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Monday, May 06, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Direct flights between Pakistan and Morocco need of hour: Envoy

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

**Detailed News On Page-03** 

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. wherein the two dignitaries discussed deepening

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 Mur-

taza has announced the

new schedule for oath-tak-

ing ceremony. Originally

planned for today (Sunday),

the ceremony has been re-

scheduled 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 report-

edly 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 offi-

cial X handle, saying: "It is

with great regret that I an-

nounce my decision to step

away from my role at the

Consulate and Embassy of

Afghanistan in India, effec-

tive May 5, 2024." Afghani-

stan's embassy in New Delhi

shut down in November,

more than two years after

the Taliban returned to pow-

er in Kabul following the col-

lapse of the Western-backed

government, leaving Wardak

as the country's most senior representative in India.

### 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

Continued on Page 06

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. Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday They claimed that Bilawal, who was initially said the oath-taking ceremony of the reluctant to join the cabinet, agreed to be- new KP governor did not hold so "much come the foreign minister once again. The importance" for him and attending the two sides are now working on the details and event would have have been a "waste the timing of PPP formally joining the cabinet. of time". Talking to a private news Sources said PM Shehbaz wanted the PPP channel, the KP chief minister said,

Gandapur terms KP governor's oathtaking 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

Continued on Page 06

### protests continue on **US campuses** US stops weapons

**Pro-Palestine** 

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 Continued on Page 06

### 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 Paçac 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, Continued on Page 06



**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

Continued on Page 06

1 Activity

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1 Child

2 Children

4 Children

5 Children

RULES & REGULATIONS

Each activity will run for three

2 Activity

70,000

80,000

100,000

110,000

3 Activity

85,000

95,000

105,000

115,000

125,000

135,000

### 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

Continued on Page 06

### Continued on Page 06 **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.

### IMF mission expected in Pakistan this month

### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) mission is expected to visit Pakistan this month stanis," the IMF said in an emailed response to Reuters. The federal government's financial year runs

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 Paki-

ISLAMABAD SERENA





Valid from 1st April to 31st August, 2024

ACTIVITIES

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### Monday, May 06, 2024

### **Waves of** inflation not decrease

PESHAWAR: The waves of inflation in the vegetable and fruit markets did not decrease as garlic hit an alltime high and is being sold at 750 per kilogram, while the price of ginger has also increased to 680 per kg. During a visit to the vegetable and fruit markets, the rates of various food items are increasing, including onion (240, tomato (120, garlic (750 and ginger (680) being sold per kilogram.

The prices of potatoes 140 white, potatoes 260 red, green pepper 120, bell pepper 70, eggplant 100, cauliflower 160, okra 260 rupees, and lemon 500 kilos are being sold. The prices of fruits in the local market increased to double: apple 400, pomegranate 460, malta 320, blackberry 240, and pomegranate 330, while bananas cost 210 rupees per dozen sold. The price of live chicken has increased by Rs. 30 and now reaches Rs. 465 per kg. The price of a dozen eggs in the market is Rs 310.–**APP** 

### ANF recovers 30 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI; Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 30 kg drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that 2710 intoxicated tablets were recovered from a parcel booked for New York at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 80 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger going to Dubai

at Islamabad Airport. 15.6 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up in Mandi Bahauddin while 7 kg opium and 2 kg Ice were recovered from two suspects arrested near Lakpas Toll Plaza Quetta. 1.2 kg opium and 1.2 kg hashish were recovered from two suspects netted from Faisalabad Road. In sixth operation, 1 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested near GT Road Jhelum while in seventh operation, 1 kg ice was recovered from the possession of an accused in Balochistan. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and investigation are under process.—APP

#### Aimal Wali Khan elected ANP's Central President

PESHAWAR: Senator Aimal Wali Khan was unanimously elected as the Central President of Awami National Party while party chief Asfandyar Wali Khan as the Leader of the Party's Movement in intra-party elections followed by the Party's Central Council meeting, presided over by Chairman Central Election Commission Mian Iftikhar Hussain here Sunday. Former Chief Minister Amir Haider Khan Hoti suggested the name of Senator Aimal Wali Khan for the presidency and all members of the Central Council approved it. Senator Daud Khan will be the Central Senior Vice President while Dr. Muhammad Saleem Khan will be the Secretary General.-APP

### **UBG** leadership visits SCCI in post FPCCI election victory

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The United Business Group (UBG) leadership paid a visit to the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) in the headshipship of SM Tanvir after the historical history of UGG in FPCCI 2024-25. President SCCI, Fawad Ishaq arranged a well attended dinner in honour of visiting UBG leadership. The visit was part of the post election victory celebration and also to evolve future strategy for the upcoming budget 2024-25 proposals. Earlier the UBG delegation visited Mardan Chamber of Small trade and Small Industry and Mardan Women Chamber of Commerce and industry, Nowshera Chamber of Commerc and Industry. The dinner held at President Fawad Ishaq's residence in Peshawar and attended by UGG leadership delegation led by SM Tanvir( Patron-in- chief) President FPCCI, Atif Ikram, Zubair Tufail (President) Zafar Bakhtawri ( Secretary General) , Mian Zahid Hussain, businessman from Karachi and prominent business leader from peshawar and other cities of KPK also attended. SM Tanvir ,while speaking at the dinner said that the visit was primarily aimed at to express thanks to the voters who hugely voted for UBG in the last FPCCI election and therein a historical victory in the election. He fur-



ther said that he is fully agreed for all economical rights and assistance for KP province in the shape of electricity and energy royalty. Mr Atif Ikram President FPCCI said that "we are making proposals for the upcoming budget of 2024-25 to be sent to the government. He further asked the business community to sent its proposal for the purpose. Mr Zubair Tufail President UBG

said that the country is passing through the major economic challenges and we all must join hands to pursuade the political leadership for the Charter of Economy . On the occasion Secretary General, UBG Zafar Bakhtawri said that only a businessman can lead the country and bring it out from the current economic crisis. He added that the youth must start

idealising businessmen, instead of thinking for migration. He said that vouth's focus must be on entrepreneurship to enhance the export of Pakistan. Fawad Ishaq President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and industry, while highlighting the economic problems of KPK province said the royalty of hydel power and gas is not sufficient ant that it should be enhanced by the federal

government. Senator Ilyas Bilour on the occasion thanked the visiting delegation and said that we will always be a part of UBG. He also highlighted the role of SM Munir for serving the business communi-

Ghazanfar Bilour President UBG KPK, Haji Afzal, Secretary General, KPK UBG also spoke on the

#### gang of thieves DIR LOWER :Dir Lower Police during an operation, have succeeded in arresting

**Police** 

arrested

a gang of thieves involved in stealing batteries from masajids and motor pumps from wells in different areas across Dir Lower, an official of the Police Control said here Sunday. The Police have recovered the stolen goods while the cattle vehicle used in the crimes was also taken into custody. The Lower Dir Police under the supervision of District Police Officer Rai Mazhar Iqbal, continued crackdown on the criminal elements and the Talash Police arrested a gang of thieves in a successful operation. During the action, the suspects, Khan and Murad Ali, residents of Bajaur, Talaash, were arrested and started investigation. The Police have recovered from their possession six water-pumps motors, two solar batteries and the vehicle used in the incident. The accused confessed to the crime in front of investigation officers after which they were sent to jail. According to the instructions of the DPO Dir Lower, the Lower Dir Police have cordoned off the drug dealers in two different operations and recovered marijuana. Chakdara Police Station has recovered three kg and 745 grams of hashish from the possession of the accused Zakaria, while the Timergara Police Station has arrested the suspect Amjad Ali and recovered 535 grams of hashish from his possession and arrested the accused.

### Tainted herbal medicine claims five lives

FAISALABAD :Police on Sunday arrested the owner of a grocery store after five people, including a woman and her four young daughters, died when they took a herbal medicine for cold and flu. Police said that Shamim Bibi, 34, w/o Mazhar Ali, of Chak No. 53/5-GB Killianwala Basti Jammu Garh, Fateh Shah, went to the grocery store owned by Abdul Wahhab and bought a herbal medicine (Phakki) for the treatment of cold and flu. After taking the medicine, four-year-old Aqsa Tanvir died on the spot while the condition of Shamim Bibi and her three daughters, Rukhsana Mazhar, 8, Muskan Mazhar, 10, and Farzana Mazhar, 5, deteriorated. They were shifted to DHQ hospital Sahiwal in a critical condition where they all died.-APP

### Federal Ombudsman DI Khan office on top for resolving IRD cases

DERA ISMAIL KHAN :The Federal Ombudsman's Regional Office DI Khan has resolved 799 cases under the Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD) mechanism during 2023, which is the highest figure of any regional office in the country. It was stated by the Senior Investigation Officer of Federal Ombudsman (Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat) Regional Office DI Khan Imran Khan while talking to APP here on Monday. He informed that IRD started in April 2022, was a mechanism under which the Ombudsman office plays a mediation role

out of its jurisdiction. Moreover, he said, the regional office DI Khan has disposed of about 4961 cases out of a total of 5391 registered complaints received during last year with an 80 per cent success ratio. He also mentioned that the Complaints Collection Center, Wana which was established in December 2022 has disposed of 2067 cases out of a total of 2255 registered complaints with a 95 per cent success ratio during the same period. Moreover. Imran Khan said, the office also conducts open

in resolving disputes even courts in different areas to provide them inexpensive and speedy justice to the masses at their doorsteps. He informed that the next two open courts would be held in Paroa and Paharpur Tehsils of Dera Ismail Khan on May 6 and 9 respectively. He said the regional office also taking steps to create awareness among the citizens about the federal ombudsman so that maximum people could get benefit from it. He said the awareness seminars were being organized in different educational institutions including Gomal University besides displaying banners at offices of various federal government departments. The regional office DI Khan was mandated to decide complaints received from DI Khan, Tank, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, South Waziristan (Upper & Lower), North Waziristan and Bhakkar districts. The complaints filed against alleged irregularities and mismanagement of public sector departments are being addressed within 60 days and our findings are also being shared with the Federal Ombudsman Office, Islamabad.-APP

### Education ministry to establish 16 latest IT labs

in the federal capital to provide the youth with the latest skills and increase employment opportunities for them. According to an announcement by the Education Ministry, these IT labs will be built in 16 federal government degree colleges located in different areas of Islamabad. As per details, in these IT laboratories, students will be offered six-month courses in blockchain, data science, AI and game development. In the first phase, about 1000 students will be offered courses, which are being introduced keeping in view the market demand. "These courses are designed by NAVTTC in collaboration with renowned universities like NUST, National Skills University, COMSATS and NUML. These courses will start in the second week of May 2024" the Ministry said. The ministry further informed that as many as 3600 students have registered for these courses so far. It has been decided by the Ministry of Federal Education to prepare these labs under the direction of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. It is worth mentioning here that Providing employment opportunities to the youth is included in the agenda of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).-APP

### Govt to start 20 buses for female students

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has taken an important initiative to solve the problem

al educational institutions will be prepared and put on the roads with the support of the district administration. The female students and teachers of public and private educational institutions will be

girls will be painted pink, it added. The Ministry of Federal Education has taken this step in view of the increasing dropout rate of girls from schools due to inadequate transport fa-

total 385 buses of federal educational institutions have been parked due to unusability. These buses were not being used due to lack of budget and drivers and for not repairing timely, said the Secretary Education. In future, women will also be allowed to travel in these vehicles subject to the availability of space, he added. He further informed that by June 15, these buses will be ready and will start providing services for female students and

#### of transportation for feable to travel for free in cilities, said the Secretary of Education while talking male students and women these buses operated in teachers of the Islamabad the urban and rural areas to Media persons. He Capital Territory Schools. went on to say that in the of the federal capital with the support of the district According to the details, internal audit, it was found teachers. around 20 buses of federadministration. These busthat thirty per cent of the

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh inaugurated the Agriculture Industrial Park in Gwadar Free Zone, established by China's Hangeng Agricultural Group. In a conversation with Gwadar Pro, Andy Liao, CEO of Hangeng Agriculture Group expressed his elation at the significant progress in the Gwadar Free Zone. He stated that the establishment of enterprises in the Gwadar Port North Free Zone marks a pivotal moment, ushering in a new era of development. Liao highlighted the upcoming phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is expected to further boost Gwadar's growth.

expressed heartfelt gratitude to the China Overseas Port Holding Company

(COPHC), Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Customs, and the Army for their invaluable assistance during challenging times. "The commitment remains strong to realize the vision of Gwadar's economic advancement and improve

The newly established manufacturing factory in Gwadar will export 100 containers of pharmaceutical material each month to China. The company is providing em-

ployment opportunities to

Agriculture Industrial Park

to usher in new era

more than 100 workers in Gwadar," he added. During the ceremony, Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh praised the successful establishment of the factory in Gwadar. He emphasized the dedication of the peo-



ple of Baluchistan and the need to work towards the prosperity of the province, particularly Gwadar. He said, "The Gwadar Free Zone is a vital component of Pakistan's economic growth, fostering trade, investment, and regional connectivity. Its strategic location and ambitious plans position it as a key player in the future of international trade and development." He stated that the Chinese government has achieved remarkable progress in lifting 770 million people out of poverty, demonstrating their capacity to transform lives through economic development and progress. Chairman of the China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Yu Bo, while sharing the vision and future plans for the Gwadar Free Zone, underscored the importance of agricultural cooperation.

### Railways earn Rs 66 bln in nine months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has achieved an unprecedented earning of Rs 66 billion in the first nine months of the current financial year 2023-24, despite facing a financial crisis due to floods in the monsoon season."The department is expecting to generate revenues up to Rs 80 billion by the end of this financial year through the consistent efforts and hard work of the Railway workers," official sources in the Ministry told APP. They said that during the first nine months of the last financial year (2022-23), the department earned around Rs 39 billion, a historic increase in revenue during the same period of the current financial year (2023-24). According to the data, they said that out of the revenue of Rs 66 billion, revenue was derived from passenger and freight trains while other sectors of the department also contributed to the total revenue. At present, they said that Pakistan Railways is operating around 96 passenger trains, up from the previous year when 86 trains were running.

Similarly, during the previous year, on average it operated 3.75 freight trains while the number reached seven freight trains this year. The sources said the department emphasized that the issue of delay in payment of salaries to employees has now been resolved and things will be more streamlined, once work on the Mainline-I (ML-I) project kicks off. To a question, they said that Pakistan Railways has beefed up precautionary measures to reduce passenger train accidents and only six minor accidents with no causality took place on the entire railway network in the country during the last three months. The drastic decrease in accidents has been witnessed due to the efforts being undertaken to reduce trespassing at unmanned level crossings and unauthorized locations, they added. "Our staff is continuously monitoring the railway tracks across the country and conducting thorough inspection of the trains as the safety of the passengers is the top priority of the department," the sources said.-APP









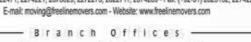




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#### National Days and Armed Forces Days

### 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 Forced Day May 22/Yemen

Re-unification Day(National Day ) May 24/Eritrea National Day

Republic

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### **Emergency**Rescue (Police).....15

### **Enquiry**

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PIA Cargo	9280979
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Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092



### Hospitals

_	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	nal 4603666



### **Departments**

Departments		
CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment B	Soard 9270151-3	

### Water Tank

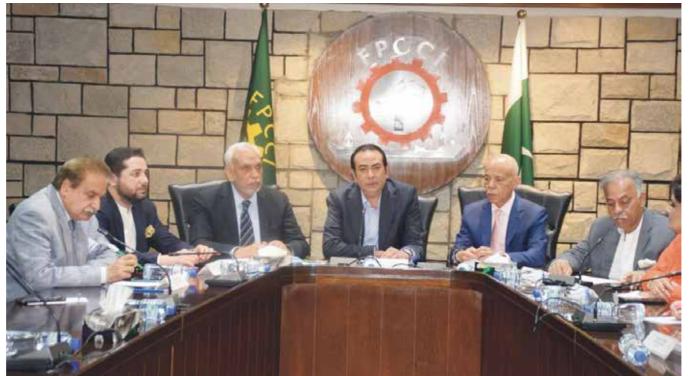
Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# 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. Mem-

ber 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 AsKaramone 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 Jadoon, Special Advisor Afshan Malik, Amina Malik, Rashid Humayun and

sembly. I will be a strong voice

while doing this and will play

my important role for various

institutional support. Moroc-

co's Ambassador Muhammad

## 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), ment 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

### 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, empha sizing 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 Haji 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 Haji 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

others were also present there.

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 "The cause of the dead. 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, fiveyear-old Rukhsana, eightyear-old Muskan, and their 34-year-old mother, namely Muskan.-APP

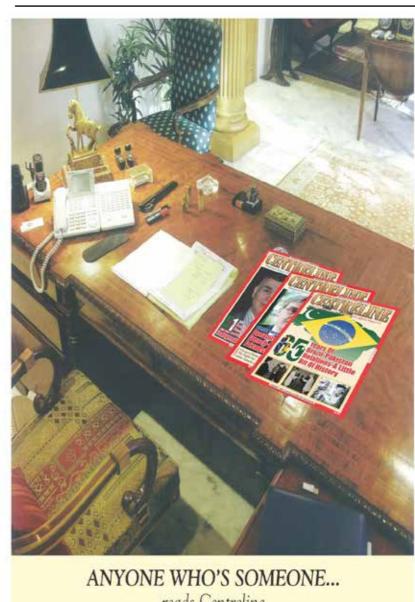
## Pilgrims excited to embark on sacred Hajj

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

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 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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### TWIN CITIES



### **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 IIOJK 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 fa cilitate 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 swift ly. 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 Author-Rawalpindi (PHA) would organize three-day 'Jashan-e-Baharan' from May 7. According to a PHA spokesperson, all the arrangements were being finalized to organize a three-day Jashan-e-Baharan 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



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 Businessman Panel condemned sold at a higher price of Rs4700

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 the act of current office bearper maund. The import permission 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 na-

### **Every state is** seeking deescalation 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-Israel 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, accussed 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 (cvber) attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Jordan Dr. Maen Khreasat received. Ms. Coco Ushiyama, Country Director of the UN World Food Program WFP in Pakistan. It was a pleasant occasion to discuss ways of mutual cooperation. —DNA

### PFRIA warns govt of industry closure

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Ferozepur 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 emphasising 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-

ucts in the global market. As the industrial sector grapples with the ramifications of the gas price hike, the FRIA leader's stance advocates for the preservation of industrial stability and the prevention of potential economic setbacks for Pakistan. Shahbaz Aslam said that the repeated increase in the gas and electricity prices to an unbearable level by the government has left the trade and industry uncompetitive; blaming it for trapping the country in the IMF plans. Strongly opposing gas price surge, he said that the gas tariff hike has threatened the industrial sector, besides increasing unemployment, saving

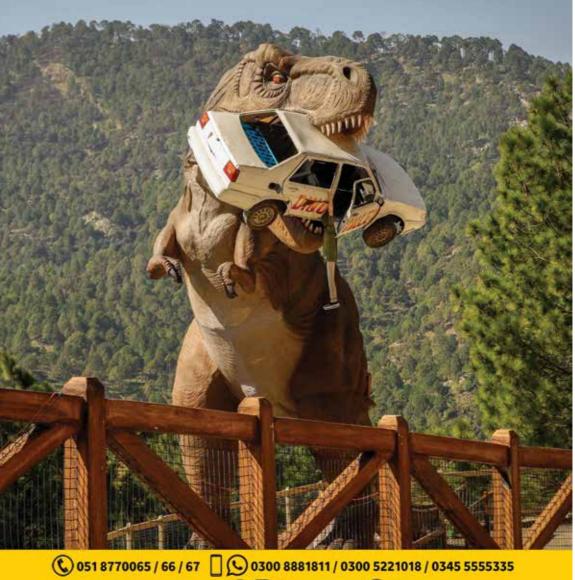
that the every government had poor economic policies that unleashed the free fall of rupee against the dollar, ensuing in input cost escalation to pull down the manufacturing growth. The FRIA senior vice chairman demanded the government to take back the decision of hike in gas tariff in the larger interest of national economy and to save the industries from collapse. He warned that in case, the decision is not withdrawn, the industries will close down, resulting in decline in exports and mass unemployment. In an appeal, he said that the business community was given assurance for 9 cents per KWh electricity

tariff by the caretaker government. The assurance brought a sigh of relief and hope for the business community that the new tariff will help in reduction of production cost and they will be able to continue production unabated and deliver export orders on time. However, contrary to the assurance given, POL, electricity and gas tariff are being increased constantly by the government. Showing their profound concerns, Anjum Nisar said that the country's exports have nosedived comparatively by 12.71 percent from \$31.78 billion, citing the harsh factors, which was hurting the industry.-APP

### 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

F 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 / Criminels Sans Fronti res / AmNasty International / UNitheft / 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.

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### Muddying the water on US student protests

ANY 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 t"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

OR 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.

On13th 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 vantage at sea, Russia is still a threat. They 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 Russia is in a tough spot now, so it might try 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-

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.

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)...

HERE has been significant controversy and public outery over the second controversy and public outers over the second controversy over lic 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 2022 for 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-Hag 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 checkposts 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. He appreciated OIC's appointment of a Special Envoy on Islamophobia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister strongly condemned the surge in anti-Pakistan rhetoric and Islamophobic narratives by India's political leaders during the ongoing Lok Sabha elections which threatens regional stability.

#### 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. He also expressed gratitude for Baku's principled stance on IIOJK.

### 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. He said that Saudi Arabia was an oilbased economy with strong government controls over major economic activities, however, it was now undergoing a transformation to reduce oil dependence, diversify income sources and enhance competitiveness under the Vision 2030.

### 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. "Accelerating reforms now is more important than the size of the program, which will be guided by the package of reform and balance of payments needs," the IMF statement said.

#### 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. He added that farmers cannot describe the pain they are currently experiencing and have repeated-

### Paçacı appointed...

ly called for the formation

of an independent agricul-

ture commission.

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. Chairman PVF said that for the first time in the country's history, Australia will visit Pakistan on May 26 to play a three-match series which will be held on May 28, 29, 30. He said that Engro CAVA Nation's

Volleyball League would take place from May 11 to 17 here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex. The event would see six national teams from Central Asian countries, including Iran, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and host Pakistan. Chaudhary Yaqoob said that the Volleyball League promises an exhilarating showcase of

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Crick-

et Board (PCB) Chairman

Mohsin Naqvi announced

massive prize money for

players if they win the up-

coming T20I World Cup

2024 which will be played in

the United States and West

Naqvi confirmed that each

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 Crick-

et 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 La-

hore. "I am grateful that I am getting an opportunity to play

for Pakistan. I have no regrets on my decision. - Agencies

Indies from June 1.



athletic prowess and sportsmanship as teams battle it out on the court. Fans can expect a weeklong extravaganza of volleyball action, featuring intense matches and thrilling showdowns. He said that the foreign teams will arrive in Pakistan on May 9, prepara-

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

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 be-

gin their campaign against the

co-hosts on June 6 in Dallas.

The Green Shirts will then

play the most anticipated of

the tournament against In-

tions 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 fi-

nal 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 experi-

ence 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.

**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 Sun-

day 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 Wom-

en'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 6: India v Pakistan, Sylhet

October 8: Australia v Pakistan, Sylhet

October 9: India v Qualifier 1, Sylhet

October 13: India v Australia, Sylhet

October 17: First semi-final, Sylhet

October 18: Second semi-final, Dhaka

October 3: England v South Africa, Dhaka

October 5: South Africa v West Indies, Dhaka

October 4: Australia v Qualifier 1, Sylhet

October 5: Bangladesh v England, Dhaka

October 7: West Indies v Qualifier 2, Dhaka

October 10: South Africa v Qualifier 2, Dhaka

October 12: Bangladesh v South Africa, Dhaka

October 13: Pakistan v New Zealand, Sylhet

October 14: England v Qualifier 2, Dhaka

October 11: Pakistan v Qualifier 1, Sylhet

October 12: England v West Indies, Dhaka

### **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 Anwaarul 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.

#### October 20: Final, Dhaka dia on June 9 at the Nassau ed the squad for lunch. against England on May 22. Naila becomes first Pakistani woman Usman has 'no regrets' on choosing to summit 11 8-thousanders Pakistan over UAE

As per sources, the purpose

of this lunch is to meet and

encourage the players as

increasing their confidence

before the two T20Is series

and the T20 World Cup is im-

portant. All the players, ex-

cept Shadab Khan and Hasan

Ali, who were named in the

18-member squad are train-

ing in Lahore. Both the play-

ers are playing county crick-

et for Warwickshire and will

ioin the squad in Ireland. The

Pakistan team is scheduled

to leave for Dublin on May 7

following a three-day camp in

Pakistan team will play

three T20Is in Ireland, fol-

lowed by four in England.

After the England series,

Pakistan will leave for the

United States to feature in

the T20 World Cup. The

18-player squad, which was

announced for Ireland and

England T20Is, will be re-

duced to 15 players for the

ICC Men's T20 World Cup

2024, which will begin on

June 1, after the first T20I

Lahore from 4-6 May.

KHAYAM ABBASI

County International Crick-

Pakistan Cricket Board

(PCB) Chairman Mohsin

Naqvi has invited the team

for lunch at the conclusion

The Pakistan cricket team

is currently training at the

Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore,

ahead of their tour of Ire-

land. Nagvi personally invit-

of their training session.

et Stadium in New York.

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 Gelgen Dai from Imagine Nepal, who has supported Naila every step 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.

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

### **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 Liagat 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.

### **Court Notice**

ملازم حسین شاه بنام مساکلثوم اختر زوجه ملازم حسین شاه اشتبار بنام کلثوم اختر زوجه ملازم حسین شاه ساکن گلی نمبر 10 و هیری حسن آبادریا و لینڈی برگاه مقدمه عنوان بالا میں مدعا علیہ کی تعمیل عام ری معنی نہ ہے لہذا آپ کو بذرا بعداخبار شنہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا کہ آپ ورخه 09.05.2024 كواصالنا، وكالنايا ر ایعه مختار حاضر عدالت آ ویں بصورت دیگر ئىكَطرقە كاروائى عمل مىل لا كى جائے گى اوركوئى عذر قابل قبول نەموگا - بىكىم عدالت مېرعدالت

بعدالت جناب عمران أكرم سول جج راو لپنڈی دعوى استقرار حق بابت وراثت بامه فرزانه پروین دُختر آمانت عل ساکن مکان مبر C - 4 3 9 محله عالم گیر روڈ لاکٹرنی راولينذى بنام عوام الناس اشتهار بنام عوام الناس رگاه مقدمه عنوان بالأمیںعوام الناس کی تعمیل عام ريقه يتمكن ندبي لهذاعوام الناس كوبذر بعداخبار نتهار مذامطلع كياجا تاكها كرسني كوكوئي عذراعترافر وتو وه مورخه 06.05.2024 كو اصالياً ، وكالتا يا بذر بعيه مختار حا ضرعدالت آ و ب بصور ب ِیگر پکطرفه کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے گی اور کوئی مذرقا بل قبول نه ہوگا۔ بحکم عدالت مہرعدالت

بعدالت جناب عمران اكرم صاحب سول جج راولینڈی دعوى استقر ارحق بابت وراثت نامه ازبيه مبيل دختر عاليه بث زوجه مهيل رضاسا كز مكان نمبر 162/A-1 ، كلَّى نمبر 8 محلَّه متجد إهوك نور سيدال راولينذى بنام عوام الناس شتهار بنام عوام إلناس هرگاه مقدمه عنوان بالاميس عوام الناس كى تعميل عام طريقة ہے ممكن نيہ ہے لہذاعوام الناس کو بذر بعہ اخبار اشتہار ہدامطلع کیا جاتا کہ اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر اعتراض ہو تو وہ مورخه 08.05.2024 كواصالنا،وكالنايا بذر بعد مختار حاضر عدالت آ وے بصورت دیگر یکطر ّفہ کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے گی اور کوئی عذر قابل قبول نه هو گا بحكم عدالت مهرعدالت



Monday, May 06, 2024

Rescuers

brave Indonesia

volcano eruptions to save pets

TAGULANDANG: An In-

donesian volunteer returns

### **Briefs**

### US moves military planes to Qatar

NEW YORK: The United States is moving its fighter jets, unmanned aerial vehicles and other military aircraft to Qatar after United Arab Emirates (UAE) officials warned they would not allow Washington to use their territory for attacks in West Asia, according to The Wall Street Journal (WSJ). Emirati officials informed the US in February that they would no longer allow US warplanes and drones based at Al Dhafra air base to carry out attacks in Yemen and Iraq without notifying them in advance, the newspaper said. "Restrictions have been imposed on strike missions against targets in Iraq and Yemen," a UAE official told WSJ. "These restrictions are based on self-protection." Al Dhafra air base is located approximately 32 kilometers south of the capital Abu Dhabi. U.S. officials said, "The move prompted U.S. commanders to send the additional planes to Al Udeid as Qatar has not imposed similar restrictions." "A decision of this kind highlights the existing tensions between the US and the Persian Gulf countries,' the WSJ report noted. Many of these countries have allowed US forces to be based in their territory while also being wary of being drawn into the existing conflict in the Middle East as Israeli attacks against Gaza continue.-APP

### Togo ruling party wins legislative vote

LOME: Togo's ruling party won a parliamentary majority in April's legislative elections, the country's electoral commission said Saturday, after a divisive constitutional reform critics say allows President Faure Gnassingbe to extend his time in power. Gnassingbe's Union for the Republic party (UNIR) won 108 of 113 seats in the new assembly, accord ing to provisional results announced by the national electoral commission. The participation rate in the election was 61 percent, according to the electoral commission president Dago Yabre, who gave the results in a national broadcast. Under the new constitution approved by lawmakers in April, Gnassingbe will now be able to take a new post as president of the council of ministers, a role similar to prime minister that is automatically assumed by the leader of the majority party in parliament. Already in power for nearly 20 years, Gnassingbe succeeded his father Gnassingbe Evadema, who ruled for almost four decades in the small coastal West African state between Benin and Ghana. Opposition parties denounced the constitutional reform as an "institutional coup" for creating a role tailor-made for Gnassingbe to evade presidential term limits and extend his family's political dynasty.

UNIR loyalists say the reform made Togo's democracy more representative. Under the previous consti-

tution, Gnassingbe would have been able to run for the presidency just one more time in 2025.—APP

### BMP for lowering production cost to promote industrialization

Anjum Nisar asks govt to appreciate industry role in providing mass employment

**DNA** 

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has called for promoting industrialization and enhancing exports through lowering cost of production, paying early refunds to solve liquidity crunch and relaxing import policy for industrial raw material. The FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that business community was facing tough challenges because of limited business. In this context, he sought attention of the government for formulation of regional, provincial and central level task force, and formulation of sector wise regional policies which would help the gov-ernment address the problems confronted by ex-

He suggested that One Window Operation should be introduced for the replacing the lengthy procedures that involve interaction of manufacturers with various agencies. The government agencies were harassing the textile industry every day. Social Security, EOBI and other taxes should be merged and deducted at the source. Mian Anjum Nisar asked the government to appreciate the role of industry for its potential to harvest maximum benefits, providing mass employment to the jobless population of the country. He also sought government's attention for formulating aggressive marketing plan and hurdle-free policies as well as urgent decisions in favor of exports while taking on board major stakeholders. He called for concerted efforts for exploring new markets both traditional and non-traditional in order to introduce home made products. He urged the government to announce favorable policies and allow duty-free import of raw material and accessories. This move will attract investors and help in setting up new industries in the country which will create wide opportunities for employment. We direly need a stimulus economic plan coupled with relief package by the government to maximize production. He also emphasized the need for seeking technical knowhow from China and other countries for the sake of innovation, and improvement of products. The BMP chairman said the sustainable solution to Pakistan's problems lies in reforms, as we can see very large inefficiencies in tax collection. So, the tax compliance must be improved and tax base be broadened. This cannot be achieved with a

single policy change, but by a systemic approach, he

He observed the government preferred direct taxation to meet revenue shortfall as opposed to re-sorting to increasing indirect taxes because direct taxes tend to be more progressive in nature; therefore, the burden on the lower income strata of the population is lesser. He emphasized that concentrating on import substitution is imperative to narrow import bills and certain imported products such as oil are of a fixed nature; therefore, the government needs to enhance focus on import substitution industries, as chemicals, agriculture and steel are potential industries. He said that undertaking

structural reforms require political will. He said that enacting structural reforms, such as improvements in tax collection

system, bureaucracy and ease of doing business requires major political will and strict implementation of policies, he added.

The BMP chairman urged the government to solve their problems on a priority basis in consul-tation with the traders. The BMP's mission was to create a stable econ-omy and prosperous business community, he added. He also called for promoting industrialization and enhancing exports through lowering the cost of production, paying early refunds to solve liquidity crunch and relaxing import policy for industrial raw material. He said the business community was facing problems like unannounced load shedding, parking, departmental proceedings, overbilling and expensive electricity and gas in the markets. He asked the government to appreciate the role of trade, industry and

exporters, providing mass employment to the jobless population of the country. The chairman stressed the need for reforms, with a keen focus on value-addition for a sustainable economic growth, recommending the government to raise exports to double digit of the GDP, as Pakistan's ex-

ports have bounced back after witnessing decline. Mian Anjum stressed that focus should be on promoting exports and restricting imports alongside making domestic industry more competitive and subsequently expand its export market. He said that exports of goods and services are an injection into the circular flow of income leading to a rise in aggregate demand and an expansion of output, helping raise per capita incomes and reduce extreme poverty especially in developing economies

Floods in southern

Brazil force 70,000

from homes

PORTO ALEGRE: Nearly 70,000 people have been forced

from their homes amid deadly flooding, mudslides and tor-

rential storms in southern Brazil, with the major city of Porto

Alegre particularly hard-hit, the country's civil defense agency

said Saturday. Raging floodwaters have left 57 dead, 74 peo-

ple injured and another 67 missing, civil defense said. The toll

did not include two people who died in an explosion at a

flooded gas station in Porto Alegre, witnessed by an AFP

journalist, where rescue crews were attempting to refuel.

Fast-rising water levels in the state of Rio Grande do Sul

were straining dams and particularly threatening econom-

ically important Porto Alegre, a city of 1.4 million. The

Guaiba River, which flows through the city, is at a historic

high of 5.04 meters (16.5 feet), well above the 4.76 meters

that had stood as a record since devastating 1941 floods.

Authorities were scrambling to evacuate swamped neigh-

borhoods as residents struggled in chaotic conditions to

find their way to safety. In addition to the 69,200 residents

forced from their homes, civil defense also said more than

a million people lacked access to potable water amid the

flooding, describing damage as incalculable. Rio Grande

do Sul Governor Eduardo Leite said his state - normally

one of Brazil's most prosperous - would need a "Marshall

Plan" of heavy investment to rebuild after the catastrophe.

In many places, long lines formed as people tried to board

buses, although bus service to and from the city center was

canceled. The Porto Alegre international airport suspended

all flights on Friday for an undetermined period. President

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva posted a video of a helicopter depos-

iting a soldier atop a house, where he used a brick to pound a

hole in the roof and rescue a baby wrapped in a blanket.—DNA

from a dangerous rescue mission to a remote island where a volcano recently unleashed huge eruptions, cradling an abandoned, emaciated dog covered in burn blisters. Mount Ruang in Indonesia's northernmost region has erupted more than half a dozen times since April 16, stirring a spectacular mix of ash, lava and lightning that forced the island's residents to be permanent-

> more evacuated. But while locals have fled, a team of volunteers travelled to Ruang by boat on daring rescue missions to save abandoned pets from the foot of the volcano that remains at its highest alert

> ly relocated and thousands

"We know that they (the animals) are still living there. How come we let them die while we know they are still alive there?" 31-year-old volunteer Laurent Tan told

AFP on Saturday. Laurent, the owner of two animal shelters in North Sulawesi province capital Manado, is one of eight volunteers who have made the six-hour ferry journey several times to Ruang's neighbouring Tagulandang island

following the eruptions. On one of their missions to the island's ash-covered homes, they retrieved an unnamed pup, a white cat, and a bright turquoise-andwhite tropical bird.

The dog, a female with burns on her face and body, was brought to a makeshift shelter on Tagulandang, where a veterinarian treated her on a wooden desk while a volunteer held up a mobile phone flashlight. She appeared to have sur-

vived the eruptions by taking shelter in a large gutter. The surrounding village above ground had been destroyed, Laurent said.-APP

Govt to put country on track of sustained growth

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain has expressed the optimism that with restructuring, collective hard work and the government's sincere efforts, they would be able to put the country on track of progress and sustained growth. He also hoped that the government with the support of trade and industry would take these initiatives forward to achieve the ultimate goal of high economic growth. He was talking to the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Fahimur Rahman Saigal who met him here on Saturday along with a delegation of PIAF Executive committee, including Rana Amir Rehman Mehmood and Sheikh Umar Sarfraz.

Fahimur Rahman Saigal congratulated Rana Tanveer Hussain on becoming the Federal Minister for Industry and Production and said that the problems of the business community are expected to be re-



BAKU: Bilal Hayee Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan photographed with Asim Iftikhar Pakistan Ambassador to France and Sohail Mahmood former Foreign Secretary during their recent visit to Baku. –DNA

### Teenager turns self in after attack on German politician

BERLIN: A 17-year-old has turned himself in to police in Germany after an attack on a lawmaker that the country's leaders decried as a threat to democracy. The teenager reported to police in the eastern city of Dresden early Sunday morning and said he was "the perpetrator who had knocked down the SPD politician", police said in a statement. Matthias Ecke, 41, European parliament lawmaker for Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), was set upon by four attackers as he put up EU election posters in Dresden on Friday night, according to police. Ecke was "seriously injured" and required an operation after the attack, his party said. Scholz on Saturday condemned the attack as a threat to democracy. "We must never accept such acts of violence," he said. Ecke, who is head of the SPD's European election list in the Saxony region, was just the latest political target to be attacked in Germany. Police said a 28-year-old man putting up posters for the Greens had been "punched" and "kicked" earlier in the evening on the same Dresden street. Last week two Greens deputies were abused while campaigning in Essen in western Germany and another was surrounded by dozens of demonstrators in her car in the east of the country. According to provisional police figures, 2.790 crimes were committed against politicians in Germany in 2023, up from 1,806 the previous year, but less than the 2,840 recorded in 2021, when legislative elections took place. A group of activists against the far right has called for demonstrations against the attack on Ecke in Dresden and Berlin on Sunday, Der Spiegel magazine said. According to the Tagesspiegel newspaper, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser is planning to call a special conference with Germany's.—Agencies

#### Mrs. Farrukh greets the nation on moon mission

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: The central leader of Pakistan Muslim League, Working National Assembly Mrs. Farrukh Khan has congratulated the nation on the departure of Pakistan's first space mission "IQB". It is the day of putting, we pay tribute to the pioneers, in the future we will have to count the light instead of measuring the darkness. Mrs. Farrukh Khan said that this wonderful achievement is due to the dedication, skill and vision of our scientists, engineers and technicians. It is a proof that today Pakistan has also turned this dream into reality. He said that it is a sign of progress and innovation of our nation. The member of the National Assembly said that this success will start a new era in space exploration, scientific research and technological development. He said that the appreciation of Pakistan-China friendship

### 'Radicalised' 16-yearold shot dead by police in Australia

knife who had stabbed a man in a Perth car park, police and the state premier said Sunday. The teenager "rushed" at police who responded by shooting him twice with Tasers before firing a single fatal shot, they said. "There are indications he had been radicalised online. But I want to reassure the community at this stage it appears he acted solely and alone," Premier Roger Cook said. Police received a call late on Saturday from a male warning that he was going to commit "acts of violence" but without giving his name or location, the state's police commissioner, Col Blanch, told reporters. Within minutes, another emergency call alerted police that a "male with a knife was running around the car park" in Willetton, a southern suburb of Perth, he said. Police body camera images showed the teenager refused officers' demands that he put down the knife, the police chief said. The weapon was a 30-centimeter (one-foot) kitchen knife, believed to be from the attacker's home, he said. Officers fired two Tasers at him but "both of them did not have the full desired effect," he said. "The male continued to advance on the third officer with a firearm who fired a single shot and fatally wounded the male." The teenager died in hospital later in the night, he said. The "middle-aged" man who had been stabbed was in a "serious" but stable condition and appeared to be doing well, the police commissioner said. man had suffered a single, "possibly" two centimetre stab wound that may have punctured a lung, he said. Police believe the teenager sent "relevant messages" to some members of the Muslim community who immediately called police, he said, without giving details of the messages. The boy had "mental issues but also online radicalisation issues", the police chief said. In the past two years, the attacker had been part of a "countering violence extremism programme" for people who show signs of "religious or issues-motivated" concerns, he said. "It is not a criminal based approach but it is a programme to help individuals who are expressing ideologies that are of concern in our community. But they may not be committing any crimes." Police said they did not know what had triggered the attack. Blanch said it had the "hallmarks" of a terrorist incident but he was not making an official declaration right now as he had no concerns about a wider network being involved. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he had been briefed by police and intelligence services who had advised there was no "ongoing threat". "-Agencies

### China under President Xi Jinping rule

GAZALA ANBREEN

In 2012 Xi Jinping became China's president for the first time. In 2018 the China's National People's Congress scrapped the two-term limit on its President. However, some people have been terming this as Xi's attempt to become lifelong president. The reason they offer is that there must be robust young leadership who have the ability to handle the contemporary

One year ago, he was given a historic third term in March, 2023. He is a man of loyalty having an unending patience. Although he may not be as visible on social media as he should be, his steadfast resolve and enduring courage to take bold decisions for the weal and welfare of his nation has earned him the title of hero of Chinese people. His popularity seems out of question. Since Mao Zedong no one has been so popular in actual. He has reshaped the communist party, the military and the government. The people of China have an unflinching trust in his leadership. During his early days of life, he returned to the poor country side to integrate the poor Chinese workers and peasants. In Liangiahe he made dams and new roads and learned complicated power dynamics in China. He started out with the vision of the Chinese dream. The projects he envisioned revitalized the whole China and established him as a top leader. He reorganized the military too. Owing to his congenial temperament and a balanced personality, he made a few enemies. He also speaks about preserving traditions of the past. His political ideology known as Xi thought has been introduced in school curriculum and is taught to the students of age six years in order to make them more patriotic as this age is generally very impressionable and would enable them to think in line with the political values upheld by Xi Jin Ping. This is important for instilling in the young students the nationalist values in order to promote a cohesion and maintain their identity as Chinese people. The doctrine of Xi thought encompasses the elimination of poverty and an uncompromising approach to national security and the belief in the Chinese Communist party as the only force for securing their ideology. His is the story of perseverance. Building the strong China which leads at the international arena is the spirit of the Xi thought. He gives paramount importance to loving his country as a supreme virtue. Two years ago in 2022 the Chinese government banned the use of foreign text books in the schools making students more confident. A crackdown on the private tuition was also launched and since 2021 private tutors have been banned from giving online classes or in unregistered venues. Xi thought was first enshrined in the Chinese constitution in 2018 to infuse loyalty in the students. Since Mao he is the first leader to have been taught while in power. The term of Chinese nationalism was made popular in 2013. Tending Chinese nationalism is the part of his agenda which is also known as Chinese dream. On Oct 18, 2017 Xi said: "The Chinese dream is a dream about history, the present and the future. It

is a dream of our generation, but even more so a dream". That means becoming a global leader in areas as for instance, sciences, diplomacy and culture. Under leadership of Xi Jin Ping, with the stature of a true leader, China's influence is gradually growing. He has a unifying philosophy. In Jan 17, 2017 he said "We Chinese know only too well what it takes to achieve prosperity. We will open our arms to the people of other countries and welcome them aboard the express train of China's development" One of the signatures of his Presidency has been a massive anti-corruption drive. Corruption hunt has been praised for its effectiveness. He positioned himself as an anti-corruption leader whom the Communist party could always count on. His anti-corruption crackdown serves as an example for the whole world and people take him as a hero. He initiated a massive anti-corruption drive that punished 300,000 officials including politicians in 2015 alone. In another clampdown on corruption and misconduct in 2021, more than 600,000 officials were punished. The

people of China take him as a stabilizing force. Stable societies foster a culture of book reading and cherish a love for it so did XI. In his own words: "Wherever I went, I always took a book with me. What had I brought with me, several reference works. The dictionary of idioms, the Xinmin dictionary, a concise dictionary of philosophy. I would memorize an entry and then its meaning before going out to hoe the fields and memorize another during a break". Several years after even in 2015 (February 13 at Liangjiahe) he used to recall time when he read books while herding the sheep "As a shepherd, I'd pen the sheep in on the hilltop and then I'd sit there, reading, reading and thinking". During a speech at Peking University in 2014 he said "I would go everywhere, looking for books. One should be deeply ashamed of any gap in one's knowledge".

Some experts talk about slowing down of Chinese economy. There is no doubt that COVID wreaked havoc in terms of loss of lives and inability to acquire the set economic targets.

China's economy is in the grip of challenges. It can be seen in the growth rate projections of past years. In 2019 the growth rate was 5.95%. In 2020 it slumped to a mere 2.24%. In 2021 the Chinese economy resurfaced with a growth rate of 8.45%. In 2022 the growth rate was lowered to 2.99%. In 2023 it was 5.2 % and in 2024 as of now the growth rate stands at 4.6%. This timeline shows the resurgence of Chinese economy and its ability to navigate through challenges with an undaunted determination and a stout resolve. But the hard reality remains that COVID outbreak caused a major blow to many sectors as property sector and construction works have suffered from many setbacks owing to this pandemic. Not only there was a loss of lives but the economy also sputtered. It has made cities like Shenzhen and Tianjin suffer in respect of many industries. As a result there was a reduced spending on tourism and retail services. The policymakers are trying to deal with the property market down turn. There is a slump in real estate sector.



# IslamabadPOST



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### 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 an 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 Balohistan 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 cuisine 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 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 var-

ious 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.

CM Punjab Maryam

stresses bilateral trade

expansion with S. Korea

Maryam Nawaz offers investment

opportunities in Puniab during

meeting with Ambassador Park Ki Jun

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sun-

day expressed the need for a further increase in bilateral

trade volume with Korea. She conveyed these views dur-

ing 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 Kore-

an technology for industrial development, welcoming Kore-

an 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.

# Japanese premier wraps up South America trip TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

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

### 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 by boarding another car.

## 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 Haneyya 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, Haneyya reiterated his Movement's positive and flexible approach to the upcoming round of negotiations in Cairo. Haneyya 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 sitin: 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.

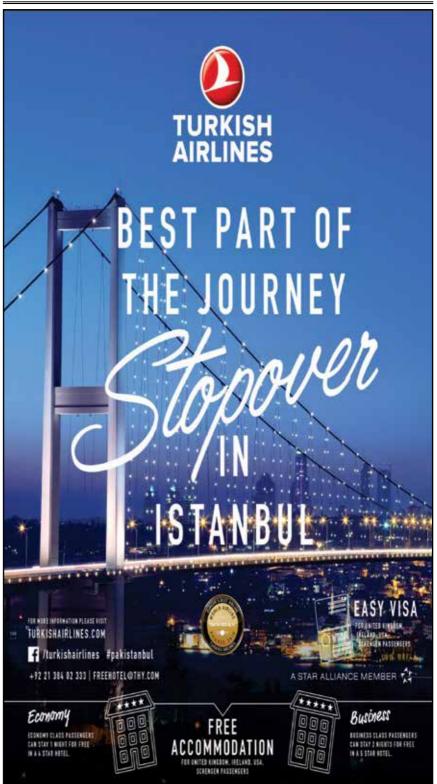
## Indian elections: BJP openly incites hatred against muslims

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

tinued 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" 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 commu-

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India has con-

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 provocate 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



### nication chairman Ramesh Babu against BJP president J.P. can disturb the public order. - Agencies Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad Ph: 051-2266165, Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com