remaining profitable institutions should be protected from politicians. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that currently, taxes have been imposed on air travel to such an extent that no one is ready to travel in first class, business class, or club class. —DNA

Govt recognises importance of Chinese language

ISLAMABAD: Recognizing the importance of languages, including Chinese, the government has instructed relevant institutions to initiate tailored language programs. This was stated by Mashood Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program, Gwadar Pro reported. He has instructed relevant institutions to initiate tailored language programs. Specifically, he plans to incorporate Chinese language instruction into the programs offered by the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Training. Furthermore, Rana Mashood expressed appreciation for the establishment of the Chinese Cultural Center in Peshawar. He sees it as a pivotal hub for strengthening the bonds between Pakistan and China, reaffirming his commitment to providing all possible cooperation in nurturing this bilateral friendship. He emphasized that several countries, including China and Saudi Arabia, have strategic investment plans for Pakistan across various sectors. These initiatives will not only create opportunities for thousands of talented individuals to contribute within the country but also allow them to serve abroad. Mashood engaged with students from the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Training. He explored various galleries within the center, signed the friendship wall, and left his comments in the visitor's book. His remarks highlighted Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision to make Pakistan an active partner in economic development. To achieve this, the Prime Minister is attracting investments from friendly countries, aiming to strengthen Pakistan's self-sufficiency. In response to a question, Rana Mashood emphasized that the current federal government places a strong focus on youth development. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed efforts toward enhancing technical training for young people. The goal is not only to send talented youth abroad but also to fully utilize their skills within Pakistan. —APP

173 graduates awarded degrees in IMCG G10/4 convocation

DNA
ISLAMABAD: The 22nd convocation of Islamabad model college for girls Post-Graduate (G10/4) was held at the college auditorium. The chief guest of this event was Dr. Muhammad Tanvir IG FDE accompanied by guests of honor Dr. Amer samed Bhatti Dean Natural Sciences QAU and Dr. Muhammad Anees former Dean Social Sciences QAU while Principal Prof Saadia Ijaz presided over the ceremony. 173 graduates were awarded Degrees in departments

of BS Maths BSCs, BS Zoology and ADP among 67 graduates who got Roll of honor. Moreover, 6 gold medals were awarded to the top position holder students including, Aysha Taus BSCS, Sebrish BSCS, Noor Fatima BS Maths and Maham Ali in BS Zoology. The BS teachers also received a certificate of appreciation for their best of graduates including Anjam Ara Samaira Qatrad An e Saba Munafir Saheed e Haafi, Shazia Ashraf Sameen Behatol Madussir Safia Hukbar Uma Nazir and Amna Usmani. Chief

guest Mr. Muhammad Tanvir in his address said that the development of Pakistan lies in the pursuit of modern education. The students should step into practical life. Now work side by side with men and make your place in society. Half of the population of our country consists of women, in which the number of working women is negligible. He introduced the new project to be launched for students in enhancing their skills in IT. Dr. Anees appreciated the graduates and hoped for their future endeavours. and Dr. Hites

along with appreciation advised the pupils to follow the path of hardwork and kindness to get overall success in life. The principal of the college in her speech advised students that entrepreneurship is the key of success now a days most of the male and female students just waste their time in search of jobs while own business is more suitable for better life. In the end, principal college Prof Saadia presented college insignia to the guests, and the program ended with National Anthem.

DINO VALLEY
10 Minutes Drive From The Monal

051 8770065 / 66 / 67 | 0300 8881811 / 0300 5021018 / 0345 5355335
UAN: 051 111 777 778 | @dinovalleypk | dinovalley.pk

Tajiks in the crosshairs

IMMEDIATELY after the attack on the Circus City Hall in Moscow, Western politicians and media pointed the finger at "ISIS" (DAESH) in union. "ISIS" then immediately disseminated an implausible photo claiming responsibility for the attack. Although the perpetrators were all proven to be Tajik nationals...



Blinken's upcoming China visit

BEFORE US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's upcoming visit to China, US officials adopted their usual tactics of using hardline rhetoric to apply pressure on China, expressing so-called concerns about China's support for Russia and the Taiwan question...

Iran's Pragmatic Approach towards Afghan Taliban

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Iran's current overtures toward the Taliban reflect its strategy of seeking alternatives to the US-dominated global order and its pragmatic approach towards achieving specific objectives in Afghanistan...

IRAN'S relationship with the Afghan Taliban is characterized by complexity and caution, as the two are not traditional allies. Tehran's approach to the Taliban is influenced by numerous bilateral and regional factors...

risks posed by terrorism, drug trafficking, and border control deficiencies in Afghanistan. Through its pragmatic engagement with the Taliban, Iran seeks to safeguard its interests while contributing to regional stability...

ghanistan's construction of a dam on the river for irrigation and power generation has heightened tensions, prompting violent clashes between the two sides. Despite these disputes, mutual cooperation would be beneficial for both nations as they seek to manage water resources sustainably and avoid further conflict...

Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline powerplay

Ghanwa Mohiuddin
The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project represents more than just an energy agreement—it symbolizes Pakistan's autonomy, resilience, and determination to pursue its national interests despite external pressures...

IRANIAN President Ibrahim Raisi is gearing up for a pivotal two-day visit to Pakistan starting April 22. The visit, at the invitation of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, promises discussions on a broad spectrum of issues, ranging from security cooperation to the possibility of a free trade agreement...

Pakistan is laser-focused on kickstarting and swiftly completing an initial 80-kilometer stretch of the pipeline. Originally envisioned as a 785-kilometer lifeline from the Iran border through Balochistan to Sindh and Punjab...

the completion of the IP gas pipeline project. As a sovereign nation, Pakistan possesses the autonomy to make decisions in the best interests of its people. The lingering question remains: how long will Pakistan continue to compromise its independence? Sovereignty and respect are future goals...

Briefs

Pak-Iran trade volume to be taken...

FROM PAGE 01
the different fields including trade, science technology, agriculture, health, culture, and judicial matters. The documents were signed between the two countries on the occasion of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's three-day official visit to Pakistan...

Islamabad's 11th avenue renamed...

FROM PAGE 01
an official commissioner stated, adding that he was also scheduled to visit Lahore and Karachi, where he would hold talks with the provincial leaderships. Upon his arrival at the Prime Minister's House, the visiting dignitary was presented guard of honour...

Pakistan on track to secure new...

FROM PAGE 01
said recent IMF visit is on track to drop to single-digit levels by the end of next year. The National said, "We have had very constructive discussions with the IMF managing director and the senior team. And given that we are successfully completing the programme, the fund has been very receptive in terms of agreeing to consider a larger, longer programme..."

KSE-100 index breaches...

FROM PAGE 01
International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan on May, and "good March quarter dividends are helping share prices which despite rallying are trading at forward looking price-earnings ratio of 4," said Sohail Mohammed, CEO of Karachi based brokerage company, Topline Securities. Touseef M Farooq, director of research at Chase Securities, attributed today's upward momentum to media reports of Saudi investment in Boko Digi, the likelihood of Pakistan securing its next IMF programme and projections indicating a sharp decline in inflation and interest rates ahead...



ISLAMABAD: To commemorate Earth Day, Andrew Schofer, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission Pakistan, joined a cleanup initiative at Lake View Park, Islamabad on April 22. The event aimed at celebrating the Earth Day, emphasized the collaborative efforts of the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework to confront the pollution in our midst that undermines species everywhere, particularly plastic pollution. This year, the Earth Day focus is centered on addressing the issue of plastic pollution. - DNA

Babar opens up on loss against NZ in third T20I

Babar Azam said that the national side fell short of scoring the necessary runs to successfully defend their target

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's skipper Babar Azam has opened up on the team's loss against New Zealand in the third T20I, saying that the national side fell short of scoring the necessary runs to successfully defend their target. "I don't think it [slow run-rate during the middle overs] made much of a difference because we had caught up. You can say we were 10 runs short," Babar said while speaking at the post-match ceremony.

Ramiz Raja lashes out after 'embarrassing' loss

ISLAMABAD: Former captain Ramiz Raja lashed out at Pakistan team after they suffered a defeat against New Zealand in the third T20I on Sunday in Rawalpindi. While speaking on his YouTube channel, Raja said that Pakistan should not lose to a depleted New Zealand side on home soil. "Losing is a part of cricket, but such a defeat shakes the foundation a bit, especially with the World Cup just around the corner. Playing at home, on your favourite surface, against a team that isn't even a complete side -- not a first-tier or even a second-tier New Zealand team -- makes it an embarrassing loss," Raja said. "Let's admit that in T20, anyone's luck can change, but such a drastic turn of tables within 24 hours is a blow to Pakistan's reputation. For some time now, there has been a notion that one can expect anything from Pakistan on a given day. Just 24 hours ago, Pakistan defeated them by 7 wickets, and 24 hours later, they suffered a 7-wicket defeat," he added. He also urged the Pakistan batters to not throw away their wickets after getting set. "This should not happen. The batsmen are set should not get out after scoring just 20-30 runs. That's why the score is only 180. This pitch is worth at least 250 runs, as we know how many runs have been scored here before. Pakistan scored fewer runs, and no one played a long innings. The bowling performance was also quite mediocre," he said. - DNA

to-back dismissals by Naseem Shah and Abbas Afridi but Chapman, paired with Dean Foxcroft had their plans. The five-match series is now levelled at 1-1 with two remaining matches scheduled to be played on April 25 and 27 at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium. Earlier for Pakistan, the opening duo of Saïm Ayub and Babar made 54/0. Saïm was caught by James Neesham off Ish Sodhi's bowling after scoring 32 runs from 22 balls at a strike rate of 145.45. Babar looked in great touch but was caught by Jacob Duffy, bowled by Michael Bracewell. He contributed 37 runs off 29 deliveries at a strike rate of 127.5. Mohammad Rizwan had to retire hurt after scoring 23 runs from 22 balls, with Usman Khan replacing him. Usman Khan again couldn't score much and was dismissed after scoring 4 runs from 5 balls. Iran was joined by all-rounder Shadab and the duo smashed an explosive partnership with the latter dominating the proceedings. In a 62-run partnership, Shadab stroked 41 runs off 29 balls with the help of six boundaries. Meanwhile, Iran finished on 20-ball 30, smashing three fours and a six.

Islamabad to host Central Asian Volleyball League

Pakistan Sports Complex said that PVF has decided to organise the Central Asian Volleyball League at Islamabad instated to Lahore from May 11 to 17

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) has decided to organise the Central Asian Volleyball League in Islamabad next month as six teams have already confirmed their participation in the League. Pakistan Volleyball Federation chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Naveesh who visited to the training camp of the national volleyball team at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex said that PVF has decided to organise the Central Asian Volleyball League at Islamabad instated to Lahore from May 11 to 17. In

which teams from Iran, Turkmenistan, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan will participate along with the host Pakistan, while it is hoped that India will also send its team to Pakistan. "We are requesting the government for the financial support to the development of volleyball and to more improve the game standard of national volleyball team as we want to see Pakistan team as the best team in Asia", said Chaudhry Yaqoob, adding that despite limited resources, PVF is providing all possible facilities to the national team players. He said that the training camp of the national team is going on for the preparations

Mr. PM national game is at the verge of annihilation

FROM PAGE 01

over which team will represent Pakistan in the tournament: the one currently undergoing rigorous training in Islamabad or the contingent stationed in Karachi. With the departure for the event set for May 2 at the latest, or possibly by May 4, clarity is urgently needed to ensure proper preparation and logistics for the participating team. Given that sports administration falls under the jurisdiction of the Interprovincial Coordination ministry led by Ahsan Iqbal, it is crucial for the Ministry to address the current situation. Recently, Ahsan Iqbal received a briefing regarding the status of the hockey federation, wherein it was emphasized that Tariq Buzge is the rightful President of the Federation. However, an official communication from the Ministry is still awaited, leading to unease among both players and fans. Clarifying the Ministry's stance promptly would not only alleviate concerns but also foster transparency and confidence within the sporting community. The Prime Minister being the Chief Patron of the hockey federation ought to look into the matter personally. Ultimately, the fate of our national game rests in our hands. It is a reflection of who we are as a nation and what we aspire to be. Let us rise to the occasion and stand united in our resolve to preserve and protect the legacy of our national game for posterity. The time to act is now, before it's too late.

Muedges Coventry, sets up Man City FA Cup final Manchester United recovered from an astonishing collapse to beat Coventry on penalties in an FA Cup classic

LONDON: Manchester United recovered from an astonishing collapse to beat Coventry on penalties in an FA Cup classic, setting up a second straight final against Manchester City. Erik ten Hag's men won the shootout at Wembley 4-2, with Kasmus Hojland scoring the decisive spot kick after the teams were level at 3-3 following extra time. The game perfectly encapsulated a chaotic season for Ten Hag's men, who are well off the pace in the Premier League. There was no hint of what was to come when United coasted into a 4-0 lead against their second-tier opponents in the London sunshine, with goals from Scott McTominay, Harry Maguire and Bruno Fernandes. But they have made a habit of tossing away leads in recent weeks. Second-half strikes from Ellis Simms and Callum O'Hare gave the 1987 FA Cup winners hope and Haji Wright levelled from the penalty spot deep into stoppage time, capping a scarily credible comeback. Coventry fans taunted Ten Hag with chants of 'you're getting sacked in the morning' as he believed infused the masses ranks of supporters clad in light blue. A gripping period of extra time followed, with both teams hitting the woodwork, before United held their nerve to win the shootout. "It was an incredible game, a strange game too," Ten Hag told ITV. "We had total control for so long and then gave it away in the last part of the game. We did show resilience to win the penalty shootout." "We have to improve," he added. "We talk a lot about this. First you have to put yourself in a winning position but then you have to take it over the line." Coventry manager Mark Robins

famously played a key part in United's FA Cup win in 1990, a triumph that launched two decades of success under Alex Ferguson. But his team's push to reach the Championship play-offs has faded in recent weeks and they travelled to Wembley as underdogs despite United's stuttering season. United, 124-time winners of the competition, settled early and took the lead in the 23rd minute after a fine move down the right finished off by McTominay. Marcus Rashford forced a fine save from Bradley Collins late in the first half but United doubled their lead from the resulting corner, with Maguire heading home Fernandes's cross. Coventry, who scored twice in stoppage time to beat Premier League team Wolves in the quarterfinals, looked

brighter in the early stages of the second period. But the wind was taken out of their sails when Fernandes's deflected shot found its way past Collins in the 68th minute. Coventry pulled a goal back when top-scorer Simms connected with a cross from substitute Fabio Tinoco in the 71st minute and O'Hare reduced the deficit further. The club's fans were now in full voice as their team mounted waves of attacks and they were level in the 96th minute when Wright scored from the penalty spot after Aaron Wan-Bissaka was adjudged to have handled. Fernandes rattled the crossbar early in the first period of extra time when set up by substitute Anad Diallo. Simms then smashed a shot off the underside of the crossbar as time started to run out. Coventry thought they had won it in the dying moments, sending their fans delirious when substitute Victor Torjo poked the ball past Andre Onana but a VAR check ruled that Wright was outside by the narrowest of margins in the build-up. Casemiro took the first penalty in the shootout, which was saved by Collins. But O'Hare and captain Ben Sheaf failed to convert, leaving Hojland with the job of sending United through and he made no mistake. A disappointed Robins said defeat felt like "kick in the teeth". "We've just said to them they've put themselves right up there in the history of the football club," he said. "People will talk about this game for a long time." Manchester City, who beat United in the 2023 final, edged Chelsea 1-0 in the other semifinal on Saturday. It is only the second time in the competition's history that the same two teams have reached successive finals, the first sides to do so since 1985.



Pakistan vs New Zealand T20I series schedule
April 25 | 4th T20I, Lahore
April 27 | 5th T20I, Lahore

Spy chiefs should apologize for...

FROM PAGE 01
the representatives of the ECP, as the vote boxes were even stuffed well before the start of voting process at some polling stations, which was even unthinkable even in the rule of the worst dictator. PTI Chairman stated that he and the Opposition Leader Omar Ayub visited various polling stations and saw the blatant polls rigging at various polling stations. He went on to say that they approached the electoral watchdog regarding all the details related to the polls rigging in Gujarat instantly but the electoral body was yet to take any action in this regard despite lapse of 24 hours, which raised many eyebrows. PTI Chairman lamented that the constitution, democracy and rule of law were virtually suspended in the country.

PML-N claims victory on...

FROM PAGE 01
while also won 10 out of the 16 seats in the provincial legislatures. Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed Sunni Itehad Council (Itehad) and Pakistan Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid has won one seat each in the provincial assemblies. Meanwhile, PML-N's Ahmad Ali Khan secured the PP-36 Wazirabad seat from PTI's Fayaz Chaudhri. PTI selected a major upset as its candidate candidate Mubarak Zeb -- brother of slain independent candidate Rehman Zeb, who was killed before the February 8 general elections -- won from the NA-8 Bajaur constituency defeating its nominee Gul Zafar Khan. Zeb also won the provincial PSC seat in Bajaur against Aman-ud-Allah's Ahd Khan. In Sindh's Quamr-ud-Din, PPP's Khursheed Jenejo won the NA-185 constituency seat by party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, by 91,581 defeating Tehreek-e-Labbak Pakistan's Muhammad Ali who only received 2703 votes.

Israel fails to provide evidence...

FROM PAGE 01
Hamas or Islamic Jihad. Major donors cut their funding to the agency in January, which is the primary source of humanitarian assistance in Gaza but also to Palestinian refugees throughout the region, following Israel's allegations that Hamas was supplying employee lists to Israel for vetting and that "the Israeli government has not informed UNRWA of any concerns relating to any UNRWA staff based on those staff lists since 2011." A more detailed assessment was sent to the UN by the three Nordic research bodies -- the Swedish Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, the Norwegian Chr Michelsen Institute, and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

11 terrorists killed in NW, DI...

FROM PAGE 01
District, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists location as a result of which one more terrorist was sent to hell. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against security forces as well as innocent civilians. Arms & ammunition were also recovered from them. Locals of the area appreciated the operations by the Security Forces, who remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Briefs

No tussle with institutions' CM KP conveys Imran's directive

Gandapur also announces plans to convene PTI workers' conventions nationwide

SHAMIM SHAHD

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Aftab Khan Leghari on Monday conveyed a message from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, urging a harmonious ties with institutions. Addressing a presser in Peshawar, Gandapur on concerns raised by the federal government regarding alleged electricity theft in KP called for collaborative efforts. He underscored the sacrifices made by the people of the region and stressed the need for respectful discourse in addressing such issues. Expressing his commitment to justice and the welfare of the province, Gandapur announced plans to convene PTI workers' conventions nationwide. Asserting his dedication to upholding the rights of the people, he vowed to challenge any hindrance to their interests. Touching upon recent electoral developments, Gandapur affirmed the government's respect for the democratic process, citing acceptance of people's decision in Bajaur by-elections. He reiterated PTI's adherence to lawful means in advancing its demands, rejecting illegitimate tactics.

2 UK men charged with spying for China

LONDON: A UK parliamentary researcher and another man have been charged with spying for China after allegedly providing information which could be "useful to an enemy". Christopher Cash, 29, the researcher, and Christopher Berry, 32, were charged under the Official Secrets Act. They are accused of giving "articles, notes, documents or information" to a foreign state, the Met Police said. Counterterrorism police have described the allegations as "very serious".

Mr Berry, from Witley in Oxfordshire, and Mr Cash, of Whitechapel, London, were arrested last March in connection with the investigation. It was previously reported that one of the men - Mr Cash - was a parliamentary researcher involved with the China Research Group, and who is understood to have had access to several Conservative MPs. The Sunday Times reported the researcher had access to security minister Tom Tugendhat and foreign affairs committee chairwoman Alicia Kearns, among others. - Agencies

Philippines, US to hold drills in S. China Sea

MANILA: Filipino and US forces began their annual joint military drills on Monday, segments of which will, for the first time, take place outside of the Philippines' territorial waters following a string of maritime clashes between Manila and Beijing in the disputed South China Sea. The exercises, known as Balikatan - Tagalog for 'shoulder-to-shoulder' - will run up until May 30 and involve over 16,000 military personnel, along with more than 250 Australian and French forces. For the first time since the annual drills started over 30 years ago, the Philippines and the US will conduct joint naval drills beyond the 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) of the Philippines' territorial waters, in parts of the open sea claimed by China. "This exercise represents the essence of unity, collective responsibility, and enduring partnership between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America and other partners," Philippines' military chief Gen. Romeo Brown Jr. said during the opening ceremony. - Agencies

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF MAURITIUS



ISLAMABAD: MNA Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, High Commissioner of Mauritius Rashidally Soobadar and others cutting cake to celebrate the 56th Independence Day and 32 Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. - DNA

Modi's anti-Muslim remarks spark outrage amid elections

Members of Muslim community lambast PM for his remarks.

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest remarks against Muslims during an election rally in Rajasthan state have sparked outrage amid general elections. The ruling party, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is anticipated to win the general elections for the historic third time consecutively, CNN reported. Indian PM Modi's Islamophobic statements attracted condemnation from members of the opposition and Muslim leaders. In the hate-infused statement, Modi alleged that the opposition party, the Indian National Congress, would distribute the country's wealth among Muslims. He dubbed Muslims as "infiltrators" and "those who have more children". "When they (INC) were in power, they said Muslims have first right over resources. They will gather all your wealth and distribute it among those who have more children. They will distribute among infiltrators," the PM said amid applause from the supporters. Modi asked his supporters if they would accept that their hard-earned money was given to the "infiltrators". The opposition party has requested India's

Anti-India party wins Maldives election in landslide

Muizzu's post as president is not affected by Sunday's vote, in which 368 candidates contested for five-year terms

MALE: Maldives voters handed President Mohamed Muizzu a party a landslide win at parliamentary elections, media said on Monday, an outcome set to shift the Indian Ocean archipelago closer to China and away from tradi-

tional partner India. Muizzu's People's National Congress (PNC) won 65 of the 93 seats up for grabs on Sunday, preliminary results from the Maldives Elections Commission and media projections show. The main opposition Maldives Democratic Party (MDP) dwindled to just 12 seats from 65 earlier. Both Beijing and New Delhi have wooed the Maldives as they vie for influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Elected last year, Muizzu has pledged to end the country's "India First" policy, straining ties with New Delhi. His government has asked dozens of Indian military personnel to leave the Maldives, a move critics say could hasten its shift towards China. Muizzu's post as president is not affected by Sunday's vote, in which 368 candidates contested for five-year terms. Ahead of the poll, the PNC had asked voters to elect a majority that would enable the president to swiftly fulfil his campaign pledges. Opposition parties, who have criticised Muizzu's government on areas including foreign policy and the economy, sought to hold his government accountable. - Agencies

election commission to probe if Modi's remarks violated its code of conduct. As per the Election Commission of India (ECI)'s rules, an appeal for a vote should not be made based on caste and communal sentiments as it "may aggravate differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension". Members of the Muslim community lambasted the PM for his remarks. Muslim journalist Rana Ayub wrote on the social media platform, X: "This is not a dog whistle, this is a targeted, direct, brazen late speech against a community." All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen President Asaduddin Owaisi said: "Modi today called Muslims infiltrators and people with many children. Since 2002 till this day, the only Modi guarantee has been to abuse Muslims and get votes." Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge described the statements as "hate speech" and "a well thought out ploy to divert attention." "Today the prime minister did what he has learnt from the values of the Sangh," he said referring to the Rashtriya Swamisevak Sangh (RSS), an extremist organization. "In the history of India, no prime minister has lowered the dignity of his post as much as Modi has." - Agencies

Israeli intel chief resigns over October 7 failure

NEWS DESK

TEL AVIV: The head of the Israeli Military Intelligence Directorate, Aman, Major General Aharon Haliva, has submitted his resignation to the Office of the Israeli Chief of Staff, accepting responsibility for the Israeli military's failure on October 7, 2023. According to the Israeli news website Walla, Haliva is expected to leave his position in the coming weeks and will be likely replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Shlomi Biner. Aman has been subject to a series of harrowing controversies and internal discord, stemming from the organization's failure to expect and warn against the Palestinian Resistance's Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, which took place on the dawn of October 7 last year. Later, Israeli occupation forces confirmed that Haliva had submitted his resignation. "Major General Aharon Haliva, in conjunction with the chief of the general staff, has requested to end his position, following his leadership responsibility as the head of the intelligence directorate for the events of October 7," the occupation's military said in a statement.

Lahore's GCU gets first woman VC

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: In a groundbreaking development, senior academician Prof Dr Shazia Bashir has been appointed the acting vice chancellor of Lahore's Government College University (GCU), marking the first time a lady has held this position. A notification in this respect was issued, Monday after the approval from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Currently serving as the dean of the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Dr Shazia will discharge the additional responsibility for a period of four months or till the appointment of a permanent vice-chancellor. The faculty and staff members at the GCU have welcomed her appointment as the acting vice-chancellor. Dr Shazia joined the GCU, Lahore, as a teacher in 1996. She has served in various capacities, including as the director of the Centre for Advanced Studies in Physics and the Institute of Physics, as well as the chairperson of the Department of Physics.



ISLAMABAD: President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witness signing of MoUs of cooperation in different fields. - DNA

Sindh to intensify counter measures against street crimes

CM Shah instructs police chief to initiate e-tagging of repeat offenders

NAZIR SYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh apex committee, headed by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, has decided to take two-sided action to counter the rising menace of street crimes, as well as abductions for ransom of citizens by katcha (riverine area) dacoits. According to a statement issued by the CM House on Monday, it has been decided to adopt special measures for monitoring of the sale of stolen or snatched mobile phones and vehicles as spare parts or in their complete form in the markets of Karachi. Subsequently, the provincial chief executive also directed the police department to reactivate the Shaheen Force and revamp Madadga15. Additionally, police pickets will be established to strengthen the left bank of the River Indus and contain the dacoits within the katcha area. "The recovery of ransom from the families of the kidnapped individuals will be considered terror financing and the people involved in facilitating the collection of

the ransom amount would be identified through intelligence work to crush them," CM Shah said while presiding over the 30th apex committee meeting. Sindh Home Minister Zaid Hassan Lanjar and Inspector General Police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Meemon while briefing the meeting said that street crime particularly mobile snatching and four-wheeler and two-wheeler theft has decreased due to improved policing, however, the cases of four and two-wheeler snatching has shown slight increase. Comparative figures for the first three months (January to April) of 2023 and 2024 indicate a decrease in the number of theft cases reported, the statement read. In 2024, 15,345 two-wheelers were stolen which is 923 cases less than the 16,298 incidents reported in 2023. Similarly, the theft of four-wheelers decreased by 145 cases with 520 vehicles stolen in 2024 as compared to 665 in 2023. The number of mobile phones snatched also showed a decline, with 6,813 cases reported in 2024 as compared to 8,088 in 2023, indicating a decrease of 1,875 cases. According to the statistics, there has been a significant increase in the snatching of four-wheelers and two-wheelers. In 2023, 60 two-wheelers were snatched, and this number increased to 80 in 2024. Similarly, 1,805 two-wheelers were snatched in 2023, while the number of cases rose to 3,094 in 2024. However, the overall figures of street crime have shown a decrease of 1,613 cases.

