

Islamabad POST

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30



Sunak vows support for Ukraine for 'as long as it takes'

Detailed News On Page-0

Pakistan eyes closer ties with Portugal

Detailed News On Page-08



Bolt named T20 WC 2024 Ambassador

Detailed News On Page-06



To ensure stability PM urged to reconcile with Imran

PM assures Sindh of complete support after CM Murad complains of Centre's non-cooperation

NAZIR SIVAL

KARACHI: A top business leader of the country has urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to extend an olive branch to his political rival incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. The PTI founder remains behind bars after he was booked in range of cases containing criminal charges including Official Secrets Act, terrorism, corruption and others. Khan, the deposed prime minister, was ousted from power via opposition's no-confidence motion in April 2022. However, the PTI alleged that Khan removal was orchestrated by the United States by supporting the opposition's no-trust motion. The PTI founder was arrested in August last year after he was sentenced in Toshakhana case. Later, he was convicted in cyber and un-Islamic marriage cases as well where his appeals are currently pending before the respective courts. The development came during the PM's day-long visit to Karachi where he addressed the business community and listened to their suggestions and queries related to trade and economy. During a Q&A session, business tycoon Arif Habib appreciated PM Shehbaz's efforts during his previous stint in securing the bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Referring to his meeting with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in June last year, the owner of top brokerage firm suggested the prime minister to "shake two more hands" - one with the neighbouring country including India and another with the PTI founder in a bid to ensure stability in the country. "...I, secondly, you should also shake hand with an inmate of Adiala jail. I think these two steps will yield positive results," he remarked. Pakistan downgraded its ties

FM calls for early resumption of PIA flights to Europe

Appreciating the EU's consistent support to Pakistan, the FM reaffirmed support for strengthening the strategic partnership in all areas, including trade, migration, and climate change

MEHTEB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar emphasized the significance of direct flights between Pakistan and European countries and stressed the need for an early resumption of PIA flights to Europe. He expressed the resolve while talking to EU Ambassador Riina Kionka, who called on him, in Islamabad today. They discussed the Pakistan-EU bilateral relationship and expressed satisfaction over the significant progress of the Pakistan-EU institutional mechanisms. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan sees the European Union as a valued partner. Appreciating the

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Kundi for strengthening democracy

Kundi also talked about the importance of being tough on terrorism

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Faisal Karim Kundi stressed the need for keeping democracy strong without getting into fights. Joined by PPP leader Nadeem-ul-Azhar Khan, at a press conference in Islamabad, he encouraged Maulana Fazlur Rehman to resolve issues through talks. Kundi also talked about the importance of being tough on terrorism and not tolerating it at all. Speaking on the occasion, Khan agreed with Kundi, saying elections have problems because people are pro-people. He mentioned President Asif Zardari's speech in Parliament. He said that people were unhappy with the PTI government because of inflation in 2018.

Hamid named chairman of PAC by Imran

The PTI founder consulted the party leadership

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The PTI founder on Wednesday appointed Sahibzada Hamid Raza of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). According to sources, earlier the PTI founder had nominated Sher Afzal Marwat as the chairman. However, the PTI founder consulted the party leadership and nominated the Sahibzada for the office of chairman. He has issued instructions to Omar Ayub in this regard. It may be noted that the PAC plays a crucial role in upholding transparency and accountability within ministries, divisions, and public sector organisations.

ECP 'slaps objections on PTI intra-party elections' for 3rd time

PTI representatives summoned to appear before ECP on April 30

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The recently held intra-party elections of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have once again been questioned by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Sources said on Wednesday, the electoral authority has sent a notice to the former ruling party over alleged irregularities in the intra-party polls conducted on March 3, according to the sources. The Political Financing Wing of the ECP has asked PTI representatives to appear before the electoral watchdog on April 30. This is the third time that the poll organising authority has taken exception to the beleaguered party's internal elections. The PTI filed the documents related to its intra-party polls to the ECP on March 4. The documents, submitted by PTI's Federal Election Commissioner Roof Hasan, included details of the newly-elected party office-bearers, a certificate of the party chair

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

STAFF REPORT

Yasmin Rashid writes to CJP

LAHORE: PTI stalwart Dr. Yasmin Rashid, who is presently in jail in connection with May 9 incidents of May 9 violence, has appealed to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faiz Isa to take notice of massive rigging witnessed in the by-elections held on April 21. In a letter to the CJP, she has said that the by-elections had made a mockery of the PML-N's much-trumpeted slogan of 'Vote kolzardam' (Give respect to vote) for good. Dr. Yasmin has further said that the forces inimical to



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offers fatiha at the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. - DNA

Jamaica officially recognizes state of Palestine

"By recognizing the State of Palestine, Jamaica strengthens its advocacy towards a peaceful solution," she said

NEWS DESK

KINGSTON: Jamaica says it has decided to officially recognize Palestine as a state amid prolonged concerns over Israel's ongoing war in the Gaza Strip and the dire humanitarian crisis in the besieged territory. Jamaica's Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith confirmed the decision in a press statement on Wednesday, stressing that the move is aligned with her country's "strong

Continued on Page 06

Repelling in Kohlu after explosion

STAFF REPORT

KOHLU: Rockets were fired and a landmine explosion took place in Kohlu on Wednesday, as the process of repelling took place during a polling station in the Balochistan district's PB-9 constituency days after the recent by-elections. The attacks halted the voting process at the impacted polling station in Nasao where staff could not reach due to the law and order situation and safety concerns, said in the district commissioner. According to the Leves sources, the rocket was fired from an unknown direction near a polling station in the district's Nasao area,

Continued on Page 06

Civilians' trial in mily courts SC refers matter to judges panel after objection

On January 29, Justice Masood rescued himself from hearing intra-court appeals against civilians' trial in military courts, leading to the dissolution of a six-member larger bench

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday, after reservations raised against the six-member bench hearing the military courts case, referred the matter to the Practice and Procedure Committee for reconstitution of the bench. A six-member larger bench today, headed by Justice Aminuddin and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Arshad Rivi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Musarrat Jilani and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan, conducted the hearing on the civilians' trials in military courts who were involved in the May 9 incidents last year. During the hearing, petitioner former chief justice Jawad S Khawaja's lawyer Khawaja Ahmad Hasan raised an objection on

Continued on Page 06

Missing Baloch students IHC raises question over accountability in spy agencies

COURT NOTICE

ISLAMABAD: High Court (IHC) conducted the hearing of a petition filed for the recovery of missing Baloch students on Wednesday. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani presided over the proceedings. During Wednesday's hearing, Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Aman presented a report on the

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, Iran agree on swift FTA finalization, target \$10b trade

Agreeing to turn the common border from a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran agreed to expeditiously finalize the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and boost their bilateral trade to USD10 billion over the next five years through joint economic projects, setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and new border openings. The bilateral ties and cooperations were discussed during the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iran's President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi who was on an official visit to Pakistan from April 22-24, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Minister Amir Abdullahian, as well as other members of the cabinet and senior officials. Agreeing to turn the common border from a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project, according to a joint statement issued by Foreign Office on the culmination of Raisi's visit on Wednesday.

Continued on Page 06

Blinken back in China seeking stability

AGENCIES

SHANGHAI: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken returned Wednesday to China on his second visit in a year, as the United States ramps up pressure on its rival over its support for Russia while also seeking to manage tensions with Beijing. The US diplomat will meet China's top brass on Friday in Beijing, where he is also expected to plead for restraint as Taiwan inaugurates a new leader, and to raise US concerns on Chinese trade practices - a vital issue for President Joe Biden in an election year. But Blinken is also seeking to stabilise ties, with tensions between the world's two largest economies palpably easing since his last visit in June. At the time, he was

Continued on Page 06



Summer Camp Season 7

Package	1 Activity	2 Activity	3 Activity
1 Child	55,000	70,000	85,000
2 Children	45,000	60,000	75,000
3 Children	75,000	90,000	105,000
4 Children	85,000	100,000	115,000
5 Children	95,000	110,000	125,000
6 Children	105,000	120,000	135,000

ACTIVITIES

- Swimming
- Kids Aerobics
- Taekwondo
- Kids Yoga

RULES & REGULATIONS

Each activity will be for three consecutive days, starting from the day of the camp.

The camp is open to all children aged 5 to 12 years.

For registration, please visit the QR code and read the participant's terms and conditions and photographs. WhatsApp: 0300-0000000. For more information, please visit the website: www.summertime.com.pk

WhatsApp: 0300-0000000

For more information please visit QR code on 0300-0000000

Valid from 1st April to 31st August, 2024

ISLAMABAD SIRENA 0300-0000000

Summertime

THE LEADING HOTELS BY THE BEACH

Mashal Yousafzai praises Pak-China friendship bond

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Social Welfare, Special Education, and Women Empowerment, Mashal Yousafzai, has highlighted the profound bond of friendship between Pakistan and China, describing it as a source of immense pride. She emphasised China's unwavering support to Pakistan, especially during challenging times, citing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a prime example of this enduring friendship. Yousafzai expressed these sentiments during her visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar, where she praised the Chinese Embassy for providing the people of Peshawar with an invaluable opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese culture. During her visit, Mashal Yousafzai visited various galleries of the cultural center, adding her remarks to the visitor's book and signing the friendship wall. She lauded the CPEC as a testament to the strong ties between the two nations, celebrating the \$25 billion already invested and anticipating further investments in the project's second phase. Mashal Yousafzai also commended China's successful efforts in lifting millions out of poverty, even amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, citing it as a valuable lesson for Pakistan. Looking ahead, Mashal Yousafzai expressed confidence in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's commitment to following the example set by China in promoting social welfare and economic prosperity. She welcomed the Chinese government's initiatives to provide higher education opportunities and scholarships to Pakistani students, expressing hope for continued cooperation in social welfare projects.

DC Larkana chairs meeting on Anti-Polio drive

LARKANA: Commissioner Larkana Devison Ghulam Mustafa Puaal Thursday said that polio was an infectious disease that we should work together to eradicate and focus on whatever problems there are and where the teams cannot reach, a report should be submitted about them. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Task Force on Polio eradication at the Commissioner's Office. He further said that you should give a complete report that the staff does not work during the campaign so that a report can be sent to the higher authorities. During the meeting, he instructed all the DHOs and said that you should give accurate reports about your areas so that no child is left out of drinking polio drops. Speaking on this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Larkana Dr. Sharjeel Noor Channa said that we have found the WHO regarding the micro plan so that in the next campaign they will work fully and work hard to make the campaign successful. —APP

Amb Jemal, Minister Romina launch green initiative in Sialkot

Ambassador Jemal Beker urges global unity against climate change after witnessing Pakistan's devastating flash floods

DNA

SIALKOT: I.H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, along with Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Climate Change with status of Federal Minister H.E. Romina Khurshid Alam launched the "Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Under Green Legacy" initiative as of Ethiopian PM H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed at the University of Sialkot in presence of government officials, religious community, businessmen, academia students, civil society and media. The initiative was launched as part of a collaboration among the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Climate Change and the University of Sialkot. More than 200 plants of different indigenous species were planted under the "Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Under Green Legacy" Initiative which was followed by a climate walk in the town which was participated by a large number of people. Addressing the launching ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker expressed gratitude for the Government of Pakistan for joining hands with the Ethiopian Embassy for fostering brother-



hood and fraternity between the two big nations. "Today we gather here not only to save the planet earth but also connecting the two big and historic nation the heirs of civilizations and protectors of the rule-based world order while fighting together the global challenges such as terrorism and climate change," the Ambassador remarked. H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker recalled the recent flash flood that brought devastation to Pakistan's shores which, he had personally witnessed during his visit to tent cities in Sindh.

"Climate change is an existential threat that will not spare any place or area on this planet earth if we did not come together to combat this challenge which is not a problem for only Pakistan or Ethiopia but the rest of the world," he said. To this end, he said the Embassy of PDR Ethiopia launched the Green Legacy initiative to contribute to the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan towards greener and cleaner future for the next generations. The Ambassador said the Embassy along with other

stakeholders would do massive plantation throughout the week in other major cities including Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and others. "Our efforts in this regard are completely aligned with the vision of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed who transformed Ethiopia under his Medemer philosophy which strongly advocates for aligning all the resources to provide home grown solutions to the home grown problems," the Ambassador stressed. He said H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, mobilized the

whole nation under the Green Legacy initiative and so far, more than 32.5 billion seedlings planted across the country in the last five years which included the saplings of fruits like avocado, papaya, banana, oranges, olives and many others. Likewise, coffee, animal feed and floral plants were also planted that taking us closer to our target of 50 billion seedlings until 2025. In addition to that, more than 150,000 nurseries were set up in the country as well as over a million jobs. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Romina Khurshid lauded H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula for fostering fraternity between the two nations through Green Legacy Initiative. The Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan said she was delighted to make a formal announcement regarding the collaboration between the Embassy of Ethiopia in Islamabad and the Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan regarding the Ethio-Pakistan Fraternity Under Green Legacy Initiative. She said Prime Minister H.E. Shehbaz Sharif had accorded the approval to formalize the collaboration at bilateral level between the two countries and assured of the Government of Pakistan's strong commitment in this regard.

ARI calls for measures to curb tobacco use

MULTAN: Alternative Research Institute (ARI) and its member organizations have demanded practical measures from federal and provincial governments to end tobacco consumption. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the project director of ARI, Arshad Ali Syed stated that many developed countries are progressing towards a tobacco-free future. According to the World Health Organization, 80 per cent of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco users reside in low and middle-income countries. Currently, 30.1 million people in Pakistan use tobacco in various forms, half of whom are cigarette smokers. Mr Syed stated that the role of provincial governments is crucial in taking the first step towards tobacco cessation, but unfortunately, no action has been taken at the provincial level in this regard. He said that the first step should be to provide facilities for tobacco cessation to adult tobacco users through-out Pakistan as a fundamental human right. He said that besides this, low-tar tobacco (reduced tar and nicotine) should be included in tobacco control efforts. He said that ARI and its member organizations support the steps taken by the government, including raising taxes on cigarettes to control tobacco consumption. He said there is a need to ensure that these measures are not limited to just these actions but are further advanced and utilized through new and more effective means. —APP

SC says wife to benefit if Nikahnama terms unclear

Judgment says any ambiguity cannot be used against wife when terms decided by men

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ruled that in case of any ambiguity in the terms and conditions agreed at the time of wedding and written in the Nikahnama, the benefits would be given to wife, stressing that if someone else had filled the Nikahnama form, it cannot be used against the interest of the bride. A two-member bench consisting of Justice Aminuddin Khan and Justice Athar Minallah issued on Tuesday a detailed 10-page judgment on an appeal relating to

a couple's divorce. The judgment was authored by Justice Athar Minallah. According to the facts of the case, after the divorce, the woman approached the court for the return of dowry and other items under the conditions stipulated in the Nikahnama. When the matter reached the high court, the woman was given a plot mentioned in column number 17 of the Nikahnama. Against the high court ruling, the appellant moved the Supreme Court, taking the stand that the purpose of the plot was that a house would be constructed there and as long as the marriage lasted the woman could

live there. However, there was no such explanation written in the Nikahnama. The legal question before the Supreme Court in the case was, if there was any ambiguity in the terms and conditions in the Nikahnama how it could be resolved. The court said that it was a settled law that any ambiguity in a contract was determined by the intention of the parties. However, in this case, the judgment noted, before interpreting the terms and conditions of the Nikahnama, it should also be considered whether the bride had full freedom to give her consent to the terms and conditions of the marriage. The judgment noted that in a

male-dominated society, the terms and conditions were generally decided by the man on behalf of the bride. So, it added, if someone else filled the columns of the Nikahnama without meaningful consultation of the bride, it could not be used against the interest of the bride. If there was ambiguity or doubt in the terms and conditions of the Nikahnama or in any entry or column, then the wife would get the benefit, according to the judgment. The Supreme Court upheld the decision of the high court and dismissed the appeal.

Amir Muqam briefed on KP rain, landslides impact

The federal minister said that compensation should be given to the deceased and better treatment facilities should be provided to the injured

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Engr Amir Muqam on Wednesday received a detailed briefing by senior officials of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PDMA-KP) on recent rains and landslide damages and rescue and relief efforts being conducted in the affected areas. The Federal Minister was informed about the damages incurred by recent rains and the relief operations

and distribution of assistance funds by the NDMA and PDMA. The Minister said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the most impacted province due to rains and landslides in terms of human life losses reported. He said that federal government would help the victims in this hour of difficulty. Engr Amir Muqam expressed solidarity and sympathy with the victims of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and assured every possible assistance and support to them. He said that due to heavy rains and landslides, life and financial losses occurred in various districts including Shangela, Swat, Bajaur, Buner, Batakram,

Manshara, Mohmand, Malandand, Karak, Tank, Maradan, Peshawar, Nowshera, Bannu, North and South Waziristan, Kohat and Orakzai. The federal minister said that compensation should be given to the deceased and better treatment facilities should be provided to the injured. The official informed the federal minister that 33 children, 15 women and 17 women, 37 men and 24 children are among the injured, adding that a total of 5,202 houses were damaged due to the collapse of walls and roofs in different districts of which 477 were completely damaged and 2,725 got partially damaged.



ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. — DNA

ISSI-FES co-host Int'l conference on emerging geopolitics

Pakistan's foreign policy and security, emphasizing the necessity to embrace international norms to navigate the complexities of the current global landscapes

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Pakistan Office, hosted a one-day International Conference, titled "Pakistan in the Emerging Geopolitical Landscape." The Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session was Ambassador Asif Durani, Pakistan's Special Representative to Afghanistan. Ms. Anjuna Khan Director CAMEA, in her introductory remarks, brought attention to the underlying major transformations around the globe, highlighting the need for increased global partnerships and equitable progress. Amidst these global shifts, a critical juncture in regional dynamics, especially in West and Central Asia, impact Pakistan's foreign policy and security, emphasizing the necessity

to embrace international norms to navigate the complexities of the current global landscapes. While shedding light on the deliberations of the one-day Conference, Ms. Khan said that it will focus on three key areas: Afghanistan post-August 2021, the evolving Middle East, and emerging non-traditional security threats in Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Middle East; issues that are vital for Pakistan's future. Ambassador Sobah Mahmood Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks, stated that amidst historic transformations globally the world today is marked by intense polarization, volatility, and fragmentation. Traditional threats including major power competition, wars in Europe and the Middle East are accentuated by new challenges such as cyber warfare and climate change. Some see a 'decline of the West' and 'rise of the rest.' A shift towards multipolarity is also discernible. Similarly, technology adds complexity, from informational warfare

to AI militarization. He stressed that Pakistan, like others, grapples with these complexities, from cross-border terrorism to volatility of food and fuel prices to extreme weather events. From instability in South Asia to conflict in the Middle East, cross-border terrorism to hybrid warfare, Pakistan faces the fallout of a complex array of challenges. Like others, Pakistan must navigate these threats and challenges while seizing available opportunities. He added that "it is our considered view that for tackling all these phenomena successfully on national and international scale—a collaborative approach is indispensable." Specifically, an approach that puts a premium on adherence to time-honoured principles of inter-state relations and international law, renewal of faith in equal security, fostering international cooperation and solidarity, and strengthening cooperative multilateralism. Furthermore, an approach that prioritizes peaceful coexistence,

seeks win-win outcomes is critically important. Ambassador Asif Durani, Pakistan's Special Representative to Afghanistan, while making his remarks stated that Pakistan's neighbourhood is infested with challenges, conflicts and disputes, further compounded with major power rivalry. In the past, the Iranian revolution, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the rise of China created new paradigms for regional peace and security. He underlined the concern that the Ukrainian crisis is considered the revival of the Cold War rivalry; the Israel-Hamas conflict has further compounded the global war; Iran-Iraq conflict if not contained urgently can engulf the Middle East and beyond. While shedding light on Pakistan, Ambassador Durani emphasized that Pakistan's unique geography enhances its geopolitical and geo-economic value as it sits in the middle of important regions like Central Asia and the Middle East.

Advertisement for Ashraf Industries Pvt. Ltd. featuring martial arts uniforms and belts. Text includes: 'MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN', 'WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED', 'JUDO KARATE KUNG-FU JU-JITSU TAEKWONDO UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS', and 'Ashraf' logo.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

- April National Day
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
Mona.....0334-5421812



Emergency

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

Enquiry

- Ethi Ambulance.....315
PIA Flight Info.....1114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Enquiry.....117
Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cant Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603966

Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9218301-04
Met Office.....925390-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Contention Board 9270152-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari presenting Chamber's shield to Ambassador Ahmed Jawad Rabeel. Vice President Engr. Azhar-ul-Islam Zafar, Malik Maqsood, Assad Haider, Waseem Chaudhry, Javaid Iqbal, Sheikh Ejaz, Khalid Chaudhry, Praveen Khan, Ashfaq Chettah and Malik Mohsin Khalid are also present. - DNA

Irshad's Book 'Physics and Cosmology' launched at IPRI

Sardar Shaheen, a CSP, worked in the Inland Revenue Service, FBR and he was also appointed as Advisor to Federal Tax Mohtasib

ISLAMABAD: The book on 'Physics and Cosmology' written by former CSP officer Sardar Irshad Shaheen was launched on Wednesday here at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). The book talks about creation of the universe in the light of science and philosophical spirituality, and has been published in the United States, a news release said. Sardar Shaheen, a CSP, worked in the Inland Revenue Service, FBR and he was also appointed as Advisor to Federal Tax Mohtasib. He claims that right from his school days, he was inquisitive about writing about nature, the universe and life. The book launch was participated by...

COMSTECH organizes certificate course



ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in collaboration with Equator University of Science & Technology, Moscow, and Habib Medical School, Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala organized 2-day certificate course on neurology. The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said that in Africa, where the need of neurological diseases is significant and often made worse by socioeconomic factors, the significance of neurology in healthcare provision is particularly crucial. He emphasized the need of specialized knowledge and resources to confront neurological diseases effectively. He said that this course is aimed to equip healthcare professionals with fundamental expertise and competencies in neurology. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Uganda H.E. Muhammad Hassan Warar addressed the gathering as a chief guest. He commended the efforts of the organizers of the course on neurocritical care. He said this course will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration and innovation which are essential to address challenges. He said that Pakistan and Uganda share a deep bond of friendship and cooperation. He invited Ugandans to visit state of the art medical facilities of Pakistan and the embassy would fully facilitate your medical tourism endeavors. Prof. Dr. Jamil Simbara Gyaganda, Rector, Islamic University in Uganda commended the efforts of the Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary in organizing the important course at the Islamic University of Uganda. He urged the participants of the course to make strong network with the relevant experts for future knowledge and expertise exchange.

China's agroecosystems a role model for Palistan: Experts

ISLAMABAD: 'China's agroecosystems are a prime example of how we can balance agricultural productivity with environmental protection. China has made significant progress in this field and has developed a range of innovative techniques and strategies that can be replicated in Pakistan and other developing countries,' said Dr. Adnan Arshad, a Pakistani expert in climate change and sustainable agriculture. Dr. Adnan graced the stage at the Planetary Health Annual Meeting (PHAM) Malaysia 2024 held at Sunway University from 18 to 19 April, sharing his insights on China's climate-smart agroecosystems. Gender Pro reported on Wednesday. As the director of the climate change education program at PODA-Pakistan and a researcher at Lanzhou University, China, he mesmerized the audience with his thoughts on how these systems contribute to global efforts in safeguarding planetary health. On the occasion, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator Xu Hongting delivered a keynote address urging the world to adopt a new model of global stewardship that aligns with the needs of the 21st century, which resonated strongly with the gathering of 1,069 environmental experts, policymakers, and advocates from 61 countries who had converged in Malaysia to discuss the urgent challenges facing planetary health. As the world grapples with the growing challenges posed by climate change, the need for sustainable agricultural practices has become paramount. Climate-smart sustainable agroecosystems represent a transformative approach that not only enhances agricultural productivity but also safeguards the health of the planet by playing a role in reducing the impact of climate change, chemical fertilizers, promoting organic farming, and protecting soils. 'China's approach to sustainable agroecosystems is not just about increasing yields but also about preserving the environment and safeguarding the health of our planet,' said Dr. Adnan. 'By adopting climate-smart practices, China has been able to reduce its carbon emissions, conserve water resources, and maintain overall health, all while ensuring food security for its vast population.' Amidst the global push for climate action, China has announced ambitious targets for its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The nation strives to peak its carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to environmental sustainability. As the world watches China's progress towards its carbon neutrality goals, it remains hopeful that other nations will follow suit and embrace similar sustainable agricultural strategies. China, with its vast experience in agricultural modernization, is providing Pakistan with crucial support in this endeavor. 'Chinese experts are working closely with Pakistani farmers and agricultural researchers to develop crop varieties that are resilient to drought, heat stress, and other climate-related challenges,' DNA

Qaiser, delegation discuss investment in KPT, other ports

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Hutchison Group, a globally renowned network in port and logistics operations called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Wednesday and discussed investment potential expansion projects in Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and possibly other strategic ports across the country. The meeting was attended by Federal Secretary Maritime Affairs Dr. Iram, Chairman Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Chairman Port Qasim Authority and other senior officials of the Ministry. The delegation consisted of senior executives of Hutchison Ports, Regional Head of Hutchison Ports Andy Sui, Country Advisor IIP, GM SMTT Unit Champa Key, GM KICT, Alvin Chu, said a press release. The proceedings began with welcome remarks by Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, who emphasized the importance of the visit and mutual commitment to strengthen Pakistan's maritime infrastructure. The minister urged the participants to give concrete shape to the potential projects that would facilitate concrete deliberations for actionable results. He stressed the indispensable role of port development in driving overall economic growth. Andy Sui presented his strategic vision to expand port facilities and strengthen connectivity in the region. In outlining the proposed infusion of \$1 billion, he unveiled a more proactive investment strategy. Specifically, an initial tranche of \$ 200 million is to be earmarked for immediate implementation, with the remainder for phased implementation. He added that the focus of the investment strategy is to expand logistics infrastructure, including setting up of modern warehouses, storage facilities and depots. -APP

Law Minister meets IPC delegation

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) met with Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nasser Tarar here on Wednesday. The delegation was led by IPC President Abdul Rahim Maan and included Secretary General Siam Azam, Assistant Secretary General Iqbal Khan and Deputy Speaker Jordan. The IPC delegation briefed the Law Minister on the organization's work and mission. The IPC is a global platform that unites individual members of national parliaments from around the world to collaboratively address global and regional challenges. The delegation also discussed the formation of IPC's human rights committees. Minister Tarar commended the IPC's efforts to expand its membership and foster cultural exchange among parliamentarians worldwide. He expressed his appreciation for the organization's work in addressing critical issues related to human rights. The IPC President concluded the meeting by presenting a report on road safety. -APP

Advertisement for NGPL (National Gas Pipeline) featuring gas prices: Rs. 1,674/MMBTU, Rs. 3,500/MMBTU, Rs. 1,100/MMBTU, and Rs. 513/MMBTU. Includes text in Urdu and English about gas supply and pricing.

Briefs

Playback singer Ahmed Rashedi remembered

ISLAMABAD: Renowned playback singer Ahmed Rashedi, who mesmerized audiences with his beautiful songs was remembered on the occasion of his birth anniversary on Wednesday. Born on April 24, 1934, in Hyderabad, he was considered the first pop singer of Pakistan. He started his career by singing in Radio Pakistan Karachi's programme "Bachon Ki Duniya". He recorded his first song for the film "Anokhi" and went on to achieve fame with a song filmed by actor Alaouddin. Ahmed Rashedi lent his voice to films most in the 70s and 80s and won the Nigar Award for three consecutive years for his work in the films "Spiran", "Mehrab" and "Shohab". He was also awarded the Sitara-i-Hintaz in addition to the Artist and Millennium Awards. His voice had a profound impact on the chocolate hero Waheed Murad, who was one of the most popular actors of his time. April 11, 1982 at the age of 49, leaving behind a legacy of music that continues to be cherished by his fans.-APP

E&T Deptt checked 2895 vehicles

ISLAMABAD: In a crackdown against vehicles with tinted windows and unauthorized/fancy number plates, the Excise and Taxation (E&T) Department in the Federal Capital has intensified its operations. In the past month alone, 2895 vehicles were inspected, resulting in the removal of 1066 tinted glasses and 800 fancy number plates. Talking to APP, Spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory Administration, Dr. Abdullah Tabassum said that on the instructions from the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the E&T Department's officers have been conducting daily inspections to ensure compliance with existing regulations. During the last month, he revealed that these inspections have been intensified and checked nearly 3,000 vehicles, leading to the removal of over 1,000 sets of coloured glass and 800 illegal number plates. Additionally, the registration of 183 vehicles has been suspended, with many others receiving warnings. The inspections were carried out by teams of Assistant Commissioners, officers from the Excise and Taxation Department, and Assistant Excise & Taxation Officers (AETOs). Vehicles with tinted windows or fancy number plates were subject to penalties, including suspension of registration. Owners of these vehicles must correct the violations to have their registration restored. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner urged the public to avoid using unauthorized car accessories. This includes removing full-color tinted windows and fancy number plates, and replacing them with ones approved by the Excise and Taxation Department. Dr. Abdullah said that this crackdown served as a reminder to all vehicle owners in Islamabad to adhere to the rules. It's a clear message that authorities are committed to maintaining safety and order on the roads.-APP

more scholarships for Palestinian people

The scholarships are fully covered in addition to 50 thousand rupees for each student from the Alkhidmat Foundation for the entire period of study

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Today, 100 more scholarships were covered at Al-Fatihah University following the 5000 previous scholarships for our dear Palestinian students in many different Pakistani Universities. During the visit to Al-Fatihah University, Ambassador of the State of Palestine, was honored to sign an agreement to provide 100 scholarships to Palestinian students, provided by the university in all its nine branches throughout the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, covering various undergraduate and postgraduate degrees (Master's, PhD's). The scholarships are fully covered in addition to 50 thousand rupees for each student from the Alkhidmat Foundation for the entire period of study. Grateful for the sisterly Pakistan for their generous and unwavering support across various humanitarian, diplomatic, political, moral, and educational sectors.



MOU Signing Ceremony

between

Riphah International University
Al-Khidmat Foundation, Embassy, Palestine

Pakistani participant delight in cultural spectacle at Weifang Kite Festival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a vibrant celebration of tradition and artistry, the 41st Weifang International Kite Festival has captivated visitors from around the globe. Foreign participants have been left in awe as they witness the colorful skies of Weifang, China, adorned with intricate kites of all shapes and sizes. According to a Gwadar Po's Muhammad Ishaqullah Khan from Pakistan participated in the festival and told the reporter that the festival's rich history and significance in Chinese culture have also left a lasting impression on international guests, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art of kite-making and flying. Through workshops and demonstrations, many foreigners have had the opportunity to learn about the intricate techniques behind

crafting these magnificent kites. "Weifang is believed to be the birthplace of kites. Nowadays, more than 70% of kites worldwide are exported from here," he added. A foreign expert from the USA said that the festival, known for being the largest of its kind worldwide, has drawn enthusiasts and spectators alike, offering a unique blend of cultural immersion and entertainment. He and other foreign attendees have expressed their delight at the breathtaking displays, showcasing the craftsmanship and creativity of local kite makers. "We are amazed by the skill and creativity on display here in Weifang. It's truly a mesmerizing experience to witness the kites soaring against the backdrop of the picturesque landscape," said Mike, a visitor from the United States. Muhammad Ali from Egypt said that this festival serves as a testament to the enduring appeal of traditional art forms in a modern world. Foreigners have found themselves immersed in the beauty and wonder of the festival, forging unforgettable memories and connections with the local community. With each kite that takes to the sky, the festival not only showcases the artistic prowess of its participants but also serves as a reminder of the power of shared experiences to bridge cultural divides and unite people from all corners of the globe. It is worth mentioning that in 1984, the first Weifang International Kite Festival was successfully held. Every spring, a kite-themed carnival event is held here. This year marks the 41st edition, and friends from more than 30 countries and regions around the world come to participate.

Police carry out search operations in different areas

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Division Police have on Wednesday carried out search operations in "Baraf Khan Chowk", "Thata Khail" and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Race Course and Taxila Police Stations. According to a police spokesman, the search operations were conducted to maintain law and order and flush out suspects following the directives of the City Police Officer (CPO). He informed that senior police officers and police personnel including women police took part in the search operation. Police checked as many as 22 houses, 15 shops, five tenants and 68 individuals during the search operations. The spokesman said that police were fully prepared to shield the lives and property of the public and combing and search operations were being done to flush out the suspects and hardcore criminals. He said that police were more vigilant to keep an eye on suspects and maintain law and order in Rawalpindi.-APP

Pakistani, Chinese Companies to control Canola Crop losses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese companies under a joint venture have engaged themselves to control Canola Crop losses. They have undertaken the task in the Bhakkar district of Punjab. Pakistan's Eyoal Group has demonstrated advanced harvester attachments aimed at controlling shattering losses in the canola crop, Gwadar Pro reported. Eyoal Group provides high-quality canola seeds developed by China's Wuhuan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Co. to Pakistani farmers under a joint venture with the Chinese company. "Qingfa's HC-021C canola has 0.7 percent Erucic Acid and 15 mm/gm Glucosinolate, much lower than the global standard of 2% and 30 mm/gm, respectively. Therefore, the Chinese canola variety is dubbed as '07' for having the least hazardous contents," Zafar Iqbal, Head of Centre Seeds, a division of Eyoal, said during a presentation to farmers and journalists. He added that they observed shattering losses to the tune of 200-400 kilograms per acre. "We informed our Chinese JV partner, which sent these advanced attachments to control the losses," Zafar said. "The optimum yield of HC-021C is around 1500-1600 kgs (kilograms) per acre," he mentioned. In the next phase, the Chinese partner will send small pressing machines to enable the farmers to extract canola oil at the household level, he informed. Iqbal said that Pakistan imports 4.4 million tons of edible oil worth around US \$3.8 billion. The Chinese canola variety can bridge this gap and save precious foreign reserves for Pakistan besides increasing profitability for local farmers. "We started sowing the HC-021C seeds in 2019. So far, it is being cultivated on over 100,000 acres of land. Our target is 12.5 million acres to make Pakistan self-sufficient in edible oil," he elaborated.

Pakistan attracted \$153.9 Million net FDI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's investment in Pakistan's economy surged in March 2024, with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reporting a substantial inflow of \$161.2 million in foreign direct investment (FDI). However, after factoring in an outflow of \$7.3 million, the net inflow settled at \$153.9 million. In March 2024, Pakistan attracted \$311.2 million in FDI from multiple partner countries. Of this, China made a significant contribution of \$153.9 million, representing 49.46% of the total FDI. The remaining \$157.3 million from all partner countries with \$261.9 million from China. In the first nine months of FY2023-24, Pakistan has so far received \$1,251.5 million from all partner countries with \$261.9 million from China.

Soyabean, palm oil imports grew 53.07%, 28.55% in 09 months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Edible oil imports including soyabean and palm into the country during the first three quarters of the current financial year increased by 53.07 per cent and 28.55 per cent respectively as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of the last year. During the period under review, about 200,191 metric tons of soy worth \$495,217 million were imported in order to fulfill the local requirements as compared to the imports of 177,553 metric tons valued at \$424,628 million of the same period of last year. During the period from July-March 2023-24, the country spent \$2,084 billion on the import of about 2,293 million metric tons of palm oil as compared to the imports of 2,381 million metric tons valued at \$2,197 billion of the same period of last year. Meanwhile, 107,705 metric tons of soyaabean oil worth \$116,069 million were imported as compared to the imports of 173,029 metric tons valued at 247,302 million, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.-APP

Machinery import surges by 30% in nine months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall machinery group witnessed an increase of 30 percent during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year (2023-24) compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the machinery group during July-March (2023-24) stood at \$5,854.851 million against the imports of \$4,493.283 million during the same period of the last year. The import of agricultural sector machinery and equipment surged by 102.31 percent from \$30,198 million to \$61,095; office machinery including data processing equipment 41.28 percent from \$249,167 million to \$352,429 million; electrical machinery and apparatus 68.69 percent from \$1,247,552 million to \$2,105,047 million; telecom related equipment 117.90 percent from \$744,971 million to \$1,623,321 million;

mobile phone 181.26 percent from \$462,700 million to \$1,301,388 million and other apparatus 14.05 percent from \$ 282,271 million to \$ 321,933 million. However, during the period under review, the import of construction and mining machinery declined by 4.47 percent from \$66,236 million to \$ 63,275 million, textile machinery by 63.68 percent from \$286,371 million to \$104,907 million, power-generating equipment by 25.63 percent from \$398,409 million to \$296,093 million and other machinery by 14 percent from \$1,470,344 million to \$ 1,259,064 million. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the machinery group imports increased 139.62 percent during March 2024 compared to the same month of last year, from \$338,816,727 million to \$811,865 million. On a month-on-month basis, the machinery imports into the country went up 17.78 percent during March 2024, compared to the imports of \$ 689,294 million in January 2024, according to the PBS data.

Study visit of Ministry of social solidarity to BISP office

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmad extended warm welcome to a 12-member delegation from the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) of Timor-Leste today at BISP headquarters. Led by Ms. Veronica Das Soares, Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, the delegation's visit aimed to explore avenues of collaboration and learn from BISP's extensive experience in social protection initiatives. Highlighting BISP's commitment to enhancing social welfare, Secretary BISP emphasized the importance of sharing experiences and best practices to address the challenges faced by vulnerable populations. Secretary BISP reiterated the organization's emphasis on the Nashonuma Programme, aimed at providing essential food and nutrition support to those in need. DGR/NER/CT Naveed Akbar provided a comprehensive overview of BISP's initiatives, focusing particularly on the National Socioeconomic Registry (NSER), Kafalati, Nashonuma, and Taleemi Wazafi programmes. Ms. Veronica Das Soares commended BISP for its impactful programs and expressed keen interest in understanding BISP's operational framework, particularly its NSER database. She emphasized the importance of leveraging BISP's expertise to strengthen social protection mechanisms in Timor-Leste. Secretary BISP assured the provision of technical support to facilitate the implementation of social protection programs in Timor-Leste, underscoring the commitment to promote bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both nations' citizens. The delegation comprised the figures including Ms. Cosco Usayayama, Country Director and Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) for Pakistan, and Mrs. Ahsa Cecilia Garzon, Country Director and Representative of WFP for Timor-Leste, among others. Representing BISP were Dr. Tabir Noor, Additional Secretary BISP, and all the Director Generals of BISP. The meeting concluded with both parties expressing optimism for future collaborations and a strengthened partnership aimed at advancing social solidarity and inclusion efforts in their respective countries.-DNA

Threat of US sanctions on Iran trade condemned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), a Wednesday, condemned the US threat to impose sanctions on Pakistan in case of trade with Iran, terming it interference in internal matters. Pakistan should make decisions according to its interests and ignore what is in the interest of the US, he said. There is no other choice for Pakistan but to purchase gas from Iran or face a fine of twenty billion dollars, he added. In a statement issued here today, Dr Murtaza Mughal said that the threat of US sanctions should not be taken very seriously as dozens of countries with the American block are already trading with Iran. The US has no objection to dozens of countries doing trade with Iran, but when it comes to Pakistan, it start issuing threats which are condemnable, he said. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the American double standard adopted towards Pakistan is no longer acceptable as it is highly damaging to the economy. He said that Pakistan's Afghan policy was not compatible with American interests, but it was continued for decades. Similarly, defence cooperation with China does not go down well with the Americans, but it continues successfully. He added that the CPEC was also unacceptable to the US and its allies, but it is being finalised quickly. In many cases, decisions have been made in the country's interest against the Americans will and importing gas from Iran should also be such a decision. Gas purchase from Iran is critically vital for Pakistan's economy, and we have no other option as refusal to buy gas will result in a fine of 20 billion dollars, which Pakistan can not pay, he underlined. Dr. Mughal said that there is no doubt that America is a significant country. It is one of the largest trade partners, export destinations and among the largest investors in Pakistan. Pakistan's exports and remittances also depend on the countries included in the American camp, and the international institutions that lend to Pakistan also make decisions under the influence of the United States.

Envoy visits Netherlands' DRU Industrial Park

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to the Netherlands Sufjan Mastan Tarar on Wednesday visited the DRU Industrial Park in Utht town and had a productive meeting with its director. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the potential of meaningful and mutually beneficial collaboration with counterpart organizations in Pakistan, said a press release received here. Utht was once a centre of the Dutch iron industry and DRU Industrial Park now promotes collaborations in the fields of education, economy, innovation and digitization.-APP

APRIL 2024
Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine
Find us on: www.centrelines.com.pk www.dnaneews.com.pk www.islamabadpost.com.pk
@Postislamabad/ @Editordnaneews
A sister concern of Islamabad POST
11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza, G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165
CENTRELINES
Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine
YEAR IN REVIEW "2023"

US, Israel interference Sudan

The General Conference of Arab Parties affirmed on Wednesday its support for Sudan and its people in their "defence of the independence, sovereignty, and unity of Sudan..."

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily
Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Ukraine's defeat looming

On April 11th, US General Christopher Gerard Cavoli, chief of Washington's European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, addressed US lawmakers on Ukraine's dire battlefield situation...



Message from 22 Billion kilometers away...

Qamar Bashir



This unexpected halt in communication cast a gloom of sadness and despair over NASA. A team of NASA scientists and engineers was hastily assembled to identify the fault and attempt to address it remotely...

NASA scientists were shocked when Voyager-1, an interstellar spacecraft currently around 15 billion miles (22 km) away from Earth, stopped transmitting data in November 2023 for the first time since it began its interstellar voyage 46 years ago...

of planets, moons, and other celestial bodies in outer space, enriching our understanding of the universe. The development of the Voyager spacecraft and its instruments led to advancements in technology that have been applied to various fields...

ality. Frantically, they utilized all available tools and gadgets to understand the nature and extent of the damage the craft might have sustained, although they knew that the spacecraft's power supply was gradually decreasing...

Matteo Gladio

By 1948, Herzl's fundamental goal had been achieved, and by 1967, Zionist control extended over the entirety of Palestine—the primary objective of Zionist aspirations. Subsequent events included the Egyptian capitulation under Sadat with the Camp David agreement in 1979, the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982 culminating in the massacres of Sabra and Shatila, and the gradual neutralization of Jordan.

The end of the idea of 'Israel'

Undoubtedly, the Zionist movement has undergone significant evolution since Theodore Herzl outlined its objectives and since the inaugural Zionist congress convened in Basel in 1897. Pivotal milestones include the Balfour Declaration in 1917, which, backed by the United States, provided a beacon of hope for Zionists...

global revolutionaries. Despite successive acts of aggression, they did not spur the populace into action. Thus, it was natural that the reactionary forces resorted to inflicting humiliation upon us—reacting to harsh realities we had to confront. However, military operation initiated by Palestinian resistance factions launched on October 7, 2023, abruptly reminded us that regardless of other regional forces to challenge the dominance of Zionism and self-determination had already been evolving.

is made. In the span of seven months, the Western-imposed entity, "Israel," has been repeatedly targeted by attacks from numerous regional forces. These military operations have revealed that even amidst the West's efforts to transform the region into a laboratory for deadly weaponry and reactionary ideology-driven political agendas...

Briefs PM urged to reconcile with Imran

FROM PAGE 01
ties including suspended trade relations with India after the Modi-led government unilaterally changed the special status of the occupied valley in August 2019...

FM calls for early...

FROM PAGE 01
EU's consistent support to Pakistan, the FM reaffirmed support for strengthening the strategic partnership in all areas, including trade, migration, and climate change.

Pakistan, Iran agree...

FROM PAGE 01
Both sides underscored the imperative of a long-term durable economic partnership and collaborative regional economic and connectivity model, particularly for socioeconomic development in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan and Pakistan's Baluchistan provinces.

Blinken back in...

FROM PAGE 01
the highest-ranking US official to visit China in five years, and the trip was followed by a meeting between the countries' presidents in November.

SC refers matter to...

FROM PAGE 01
the bench, saying that a larger bench should be constituted in light of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Yahya Afridi's note. The lawyer said that a larger bench comprising at least nine judges should be formed to hear this case, adding that the real question is whether civilians can be tried in military courts or not.

Always NZ: Irfan, Rizwan rule out of last two T20Is

Azam had undergone a radiology test which confirmed that he had suffered a Grade One tear in his right calf muscle after which he was advised to rest for 10 days

SPORTS DESK
LAHORE: Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and all-rounder Irfan Khan have been ruled out of the last two T20Is against New Zealand, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed on Wednesday.

PCB invites orphans for Pakistan-NZ T20 Match

LAHORE: Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi has extended a special invitation to orphaned children to watch the Pakistan-New Zealand T20 Cricket Series, fourth match. 140 Orphaned children will be special guests of the PCB at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Meanwhile, wicketkeeper-batter Haseebullah was named as his replacement. It must be noted that the remaining two T20Is of the series are on 25 and 27 April, respectively. The series is currently level at 1-1. The series is being broadcast live on Pakistan's first sports channel Geo Super.

Sana Mir named Women's T20I Qualifier Ambassador

Sana Mir represented Pakistan in 226 internationals. The action in Abu Dhabi commences from April 25 to May 7

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced former Pakistan captain Sana Mir as the ambassador for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier. Sana, who represented the Green Shirts in 226 internationals - 137 as captain - will be closely following the 10 participating teams in Bangladesh during the two-week-long tournament.



thanks to increased playing opportunities for players through ICC pathway events. 'The players are playing a lot more and getting decent exposure through their domestic tournaments and the ICC pathway programme. For women's cricket to grow further, the regional events and the Qualifier are incredibly important.

Nadal will only play French Open if he can 'compete well'

MADRID: Rafael Nadal said on Wednesday he will only play at the upcoming French Open if he feels 'capable enough to compete well'. The 37-year-old Nadal, who has won 14 Grand Slam titles, said that if he is unable to participate, he would not be able to participate but vowed to keep fighting for the chance to play at his most successful tournament one last time. 'I don't know what's going to happen in the next three weeks. I will keep fighting and doing the things I believe I have to do so I can try to play in Paris, and if I can play, I play, if I can't, I can't', the former world number one told reporters at the Madrid Open on Wednesday.

Usain Bolt named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 ambassador

AFZAL JAVED
ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday announced Olympic legend Usain Bolt as the ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will be played in the West Indies and USA in June 2024. The announcement comes a few weeks ahead of the start of the biggest cricket carnival spectacle ever that will inspire a new generation of fans. Bolt's global appeal transcends his on-field world athletic achievements and ability to transcend boundaries makes him a perfect fit for the biggest T20 World Cup ever.

Shadab emphasizes strike rate importance after 72 loss

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan has opened up about the importance of strike rate in modern-day cricket following the national team's loss against New Zealand in the third T20I. Pakistan suffered a seven-wicket defeat against New Zealand in the third T20I here at Pindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday. While talking to the media in Lahore ahead of the fourth T20I, Shadab stated that Pakistan batters should improve their strike rate in order to tackle important teams in the upcoming T20 World Cup.



FIH gives ultimatum to PHF over parallel bodies

FIH has stated that the issue should be resolved by the end of this week

OUR CORRESPONDENTS
KARACHI: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has written a letter to the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and yet another wave of uncertainty in the country's national sport. The letter highlighted the issue of parallel bodies within Pakistan Hockey Federation which could affect the national team's participation in future events.

most priority of the FIH,' the letter added. 'In order for us to facilitate this, we strongly request that all issues with the administration of PHF are dealt with internally and quickly.' The FIH also urged the PHF to resolve the issue by the end of this week or else players' participation in upcoming events will be in jeopardy.



IHC raises question over...

FROM PAGE 01
recovered missing Baloches. The judge inquired about the allegations of human rights violations detailed in the petition. The petitioner's lawyer, Imran Muzaffar, informed the court that on the same day, the caretaker prime minister [Anwarul Haq Kakar] appeared before this court, a Baloch student was shot, and the following day he was released in Rawalpindi.

ECP slaps objections...

FROM PAGE 01
containing Form 65, names of the committee members, and other relevant records. The party, which elected Barrister Gohar Ali Khan as its interim chairman and secretary general on March 3, needs the relevant certificate to qualify for the allocation of its seats in the constituencies where the electoral body had revoked its 'bat' symbol citing unlawful intra-party polls. The PET conducted fresh polls last week.

Yasmin Rashid...

FROM PAGE 01
the PTI had no idea that people would come out of their homes in large numbers on February 4 to vote for the party candidates in the general elections. 'But despite state oppression, people did turn up at polling stations on that day, forcing the PM to call for new elections in Punjab and in the Center with its allies on the basis of Forms 47,' Dr. Yasmin has said, adding, 'But what was witnessed during the by-elections was even worse as votes were stuffed into ballot boxes prior to the voting ball starting.' 'For God's sake, feel ashamed. For how long will you continue to do injustices with the masses,' the PTI stalwart asked while addressing the party's opponents.

Jamaica officially...

FROM PAGE 01
commitment' to the principles of the United Nations Charter, which seek to promote mutual respect, peaceful cooperation, the right to self-determination. 'By recognizing the State of Palestine, Jamaica strengthens its advocacy towards a peaceful resolution, the only viable option to resolve the longstanding Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She also noted that her government underscores its support for diplomatic dialogue rather than military actions as the key to resolving the conflict. The Jamaican foreign minister further reaffirmed her country's support for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and increased access to humanitarian aid, as well as lasting peace in the region.

Repolling delayed in...

FROM PAGE 01
but no casualties were reported following the attacks. Meanwhile, the landmine blast took place early this morning on Nagao road in the Saragalli area of Barikhan across the re-polling process. In the attack, a tribal leader Raba Nawaz's car hit the landmine. The re-polling in the area was delayed as his car was severely damaged. The re-polling in the district was scheduled to take place from 8 am to 4 pm today. According to the DC, a political party worker was killed in a firing incident at an election camp on Tuesday. He added that the Frontier Corps and Levies' bomb disposal team was in the area.

Briefs 2 DIGs refuse to work under new Islamabad IGP

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Police Department was thrown into turmoil as two senior Deputy Inspector Generals (DIGs) tendered their resignations in protest against the appointment of a 'junior officer' as the new Inspector General (IG) of Islamabad Police.

Saudi king Salman enters hospital

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's ageing King Salman entered hospital for "routine examinations" on Wednesday, the Royal Court said, in a rare public statement about his health.

President Zardari for stronger economic relations with China

The Chairman of CIDCA said that the enemies of the two countries wanted to harm bilateral relations but they would never succeed in their designs.

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has stated that Pakistan and China enjoy long-term strategic relations, which need to be further strengthened in the areas of trade, economy, agriculture, people-to-people contacts, and culture.

strategic importance and was fully committed to the timely completion of all CPCE projects. Highlighting the importance of Gwadar Port, he said that Gwadar Port would not only promote regional connectivity but would also make the transport of goods to China cost-effective.



President Asif Ali Zardari (left) and Chinese officials during a meeting in Islamabad.

PSX surges past 72,000 points

KARACHI: The bullish trend continued in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday as the KSE-100 index breached the 72,000 mark for the first time in the bourse's history.

Pakistan, Portugal eye closer ties across multiple fronts



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq stated on Wednesday that Pakistan and Portugal enjoyed a multifaceted and friendly relationship marked by shared

interests and a common stance on various regional and international matters. "It is high time to enhance political, cultural, economic and people-to-people connections between the two countries," the speaker said during a meeting with Portuguese

Iran ready to forge stronger ties with SL

"We stand fully ready to further expand bilateral relations with all Asian countries, our neighbouring countries, and sovereign and independent states," Raisi said.

COLOMBO: Iran is ready to strengthen ties with Sri Lanka and other Asian countries, its president, Ebrahim Raisi, said on Wednesday, during a short visit to the island nation, the first by an Iranian president in 16 years.

Interference in judiciary Lawyers' bodies move SC for full court bench

Petitions demand annulment of govt's inquiry commission

ISLAMABAD: Multiple lawyers' bodies Wednesday moved the Supreme Court (SC) seeking the constitution of a full court to hear the alleged interference in judicial matters by intelligence agencies.

in judicial affairs by intelligence agencies on April 29. It is to be noted that on March 25, IHC judges including Justice Abbas Akhtar Kayani, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Arshad Habibullah, Justice Tariq Mahmood, Justice Jehangir, Justice Sardar-e-Jahan Khan and Justice Samanullah Khan, demanded CJP Isa to convene the Judicial Commission to consider the matter of interference of intelligence operatives in the judicial functions or intimidation of judges in a manner that undermined the independence of the judiciary.

US Senate passes Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan bill

Joe Biden says new weapons shipment could be on its way to Ukraine as soon as this week

WASHINGTON: The United States Senate has passed a long-delayed multibillion-dollar aid package for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, paving the way for new weapons deliveries to Kyiv as soon as this week.

own. Taipei has said it will discuss with the US how to use the funding. Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office, which has not ruled out the use of force to take control of the island, said it "resolutely opposes" the inclusion of what it called "Taiwan-related content" in the aid package.

own. Taipei has said it will discuss with the US how to use the funding. Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office, which has not ruled out the use of force to take control of the island, said it "resolutely opposes" the inclusion of what it called "Taiwan-related content" in the aid package.

Sunak, Scholz vow support for Ukraine

BERLIN: The leaders of Britain and Germany pledged Wednesday to back Ukraine in a war with Russia for "as long as it takes," but the German chancellor doubled down on his refusal to deliver long-range Tomahawk missiles to Kyiv.

General Practice advertisement for healthcare center with contact information and services list.