



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Direct flights between Pakistan and Morocco need of hour: Envoy

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Israeli PM accused of derailing talks

Detailed News On Page-08



First Pakistani woman to ascend 11 8000m peaks

Detailed News On Page-06



Demands joint strategy again Islamophobia

FM Dar calls for immediate Gaza ceasefire

Highlighting Indian atrocities in IIOJK, especially after India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, Dar urged the OIC to implement its Action Plan on Jammu and Kashmir

NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Addressing the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar expressed Pakistan's deep concern over Israel's ongoing brutal military onslaught against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. In the backdrop of the genocide of Palestinians and atrocities of Israeli forces, he urged the OIC Member States to work together for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and uninterrupted humanitarian assistance to the besieged Palestinians. He also expressed Pakistan's support for Palestine's admission as a full member of the UN, resumption of the peace process for realization of the two-State solution and establishment of a viable, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Highlighting Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), especially after India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister urged the OIC to implement its Action Plan on Jammu and Kashmir; demand that India ends all human rights violations; release Hurriyat leaders; and reverse its illegal demographic and other unilateral laws. He appreciated the OIC for its principled support for the Kashmir cause and requested the OIC member countries to use their influence for urgent resolution of Jammu and Kashmir Dispute as per relevant UN Security Council and the OIC resolutions.

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Dar discusses bilateral trade with Turkish, Azeri counterparts

FOREIGN DESK

BANJUL: Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar Sunday met with his counterparts from Turkey and Azerbaijan and discussed bilateral trade and other matters of mutual interest on the sidelines of the 15th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit in Banjul, Gambia. Dar, who is also the country's deputy prime minister, reached the West African nation on Wednesday where he's leading Pakistan's delegation to raise the issues of Gaza and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at the OIC moot from May 4 to 5. During his meeting with Turkey's FM Hakan Fidan, the two sides mulled over the friendly relations between the two brotherly countries along with the commitment to strengthen bilateral ties, especially in the economic, trade, and defence sectors. Prior to that, Dar met with Azerbaijan's FM Jeyhun Bayramov wherein the two dignitaries discussed deepening

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Pro-Palestine protests continue on US campuses

US stops weapons supply to Israel after Varsity protests

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: Protests continue at colleges and universities across the US over Israel's war on the Gaza Strip, with arrests reported on Saturday by two more schools. At least 25 protesters were arrested at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville for trespassing following police intervention to disperse a pro-Palestine encampment on campus. "A pro-Palestinian protest on (university) Grounds came to an end Saturday after University, local and state police cleared the area following multiple and repeated violations of several University policies, including the use of tents and amplified sound. Subsequent violent conduct along with failure to follow law-enforcement directions led to the declaration of an unlawful assembly," the university said. "Before Saturday's standoff with law enforcement, which resulted in 25 arrests as of Saturday evening, the demonstration that began on

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Paçacı appointed as special envoy of SG-OIC on Islamophobia

As of 2022, he is serving as Turkey's Ambassador to Pak



DNA

ANKARA: The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Ambassador Mehmet Paçacı was appointed as the Special Representative of the OIC Secretary General on Islamophobia at the 15th Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Banjul on 4-5 May. The statement stated that it has full faith that Paçacı will carry out this task successfully and said, "On this occasion, we remind that the international community should take a common stance and act determinedly in the fight against anti-Islamism." Mehmet Paçacı was born in Bolu in 1959. He is a Turkish ambassador,

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BANJUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, on the sidelines of the 15th OIC Islamic Summit Conference in Banjul, the Gambia. - DNA

Wheat crisis

Kissan Ittehad announces protests from May 10

Chairman Khalid Kokhar demands hangings for those involved in wheat crisis

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Kissan Ittehad has announced that it will begin protests against the wheat crisis in Multan on May 10. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, PKI Chairman Khalid Khokhar accused the 'mafia' of making money by smuggling wheat, stating that the entire system supports wheat smugglers. He claimed that Pakistan has 4.4 million tons of wheat available, but decisions regarding wheat were made in bad faith. Khokhar further stated that despite the availability of 4.4 million metric tons of wheat, wheat was imported, resulting in the outflow of one billion dollars in foreign exchange. He alleged that the mafia did this to benefit the private sector. Khokhar also said that farmers have suffered losses of 400 billion rupees due to low prices, while the government has lost 150 billion

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Probe committee denies reports of summoning Kakar, Naqvi

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's probe committee has denied reports of summoning former caretaker prime minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and former interim Punjab chief minister Mohsin Naqvi over the wheat crisis. "Neither Anwaarul Haq Kakar nor Mohsin Naqvi have been summoned," Cabinet Secretary Kamran Ali Murtaza said in a statement as he clarified that there was no truth to reports of their

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Briefs

Oath-taking ceremony of Governor Punjab postponed

The ceremony will now be held on May 7

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The scheduled oath-taking ceremony for Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider has been postponed. PPP Punjab Secretary Hassan Murtaza has announced the new schedule for oath-taking ceremony. Originally planned for today (Sunday), the ceremony has been rescheduled to take place on May 7 at 6 pm sharp at the Governor House in Lahore. Sources indicated that the postponement was due to the unavailability of former Governor Punjab, Balighur Rehman. PML-N reportedly requested the PPP leadership to postpone the ceremony for this reason.

Afghan diplomat steps down

DNA

KABUL: Afghanistan's top diplomat in India stepped down after she was accused of smuggling nearly \$2 million worth of gold into the country, as per media reports. Zakia Wardak, the Afghan Consul-General in India's Mumbai, confirmed her resignation on her official X handle, saying: "It is with great regret that I announce my decision to step away from my role at the Consulate and Embassy of Afghanistan in India, effective May 5, 2024." Afghanistan's embassy in New Delhi shut down in November, more than two years after the Taliban returned to power in Kabul following the collapse of the Western-backed government, leaving Wardak as the country's most senior representative in India.

PPP all set to join Cabinet Bilawal may return as foreign minister

Insiders say PML-N and PPP were close to finalising a power-sharing deal

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is likely to return as the country's foreign minister as the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and PPP were close to finalising a power-sharing deal, according to people familiar with the development. If the insiders are to be believed, Bilawal would join the cabinet of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as foreign minister. They said that an understanding between the party bigwigs was reached recently during their talks. They claimed that Bilawal, who was initially reluctant to join the cabinet, agreed to become the foreign minister once again. The two sides are now working on the details and the timing of PPP formally joining the cabinet. Sources said PM Shehbaz wanted the PPP



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Gandapur terms KP governor's oath-taking ceremony 'waste of time'

KP chief minister says "Form 47 govt" and its illegally notified governor do not hold importance

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday said the oath-taking ceremony of the new KP governor did not hold so "much importance" for him and attending the event would have been a "waste of time". Talking to a private news channel, the KP chief minister said,

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High-level Saudi trade delegation lands in Pakistan

Delegation visiting Pakistan on special directives of MBS; will stay in Islamabad for three days

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A trade delegation comprising various Saudi investors touched down in Islamabad on Sunday, with an aim to explore investment opportunities in various sectors in Pakistan. The 50-member delegation, comprising representatives of about 30 companies, was received by Federal Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik and Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal in the federal capital. The delegation is visiting Pakistan on special directives of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. It will also hold discussions regarding various sectors for the promotion of Pak-Saudi trade and strengthening business ties with local entrepreneurs. Two day Pakistan-Saudi Arabia investment conference will begin today (Monday) to promote bilateral trade and investment, besides fostering a new era of growth and prosperity for the people of both the countries. The companies which are part of the delegation represent different economic sectors, including information technology, telecoms, energy, aviation, construction, mining exploration, agriculture and human resource development.

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IMF mission expected in Pakistan this month

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) mission is expected to visit Pakistan this month to discuss a new programme, the lender confirmed on Sunday ahead of Islamabad beginning its annual budget-making process for the next financial year. Pakistan last month completed a short-term \$3 billion programme, which helped stave off sovereign default, but Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government has stressed the need for a fresh, longer-term programme. "A mission is expected to visit Pakistan in May to discuss the FY25 budget, policies, and reforms under a potential new programme for the welfare of all Pakistanis," the IMF said in an emailed response to Reuters. The federal government's financial year runs

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Summer Camp Season 7

Package	1 Activity	2 Activity	3 Activity
1 Child	55,000	70,000	85,000
2 Children	65,000	80,000	95,000
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 run for three consecutive weeks, missing days will not be compensated. The female entrance only available for ladies. 15% discount on all Maisha services and pool bar menu for the participants and their parents. For registration, please scan the QR code and email the participant's birth certificate and photograph to Maisha@serena.com.pk mentioning "summer camp 2024" in the subject line. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts or promotions. Participants can participate in one activity per day. Participating children are to be accompanied by one of their parents. The timings of the classes will be assigned at the time of registration for the entire program, however, changing the time will be subject to availability. Limited seats available. All prices are subject to government taxes.

For more information please scan QR code or call: 051 2005249

Valid from 1st April to 31st August, 2024

National Days and Armed Forces Days

May

- May 03/Poland National Day
- May 06/Bulgaria Armed Forces Day
- May 06/UAE Armed Forces Day
- May 07/Kazakhstan Armed Forces Day
- May 08/Czech Republic National Day
- May 09/European Union National Day
- May 17/Norway Constitution Day
- May 21/Hungary Armed Forces Day
- May 22/Yemen Republic
- Re-unification Day(National Day)
- May 24/Eritrea National Day
- May 25/Lebanon Liberation and Resistance Day
- May 25/Argentina National Day
- May 25/Jordan Independence Day
- May 28 /Azerbaijan Republic Day
- May 28/Ethiopia National Day
- May 31/Brunei Armed Forces Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Enquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Direct flights between Pak and Morocco need of hour

Tourism is a very important sector in Morocco in which Pakistanis can invest: Mohammad Karamone

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh met with Moroccan Ambassador Muhammad Karamone at the Federation House. On this occasion Atif Ikram Sheikh said that direct flights and strong air links should be established between Pakistan and Morocco. Trade between Morocco is less than expected Joint ventures in new sectors will have to be created CPEC in Pakistan will be a major center of trade in the future Morocco should take full advantage of this. Pakistan has a lot of scope in agriculture, tourism We will soon be taking a delegation to Morocco to hold B2B meetings with businessmen there to explore ventures for investment. Federation President Atif Ikram said that Pakistan is a country rich in natural resources, there are vast opportunities for investment in many sectors including tourism, construction, hydro, textile, pink salt, solar power projects, mines and minerals, gemstones, agriculture. Pakistan's exports to Morocco have increased from \$24.85



million in 2018 to \$32.06 million in 2022. Efforts must be made to increase this further. The Federation of Chambers of Pakistan and Moroccan Chambers of Commerce should work together to promote more trade, facilitating bilateral visits, organizing trade events

and promoting business partnerships should be our aim. On this occasion, Honorary Consul General Morocco and Chairman Pakistan-Morocco Business Council Mirza Ishtiaq Baig said that Pakistan and Morocco have very important areas for mutual trade. We will soon go to Morocco with a big delegation which will also meet the president there. We went to Morocco with a delegation last year too, we organize there Biryani Festival, Pakistani rice, which is the best in the world, is in great demand there. Member National Assembly and

former Senior Vice President FPCCI Mirza Ikhtiar Baig said that I am the representative of Federation of Chambers of Pakistan in the National Assembly and I assure the President of the Federation that our business community will be fully represented in the National As-

sembly. I will be a strong voice while doing this and will play my important role for various institutional support. Morocco's Ambassador Muhammad Karamone thanked the federation and said that Morocco is the gateway to Europe, which has free trade agreements with African countries and the European Union. Pakistan can take full advantage of these agreements through Morocco. He said that tourism Morocco has very important sectors in which Pakistan investors can invest. Business activities like single country exhibition can be worked on, Morocco has ten major ports, large scale investment in telecommunication, energy, banking system. happening It is our effort that our Islamic brother country Pakistan takes maximum benefit from the investment opportunities. On this occasion, Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Coordinator Diplomatic Committee Ahmed Waheed, Chairman Coordination FPCCI Malik Sohail Hussain, Mian Akram Farid, Vice President ICCI Azhar Islam, Chaudhry Naseer, Tariq Jadoun, Special Advisor Afshan Malik, Amina Malik, Rashid Humayun and others were also present there.

COMSATS holds training workshop on 'Carbon Markets'

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability here on Sunday organized an in-house training workshop on "Carbon Credits and Carbon Markets" recognizing the pressing need to raise awareness and build capacity among stakeholders about carbon market mechanisms, especially in light of the discussions and developments made during COP28, where Article 6 played a pivotal role. The workshop was held at COMSATS Secretariat and its agenda encompassed a comprehensive overview of Carbon Credits and Carbon Market, Carbon Trading Mechanisms, Project Cycle and Key Players in the Carbon Market. Participants gained insights into Core Carbon Principles and Project Integrity, understanding their own carbon footprints, and the-

ories applied in setting up National Emissions Trading Systems. Additionally, discussions covered carbon trading prospects in Pakistan, emerging carbon trading policy frameworks, and real-world case studies. Ambassador Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS, delivered the opening remarks, emphasizing the significance of leveraging carbon markets for common benefit. He highlighted COMSATS' role as an intergovernmental organization with a network of 25 Centers of Excellence, poised to unlock the benefits of carbon credit and carbon market. Dr. Zakaria stressed the importance of reducing all sources of GHG emissions close to zero and encouraged participants to seek guidance from experts on the basics, regulations, and issuance process of carbon credits. Dr. Sohail Malik, Technical

Team Leader at the Climate Resourcing Coordination Centre (CRCC), shared insights on Carbon pricing instruments for achieving decarbonization objectives, including emission trading systems, and provided an overview of international practices. He delved into the evolution of carbon markets globally over the last two decades and elucidated the Carbon Offset Project Certification Process. The Senior Representative of Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), Government of Pakistan, presented a case study on project registration with carbon standards Verra. He provided detailed insights on Delta Blue Carbon, outlining the preparation document required for Carbon credit and offset projects. The representative of Ministry of Climate described the potential integration

of carbon credit and offsets toward Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and also highlighted the efforts of Government of Pakistan in reducing major emissions. Moreover, he offered an overview of emerging global Carbon markets and the impact of their price variation on decision-making processes. Ms. Minha Hanif, Climate Change Analyst at Resources Future, provided participants with insights into the project cycle of carbon credits, the Core Carbon Principles including governance and sustainable development, and the concept of project baseline, boundaries, and leakages. She engaged in an interactive discussion with participants, posing questions about some case projects to enhance their understanding of the types of projects that generate carbon credits.

Hajj without official permission forbidden

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman and Hajj Organisers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) Patron-in-Chief, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has unveiled a comprehensive code of conduct in a bid to ensure a smooth and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for private Hajj pilgrims. He, in a recent press talk, emphasized the importance of booking Hajj journeys only through authorized organizers, cautioning against fraudulent activities perpetrated by unauthorized groups through social media platforms. He urged intending pilgrims to remain vigilant and avoid falling prey to such scams, which exploit the religious sentiments of innocent people for monetary gain. Moreover, Ashrafi addressed the issue of unauthorized pilgrimage by Pakistani diaspora in Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that performing Hajj without official permission is strictly prohibited according to Islamic principles and the law of the land. He warned that individuals caught without proper authorization would face consequences, potentially tarnishing the reputation of the country. Highlighting another concern, Ashrafi discouraged pilgrims from engaging in disruptive behavior, such as taking selfies and videos during Hajj rituals, which could inconvenience fellow pilgrims. He stressed the importance of focusing on religious duties and maintaining decorum for a seamless pilgrimage experience. In addition, Ashrafi urged pilgrims to refrain from engaging in political activities during the Hajj season, particularly at Haramain Sharifain and other sacred sites in Saudi Arabia. He underscored that such actions are not only contrary to Islamic teachings and Shariah but also reflect poorly on Pakistan in the international community. Ashrafi also commended the government's efforts, particularly Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, for their support in facilitating Hajj pilgrims. **APP**

Five members of family die of poisonous food

ISLAMABAD :A devastating incident has claimed the lives of five members of family, including four minor girls and their mother, in Tandlianwala, Punjab. According to a police spokesman, the family consumed poisonous food, leading to their tragic demise. The deceased were rushed to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, where they were pronounced dead. "The cause of the poisoning is yet to be determined, and an autopsy is being conducted to ascertain the exact circumstances," a private news channel reported. The victims have been identified as three-year-old Farzana, four-year-old Aqsa, five-year-old Rukhsana, eight-year-old Muskan, and their 34-year-old mother, namely Muskan. **APP**

Pilgrims excited to embark on sacred Hajj

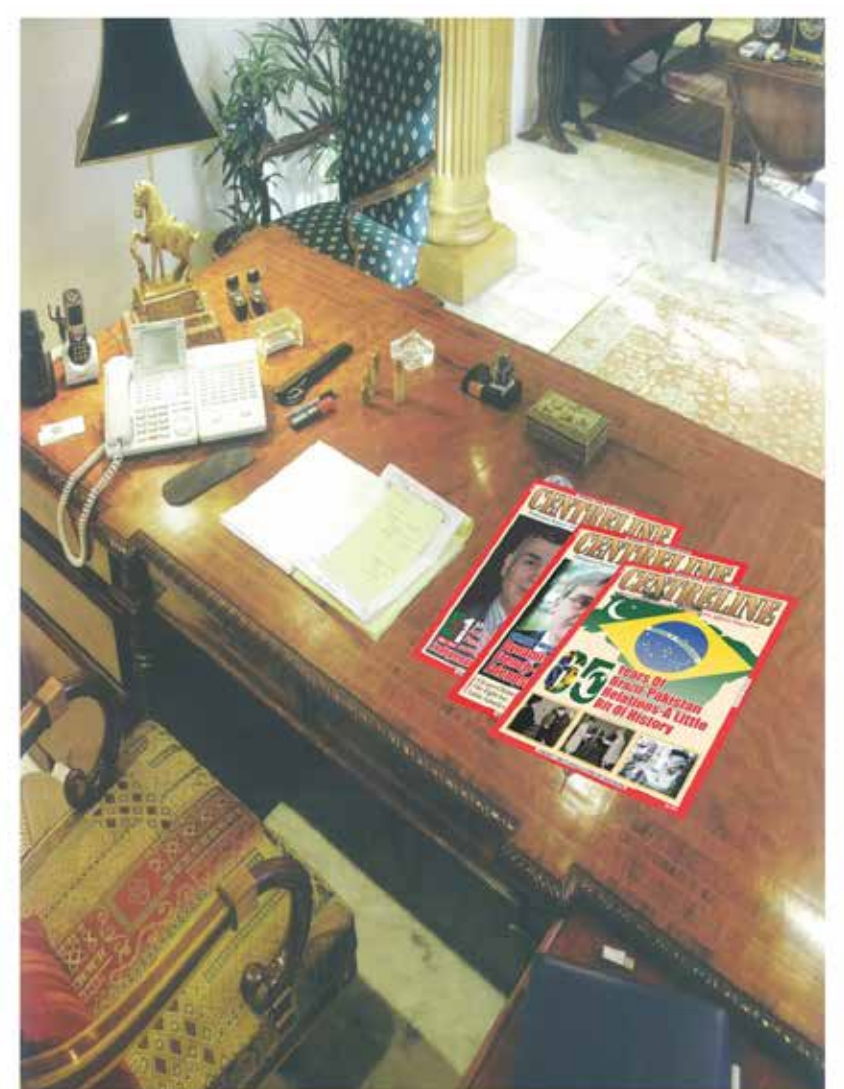
ISLAMABAD: As the countdown begins, the excitement soars as Hajj pilgrims prepare to embark on their sacred journey with the Ministry of Religious Affairs' meticulous arrangements to ensure hassle-free travel and a memorable spiritual experience for them. Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Dr. Syed Ata-ur-Rehman, in a recent interaction with the media highlighting key feature services for the pilgrims said, "this year's Hajj pilgrimage marks a significant milestone as we introduce a range of initiatives and extended facilities aimed at enhancing the overall experience for our pilgrims. From streamlined transportation arrangements to improved accommodation and expanded support services, we are committed to ensuring a seamless and comfortable journey for all. This year's Hajj promises to be a truly transformative and memorable experience for our pilgrims, offering them the opportunity to deepen their spirituality and connection with Allah in unprecedented ways." With approximately 179,210 pilgrims slated to embark on this spiritual voyage under both governmental and private schemes, the month-long pre-Hajj flight operation is slated to take off on May 9th, ferrying pilgrims to the revered destinations of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madinah Al-Munawarah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In a bid to ensure a hassle-free journey, direct flights will operate from eight major cities, including Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Quetta, Sialkot, and Sukkur, to Jeddah and Madinah. Moreover, the innovative Road to Makkah project, available at select airports, will expedite the Saudi immigration process, sparing pilgrims from long queues upon arrival. To enhance the pilgrims' experience, the government has introduced various initiatives such as discounted long and short packages, complimentary uniform baggage with QR coding, and essential items like Abayas for females and Ahraam belts for males. **DNA**

Program for development of gemstone sector

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) initiated a technical assistance program for the gemstone sector in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo, Japan for the development of sector. Consultancy and workshops focused on gemstone identification, certification, cutting and polishing techniques with experts from the Gems and Jewelry Institute, Thailand, said a press release issued here Sunday. Sessions held in Peshawar, Gilgit, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Lahore aimed to enhance stakeholder capacity and foster economic growth through knowledge sharing and skill development. The program involved industry professionals, associations and international experts, promoting collaboration and economic prosperity in the gems and jewelry sector. The experts shared knowledge and hands-on skills and practices for enhancing the capacity of the stakeholders, paving way for broader

collaboration and propelling towards sustained economic prosperity. The objective is to promote international standards in gemstone products; provide comprehensive knowledge of cutting, polishing, designing and heating techniques; and enhance understanding of best practices and technological advances in gemstone value chains. Engage relevant associations such as PGJTEA, APCEA and PGMA, industry experts, business professionals involved in the sector with the international experts to learn latest techniques and processes thereby leading to overall productivity enhancement within the sector. The Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan's team was led by Program Officer, accompanied by senior international resource persons from Gems and Jewelry Institute, Thailand. The delegation held consultancy sessions in Peshawar, Gilgit, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore. In

Peshawar the delegation visited Gems and jewelry training center (G&JTC), KP TEVTA, Gems and Jewelry Center of Excellence, UET Peshawar and visited potential gemstone market. The delegation also visited and conducted sessions at lapidary training center under GB administration with the assistance of PGMA association and later visited Pakistan institute of Fashion design, Lahore. A session on structural reforms and sharing of best practices in gems and jewelry sector was also held at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Rawalpindi Chamber of commerce and Industry (RCCI). Representatives of PGJTEA association and other key stakeholders attended the sessions highlighting key sector issues, challenges and opportunities. Later, the delegation will submit a report giving overview and recommendations for uplift of gemstone sector in Pakistan. **APP**



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Briefs

Martyrdom anniversary of Ashraf Sehrai

ISLAMABAD: The third martyrdom anniversary of senior APHC leader and Chairman Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai is being observed today. Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai, who challenged India's illegal occupation and political injustice in IOJK for decades, died in Indian captivity on May 05, 2021. Paying glowing tribute to the Shaheed Ashraf Sehrai, the APHC leaders termed him as a symbol of resistance and embodiment of sacrifice. They said, "Ashraf Sehrai's life, sacrifices and struggle are a role model for coming generations of Kashmir." Meanwhile, posters displayed by different Hurriyat organizations gave the strike call today to express solidarity with the martyred leader and other martyrs of Kashmir.—APP

'Public parks being upgraded to facilitate citizens'

RAWALPINDI: All the public parks of Rawalpindi city were being upgraded to facilitate the citizens, said Director General (DG), Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi Ahmed Hasan Ranjha. He informed that the authorities concerned had been directed to complete the up-gradation work of the city park swiftly. The DG said that the authority was utilizing all available resources for the development and up-gradation of the public parks to ensure quality recreational facilities to the citizens. Ahmad Hasan Ranjha said that special instructions had also been issued for the beautification and cleaning measures of the parks. He said that the renovation, up-gradation and cleaning facilities of the parks were being ensured and the up-gradation work at all the public parks would be completed within stipulated time frame. The DG also pointed out that apart from improving the cleanliness and security of the parks, all respective issues were being resolved to repair the walking tracks, lights, swings and benches etc.—APP

Jashan-e-Bahran' to start from May 7

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi would organize three-day 'Jashan-e-Bahran' from May 7. According to a PHA spokesperson, all the arrangements were being finalized to organize a three-day Jashan-e-Bahran festival at Allama Iqbal Park, Shamsaabad, Murree Road from May 7. She said, most of the arrangements had been finalized on the special directives of Director General, PHA, Ahmed Hasan Ranjha. All available resources would be utilized to provide a healthy entertainment to the citizens, she said adding, the government was making all-out efforts to promote cultural and healthy activities for the people. She said, efforts would be made to organize a unique festival this year.—APP

PFRIA warns govt of industry closure

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: - The Feroze Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has warned that the continued escalation of energy prices could result in the closure of industries, amplifying unemployment rates and diminishing Pakistan's export capabilities. In a statement issued here today, the FRIA senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam emphasizing the need for the government to explore and provide affordable energy alternatives for the industry, stressed that such measures are crucial for ensuring the competitiveness of Pakistani prod-



ISLAMABAD: Farmers harvesting wheat crop in the Golra area of Federal Capital.— ONLINE

Wheat import: businessmen want judicial commission

The FPCCI former Vice President and senior leader of the BMP Muhammad Ali Sheikh observed that the private sector leadership under the banner of Pakistan Businessmen Panel has always stood firm and united against harmful actions to national economy and the people of the country and has not accepted any move by mafias

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The businessmen have called for the establishment of a judicial commission to investigate the wheat import scandal in an independent and impartial way, as the former caretaker government's decision to import wheat worth one billion dollars in Oct 2023 during a severe shortage of dollars and in spite of ample wheat stock in the country, was deeply concerning. They also lashed out at the Punjab government for not purchasing wheat from farmers, warning it of severe consequence if the decision regarding the non-procurement of grain is not revoked. The FPCCI former Vice President and senior

leader of the BMP Muhammad Ali Sheikh observed that the private sector leadership under the banner of Pakistan Businessmen Panel has always stood firm and united against harmful actions to national economy and the people of the country and has not accepted any move by mafias, who were responsible for creating chaos through unnecessary and unwarranted proposals, detrimental to national cause. "We shall continue our efforts for the protection of our community and the countrymen at large, who have been directly and indirectly involved in national economic growth" he stated and added that BMP has never safeguarded the vested interests of mafia, which not only halt the

progress of the country but curb the large part of society. He felt pity on the current leadership of FPCCI, which was trying to protect wheat mafias and providing shelter to most recent act of importing massive wheat just few months before the country's wheat crop is being harvested. "This act of the current office bearers of FPCCI is not only ruining farmers, across Pakistan, but also worsening wheat crisis in future," he further added and stated that such action will also motivate mafia to adopt similar tactics, halting the preparation of rice crops because massive bunch of wheat crop is not being harvested yet. Leadership of Businessmen Panel condemned the act of current office bear-

ers of FPCCI and demands a transparent inquiry of wheat import crime by judicial commission so that such criminal acts which, may sabotage country's economy are stopped. It is to be noted that the initial report of the probe regarding wheat import scandal revealed shocking details as it stated that the federal institutions are responsible for the unnecessary import of wheat. Despite existing reserves of 40.47 lakh metric tons in Punjab, an additional 35.87 lakh metric tons were imported, creating an artificial shortage. The investigation has found that wheat was imported at a cost of Rs2600-2900 per maund and sold at a higher price of Rs4700 per maund. The import permis-

sion was granted for 1 million metric tons, but it was exceeded without limit. The federal institutions allowed private companies to import wheat without proper checks, and some officials from the Ministry of Finance also failed to scrutinize the large-scale import. Furthermore, the wheat import continued from September 26, 2023, to March 31, 2024, resulting in a massive influx of wheat in the market. It is pertinent to mention here that the wheat import caused a \$1 billion loss to the national kitty. The private sectors favored in wheat imports in Pakistan, and these wrong decisions have resulted in a loss of \$1 billion to the national exchequer.

Every state is seeking de-escalation in the Middle East, experts agree

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan has adopted a cautious approach towards the ongoing conflict in the Middle East", said Dr. Qamar Cheema. He was speaking to an event organized by Institute or Regional Studies on Iran-Israel military conflict.

Dr. Cheema argued that Iran had broken the myth of Israel's invincibility. "At the societal level, Iran has amassed huge public support", he further claimed. Dr. Cheema highlighted that despite attacking Israel, it was logistically very difficult for Iran to further continue the retaliation. Dr. Cheema further elaborated that the Middle Eastern region didn't want to become the hostage of Palestinian issue, instead the Arab states would welcome any step towards normalization with Israel. Dr. Cheema analyzed that if Saudi-Israeli normalization would take place, it wouldn't adversely impact the recently concluded Iran-Saudi rapprochement. While clarifying, Dr. Cheema said that the Iran-Israel confrontation was not seen through international legal perspective and western states didn't condemn the Israeli aggression over Iranian embassy in Damascus.

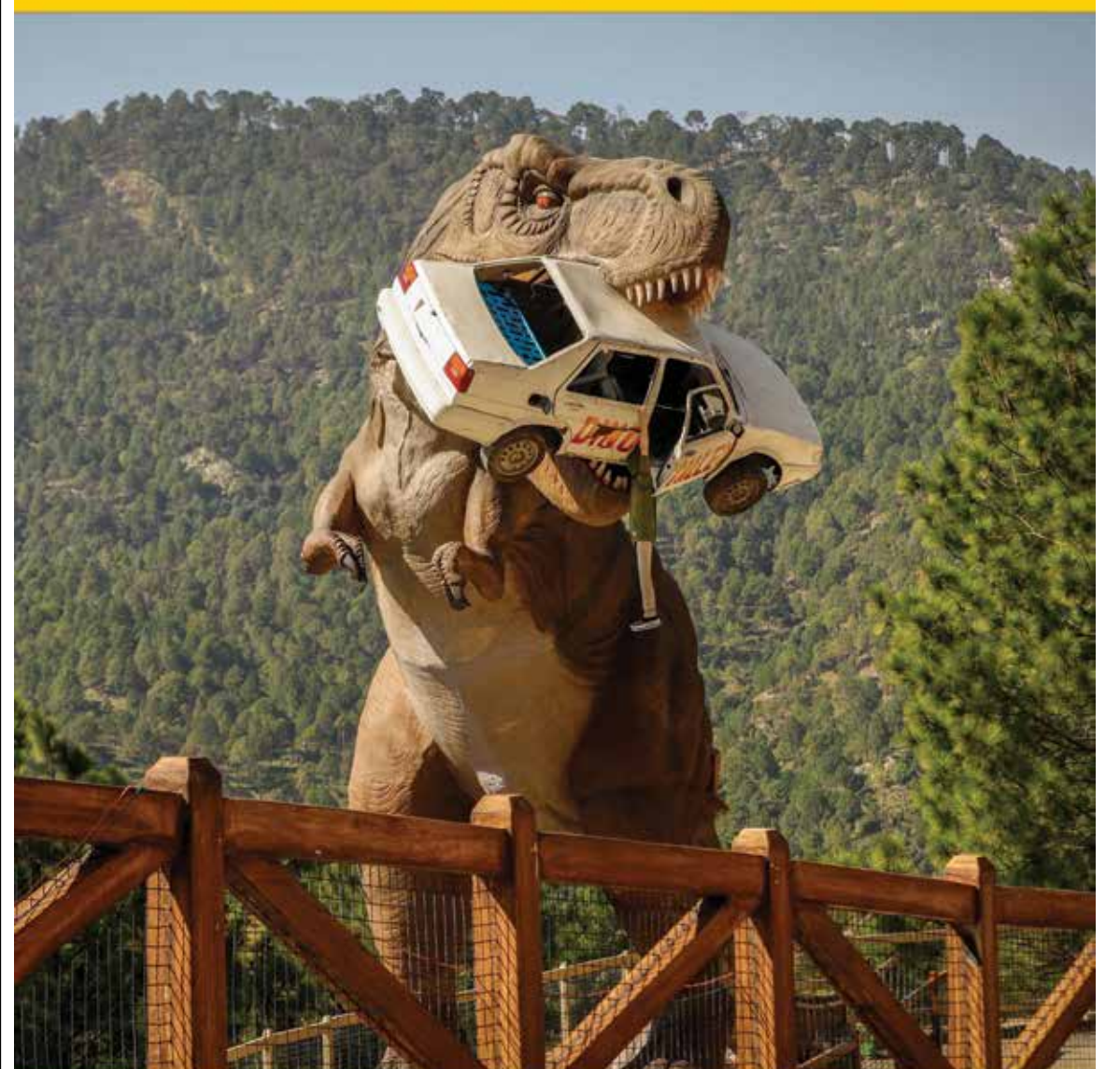
Mr. Afzal Reza, the bureau chief of Iranian news agency, IRNA, in Islamabad, accused that since October 7 attack, Israel had been provoking Iran to expand the conflict. He boasted that Iran's attack on Israel was a punishment and it broke the hoax of Israel's deterrence. While stressing on de-escalation, Mr. Reza claimed that no state wanted war, however, Israel's strategy was to encircle Iran through befriending its neighbours. Mr. Reza pointed towards the dual standards of international community by outlining that UNSC didn't condemn Israel's aggression against Iran nor did IAEA take any steps against Israeli (cyber) attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities.

CCP approves scheme of arrangements for privatization of PIA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a Scheme of Arrangements for the acquisition of 100% shareholding of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIA) by PIA Holding Company Limited (Holdco). This approval is part of the Government of Pakistan's ongoing privatization process for PIA. Holdco, a public limited company wholly-owned by the Government of Pakistan, was recently incorporated to succeed to specified assets, liabilities, and subsidiaries of PIA, including its business, property, rights, and obligations both domestically and internationally.—APP



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A tale of a failed humanity

If global political organizations do not assess themselves, re-strategize, and revisit their original charters and fundamental concepts, then they are at risk of facing decline. Since we are interested in the implementation of the charters of these organizations, we are addressing this issue regardless of the respectability of the persons at the head of these organizations. We do not argue that these international organizations are unaware of what has been taking place in Palestine. We have all noted that this is the first time in human history that the cost of "War" (it is clear to all that what has been perpetrated in the Gaza Strip hasn't been a war, but rather an ethnic cleansing, genocide, or, as a Palestinian scholar coined it, a "CleansOcide") is measured in the number of children killed. Crimes, mass massacres, and atrocities of various scales persist unabated, often unfolding in the very presence of these international organizations. Despite their presence and purported mission, they frequently fail to effect meaningful change. International organizations, including the UN and various NGOs, undoubtedly bear witness to indiscriminate violence and atrocities committed against people of all backgrounds and affiliations. They have been present during the indiscriminate bombing of hospitals, schools and universities, churches, mosques, and other public buildings. Their presence during such egregious acts prompts reflection on the acceptability of violence, regardless of whether it's labeled as "discriminate" or "indiscriminate". Would it be "acceptable" or legal to witness silently violence, or cold-blooded genocides? This situation underscores the urgency of rejecting all forms of atrocities and human rights abuses with unwavering condemnation and action. One cannot but remain under the impression that a new narrative is being weaved, about a pledge of misrepresentation of reality, AKA "deep fake" propaganda. Organizational courage is needed to support Palestinians - Palestinians are indigenous people who refuse to quit, to be forgotten, to be deleted. Let them know and feel that they are not alone, that they won't be abandoned again... never again... ever. A rogue terrorist and criminal "state" has so far disdained 56 UNSC, 17 UNGA, and 14 UNESCO Resolutions. Isn't it troubling that this "state" is still a member of the UN? The actions of the Israeli government, including its dismissal of the UN Secretary-General's remarks and its refusal to acknowledge the International Court of Justice (ICJ), are deeply concerning and undermine democratic principles, the rule of law, and human rights. In a blatant declaration, the IOF pretend to take "more precautions" while slaughtering children and women. How one should feel when the UNICEF representative in Gaza (whom we thank for being in Gaza) declares, although well-intentioned, "The number of killed children in Gaza is unacceptable." May we ask what is an acceptable number of slaughtered children? This is the exact non-attitude that condemns the very existence of such bodies. Then we also have: the UN warns of "blatant disregard for basic Humanity" (whatever this means) ... what a flagrant understatement! The universal jargon, narrative have become so hypocritical! To those organizations, we say, "Your silence is Deafening!" It will lead us finally to raise suspicions regarding most of the international bodies. Sorry for renaming them ironically: Kill The Children Fund / Human Plight Watch / Crimnells Sans Frontiers / AmNasty International / UNiHeft / ECOchoc / Blinds, Deafs International / WHO? / FOUL / World Rogue Project / Pariah International / World Starvation Programme, with the rest of the UN agencies and their actions to be quoted as UNdo, UNsee, UNSay, UNthink, UNcare, and UNact.



Muddying the water on US student protests

MANY of the incumbents of the leadership posts in Institutional America are either liberal Zionists or Evangelicals. Such a situation should be no surprise. The Washington Post, for example, asked Matthew Brooks, the CEO of the Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC), whether he planned to fund electoral challengers to the twenty House Republicans that voted against the Bill giving aid to the Israelis: "The RJC is gearing up to spend upward of \$15 million in what will be the largest targeted effort toward the Jewish community in critical battleground states across the country ... We have a long-standing history of speaking out against folks who are anti-Israel, whether they be Democrats like 'the Squad' and the progressives on the left, but also against folks who voice anti-Israel sentiments on the right". "We were the group that was responsible for defeating Congressman Steve King. We're spending over a million dollars in Indiana this election cycle, to beat former congressman John Hostettler, who was one of the most anti-Israel voices in Congress during his tenure". "Question: Twenty other House Republicans voted against the Israel bill. Do you plan to endorse challengers running against any of them?" "Brooks: If there's a credible challenger [on the ballot] to any of those people - we absolutely will be involved". Against this background, it should not surprise that as Edward Luce writes in the Financial Times, the US Institutional leaders are tied in knots over the campus protests. The angst in no small part hinges around the undoubted power of AIPAC and the RJC to make - or break - Congressional aspirants: "In practice", Luce says, "adults from all walks - Republicans, Democrats, the media, and university administrations - are exhibiting the traits of hysteria and dogmatism they deplore in the young. It should come as no surprise that the protests are getting angrier. Students have every right to protest even with speech that many of their peers find abhorrent". Luce asks: "At what point does anti-Zionism become antisemitism? The line is blurry. But most people - except to those in charge, apparently - can tell the difference between lawful protest, and calls to violence". But just to blur the distinction further: The US 'House' is advancing a Bill to codify the contentious International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. The definition is contentious because most of its examples of antisemitism involve criticism of "Israel", including calling "Israel" a "racist endeavour". The Bill's passage would mean the definition would apply when officials adjudicate Title VI complaints alleging campus antisemitism. The Bill passed 320 - 91 in the House. "There is however another factor behind the Congressional hysteria: the protests have sparked fears of a repeat of 1968. Like then, the unrest began at Columbia University. As in 1968, this year's Democratic convention will be held in Chicago. The 1968 convention was also a disaster because Chicago's mayor, Richard Daley, sent his police into pitched combat with the protesters. The street battle dominated the media's attention".

The EU's response to the Russian threat

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Russia is in a tough spot now, so it might try to make NATO weaker, no matter what happens in Ukraine. One idea could be for Russia to attack a NATO country but not something that would cause a big problem for NATO's overall goals. If this happens, NATO would have to choose whether to fight back against Russia and risk a big war, or ignore the attack and make NATO look weak which could lead to more attacks in the future. For the Western countries, it is really important that both NATO and the EU stay strong and stick together. Coming elections, especially in the US and Europe, could give Russia a chance to get more power and split these organizations up

FOR the past seventy years, the EU has been very important for keeping Europe stable. It has helped keep peace and security around the world. The EU has 27 countries and 450 million people. It is the biggest market in the world. Many countries trade with the EU. It also takes part in to other countries development and peace keeping. Russian war against Ukraine is a big challenge for European Union. Now the EU is more united than before against Russian attack and is determined to restore peace. A stronger EU in security and defense will help for global peace and security. The European Union is setting out a plan for the security and defense for the next 5-10 years. It will be start working on it right away. On 13th March, European Union agreed to give an extra 5 billion euros (which is about \$5.4 billion) to the European Peace Facility by the end of this year. This almost matches the 6.1 billion euros that Brussels promised since the start of 2022. The European Peace Facility didn't do much in 2023 because countries decided to help Ukraine on their own instead of working together. There was a problem with Hungary disagreeing with the decision but they changed their mind later. This back and forth has made people think about changing how the European Peace Facility works so it can help Ukraine better. Even though politics might slow down or stop these changes, people are talking a lot about defense in Europe because of upcoming elections. The European Commission just shared its plan to make Europe better at defense and some people think there should be a special person in charge of defense in the European Commission. The upcoming U.S. elections are also making people talk about this. Some people are worried that if Trump wins, the U.S. might stop helping Europe and Ukraine. This makes European countries think they need to work together more for security. The

U.S. might not have enough money to keep giving weapons to Ukraine. So, some leaders like David Cameron from the UK and Kaja Kallas from Estonia, suggest giving old weapons to Ukraine and working together to make and send more ammunition. A company in the Czech Republic called Excalibur Army with support from the Czech government is now trying to change one of its factories into a place where they can make and send weapons and ammunition to Ukraine. Some people don't see the Ukraine war as a concern for the United States. But in Europe, they are getting ready for more fighting. They think there will be lots of shells fired, so they are planning to make more shells to keep up. Russia is making even more weapons, so they can keep shooting more than Ukraine. What Europe does to protect itself depends on what happens in Ukraine. Both sides are getting ready for more fighting, but they are also trying to get help to win. The outcome of the war will depend on how strong Russia is and how much help Ukraine gets from the West. Russia has a plan for the next few months. First, they will keep fighting everywhere in Ukraine, even though they can't win quickly. Second, they will try to get more weapons and resources, even from countries like Iran and North Korea. Third, they will try to make other countries stop supporting Ukraine, maybe by spreading false information and causing trouble elsewhere. If Russia succeeds, support for Ukraine might decrease, and Russia could win a big victory. But this war is not just about Ukraine; it affects the whole region and even the world. For Ukraine, things are tough. They don't have as many resources as Russia, so they need help from outside. They're also trying to improve their military, especially by using drones. They know they have to act fast to survive, but they are also preparing for the worst, building more defenses and securing their coast. While Ukraine might have an ad-

vantage at sea, Russia is still a threat. They are even talking about using nuclear weapons which could cause a lot of damage to everyone involved. So, while Ukraine fights for its survival, the whole world is watching closely. This entire means there is a bigger chance the fighting might spread, especially in the Black Sea area. Even if Russia gets what it wants in Ukraine and Western countries stop helping Ukraine, things will still be worse for Russia. They will have more problems with their relationships with other countries, their money and their plans for the future. Russia's actions have worried its neighbors, even the ones who didn't take sides during the Cold War. Russia wants to stop these neighbors from teaming up against it, especially by joining NATO. Russia is in a tough spot now, so it might try to make NATO weaker, no matter what happens in Ukraine. One idea could be for Russia to attack a NATO country but not something that would cause a big problem for NATO's overall goals. If this happens, NATO would have to choose whether to fight back against Russia and risk a big war, or ignore the attack and make NATO look weak which could lead to more attacks in the future. For the Western countries, it is really important that both NATO and the EU stay strong and stick together. Coming elections, especially in the U.S. and Europe, could give Russia a chance to get more power and split these organizations up. Elections might also push Western leaders to take clearer stances on issues like Ukraine and defense. In Europe, there is a big debate about whether to spend more on defense or on other things like social programs. Either way, defense spending will probably go up which could help the weapons industry and create jobs, but many people will want their governments to focus on different areas. These debates and the chance of protests could give Russia more chances to spread its ideas through the media.

"Wheat crisis: belling the cat may not be so easy"

Qamar Bashir



Let's compare this production with our domestic consumption for the same years. For example, the total wheat consumption in 1960 was 5,454 (thousand metric tons). This increased to 11,200 (thousand metric tons) in 1980, 22,500 (thousand metric tons) in 2000. This increase continued, reaching 26,300 (thousand metric tons)...

THERE has been significant controversy and public outcry over the continued import of wheat in May 2024, despite the government's target to halt imports in February 2024. This decision comes at a time when the country's own wheat crop has flooded the market. The middlemen, flour mills, and hoarders are more inclined to store and hoard imported wheat compared to domestic wheat due to the price difference. The average landed price of imported wheat is around US\$290/mt (AU\$450/mt), significantly lower than the government's domestic intervention price of approximately US\$350/mt (AU\$545/mt). As a result, the burden of purchasing and storing wheat has fallen on the government, which lacks the financial resources and capacity for adequate maintenance and management of warehouses. Moreover, with the government's warehouses already full of wheat and farmers expecting to sell no more than 50 percent of their crop, losses are estimated to be nearly 380 billion rupees (\$1.4 billion). Various reasons and theories have been proposed to explain this glut, but no one has been able to provide credible data to support these claims. This lack of transparency may be due to either naivety or an attempt to conceal certain facts. According to credible data from the United States Department of Agriculture, there was no wheat import from 2015 to 2019. However, there was a staggering 361,600% increase in 2020. This increase coincided with the weakening of the USA's hold on Afghanistan and the rise to power of the Taliban. During this time, some ambitious elements began to consider Afghanistan as part of Pakistan's sphere of influence, leading to more fluid borders that facilitated smuggling of essential commodities to Afghanistan to earn goodwill and strengthen relations with the new government there. More interestingly, this import and its smuggling was made at the expense of our national exchequer which had to pay for import of wheat in foreign exchange, which heavily burdened our meager foreign exchange resources when the domestic production of wheat was sufficient to meet the domestic demand. The data on wheat production in Pakistan is indeed intriguing. There

has been a consistent increase in wheat production since the inception of Pakistan. For example, the total wheat production in 1960 was 3,909 (thousand metric tons). This increased to 10,857 (thousand metric tons) in 1980, 21,079 (thousand metric tons) in 2000. This upward trend continued, reaching 25,247 (thousand metric tons) in 2020 and 26,801 (thousand metric tons) in 2023. The projected production for 2024 is expected to be around 32,100 (thousand metric tons). Let's compare this production with our domestic consumption for the same years. For example, the total wheat consumption in 1960 was 5,454 (thousand metric tons). This increased to 11,200 (thousand metric tons) in 1980, 22,500 (thousand metric tons) in 2000. This increase continued, reaching 26,300 (thousand metric tons) in 2020 and 29,600 (thousand metric tons) in 2023. According to fair estimates, wheat production in 2024 is expected to be around 32,000 (thousand metric tons), sufficient to meet the entire year's domestic requirement. Additionally, if we factor in the over 2 million metric tons of wheat exported to Afghanistan, the production outweighs the domestic consumption. In 2024, the sowing of wheat was a popular choice for farmers due to higher flour prices and perceived shortages. As a result, almost 40 percent of the cultivated area, or 9.12 million hectares, was dedicated to wheat in October, November, and December of the previous year for the 2024 harvest. This was an increase from the 8.86 million hectares planted in 2023 and the 2023 harvest and slightly higher than the 9 million-hectare crop a year earlier. All was going well. There was equilibrium between supply and demand. The surplus of wheat and flour of around 1.8 million tons according to US government estimates was smuggled to Afghanistan, and any forecast of wheat, as a rule of thumb was reached after including the domestic demand of Afghanistan. This practice required inflating the demand figures while avoiding direct mention of Afghanistan, as most exports to Afghanistan were facilitated through state-aided smuggling. Smuggling to Afghanistan was further incentivized as smugglers were doubling their money

with each transaction, evading taxes, and being paid in U.S. dollars. Moreover, the depreciating rupee also motivated smuggling, as the exchange rate reached a record low with the PKR plummeting to 287.29 against the U.S. dollar, while 86.3 afghanis fetched a dollar. However, the situation changed when the government made a sudden policy U-turn in July 2023 to repatriate Afghan undocumented and illegal aliens, and to curb smuggling and hoarding of wheat as a punitive measure against Afghanistan for failing to stop cross-border terrorist attacks into Pakistan. The then caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, defended the July 2023 policy, stating that Pakistan has adopted a "zero tolerance" approach towards smuggled goods and foreign currency to Afghanistan. In response, the Frontier Corps intensified vehicle checks and seized multiple large consignments of wheat flour attempting to cross illegally. The government also began monitoring wheat supply movements from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, requiring official documentation for wheat transportation and establishing additional checkpoints to control food item smuggling. It tightened control over the Afghan Transit Trade. These stringent measures and crackdowns had a significant impact on curbing illegal wheat smuggling to Afghanistan. However, in his hasty, thoughtless, and knee-jerk policy U-turn, the government utterly failed to comprehend the long-term impact of this skewed policy decision. It also failed to put in place adequate checks and balances to protect Pakistani farmers and consumers from the consequences of this short-sighted policy. As PML(N)'s leader, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, known for his confrontational stance with the establishment, is determined to identify those responsible for the wheat import crisis, he may soon realize that the elements behind this crisis are beyond the power and reach of the weak and fragile incumbent government, as well as beyond his own reach.

- Former Press Secretary to the President
Former Press Minister to the
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC

Briefs

FM Dar calls for immediate Gaza...

FROM PAGE 01
Condemning the rising trend of Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims in various parts of the world, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister urged the OIC to formulate a joint strategy to work with global social media platforms to harmonize their application of content regulation policies for blasphemous, anti-Islamic and Islamophobic content.

Dar discusses bilateral...

FROM PAGE 01
bilateral cooperation in trade, connectivity, energy, and people-to-people contacts and emphasised the importance of dialogue at the political level. The foreign minister also felicitated the Azeri counterpart on winning the bid to host COP29 summit and expressed Pakistan's interest in cooperation on climate change.

High-level Saudi trade...

FROM PAGE 01
An official from the Ministry of Commerce said that a large number of Pakistani companies in the respective sectors whose officials would have business-to-business meetings with their Saudi counterparts, and would hopefully enter into business and investment deals.

IMF mission expected...

FROM PAGE 01
from July to June and its budget for fiscal year 2025, the first by under PM Shehbaz's new government, has to be presented before June 30. The IMF did not specify the dates of the visit, nor the size or duration of the programme in its response to Reuters.

Kissan Ittehad...

FROM PAGE 01
rupees due to farmers not selling their wheat. He claimed that the mafia first smuggles wheat and then imports it. He emphasized that farmers do not take their money abroad, and that without money, they will not be able to cultivate cotton and rice. He stated that farmers are currently facing immense difficulties, working 24 hours a day but receiving nothing in return.

Paçacı appointed...

FROM PAGE 01
academician and theologian. After graduating from Ankara Imam Hatip High School in 1977, he graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Theology in 1982. He continued his academic career and completed his doctorate in 1989. He started working as a faculty member at Ankara University Faculty of Theology and received the title of Assistant Professor in 1992.

Australian Volleyball team to visit first time in Pak history

These details were disclosed by the Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chaudhary Muhammad Yaqoob along with Senior Vice President Muhammad Nawaz Khan on Saturday at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The Australian volleyball team will arrive in Pakistan on May 26 for the first time in the volleyball history to play a three match series against Green shirts. These details were disclosed by the Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chaudhary Muhammad Yaqoob along with Senior Vice President Muhammad Nawaz Khan on Saturday at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad.



athletic prowess and sportsmanship as teams battle it out on the court. Fans can expect a week-long extravaganza of volleyball action, featuring intense matches and thrilling showdowns. He said that the foreign teams will arrive in Pakistan on May 9, preparations have been completed for the successful event.

Opening match of the league will be between Pakistan and Turkmenistan on May 11 while Pakistan will play Afghanistan on May 12, Kyrgyzstan on May 13, Sri Lanka on May 15, against Iran on May 16 and the final of the Central Asian Volleyball League will be played on May 17.

In addition to the volleyball action, spectators can look forward to a vibrant atmosphere filled with fan engagement activities, entertainment, and food stalls, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Following the conclusion of the Volleyball League, Pakistan's national teams would embark on their respective international campaigns. The Pakistan National Senior Men's team would compete in the AVC Challenge Cup for Men in Bahrain, while the Pakistan National Junior Men's team will participate in the CAVA U18 Volleyball Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Event Schedule: May 11, 2024 (Day 1): Sri Lanka Vs Afghanistan; Iran Vs Kyrgyzstan; Pakistan Vs Turkmenistan; May 12, 2024 (Day 2): Kyrgyzstan Vs Turkmenistan; Pakistan Vs Afghanistan; Iran Vs Sri Lanka; May 13, 2024 (Day 3): Iran Vs Afghanistan; Sri Lanka Vs Turkmenistan; Pakistan Vs Kyrgyzstan; May 14, 2024 (Rest Day); May 15, 2024 (Day 5): Afghanistan Vs Kyrgyzstan; Iran Vs Turkmenistan; Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka; May 16, 2024 (Day 6): Afghanistan Vs Turkmenistan; Sri Lanka Vs Kyrgyzstan; Pakistan Vs Iran; May 17, 2024 (Final Day of the League); 3rd Position Match: P3 Vs P4; Final Match: P1 Vs P2.

Naqvi announces prize money for players if they win T20 WC

The Green Shirts will then play the most anticipated of the tournament against India on June 9 at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York



SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi announced massive prize money for players if they win the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024 which will be played in the United States and West Indies from June 1. Naqvi confirmed that each

player will get a whopping \$100,000 if they go all the way and lift the trophy on June 29 in Barbados. Pakistan are in Group A with arch-rivals India, United States, Ireland and Canada and they will begin their campaign against the co-hosts on June 6 in Dallas. The Green Shirts will then play the most anticipated of the tournament against India on June 9 at the Nassau

County International Cricket Stadium in New York. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has invited the team for lunch at the conclusion of their training session. The Pakistan cricket team is currently training at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, ahead of their tour of Ireland. Naqvi personally invited the squad for lunch.

ICC announces schedule for Women's T20 WC

Pakistan are placed in Group A alongside Australia, India, NZ

WEB DESK

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday announced the schedule of the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 which will be played in Bangladesh from October 3. Pakistan are placed in Group A alongside six-time winners Australia, arch-rivals India, New Zealand and a team yet to qualify. The ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup will begin on October 3 with England taking on South Africa in Dhaka. Each team will engage in four group-stage matches and after its conclusion, the top two teams from each group will make their way to the semi-final - scheduled to be played on October 17th and 18th - and the winners there will play the final on October 20 in Dhaka. A total of 23 matches will be played in Dhaka and Sylhet, spanning 19 days. Reserve days for semi-finals and final have already been placed if their need arises. G-A: Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qualifier 1 G-B: South Africa, England, WI, Bangladesh, Qualifier 2 Women's T20 World Cup schedule October 3: England v South Africa, Dhaka October 4: Australia v Qualifier 1, Sylhet October 5: South Africa v West Indies, Dhaka October 6: Bangladesh v England, Dhaka October 7: India v Pakistan, Sylhet October 8: West Indies v Qualifier 2, Dhaka October 9: Australia v Pakistan, Sylhet October 10: India v Qualifier 1, Sylhet October 11: South Africa v Qualifier 2, Dhaka October 12: Pakistan v Qualifier 1, Sylhet October 13: England v West Indies, Dhaka October 14: Bangladesh v South Africa, Dhaka October 15: Pakistan v New Zealand, Sylhet October 16: India v Australia, Sylhet October 17: England v Qualifier 2, Dhaka October 18: First semi-final, Sylhet October 19: Second semi-final, Dhaka October 20: Final, Dhaka

Usman has 'no regrets' on choosing Pakistan over UAE

DUBAI: Pakistan's right-handed batter Usman Khan has no regrets on choosing to play for Pakistan over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as it was always "his dream" to wear the green jersey. Following his impressive outing in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 9, Usman was approached by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after which he decided to represent Pakistan and was named in the squad that faced New Zealand in a T20I series at home last month. He couldn't perform with the bat during the New Zealand T20I series but the PCB backed him and picked him in the squad for Ireland and England tour. He was handed a five-year ban by the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) due to which he will not be able to participate in UAE leagues. However, Usman has no regrets about his decision as playing for Pakistan was always his dream. "I have come into the Pakistan team on the back of performances, so I don't think about the past," Usman told media persons on Sunday in Lahore. "I am grateful that I am getting an opportunity to play for Pakistan. I have no regrets on my decision. - Agencies

Naila becomes first Pakistani woman to summit 11 8-thousanders

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Mountaineer Naila Kiani on Sunday became the first Pakistani woman to summit 11 8,000m peaks in the world, according to the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP). Kiani achieved this as she successfully climbed Nepal's Makalu Peak, the world's fifth-tallest mountain at 8,485 metres tall. "Naila [Kiani] summits Makalu, becoming the first woman in Pakistan's history to summit 11 x 8,000-metre peaks," the ACP wrote in a post on Facebook today. "She now holds the record as the fastest Pakistani - both male and female - to have summited 11 of the 8,000-metre

peaks, accomplished in under three years," said the statement, which quoted ACP Secretary Karrar Haidri. "This remarkable feat also makes her the first Pakistani woman to have summited this incredibly difficult mountain," Haidri further highlighted. The ACP secretary noted that "after a challenging climb through the night, Naila has achieved another historic milestone by successfully summiting Makalu" at approximately 9:35am Nepal time (8:50am Pakistan time). "Naila is grateful for all the prayers and wishes, and she gives special thanks to everyone," the statement said. "She also thanks Sherpa Gelgen Dai from Imagine Nepal, who has supported Naila every step

of the way, making this achievement possible." Haidri added. Kiani has a bunch of mountaineering feats to her name. In April last year, she became the first Pakistani woman to climb Nepal's Annapurna peak, the world's 10th-highest peak standing 8,091m tall. The next month, she went on to summit Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, becoming the second Pakistani woman to do so. In July, Kiani and Samina Baig attained the feat of becoming the first Pakistani women to climb the world's ninth-highest peak, the 8,125m-tall Nanga Parbat. The same month, she became the first Pakistani woman to summit Broad Peak, the world's 12th-highest mountain at 8,051m.

Azlan Shah Cup: Pak beat Korea to register 2nd win

The Men in Green defeated Malaysia in first game

DNA

IPOH: Pakistan defeated Korea 4-0 one-sidedly in their second Sultan Azlan Shah Cup match on Sunday in Ipoh, Perak. Pakistan made an explosive start as Hannan Shahid secured the first goal just three minutes into the game with a powerful field goal, setting the tone for the encounter. The momentum continued to swing in Pakistan's favour as Arshad Liaquat added to the scoreboard, netting another field goal in the 20th minute of the match. With a relentless display of skill and determination, Ghazanfar Ali further extended Pakistan's lead with a third field goal in the 27th minute, leaving the Korean defense struggling to keep pace. As the match progressed



into the third quarter, Pakistan's solid defense held firm, denying their opponents any opportunity to close the gap. The score remained unchanged at the end of the third quarter, with Pakistan maintaining their commanding 3-0 lead. In the final quarter, Pakistan sealed their victory with a clinical performance, as Sufyan Khan converted a penalty corner into a goal in the 50th minute, putting the match out of Korea's reach. Remember, Pakistan defeated Malaysia with a last-minute winner by Abu Mahmood on Saturday. The nine-goal thriller saw some of the best goals as the Green Shirts managed to emerge triumphant 5-4 after a long 60 minutes. Pakistan's next match is now against Japan on May 7 at the same venue.

Probe committee denies...

FROM PAGE 01
summon by an inquiry committee. Murtaza, who heads the committee, said that he was working under his domain and claimed that wrong news was being run related to him. Earlier, sources said that a cabinet committee to ascertain the reasons for the import of the commodity during the last caretaker government has decided to summon former interim prime minister Anwarul Haq Kakar. They added that the interim setup ministers, secretaries, and other "important" personalities would also be summoned.

Bilawal may return as foreign...

FROM PAGE 01
to join the cabinet before the next budget to be presented in first week of June. It is, however, not clear whether the PPP joins the cabinet before or after the budget. One thing is certain: the PPP will be part of the cabinet in June, according to sources. The incumbent foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, was appointed as deputy prime minister to allow room for Bilawal to become the top diplomat. Sources said that Dar's office was being set up at the Prime Minister's Office, and he would operate from there once he vacates the Foreign Office for Bilawal.

Gandapur terms KP governor's...

FROM PAGE 01
"The Form 47 government and its illegally notified governor do not hold importance." The KP CM said he had not attended oath-taking of those who were elected through Form 47 earlier. Since the February 8 general elections, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been claiming that it won the polls on Form 45 with a wide majority and alleged the other leading parties rigged election results in Form 47.

Pro-Palestine protests...

FROM PAGE 01
Tuesday had been peaceful and complied with University policies," it added. Separately, as many as 50 people were arrested at the Art Institute of Chicago, according to the school. "Today, a group of individuals, including some SAIC (School of the Art Institute of Chicago) students, began a protest in the museum's North Garden, and as it progressed, protesters surrounded and shoved a security officer and stole their keys to the museum, blocked emergency exits, and barricaded gates.

Court Notice

اعدادت جناب عبدالرحمن صاحب مولد کراچی
راولپنڈی
ملازم حسین شاہ نام صاحب ملازم
سینئر انجینئر ایچ آر ڈی ایچ ایچ
شاہد سائمن کئی نمبر 110 بری کئی ایچ آر ڈی ایچ ایچ
ہرگاہ مقدمہ نمونہ بالا میں عدالت کی پیشگی اطلاع
طریقے سے ممکن ہے لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اخبار
اشعار پڑھیں یا جانا کہ آپ
مورخہ 06.05.2024 کو اسات
پڑھیں یا بذریعہ اخبار حاضر عدالت آئے بصورت
دیگر طریقہ کار رائی میں آئی جائے کی اور کوئی نذر
قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ حکم عدالت ہر عدالت

اعدادت جناب عمران اکرم
سول جج راولپنڈی
دعوی استحقاق بائو بائو وراثت نامہ
فرزادہ پروین دختر امانت علی ساکن مکان
نمبر C-934 محلہ عالمگیر روڈ لاہور کی
راولپنڈی کو سامہ نام اشعار ہرگاہ مقدمہ نمونہ بالا میں
ہرگاہ مقدمہ نمونہ بالا میں عدالت کی پیشگی اطلاع
طریقے سے ممکن ہے لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اخبار
اشعار پڑھیں یا جانا کہ آپ
مورخہ 06.05.2024 کو اسات
پڑھیں یا بذریعہ اخبار حاضر عدالت آئے بصورت
دیگر طریقہ کار رائی میں آئی جائے کی اور کوئی نذر
قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ حکم عدالت ہر عدالت

اعدادت جناب عمران اکرم صاحب
سول جج راولپنڈی
دعوی استحقاق بائو بائو وراثت نامہ
ذاتی تمل دختر امانت علی بنت ذبیحہ تمل رضا ساکن
مکان نمبر 162/A-1 جی نمبر 8 محلہ کھنڈ
ڈسٹک نورسیدان راولپنڈی نام عدالت کی پیشگی اطلاع
طریقے سے ممکن ہے لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اخبار
اشعار پڑھیں یا جانا کہ آپ
مورخہ 08.05.2024 کو اسات
پڑھیں یا بذریعہ اخبار حاضر عدالت آئے بصورت
دیگر طریقہ کار رائی میں آئی جائے کی اور کوئی نذر
قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ حکم عدالت ہر عدالت

Briefs

Al Jazeera to be shut down in Israel

MONITORING DESK

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet has voted unanimously to close Al Jazeera's operations in Israel, according to a government statement. The cabinet vote on Sunday came after Israel's parliament passed a law allowing the temporary closure in Israel of foreign broadcasters considered to be a threat to national security during the months-long war in Gaza. Netanyahu announced the decision on X, formerly Twitter. "The government headed by me unanimously decided: the incitement channel Al Jazeera will be closed in Israel," he posted in Hebrew. In another X post, Israel's Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi said he had signed the orders against Al Jazeera, which would be effective immediately. Karhi also ordered the seizure of Al Jazeera's broadcasting equipment "used to deliver the channel's content", including editing and routing equipment, cameras, microphones, servers and laptops, as well as wireless transmission equipment and some mobile phones. The decision escalates Israel's long-running feud against Al Jazeera. It also threatens to heighten tensions with Qatar, which funds the media network, at a time when Doha is playing a key role in mediation efforts to halt the war in Gaza. Israel has long had a rocky relationship with Al Jazeera, accusing it of bias against it and collaborating with Hamas.

Xi in France for Macron talks on Ukraine

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday arrived in France on a state visit hosted by Emmanuel Macron where the French leader will seek to push his counterpart on issues ranging from Ukraine to trade. Xi's arrival for the visit marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between France and China heralded the start of his first trip to Europe since 2019, which will also see him visit Serbia and Hungary. But Xi's choice of France as the sole major European power to visit indicates the relative warmth in Sino-French relations since Macron made his state visit to China in April 2023 and acknowledges the French leader's stature as an EU powerbroker. The leader of the one-party Communist state of more than 1.4 billion people, accompanied by his wife Peng Liyuan, was welcomed under umbrellas at a drizzly Paris Orly airport by Prime Minister Gabriel Attal. Xi is to hold a day of talks in Paris on Monday - also including EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen - followed by a state banquet hosted by Macron at the Elysee. Tuesday will see Macron take Xi to the Pyrenees mountains area he used to visit as a boy for a day of less public and more intimate talks.

Balochistan governor to sworn in today

DNA

QUETTA: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Balochistan President Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail will sworn in as Balochistan governor today, said a handout issued by Governor House on Sunday. A graceful oath taking ceremony regarding the new Governor Balochistan to be held in Governor House on Monday (tomorrow) at 11:00 a.m. sharp. Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Hashim Khan Kakar will administer the oath to Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail. Balochistan CM Sarfraz Bugti, Parliamentarians, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Provincial Secretaries and political figures are expected to be present in the ceremony, the handout further read.

29 embassies take part in event

'Taste the World' food festival at Serena Hotel

Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels said, our commitment to cultural diplomacy extends beyond hospitality, it is about creating meaningful connections through shared experiences



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Food Festival - Taste the World - was held featuring 29 embassies as a fundraising event. The event is a celebration of culinary diversity and cultural exchange, bringing people together through the universal language of food. The participating embassies offered a unique and authentic taste through cuisines ranging from savory dishes to sweet treats representing the flavors and traditions of the world. Taste of the World, a charity event, is the collaborative effort of many embassies, IFWA (Islamabad Foreign Women's Association), Serena

Hotels, the Head of Missions' Spouses (HOMS) Group with the participation of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association (PFOWA). IFWA and the Serena Hotels have a long history of partnership that aims to make a meaningful impact by raising funds for charity projects that benefit vulnerable groups, especially women and children in Pakistan. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels said, our commitment to cultural diplomacy extends beyond hospitality, it is about creating meaningful connections through shared experiences. Taste of the World is not just a culinary event; it is a celebration of diversity, unity, and compassion. Through the language of food, we bridge



cultures, nurture understanding, and empower communities. I am also pleased to announce that the proceeds from this event will be directed towards IFWA funds, aimed at supporting underprivileged communities. Together with IFWA, we embark on a culinary journey that enriches lives and fosters a brighter, more inclusive future for all. IFWA is a non-political, non-profit charitable organization established in 1995 by women from around the world, living in Islamabad. IFWA's organizing committee, drawn from volunteering spouses of foreign diplomats and expats, creates an exciting program of cultural and social activities with all profits going to worthwhile causes. Through various

programs and initiatives, IFWA provides support, resources and opportunities to women and children in need, and those facing social and economic challenges. Some past projects include donating 100 wheelchairs to the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, providing school supplies to the Haraf Foundation, Khatoon-e-Fatima High School, and Al-Firdous Community Model School, as well as medical equipment to Care for Special Persons (CFSP). IFWA launched a charity drive to respond to emergency needs by The International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) after the devastating floods in 2022 by purchasing equipment for a mobile Nurturing Care Center.

Japanese premier wraps up South America trip

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida wrapped up a landmark visit to South America, pledging to work together with regional countries to tackle global challenges including climate change, economic disparity, and poverty, Japanese media reported on Sunday. At a press conference on Saturday before concluding his trip, Kishida said Japan will offer "diverse and inclusive cooperation" tailored to each country, including those in Central and South America. "Latin America is rich in natural resources, such as minerals, energy, and food, while having a large young population. Many of its countries have great potential," he was quoted as saying by Tokyo-based Kyodo News. Kishida, on the last leg of a six-day visit that also took him to France, also spoke at a ceremony on Saturday in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Japan's policies toward Latin America and the Caribbean as Tokyo seeks to deepen relations with Global South, a term referring to emerging and developing nations. On Friday, he held bilateral talks with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Paraguayan President Santiago Pena. It was his first visit to South America since he took office in October 2021. Kishida said Japan has decided to provide funds to a program aimed at preserving Brazil's Amazon rainforest, seen as the "lungs of the Earth," while helping Caribbean islands vulnerable to global warming prepare for natural disasters. - Agencies

Haniyeh accuses Netanyahu of 'sabotaging' truce talks

Gaza health ministry said that the death toll from the ongoing Israeli bombardments and shooting attacks, which started on October 7, climbed to 34,683 martyrs

NEWS DESK

DOHA: Head of Hamas's political bureau Ismail Haniyeh has said that his Movement held contacts with mediators and resistance factions as a prelude to sending its delegation to the Cairo ceasefire negotiations over Gaza. In a statement on Sunday, Haniyeh reiterated his Movement's positive and flexible approach to the upcoming round of negotiations in Cairo. Haniyeh also said that Hamas negotiators are aware of the importance of prioritizing an end to the aggression against the Palestinian people, affirming his Movement's ceasefire position is "essential and rational" as it lays the foundation for a more stable future. The Hamas leader underlined that any ceasefire agreement would be pointless if it did not lead to an end to the war on Gaza. "The world has become a hostage to an extremist [Israeli] government, which has a huge number of political problems and crimes committed in Gaza," he said. He accused Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu of persisting in fabricating lies in order to justify the

ongoing aggression against Gaza, expand the circle of conflict and sabotage the efforts being made by mediators to end the war. "Hamas is still keen on reaching an overarching and multistage agreement that ends the aggression, guarantees Israeli withdrawal, and achieves a serious prisoner exchange deal," the Hamas leader said. Haniyeh's remarks came just after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hardened his rejection of calls for an end to the war on Gaza. Netanyahu said that allowing Hamas to stay in power would pose a threat to "Israel". Netanyahu said that the Israeli regime is only willing to pause its aggression in order to secure the release of Israeli captives in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli war criminal said that Hamas is "entrenched in its extreme positions," which include an end to the war on Gaza and the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from the territory. For Netanyahu, abiding by the rulings of international law, ending the occupation of internationally recognized Palestinian territories, and halting genocidal crimes against the Palestinian people are "extreme positions" that "Israel cannot accept."

Faizabad sit-in: SC resume hearing on today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court will resume hearing on the review petitions against Faizabad Dharna (sit-in) from today (Monday 6). The review petitions were filed by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Intelligence Bureau (IB), Military Intelligence (MI), and Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Ministry of Defence, the PTI, MQM-P, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra), President AML Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, and President PML-Z IjazulHaq. They, however, withdrew petitions when Justice Faez be-

came the chief justice of Pakistan in September 2023. The Faizabad dharna (sit-in) inquiry commission report has been formally submitted to the Supreme Court by the Attorney General's Office on Sunday. The report, spanning 150 pages and based on the testimonies of 33 witnesses, delves into the complexities surrounding the contentious Faizabad sit-in. A three-member bench, spearheaded by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, is slated to convene tomorrow to scrutinise the comprehensive findings encapsulated within the report. Notably, the inquiry commission, after a thorough examination, refrained from attributing culpability to any specific individual or institution. However, it did highlight certain operational shortcomings, notably the failure of the Punjab government to deter protesters from converging on Islamabad during the sit-in. Earlier on April 16, the inquiry commission assigned to investigate the Faizabad dharna (sit in) incident has cleared former Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) director general Lieutenant General (retd) Faiz Hameed and former Punjab Rangers director general Major General (retd) Azhar Naveed Hayat of any wrongdoing.

Indian elections: BJP openly incites hatred against muslims

On Sunday, the Congress filed a complaint to the EC through its KPCC media and communication chairman Ramesh Babu against BJP president J.P. Nadda, its IT cell in-charge Amit Malviya, state president B.Y. Vijayendra and social media in-charge of the Karnataka BJP

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India has continued to remain silent almost 24 hours since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Karnataka on Saturday (May 4) uploaded a video on its X (formerly Twitter) handle that showed caricatures of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah in a bid to demonise Muslims. Continuing its openly communal campaign during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, the cartoon video is titled with the caption "Beware beware beware" in Kannada. It depicts a nest containing four eggs: one labeled "Muslims" and the others labeled "SC," "ST," and "OBC." The video then shows Gandhi feeding the egg labeled "Muslim" from a carton labeled "Funds." Subsequently, the egg labeled "Muslim" hatches into a larger chick wearing a skull cap, which then proceeds to throw out the other three eggs - SC, ST, OBC - while caricatures of Gandhi and Siddaramaiah laugh. The Wire has written to the Election Commission (EC) regarding the video. On Sunday, the Congress filed a complaint to the EC through its KPCC media and communication chairman Ramesh Babu against BJP president J.P.

Nadda, its IT cell in-charge Amit Malviya, state president B.Y. Vijayendra and social media in-charge of the Karnataka BJP. "The act of the accused person is clearly with an intention to wantonly provoke rioting and promote enmity between different religions and is prejudicial to maintenance of harmony apart from intimidating members of SC/ST community not to vote for particular candidate and causing enmity against members of SC/ST community. Hence, it is just and necessary to initiate suitable action," Ramesh Babu said. Calls to the EC to take action against open calls for the use of religion in poll campaigns, have not elicited any action. This despite the EC while announcing the poll schedule in March, itself warning against the use of fake news on social media. During the press conference, chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar said: "We are also conscious that on social media in a democracy there is a full freedom to criticise anybody including criticising us. If we are doing wrong, criticise us. But you should not be allowed to create fake news which is not based on facts. Because it can disturb the public order. - Agencies

CM Punjab Maryam stresses bilateral trade expansion with S. Korea

Maryam Nawaz offers investment opportunities in Punjab during meeting with Ambassador Park Ki Jun

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sunday expressed the need for a further increase in bilateral trade volume with Korea. She conveyed these views during her meeting with Park Ki Jun, the ambassador of the Republic of South Korea to Pakistan. During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged thoughts on promoting bilateral cooperation and enhancing ties between the two countries. The chief minister expressed a desire to benefit from Korean technology for industrial development, welcoming Korean cooperation in electronics, automobiles and information technology. Maryam informed the ambassador that Punjab held significant potential for investment in agriculture and mining industries. She offered assistance to South Korea for investment in Punjab's automobile sector.

Marwat narrowly escapes accident

DNA

LAKKI MARWAT: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Sher Afzal Marwat narrowly escaped an accident on Sunday. According to details, Marwat was traveling from Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Islamabad when two tyres of his car burst on the M-14 (Islamabad-Dera Ismail Khan) motorway. Fortunately, the PTI leader and his companions remained safe in the accident. Marwat and his associates proceeded to Islamabad before boarding another car.