

Islamabad POST

Saturday, May 04, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30



At OIC CFM Pakistan calls for Gaza ceasefire

Detailed News On Page-08

Kyiv can use British weapons inside Russia

Detailed News On Page-08



Reus set to leave Borussia Dortmund

Detailed News On Page-06



iCube Qamar Pak launches first satellite moon mission

Satellite will reach lunar orbit in five days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

President, PM, DPM felicitate nation

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: In a historic achievement for Pakistan, the country's first satellite mission to the moon, iCube Qamar, has been launched on board China's Chang'E6 from Hainan, China. The launch activity was telecast live on the IST website as well as Chinese state television. Following the launch, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the nation and the scientists for launching the first lunar orbit mission. In a statement, the PM said iCUBE-Q satellite is Pakistan's first step in space. The PM said Pakistani scientists, engineers and skilled workers are proving their mettle in this field like the expertise they exhibited in nuclear technology. He expressed tribute to the core committee of the Institute of Space Technology, including Dr Khurram Khurshid, all the members of the SUPARCO team and students, who participated in this project. While congratulating students and scientists on the launch, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said: "Today's launch from Hainan in China, is a good example of countries and organisations coming together for space cooperation and shared benefits."

Dr Khurram Khurshid, a member of the Core Committee at the Institute of Space Technology (IST), told Geo News that Pakistan's satellite — being carried by China's Long March-5 rocket — will reach the lunar orbit in five days and will circle around the moon for three to six months. He added that different pictures of the surface of the moon will be taken with the help of satellite after which Pakistan will have its own satellite images of the moon for research. The satellite has been designed and developed by the IST in collaboration with China's Shanghai University and Pakistan's national space agency SUPARCO. iCUBE-Q orbiter carries two optical cameras to image the lunar surface.

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative led by Dr Christopher Elias, Chair of Polio Oversight Board and president of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Development Division called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. — DNA

Japan embassy announces MEXT scholarships

MEXT research scholarship is fully funded by the Govt of Japan

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has announced its MEXT Scholarships 2025 for the talented Pakistani students to study in the prestigious universities of Japan. The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan is now accepting applications for the MEXT Undergraduate and Research Scholarships (Masters & PhD) 2025. Every year the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, and Science and Technology of Japan awards MEXT Scholarships to students from various countries. The scholarship is fully funded by the Government of Japan. It covers tuition fees, accommodation, living expenses, and round-trip airfare. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2024.

Continued on Page 06

Unwarranted wheat import Nawaz wants PM Shehbaz to submit detailed report

Nawaz issued these instructions in an important meeting of PML-N on wheat situation held at PML-N Secretariat at Model Town in Lahore on Friday

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Quaid and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has issued instructions to the government's team for resolving the issues concerning wheat and farmers, reported a private news channel. Nawaz Sharif has summoned the prime minister in Lahore to brief him about the wheat import. Nawaz Sharif issued these instructions in an important meeting of PML-N on wheat situation held at PML-N Secretariat at Model Town in Lahore on Friday. Detailed report reveals that the PDM government was also responsible for the unwarranted wheat import. Rana Sanaullah gave a detailed briefing to the participants of the meeting on the negotiations with the farmers. Rana Sanaullah informed about the concerns of farmers on procurement of wheat.

Continued on Page 06

PM optimistic for a polio-free Pakistan very soon

The PM directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to launch a joint awareness drive, in collaboration with the GPEI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed the hope that the government, in collaboration with the global partners and national institutions, would be able to eliminate polio from the country very soon. The prime minister, in a meeting

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Constitution is not just a piece of paper: Achakzai

The alliance of opp. is for the supremacy of constitution

DNA

LAHORE: The chairman of Pakhankwaa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and chief of opposition alliance Mahmood Khan Achakzai said that the extension shouldn't be given to a person who reaches the age of 60. "The extension is the way of destruction," Achakzai said while speaking to media in Lahore on Friday. The veteran politician said that all other alliances were earlier formed to make or break the government but this is the only alliance made for the supremacy of the constitution.

Opp. alliance to invite JI

The leaders will also discuss the current political situation and exchange views on the matter

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Accen-e-Pakistan — an alliance formed by the opposition parties — will meet if Ameer Hafiz Naeem Rehman to invite the latter to join their ranks against the government. The alliance led by its President Mahmood Khan Achakzai and PTI leader Asad Qaiser and others will call on the JI chief at Mansoor, the latter's headquarters on Saturday.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. — Editor

PTI reserved seats case fixed Imran accuses CJP Isa of being 'biased' against PTI Ex-PM alleges Justice Qazi Faez Isa behaving like govt's 'B-team'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Friday urged the courts to expedite hearings of his cases, accusing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa of being "biased" against his party. "I urge all judges presiding over my cases to expedite the hearings and refrain from unjustified delays," he said in a message from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. Saying that delaying the decisions was unjust, he said that all cases against him were false, baseless, and concocted. Khan referred to CJP's statement, saying, "He stated that there is no pressure on him, but pressure comes to those who refuse to include in wrongdoing. You are behaving like government's B-team against PTI." "You snatched electoral symbol from PTI, denied a level playing field, and violated our fundamental human rights in the guise of the May 9 incidents, on which our position has been pending since May 25, 2023, without a

Continued on Page 06

Journalism in Pakistan under threat: IFJ report

Meanwhile, AEMEND says Pakistan is included in list of "most dangerous" countries for journalists

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) on Friday said that journalism in Pakistan is "under threat" as the world commemorates Press Freedom Day. World Press Freedom Day — observed annually around the world on May 3 — is an important occasion to raise awareness of the importance of journalism and freedom of expression. This year's theme, "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the

Continued on Page 06

Khuzdar blast Journalist among 3 killed

At least 10 others sustained injuries

STAFF REPORT

QUETTA: An explosion in the Chamroo area of Balochistan's Khuzdar district claimed the lives of at least three individuals, including the President of Khuzdar Press Club, Muhammad Siddique Mengal, on Friday, officials confirmed. The tragic incident unfolded on Sultan Ibrahim Khan Road, coinciding with World Press Freedom Day, as a remote-controlled device detonated near Mengal's vehicle while he was

Continued on Page 06

JCP meeting ends sans any significant decision

Interestingly, the meeting related to the amendments in the Judicial Commission Rules was postponed for an indefinite period, the sources said

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) regarding the amendments in the Commission's rules for the appointment of judges ended without any final decision on Friday. The JCP meeting was held under the chair of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in Islamabad but couldn't be reached at any decision and postponed the matter till the next meeting. Interestingly, the meeting related to the amendments in the Judicial Commission Rules was postponed for an indefinite period, the sources said. In the meeting, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Yahya Afridi and the Chief Justices of the four High Courts also participated. Federal Law Minister Azam Nisar, Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Aman and Justice (Retired) Manzoor Malik were also present at the meeting. The meeting was called by the CJP Qazi Faez Isa to discuss the amendments suggested by the committee, headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The committee led by Justice Syed Mansoor

Continued on Page 06

Audio leaks case, IHC dismisses IB's plea

IB files plea just days after court fined Pemra, PTA and FIA for seeking Justice Babar Sattar's recusal on April 29

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court Friday dismissed the plea filed by the Intelligence Bureau seeking to withdraw its objection against the bench hearing the audio leaks case. The plea, filed by IB just days after court fined Pemra, PTA and FIA for seeking Justice Babar Sattar's recusal on April 29

Continued on Page 06

TURKISH AIRLINES

BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY

Stopover IN ISTANBUL

EASY VISA

FREE ACCOMMODATION

Economy

Business

US Ambassador
Blome meets
new Punjab officials

The Ambassador visited the offices of Systems Limited and Remington Pharmaceuticals to learn more about ongoing U.S.-Pakistan collaborations in the IT and health sectors

LAHORE : During a May 1-3 visit to Lahore, U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome met with new Punjab officials to explore opportunities to strengthen the U.S.-Pakistan partnership in Punjab province. He also held meetings and events focused on U.S.-Pakistan collaboration in the fields of IT, health, and culture. U.S. Consul General in Lahore Kristin Hawkins joined Ambassador Blome for his series of engagements. As part of his routine interactions with Pakistani officials, Ambassador Blome met with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Acting Governor and Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, and Punjab Assembly Leader of the Opposition Malik Ahmad Khan Bhaqar. The Ambassador

highlighted U.S. interest in strengthening our trade and investment relationship with Pakistan, discussed the positive impacts of initiatives under the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, and explored additional areas for future collaboration. The Ambassador visited the offices of Systems Limited and Remington Pharmaceuticals to learn more about ongoing U.S.-Pakistan collaborations in the IT and health sectors. "The U.S. government is providing nearly \$85 million in funding to address the issue of malnutrition in Pakistan, including \$12 million to treat severely malnourished children," Ambassador Blome said. "I appreciated the opportunity to hear about the work Remington Pharmaceuticals is doing to combat malnutrition and other global health challenges, including in collaboration

with U.S.-based partners." The Ambassador visited Forman Christian College to see a USMID-constructed women's dormitory and to visit the U.S. government-funded EducationUSA office, which provides free advising services on study abroad opportunities in the United States. Another highlight of his trip was attending a concert at the Lahore Fort by Raining Jane, a band comprised of four American women. "Back home in the United States, Raining Jane has played a leadership role in supporting girls' dreams of becoming musicians, by establishing a Rock n' Roll Camp for Girls in Los Angeles," Ambassador Blome said. "I'm so pleased they are able to be here to inspire the next generation of Pakistani musicians, both women and men, to be influential leaders in their own communities."



ISLAMABAD: Students of Pak-Turk Maaraf school presenting a cultural show. —DNA

Deputy Chairman
Senate, Irfan
Siddiqui discusses
legislative issues

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Sardar Syedtal Khan and parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the Senate, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, held discussions on Friday regarding legislative issues currently under consideration in the Senate. During a meeting Irfan Siddiqui congratulated Syedtal Khan on his recent election as Deputy Chairman of the Senate, expressing his best wishes for a successful tenure. He also shared his optimism that Syedtal Khan will guide the Senate proceedings with efficiency and firmness, ensuring that all political parties are given a voice in the decision-making process, said a news release issued here. During the meeting, both leaders engaged in a detailed conversation about the political situation in the country. Deputy Chairman Senate Syedtal Khan expressed his gratitude to Senator Siddiqui for his kind words and his role as a leader within the Senate. He hoped that the presence of Senator Siddiqui, as a parliamentary leader of the Muslim League (N), would serve as a source of strength for everyone. Syedtal Khan said that PML-N is the largest political party in the country and that its leadership plays a critical role in promoting harmony and co-operation within the House. He further stated that he intends to work as a symbol of the federation. —APP

Jam Kamal highlights
deep-rooted friendship
between Pakistan, Australia

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Friday highlighted the deep-rooted friendly relations between Pakistan and Australia, which spanned over political, economic, and defence sectors. He was speaking as a chief guest at a ceremony held to celebrate 'Australia Day in Spring' to mark the enduring ties between the two nations, a news release said. Prominent among those who attended the ceremony was Australia's High Commissioner in Pakistan Neil

Hawkins. The minister emphasized the significance of sports, particularly cricket, squash, and hockey in fostering mutual recognition between Pakistan and Australia, noting Neil Hawkins' enthusiasm for hockey. Turning to bilateral ties, Jam Kamal underscored Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its relationship with Australia and emphasized mutual respect and cooperation. He praised Australia's role as a development partner, especially in sectors such as agriculture and education. Addressing trade relations, the minister acknowledged the existing trade surplus

Police carry out search
operations in different areas

RAWALPINDI: The district Police here on Friday carried out search operations in the jurisdiction of Race Course, Cantt, Saddar Wah, Kalar Syedan, Jati, Mandara and Dharmal police stations. According to a police spokesman, the search operations were conducted in order to maintain law and order and flush out suspects following the directions of City Police Officer (CPO), Syed Khalid Hamdani. He informed, senior police officers and police personnel including women police took part in the search operations. The police checked a large 148 houses, 85 shops, six tenants and 327 individuals during the search operations. The spokesman said that police were fully prepared to shield the lives and property of the public and combing and search operations were being done to flush out the suspects and hardcore criminals. He said that police were more vigilant to keep an eye on suspects and maintain law and order in Rawalpindi. —APP

College
Professor
bids farewell

ISLAMABAD: Professor Muhammad Shamon, the head of the Department of Arabic at Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8, retired after spending over 31 years in the federal education department. Throughout his career, he exhibited unwavering dedication and hard work, establishing himself not only as a knowledgeable teacher but also as a valuable member of the institution's administrative framework. —APP

Hamza Tufail of KP to officiate
hockey matches in Malaysia

PESHAWAR: Promising Hamza Tufail, hailing from a remote village called Arabh Landy, was nominated as a technical official for the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup-2024 in Malaysia. This was stated by the Asian Empire Manager and Federation of International Hockey (FIH) while talking to APP on the phone. Faiz Muhammad Pari, a former international world level hockey referee and now working with FIH as Manager, Umpire, said that Hamza Tufail is very energetic and deserved to be officiating the matches of the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup-2024 as Technical Official. He said it is

good that a young boy, Hamza Tufail, got the call through his excellent performance during the Hockey League and the National Senior and National Junior Hockey Championships. The supervising umpire managers of the Pakistan Hockey Federation had given an excellent report that Hamza Tufail left for Malaysia on May 2 (Thursday) from Lahore to participate in the 30th edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2024. He belongs to Peshawar and will represent Pakistan in the tournament. It's an honor for Peshawar that one of the technical officials from Peshawar will represent Pakistan in the tournament, Faiz Muhammad Pari said.

79 incidents
of terrorism
reported
from KP in
2024: CTD

PESHAWAR: The Anti-Terrorism Department on Friday issued a report on the incidents of terrorism and operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the current year. According to the CTD report, 179 incidents of terrorism were reported this year, while 91 terrorists were killed in police encounters. It reported 10 attacks on police teams, adding that as many as 1002 intelligence base operations were conducted against terrorists this year. The report said, 60 terrorist incidents in January, 38 in February, 33 in March and 48 in April were recorded. Similarly, 91 terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire this year, in which the highest number of 31 terrorists were killed in February. It is further stated in the report that 19 terrorists were killed in D.I Khan. —APP



ISLAMABAD: A high level Syrian delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Education of Syria Mr. Rami Al-Dhullal called upon the Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqsood Siddiqui today on 3rd May, 2024. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan Mr. Ramiz Al-Rai and the Deputy Ambassador of Pakistan to Syria Mr. Umar Hayat Khan. Senior officials of the ministry including the Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani also attended the meeting. —DNA

Bilawal reiterates unwavering
support for press freedom

Bilawal expressed PPP's solidarity with journalists in conflict zones like Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Gaza, Palestine, praising their courage in reporting on human rights abuses despite grave risks.

DNA
KARACHI: Chairman, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday extended sincere solidarity to journalists and media professionals worldwide on the World Press Freedom Day. Emphasizing the paramount importance of press freedom, he reaffirmed his party's staunch support for the invaluable role of a free and independent press in fostering democracy. The PPP Chairman, in his message, underscored that press freedom was not merely a

cornerstone of democracy, but also vital for nurturing transparency, accountability, and the proliferation of diverse ideas within society. He urged that safeguarding and upholding this fundamental right should be the responsibility of every democratic government and party. Bilawal said that historically, the press in Pakistan had served as a watchdog, uncovering injustices, exposing corruption, and amplifying the voices of the marginalized. Expressing concern over challenges such as censorship, fake news, and violence faced by journalists, he urged media

organizations to uphold journalistic integrity, impartiality, and professionalism in their reporting. The PPP Chairman reiterated the party's unwavering support for press freedom, grounded in democratic and liberty principles. He underscored the 1973 Constitution's guaranteed freedom of expression, including press freedom, a legacy of Asif-ud-Dawn Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. "Under his leadership, reforms liberalized media policies, fostering greater independence," he noted. He highlighted former Prime Minister Shaheed

Mohsina Benazir Bhutto's efforts to promote press freedom, including abolishing censorship laws and supporting independent media growth, adding that she also championed press freedom and human rights globally, underscoring their significance in democratic governance and seeking international support during dictatorial regimes. The PPP chairman noted that President Asif Ali Zardari honored the vision and guiding principles of Shaheed Bhutto and Shaheed Mohsina Benazir Bhutto by enshrining the "Right to Know" into the Constitution

through the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Bilawal expressed PPP's solidarity with journalists in conflict zones like Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Gaza, Palestine, praising their courage in reporting on human rights abuses despite grave risks. "Let us carry forward the torch of press freedom, illuminating paths of accountability and fostering dialogue. Through our unwavering support, let's empower journalists to fearlessly navigate the realms of truth, shaping a brighter future for all," he concluded.

KTC implements track
and trace tax stamps

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Tobacco Company (KTC) Limited becomes the first tobacco manufacturing company to implement track and trace tax stamps on its products and was committed to be truly compliant to all applicable health and fiscal regulations and to contribute to community development through our robust CSR program. The KTC in a statement issued on Friday said that implementing the track and trace stamps not only enhanced traceability but also signified the company's dedication to upholding fiscal responsibilities within the country. Being a leading publicly

listed national company in the tobacco industry in Pakistan, the KTC acknowledged the efforts of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in its crackdown on illicit sectors. However, it called for more measures to get rid of the menace of cigarettes smuggling in Pakistan. The unchecked increase in smuggling does not only jeopardize the government revenue but also kills the national companies which are finding it hard to sustain in such an environment. The KTC urged policy makers to address the recent decline in its cigarette sales witnessed over the last year which is a direct result of the exponential increase in

Advertisement for freeline MOVERS. Includes logo, tagline 'The Smooth Moving Connection', services list (Packing, Shipping, Freight Forwarding, etc.), contact info, and office locations.

Briefs

Marginal cut in lending rates possible

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shahid Rashid Butt, who had previously served as the President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), stated on Friday that it is possible to bring assistance to the business community by lowering lending rates by a small amount. The government and the masses are also being negatively impacted by the high interest rates. Therefore, the central bank should modify the policy rates during its subsequent meeting, he said. In a statement released here today, Shahid Rashid Butt stated that the SBP is exercising reluctance because it believes that loosening monetary policy will hasten the outflow of capital, raise the amount of pressure on the exchange, and enhance inflation which is already very high. He said that the country is experiencing a decline in inflation; however, the inflation rate is thirteen percent greater than the objective set by the State Bank, which means that it cannot be handled just by implementing monetary policy. In order to combat inflation, he stated that administrative measures against hoarders and profiteers, as well as essential changes, are the necessary measures. The business leader said that Pakistan had joined the top ten countries regarding inflation, where inflation is five times higher than India and twice higher than Bangladesh. Shahid Rashid Butt said that inflation has made it impossible for people to live with peace of mind. Expenditures are increasing, but incomes are stagnant. Moreover, he said that inflation could be reduced if there is a reduction in the price of electricity, gas, and oil, which will make it easier for the central bank to lower interest rates.—APP

Telenor Velocity, Google Cloud partner for startup competition

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Velocity, Telenor Pakistan's startup accelerator, has collaborated with Google to unearth and empower the nation's most promising tech ventures and help embed them in the country's tech landscape. Telenor Velocity joins as a Community Partner for the Google Cloud Startup Competition Pakistan 2024, which aims to unearth and empower the nation's most promising tech ventures and help embed them in the country's tech landscape. Telenor Velocity hosted the Islamabad edition and first of the 'Master Your Pitch' series, at Telenor Pakistan's 3G4 campus, which opened its doors to young innovators, said a news release issued here on Friday. Master Your Pitch is a platform that allows entrepreneurs to pitch their startup ideas to venture capitalists, investors, and experts to receive valuable feedback before competing in the final competition. The Islamabad edition received around 130 participants, out of which 10 startups were selected to present their pitches to a panel of experts. The panel comprised Faisal Aftab, founder and GP at Zayn VC; Ahsan Maykan, VP of Marketing and Digital at Telenor Pakistan; Rohma Labach, Country Director at Accelerate Prosperity; and Sayeed Ahmad Masud, Project Director at National Incubation Center Islamabad. These experts provided each startup with feedback and suggestions on their startup idea and execution. The event also welcomed workshops and experts to share insights on building sustainable business models and sharing insights on Generative AI from Google experts. The experts included Saad Hamid, Growth Manager at Google; Cynthia Egan, Head of Corporate Innovation at Telenor Pakistan; Ershan Anwar - Organizer of Google Developer Group (GDG) Cloud Islamabad; and Ali Naqi - Organizer of the GDG Islamabad.—APP

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A collaborative event between The World Bank Group (Pakistan) and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) concluded successfully, bringing together an array of stakeholders committed to shaping Pakistan's economic endeavours. This pivotal gathering, designed to support the nation's new economic development agenda over the next five years, was marked by rich discussions and a shared commitment to actionable reforms. Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), spearheaded a pivotal economic reform initiative titled "ISLAAH: Immediate Reform Agenda - IMF and Beyond," beginning with his opening remarks at this significant event. This strategy emerges in response to Pakistan's pressing need for substantial external financing, highlighted by an IMF report which necessitates over USD 120 billion in the next five years. Dr. Haque's comprehensive reform agenda addresses crucial sectors including regulatory modernization, tax reform, market liberalization, energy efficiency, and enhancements in agriculture and banking. A key feature of the reforms is the introduction of a 'Regulatory Guideline' aimed at eliminating burdensome regulations that hinder business growth and innovation. These reforms are designed to



rejuvenate Pakistan's economic landscape, facilitating a more business-friendly environment, optimizing export strategies, improving import regulations, and enhancing overall sectoral efficiencies. The goal is to catalyze investment, create jobs, and promote higher GDP growth, thus steering Pakistan towards long-term economic stability and prosperity. While talking on "Reforms for a Brighter Future: Time to Decide," Mathew

Vergish, Regional Director of the World Bank Group (South Asia) stated that Pakistan's economic model is unsustainable due to its reliance on borrowing to finance its fiscal and current account deficits, leading to a growing debt level, which has reached 80% of GDP. He further added that Pakistan's spending exceeds its revenue, and it imports more than it exports, resulting in increased domestic and external borrowing. However, he also not-

ed that Pakistan has the potential for a brighter future, leveraging its youth, natural resources, and strategic location to achieve 7-8% annual GDP growth, and emphasized the need to prioritize reforms addressing the current economic crisis. Dr. Durra Nayab, Joint Director of PIDE, talked about "Public Administration for the 21st Century". She addresses critical inefficiencies in Pakistan's governance system, proposing

comprehensive reforms across various sectors including the cabinet, civil bureaucracy, judiciary, and local government. It highlights the necessity to reduce the size of the federal cabinet, limit political appointments, and emphasize expertise and performance in governance roles. The reforms aim to professionalize and streamline public administration by eliminating outdated practices, introducing competitive hiring processes, digitalizing operations,

and enabling greater autonomy at the local government level. Additionally, the presentation calls for the restructuring of ministries and autonomous agencies to enhance transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in public service delivery, thereby aligning with modern governance standards and promoting a more responsive and efficient administrative framework. Mr. Derek H.C. Chen, Senior Economist at the World Bank, outlines a comprehensive review of Pakistan's federal tax system, aiming to enable a modern and efficient tax structure. It discusses the need for substantial reform due to Pakistan's low revenue collection compared to international standards and the complexities within the current tax system marked by numerous special provisions and concessional rates. The review provides detailed analyses of specific taxes such as sales tax, personal income tax, and corporate income tax, revealing inefficiencies and the potential for broadening the tax base. Key recommendations include rationalizing concessions, enhancing tax policy and administration, and leveraging potential revenue from provincial sources. The chapter emphasizes the critical role of systematic and phased reforms to increase tax collection efficiency, support fiscal sustainability, and ensure equitable economic growth. Dr. Ahmad Waqar Qasim, Senior Research Economist, PIDE extensively critiques the existing regulatory framework in Pakistan.

Call to lift digital payments ratio, as 90% retail trade undertaxed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Expressing concern over the slow progress in documenting the retail trade due to stagnation of both the FBR/POS integration of tier-1 businesses and 'Fair Deal' drive to register small traders, the retailers have said that slow progress is primarily due to lack of sustained consultation with the private sector, inconsistent policies and increasingly complex procedures. So, a clear five-year roadmap is the need of the hour instead of ad-hoc measures, they added. They said that the share of digital payments can be gradually

brought up to 50% of the retail trade's contribution to the annual GDP, estimated to be upwards of Rs12 trillion. Currently, an estimated 90% of the retail trade is undocumented and undertaxed. Whereas, based on a reduced GST rate of 5% on only Rs2 trillion, Rs100 billion can be generated in indirect taxes, and an additional sum in direct taxes, which is more than is currently collected. In a bid to expedite tax reforms which ensure a more conducive environment for compliant businesses, the Chainstore Association of Pakistan has urged the authorities to prioritize an accelerated adoption of digital payments in the retail sector to improve documentation and tax generation. It highlighted the

potential benefits of embracing digital payments, including enhanced transparency, reduced cash handling costs/risks, and simplified tax compliance. CAP Chairman Rana Tariq Mehboob and Co-founder Jahanfar Farukh, in a press release issued here, pointed to successful models in parts of the country, such as those observed in the restaurant industry in Punjab and ICT. The reduced sales tax rate of 5 percent, instead of 16 and 18 percent respectively, has incentivized customers to pay digitally due to the noticeable incentive. This has multiplied the quantum of documented transactions and resultant government revenues. As cash-oriented sectors are digitalized and documented businesses are allowed to grow without a heavy tax burden, their contribution to taxes will surely increase as a by-product of the transitional growth. The retail trade body has emphasized the importance of implementing a comprehensive policy framework to promote digital payments across all sectors, especially retail, through tax incentives and associated measures.

potential benefits of embracing digital payments, including enhanced transparency, reduced cash handling costs/risks, and simplified tax compliance. CAP Chairman Rana Tariq Mehboob and Co-founder Jahanfar Farukh, in a press release issued here, pointed to successful models in parts of the country, such as those observed in the restaurant industry in Punjab and ICT. The reduced sales tax rate of 5 percent, instead of 16 and 18 percent respectively, has incentivized customers to pay digitally due to the noticeable incentive. This has multiplied the quantum of documented transactions and resultant government revenues. As cash-oriented sectors are digitalized and documented businesses are allowed to grow without a heavy tax burden, their contribution to taxes will surely increase as a by-product of the transitional growth. The retail trade body has emphasized the importance of implementing a comprehensive policy framework to promote digital payments across all sectors, especially retail, through tax incentives and associated measures.

potential benefits of embracing digital payments, including enhanced transparency, reduced cash handling costs/risks, and simplified tax compliance. CAP Chairman Rana Tariq Mehboob and Co-founder Jahanfar Farukh, in a press release issued here, pointed to successful models in parts of the country, such as those observed in the restaurant industry in Punjab and ICT. The reduced sales tax rate of 5 percent, instead of 16 and 18 percent respectively, has incentivized customers to pay digitally due to the noticeable incentive. This has multiplied the quantum of documented transactions and resultant government revenues. As cash-oriented sectors are digitalized and documented businesses are allowed to grow without a heavy tax burden, their contribution to taxes will surely increase as a by-product of the transitional growth. The retail trade body has emphasized the importance of implementing a comprehensive policy framework to promote digital payments across all sectors, especially retail, through tax incentives and associated measures.

Industrial estates on agricultural land banned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Industries & Commerce Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain has said that the Punjab government has banned to build industrial estates on any agricultural land and no new industrial estate will be established until the settlement of the existing industrial estates. In the same way real estate business will not be allowed in industrial estates either and the owners of the land in any industrial estate will be asked to set up only manufacturing unit on every plot acquired for that purpose. He was addressing the members of the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIATF) during a meeting held here at PIATF Office with its Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigod in the chair.

Zong 4G joins hands with D3 Communications

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's top telecom operator, has joined hands with D3 Communications to eliminate the digital divide in Pakistan and empower the public through high-speed internet connectivity. D3 Communications stands at the forefront of the industry as a premier supplier of IT infrastructure and network deployment services, specializing in 4G aims to improve and implementation of voice, data, video, and wireless solutions. This joint effort will ensure the provision of dependable, high-speed, and secure internet connectivity throughout Pakistan, thereby fostering limitless opportunities for economic expansion.

educational advancement, and social development. This strategic partnership, named 'Powered by Zong', will ensure easy and seamless access to quality content. The acknowledgment of the importance of connectivity reflects a deep understanding of the contemporary landscape, where access to digital resources is increasingly vital for various aspects of life, from education to business and beyond. Through this initiative Zong 4G aims to improve and implementation of voice, data, video, and wireless solutions. This joint effort will ensure the provision of dependable, high-speed, and secure internet connectivity throughout Pakistan, thereby fostering limitless opportunities for economic expansion.

in today's interconnected world. Supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs is the foundation of economic growth and development. In this regard, D3 Communications is essential for fostering economic growth and resilience within communities, and promoting a connected and informed society entails facilitating access to information and opportunities for all members of society. Commenting on this, the official spokesperson for Zong 4G stated, "Zong 4G and D3 Communications' collaboration is an important step in bridging the digital divide in Pakistan. By prioritizing digital inclusion, supporting local businesses, and promoting connectivity and information access, we can create a more equitable and interconnected world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

Action against elements behind the false LNG scandal demanded

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President of Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Friday that misuse of investigating agencies has become a big problem for the country's fragile investment climate and reputation. The illegal activities of probing agencies are sending a very negative message; therefore, he said a mechanism should be made to block the way of political cases. According to Mian Zahid Hussain, if the government can investigate the wheat scandal, it can also examine and punish the perpetrators of the LNG scandal. Speaking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that dozens of dignitaries were imprisoned, harassed their families, and wasted billions of rupees to appease the politician. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had ordered an investigation into the wheat scandal, which was the right decision. The caretaker government allowed the import of wheat in unnecessary quantities, exempted taxes, ignored the opposition of the Minister of Commerce and Trading Corporation, and did not monitor imports. Due to the attacks of the caretaker government, the importers filled their pockets by importing more than the prescribed amount of wheat, causing considerable losses to the country. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the action of caretakers cost the nation more than one billion dollars.

COMSTech organizes International Workshop

This program identifies and engages top scientists, engineers

FAISAL SHEKH

ISLAMABAD: COMSTech organized an International Workshop under its Distinguished Scholars Program, on Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Data Security, held at the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Kazakhstan from April 29th to May 4th. This esteemed workshop, led by the renowned COMSTech Distinguished Scholar, Prof. Dr. Jovani Muhammad Zain, Professor and Director at the Institute for Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (IBDAI) at Universiti Teknologi

MARA, Malaysia. Prof. Zain brought together experts and scholars to explore the cutting-edge advancements and applications of big data analytics and AI across various sectors, including oil, gas, and medicine. Prof. Zain's captivating lectures delved into the theoretical and practical aspects of these fields, sparking insightful discussions on their real-world applications. Prof. Zain's expertise in big data analytics and AI, along with his extensive experience in academia and industry, provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of data protection strategies in today's digital landscape. The

COMSTech Distinguished Scholars Program plays a pivotal role in fostering international collaboration and capacity building in science and technology in OIC member states. This program identifies and engages top scientists, engineers, and scholars to serve as expert resource persons, facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity building activities. Distinguished Scholar Iko Prof. Dr. Zain are invited to visit OIC institutions, where they offer valuable insights to strengthen academic structures, suggest reforms, and conduct workshops and training courses.

Advertisement for DINOVALLEY featuring a tiger and the text: 10 Minutes Drive From The Monal. Includes contact information: 051 8770065 / 66 / 67, 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335, UAN: 051 111 777 778, and website: dinovalley.pk

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 162

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

The Middle East's '1989 moment'

THERE were a hectic but fruitful for days in Riyadh this week when the World Economic Forum held a Special Meeting in the Kingdom for the first time. It was important not only because Saudi Arabia metaphorically 'brought the mountain to Mohammed,' and not only because of the A-list policymakers, thought leaders and business executives who were there - but also because of its timing. The forum took place a few days after the eighth anniversary of the launch of Vision 2030, and what those in attendance witnessed was a coming of age, a revelation of what the new Saudi Arabia stands for. What they saw, heard and experienced was the emergence of a new force - a force for good, prosperity and inclusion. This force has now created, as described by one of my colleagues who attended a number of forum sessions both on and off the record, the Middle East's '1989 moment.' That year was a tumultuous one, beginning with the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, ending with the overthrow of dictatorship in Romania, and leading two years later to the implosion of the Soviet Union. It is fascinating that 35 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, we are witnessing an equally important moment - a fork in the road, where many are now going to have to choose which route to take. As US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said last week at his meeting with GCC ministers: 'There are really two paths forward for the region as a whole: one driven by division and destruction ... the other, greater integration, greater security, greater peace.'



Reason behind 'China overcapacity' rhetoric

THE EU and US politicians have been ramping up the 'overcapacity' rhetoric on China's new energy exports in recent days, which alleges that 'China is flooding the world with cheap manufacturing goods, and such industrial advantage is aided by the Chinese government's industrial subsidies.' In fact, the EU has itself to blame for the difficulties in green transition instead of attributing it to China's alleged overcapacity. Brussels has decided that energy production in the EU must be carbon-free by 2035, without a clear idea of how to achieve that. It has created an artificial and excessive demand in the area of so-called renewables, and now it complains if Chinese producers fill the gap. Moreover, some choices have been dictated by ideology rather than science, such as Germany's exit from nuclear power. It has now been revealed that the expertise used to justify the decision set to prolong the life of the last four nuclear power stations had been manipulated. In some sectors of the economy, that strategy is already backfiring because of the obvious damage it brings to society. Behind the overcapacity claim, there is a geopolitical reason and a way to blame China for their failures. The EU and the US have decided to hinder China's growth under the wrong assumption. Some US politicians are afraid of losing the dominant political, financial and military position in the world, and their allies - or better said, vassals - in Europe cultivate the ambition of sharing a piece of that dominance. The overcapacity claim is instrumentalized by some political figures as Mario Draghi, the former president of the European Central Bank who is among the candidates now reportedly being proposed to replace EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Draghi has reportedly argued that 'China's trade abuses are at the heart of the biggest social and political problems that have plagued Europe and the US over the past 20 years.' The rhetoric comes at a time when the energy sector in Europe, especially the so-called renewables or 'climate-friendly' energy, has also been massively subsidized. In most European countries, for instance, gasoline price is high because it includes subsidies for solar and wind energy. On the other hand, does China have an overcapacity in energy production? Overcapacity should indicate an imbalance between demand (lower) and supply (higher), but it is often misused. If we look at the global demand for energy, we have an undercapacity. Especially in Africa where some of its 1.4 billion people currently lack access to electricity. Most of them are in Sub-Saharan Africa, in countries which, even if they want to, have neither the technology nor the ability to satisfy that demand. It is obvious that the technology must be brought in from countries like China and other industrial nations. That's not overcapacity but export of capital goods. China's competitive advantage in industrial products is due to two main factors: technological progress and economy of scale. China had a leading position in the world market for solar panels and e-cars before the EU decided to abandon fossil fuels in favor of renewables, and internal combustion engines in favor of e-cars. Now Brussels has woken up to discover that European citizens are not buying e-cars, and it blames Chinese exports for that.

The army knows its constitutional limits...

Qamar Bashir



The army chief's words can be interpreted as a rebuke to those who are using traditional and social media to condemn the army. He seems to be implying that the army knows its responsibilities and no one has the right to dictate its actions. Instead, individuals should be mindful of their own actions and avoid crossing the boundaries set by Article 19 of the constitution. Interestingly, the abuse and condemnation of the army on social media platforms are not unique to Pakistan. For example, in countries like the United States, United Kingdom, India, and others, the military has been subjected to criticism and abuse on social media...

THE army chief said that while the army understands its constitutional limits, those who criticize the army should also be aware of the constitutional boundaries set by Article 19 of the constitution which subjects all citizens to reasonable restrictions imposed by law which inter alia include the integrity, security, or defense of Pakistan, public order, decency and morality. The army chief's speech at the passing-out parade of cadets at Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in Risalpur on May 2nd, 2024 was seen as a calculated and well-timed response to politicians, media personnel, and social media activists who have been unjustly criticizing the army and called for the army to uphold its oath, which includes respecting the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and refraining from engaging in any political activities. The army chief's words can be interpreted as a rebuke to those who are using traditional and social media to condemn the army. He seems to be implying that the army knows its responsibilities and no one has the right to dictate its actions. Instead, individuals should be mindful of their own actions and avoid crossing the boundaries set by Article 19 of the constitution. Interestingly, the abuse and condemnation of the army on social media platforms are not unique to Pakistan. For example, in countries like the United States, United Kingdom, India, and others, the military has been subjected to criticism and abuse on social media on account of political differences, human rights concerns, and accountability issues. These countries have also implemented various remedial actions. In the United States, the Communications Decency Act of 1996 includes provisions related to online harassment and obscenity. Additionally, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) includes provisions that address disrespectful behavior towards the military. The Malicious Communications Act 1988 in the United Kingdom criminalizes the sending of electronic communications with the intent to cause distress or anxiety. Similarly, the Communications Act 2003 includes provisions related to offensive and menacing messages sent over electronic communications networks. In India, the Information Technology (Interme-

diary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, require intermediaries to take down certain types of content, including those that threaten public order or national security. Additionally, the Indian Penal Code includes provisions related to defamation, hate speech, and incitement to violence that can be applied to online behavior. In Pakistan, there are 52 media laws, rules, regulations, and codes of conduct primarily aimed at imposing reasonable restrictions on the freedom of the press and social media. These can be used against any person found disseminating biased, baseless, false, and venomous propaganda against the armed forces of Pakistan. However, if there is a need to enact new laws, it should be done only after conducting a nationwide debate and benchmarking the best practices globally, involving all stakeholders to ensure their complete buy-in. Additionally, social media platforms should be engaged proactively to implement policies, refine the existing tools and invent new ones to combat abusive behavior on these platforms to combat hate speech and harassment and holding accountable those who violate these policies. Conscious efforts should be made to strengthen support for and promote traditional media, operated by seasoned, experienced, and highly refined professionals. These individuals are adept at the art and science of making difficult, sensitive, and critical communications in the best interests of our institutions, the people of Pakistan, and the country as a whole. This will enhance credibility in traditional media and discourage the spread of misinformation that often occurs in the unregulated jungle of social media. In social media, facts and reality are distorted with total impunity, often driven by the prime objective of increasing views, which translates to higher revenue. This creates added incentive for social media activists to create sensationalism, anarchy, and chaos in society. Therefore, the public should be incentivized to turn to traditional media by weaning them off social media. However, the most important intervention which will address this issue comprehensively lies in correcting the misconceived perception about the Pakistan army and its alleged involvement in

non-traditional roles such as anti-narcotic duties, anti-smuggling duties, and engaging in commercial activities like housing schemes, construction, large scale manufacturing and banking and serving general are appointed against civilian posts which lead to the perceptions of overreach and a deviation from army core mandate of national defense. Secondly, a misconceived perception which needs correction is the army's alleged involvement in politics, victimizing disfavored politicians and rewarding favored ones, including raising and eliminating political parties, influencing election results, and intimidating judges and election commissions, while the army time and again has assured that it has no role to play in the politics maneuvering. Thirdly, misplaced perception is that army and institution under it are involved in human rights abuses, including abductions, torture, and intimidation of citizens, journalists and political activists to suppress free speech and dissent. While it is paramount that the false and malicious propaganda against Pakistan's most important and vital institution must stop, equally important is to take steps to improve Pakistan's ranking on the Freedom of Press Index which currently rests at 150 out of 180 countries. To dispel misperceptions about the Pakistan Army, an immediate and comprehensive strategic communication plan must be put into action. This plan should start by identifying the key misperceptions. Messaging should be crisp, clear, and consistent, emphasizing the Pakistan Army's core mandate of national defense, its contributions to security, and its unwavering commitment to democratic values. Engaging with stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, and the general public, and forging partnerships with credible allies such as respected public figures and scholars, are crucial steps. Continuous monitoring and evaluation, coupled with transparency and sustained engagement, are fundamental elements for successfully dispelling misperceptions and fostering positive relationships with the public in Pakistan. Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC

Defiance in the West Bank: 'If I must die, you must live'

Imran Suleiman

'Palestinians are facing a huge economic crisis, and far too many have lost their jobs and homes. All the companies we worked with in Gaza have been destroyed, but they are not giving up, and inspired by their courage, resilience, and self-determination, we will not give up either.' Abeer is proud of the talent Palestine produces, with 4,000 tech graduates yearly, but laments the abhorrent stereotypes and misconceptions they face in the marketplace. 'Our talent is very smart and innovative. They bring a completely different perspective because they...

OCTOBER 7th changed the lives of Palestinians indefinitely. The world has either stood by helplessly, or actively participated in the destruction of what the Gazans used to call life. Survival became a top priority for all Palestinians. In the West Bank, those who managed to evade settler attacks, being shot at and abducted at the hands of the IOF, have had to face up to the reality of still having to provide for their families, in a vastly different climate. Thousands of Palestinians work in 'Israel', often doing difficult jobs like construction and labor. As the lights, water, and electricity were shut off in Gaza, all work permits for all Palestinians were canceled, leaving tens of thousands unemployed overnight. Yahya, a married family man, was one of them, and has yet to find a new stream of income, though his responsibilities have remained the same. 'One day we were working, earning, providing, and in the blink of an eye we lost our livelihood' he explains. 'Life as a Palestinian laborer working in Israel isn't easy. You have to deal with certain people discriminating against you, soldiers making things difficult when they feel like it. At the same time, it's not that bad either. You are there to do a job and some people can respect you. The biggest and most important thing though, is that we are working. That's the bottom line.' Yahya continues, 'Usually, the pay you receive in Israel is more than you would for work here in the West Bank, but now, all those people who have lost their jobs in Israel came back here and all of them are competing for the very few vacancies which were available in a job market

which itself also suffered after the 7th. There are tens of thousands who are in the same position as I am. This is the literal definition of zero job security.' 'It's a very difficult situation. We don't know when it's going to change, where our next pay check will come from and what the future holds, but expenses never stop, our responsibilities never stop' he adds, before concluding with typical Palestinian defiance, 'but Alhamdulillah. Allah has blessed us with everything and we are grateful for it all.' Walk down one of the main streets of al-Khaili (Hebron), and you will see several pop-up food stalls which were not previously there. The majority of them had previously worked in 'Israel', now they are selling falafel, arayas, and kunafeh from these makeshift vans. They make the most out of this bad situation and always find a way. With the middle class toiling away with uncertainty, fresh Palestinian university graduates and young professionals are entering a job market that is only slightly more difficult than usual. 'There is a perception about Palestinians and the MENA region that the whole place is burning down, that it's all a warzone, some people think we are still living in tents', reveals Abeer Abu Ghaita, a self-made Palestinian recruiter and founder of MENA Alliances who has taken it upon herself to help Palestinians by launching an initiative to lobby 200 companies worldwide to hire Palestinian digital workers. 'Palestinians are facing a huge economic crisis, and far too many have lost their jobs and homes. All the companies we worked with in Gaza have been destroyed, but they are not giving up,

and inspired by their courage, resilience, and self-determination, we will not give up either.' Abeer is proud of the talent Palestine produces, with 4,000 tech graduates yearly, but laments the abhorrent stereotypes and misconceptions they face in the marketplace. 'Our talent is very smart and innovative. They bring a completely different perspective because they come from a different culture where we have limited resources; this is called frugal innovation, making something out of nothing.' She goes on to give an example of the perception she has to deal with as a recruiter. 'We have trained DevOps engineers and specialized machine learning data scientists - but when I say that to some of my friends or companies in the United States they say, 'oh okay we can give them some data entry job.' What Abeer wants, is what Palestine needs. Change. Real change. 'We need long-term and sustainable solutions, to empower Palestinians to dig themselves out of difficulty instead of depending on charity and short-term aid. Palestinians are telling me every day that what they need is employment, that their work comes from their ability to work and to support themselves.' What is clear, is that whether it's the laborers who are now street food vendors, or graduates deemed not good enough, the Palestinian spirit is defiant. Resistance comes in all forms from Palestinians, refusing to accept a lesser role in life is just another one. Palestinian resilience is best summed up by Abeer's quote, 'If I must die, you must live - Palestinians are refusing to give up, and neither will we.'

Briefs Pak launches first satellite moon mission

FROM PAGE 01 Following successful qualification and testing, ICUBEQ has now been integrated with the Chang'e mission...

President, PM, DPM felicitate...

FROM PAGE 01 Terming the ICUBEQ launch Pakistan's first step in the space, he said just like the nuclear field, the country's scientists, engineers and experts were pushing their mettle in the space technology...

JCP meeting ends sans...

FROM PAGE 01 Ali Shah of the Supreme Court, co-chaired by retired judge Manzoor Malik, and other members was constituted on December 4, 2023 and it suggested some revisions in the JCP's 2010 rules...

Audio leaks case, IHC...

FROM PAGE 01 Petitions pertaining to the matter, the fine imposed on the government department included Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pema), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)...

Imran accuses...

FROM PAGE 01 hearing is still today," he said that PTA's petitions against rigging during the general elections have not been heard yet...

Punjab wins Panjab National talent hunt table tennis league

Rana Mashhood, has reiterated the government's commitment to provide a platform for young talent to shine in various fields, including sports, health, culture and art...

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Panjab Men's and women's team won the finals of Prime Minister's National Talent Hunt Table Tennis League at the Rotham Hall, Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad on Friday...



Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashhood, Ahmed Khan was the chief guest of the closing ceremony...

Mashhood, has reiterated the government's commitment to provide a platform for young talent to shine in various fields, including sports, health, culture and art...

his travels across the country, he emphasized the importance of merit-based selection and the development of young talent to propel the country forward...

would receive world-class training and grooming, enabling them to make Pakistan proud on international platforms...

Journalism in Pakistan under threat: IFJ report

FROM PAGE 01 face of the environmental crisis", is dedicated to emphasize the important role of journalism and freedom of expression in the context of the current global environmental crisis...

Nawaz wants PM Shehbaz...

FROM PAGE 01 Other authorities including Food Department and Agriculture Department will now hold a follow-up meeting...

PM optimistic for a...

FROM PAGE 01 with a delegation of Global Policy Education Initiative (GPEI) led by Christopher Elias, Chair of Polio Oversight Board and President of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Development Division...

Japan embassy announces...

FROM PAGE 01 LAHORE: The Tehreek Tahafuz Aqeeq-Pakistan -an alliance formed by the opposition - said that the opposition alliance will invite the JJ to join them in the anti-government movement...

Journalist among...

FROM PAGE 01 on route from his residence to the university, he was also a provincial officer-in-charge of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), was killed instantly...

Reus set to leave Borussia Dortmund after 12 years

The German will hope to leave the club by winning the Champions League

SPORTS DESK LONDON: Borussia Dortmund legend Marco Reus is set to leave the club after a long and successful career...

setup and stayed there till 2005. After that, he had spells at Real Wess Alben and Borussia Mönchengladbach before returning to the club in 2012...

final where they will play one of Bayern Munich or Real Madrid. Reus is focused on winning the European title with the team as it would be a farewell for the club legend who served them on 424 different occasions...

French Open: Medvedev joins rowing list of injured players

The Roland Garros grand slam starts on May 26

PARIS: Daniil Medvedev is the latest injury in the group of players who are facing injury concerns ahead of the upcoming French Open...

It was a return when he served and volleyed and I don't know if I felt it on the return or on the drop shot, but when I ran, I wanted to run faster and faster during the movement, and suddenly felt my hip blocked," Medvedev said...

Foden, Shaw win Football Writers' Association awards

MANCHESTER: Manchester City duo Phil Foden and Khadija Shaw have been named footballers of the year by the Football Writers' Association...

Gilbert and Wilson level in thrilling semi-final

LONDON: David Gilbert and Kyron Wilson are level at 8-8 after a thrilling second session in their World Championship semi-final...

West Indies announce squad for T20 WC 2024

DURAI: Cohort West Indies have announced their squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup, starting from June 1 in the Caribbean and the USA...



England women's squad announced for Pak series

BIRMINGHAM: England on Friday announced their squads for the upcoming T20I and ODI series against Pakistan...

Knight said that she is super excited for the series against Pakistan and her team is not taking the matches against Pakistan lightly and are fully prepared to take on the visitors...

They will then face each other on Thursday on 27 May and then for the final ODI of the series at Chelmsford on 29 May...

Pakistan, their first ever to Pakistan back in 2021. The ODIs against England will be Pakistan's final assignment in the current cycle of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25...

lie Dean, England's Ecolstone, Lauren Filer, Sarah Glenn, Jess Heath, Amy Jones, Freya Kemp, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Linsey Smith, Danielle Wyatt...

Briefs

Israel strikes injure 8 Syrian soldiers

DAMASCUS: Syria's defence ministry on Friday said eight soldiers had been injured in Israeli air strikes near Damascus.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Rising Stars Hockey Club posing for a picture with the Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins on the occasion of the Australia Day in Spring.—DNA

UN General Assembly declares May 24 as int'l day of Markhor

UNITED NATIONS: The UN General Assembly Thursday adopted a resolution, sponsored by Pakistan and 8 other countries, to proclaim May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor.

UN chief demands better protection for journalists

"Dozens of journalists covering illegal mining, logging, poaching and other environmental issues have been killed in recent decades," Guterres noted

UNITED NATIONS: Marking World Press Freedom Day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has highlighted an uptick in violence faced by journalists, especially environmental journalists, face violent attacks, and even death, for simply doing their job.

and advocate for change, he said. However, based on recent UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report, journalists, especially environmental journalists, face violent attacks, and even death, for simply doing their job.

with about 750 attacks in the past 15 years. The Secretary-General said. "In an interview with UN News, Guilherme Canella, UNESCO's Chief of Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists, said the report found that 70 per cent of journalists doing environmental reporting dealt with at least one form of violence, and a quarter of the surveyed journalists dealt with legal attacks.

formation for civilian populations affected by these conflicts. Canella said. "UNESCO is sounding the alarm that we need to take care of the protection of those journalists covering environmental issues, because raising that awareness about what's going on in the environment and holding powerful actors accountable is absolutely essential to face the current environmental challenges that the planet is having."

ent, ethical and quality journalism perhaps now more than ever," Turk said journalists — emphasizing environmental journalists need "stronger commitments from their governments and their employers to protect them", safer work environments, and the right to work without attacks.

Apple profit ebbs as iPhone sales under pressure

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple on Thursday said its quarterly profit ebbed but topped market forecasts as it announced an unprecedented \$110 billion share buyback.

Rains, mudslides kill 29 in southern Brazil's

Last September at least 31 people died as a cyclone hit the state. South America's largest country has suffered a string of recent extreme weather events, which experts say are made more likely by climate change.

CAPELA DE SANTANA (Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Thursday visited the country's south where floods and mudslides caused by torrential rains have killed 29 people, with the toll expected to rise.

Turkey inflation rises to 69.8% in April

ISTANBUL: Turkey's annual inflation rate accelerated to 69.8 per cent in April, official data showed on Friday, despite interest rate hikes aimed at taming soaring consumer prices.

Pakistan slams India's atrocities against Indian Muslims

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan Thursday told the UN General Assembly that India was targeting Indian Muslims, Christians, as well as Muslims of occupied Kashmir, and called for an end to their harsh suppression.

in South Asia is a real and present danger," the Pakistani envoy said in his speech that comprehensively dealt with how New Delhi's policies were posing a threat to peace in the region.

and National Registry list is designed to exclude Muslims from citizenship and to expel them, the Pakistani envoy said. Cow vigilantes, lynch mobs and Muslims with official approbation, he said, noting that Muslim men are persecuted for so-called "love jihad" to prevent them marrying Hindu women.

of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir," he said. After the unilateral and illegal measures taken on 5 August 2019 to annex Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the Pakistani envoy said, India has deployed 900,000 troops to impose what it ominously calls the "Final Solution" for Kashmir. All the pro-freedom Hurriyat leaders remain incarcerated, he said.

CANBERRA: The Australian government has announced about 323 million U.S. dollars in funding for the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Penny Wong, the minister for Foreign Affairs, and Pat Conroy, the minister for International Development and the Pacific, on Friday committed 492 million Australian dollars (about 323 million U.S. dollars) to the ADB's 2025-28 pledging round for the Asian Development Fund.

China to launch first probe to return samples from Moon's far side

WENCHANG: China is set Friday to launch a probe to collect samples from the far side of the Moon, a world first as Beijing pushes ahead with an ambitious programme that aims to send a crewed lunar mission by 2030.

The Chang'e-6 mission to collect around two kilograms of lunar samples from the far side of the Moon and bring them back to Earth for analysis. It is a technically complex 53-day mission that will also see it attempt an unprecedented launch from the side of the Moon's surface that always faces away from Earth. "Chang'e-6 will collect samples from the far side of the Moon for the first time," Gu Ping, vice director of China's Lunar Exploration and Space Engineering Center, told journalists. The probe is set to land in the immense South Pole-Aitken Basin, one of the largest known impact craters in the solar system.

Australia commits 323 million USD for ADB

It marks an increase from the 423 million Australian dollars (about 278 million U.S. dollars) committed by the Australian government for the previous 2021-24 replenishment. Wong and Conroy said in a joint statement that Australia's funding would help with the construction of climate-resilient hospitals and education facilities. "Australia's contributions to the Asian Development Fund will assist countries in our region to meet their most pressing needs," Wong said.

Briefs

President approves retirement notification of Siddiqui

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: In light of the Supreme Court's verdict, President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday gave his nod to issue a retirement notification to former Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge Shaikat Aziz Siddiqui. Last month, the top court declared the removal of Justice Siddiqui illegal, directing that he may now be considered as a retired judge. The decision was announced by a five-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa in a 23-page judgment. According to a statement issued by the President's Secretariate, the notification will be applicable from June 30, 2023 - the date when Justice Siddiqui had to retire. "In the light of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's judgement dated 22/03/2024, President Asif Ali Zardari has approved the issuance of retirement notification of Justice Shaikat Aziz Siddiqui, on attaining the age of superannuation, i.e. with effect from 30/06/2023." It is pertinent to mention here that then-president Arif Alvi sacked Justice Siddiqui as judge of the IHC on the recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) in October 2018.

FIA's cybercrime wing stands defunct

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing stood defunct as the federal government established a new agency, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), for probing electronic crimes. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication issued an official notification for the abolition of the FIA's cyber-crime wing, saying that the federal government took the decision in the exercise of powers conferred by section 21 read with section 29 of the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act, 2016. "There shall hereby stand established the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to exercise jurisdiction under the Act [Prevention of Electronic Crime Act, 2016] and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) shall cease to perform functions as designated investigation agency under the Act," the statement read. The ministry said that the all personnel, cases, inquiries, investigations, assets, liabilities, rights, obligations, privileges and matters related to the defunct cyber-crime wing are transferred to the NCCIA. "The NCCIA shall consist of a director general, additional director general, directors, deputy directors, additional directors, directors, assistant directors and such other officers, as the director general may determine," the notification read.

At OIC CFM, Pakistan calls for immediate Gaza ceasefire

Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister of Pakistan meets with the Foreign Minister of the Gambia and signed the MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between the Governments of Pakistan and The Gambia

NEWS DESK

RANJUL: As the foreign ministers of the OIC countries gathered ahead of the Islamic Summit here, Pakistan called for the declaration of an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, lifting of the inhuman siege and opening of a humanitarian corridor, besides urging the international community to hold Israel accountable for its war crimes in Gaza. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, in his address at the Preparatory Meeting of Foreign Ministers for the 15th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held here on Thursday, also called for an end to indiscriminate use of force and return of the displaced people. Ishaq Dar, who arrived in the Gambian capital city of Banjul on Wednesday for the OIC Islamic Summit, also emphasised the UN Security Council's role in implementing its resolution 2728 for cessation of hostilities, asking Israel to halt all settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and relinquish all usurped Palestinian properties. The theme of this year's Summit is "Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development". During the meeting, Pakistan was unanimously elected as the Vice-Chair of the Bureau of Foreign Ministers' Preparatory Meeting for 15th Islamic Summit of the OIC.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister congratulated the Gambian Foreign Minister Mamadou Bangura, on assuming the Chairmanship of the Session and 15th Islamic Summit and appreciated the role of the outgoing chair, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dar expressed Pakistan's deep concern about the ongoing genocide and starvation of Gaza people and called for the reactivation of OIC's Ministerial Committee on Israeli aggression against the Palestinians, offering Pakistan's assistance to the body. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and stated that the only permanent solution to the current crisis lies in the creation of a secure, viable, contiguous, and sovereign state of Palestine based on the pre-June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. He strongly condemned the oppressive actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu

and Kashmir (IIOJK) including extrajudicial killings and media blackouts. He pledged Pakistan's unwavering diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination as mandated by relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. Ishaq Dar stressed the imperative of joint action by the OIC to confront rising Islamophobia, which was manifested by an increasing number of incidents of discrimination, violence, and incitement against Muslims around the world. He stated that while global social media platforms had set for themselves a clear understanding and the responsibility of content relating to "Antisemitism" and "Holocaust denial," same was not the case for blasphemous and anti-Islamic content that was responsible for widespread distress among Muslims and the global wave of Islamophobia. The deputy prime minister urged the OIC to formulate a joint strategy to influence global information networks/platforms particularly the global social media platforms to harmonize their application of content regulation policies for blasphemous, anti-Islamic and Islamophobic content. During the preparatory meeting, the OIC foreign ministers adopted the report of the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and finalized various documents, including the Resolution on the Issue of Palestine, the Final Communiqué of the OIC Summit Conference and the Banjul Declaration.

GB: 20 dead after bus falls into ravine

DIAMER: At least 20 people lost their lives while 21 sustained injuries after a passenger bus veered off a narrow mountain road and plummeted into a ravine in a remote area of Diamer district, Gilgit Baltistan, police told Geo News on Friday. The mishap took place at the Yashohal area on the Karakoram Highway in Diamer early Friday morning at around 5:30am, according to police. The bus was on its way from Rawalpora to Gilgit. Meanwhile, the police said there were at least 38 passengers on board. After the accident was reported, rescue teams were dispatched towards the site. The injured people and the bodies have been shifted to a hospital in Chilas. Health department director said three women were among those who were dead. Diamer Deputy Commissioner Fayaz Ahmad told media that the condition of at least five injured passengers is serious, while two have been shifted to Gilgit city. "Rescue operation, in which army helicopters also participated, has been completed in the affected area," he said. The Diamer DC said he is in contact with the families of the victims. "The accident took place 20 kilometres away from Chilas city. - Agencies

SI shot dead on Hazara Expressway

PESHAWAR: A man shot and killed a police officer on Hazara Expressway on Friday. According to police, Sub-inspector Amir of the highway police had seen a vehicle travelling from Peshawar to Mansehra for a traffic violation at Mansehra-Baifira Interchange. The driver of the vehicle exchanged words with the police officer and later the suspect opened fire on the police team, killing the sub-inspector on the spot. Additionally, a constable named Naveed also suffered bullet wounds. The suspect managed to flee the scene. The injured cop was transported to Atiq Abdullah Teaching Hospital for medical care. Upon receiving reports of the incident, the police cordoned off the area to apprehend the suspect. - Agencies

Türkiye halts trade with Israel, says President Erdogan

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday that his government has halted all trade with Israel that amounts to some \$9.5 billion. Speaking to reporters after Friday prayers in Istanbul, the Turkish president said that they "closed that door" on trade with Israel amid ongoing onslaught on the Gaza Strip. "There was a trade volume of \$9.5 billion between us," Erdogan said, referring to Turkey and Israel. "Ignoring this trade volume, we closed the door," Turkish Trade Ministry announced that Ankara suspended all export and import operations with Israel due to its "aggression against Palestine in violation of international law and human rights." President Erdogan, blasting Israel's ongoing aggression in the Gaza Strip, also said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's moves made a possible Turkey-Israel rapprochement impossible. "That meeting had an objective," Erdogan said, referring to when he and Netanyahu met in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly before the Israel-Gaza conflict ignited on Oct. 7. "But Netanyahu is relentless," he said. "He responded by attacking women and children." Erdogan also criticized the West for its ongoing support to Israel. "All Western countries, led by the US, are supporting Israel and they are sparing no efforts to condemn the poverty-stricken Palestinians to death," he said. Erdogan also added that the ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestine is "unacceptable." "Israel has brutally killed 40,000 to 45,000 Palestinians so far. As Muslims, it is unthinkable for us to stand by and watch this happen," he added. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party and MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Kyiv can use British weapons inside Russia: Cameron

The US has reportedly urged Ukraine to halt its strikes on oil refineries in Russia, fearing it could provoke an escalation in the conflict

KIEV: UK Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron has said it is now preparing "unpleasant surprises" and quietly arming 30,000 people a month. A Russian strike on Kharkiv on Friday killed an elderly woman in her home, and a tram carrying passengers also came under fire, according to Mayor Ihor Tereshchuk. Ukraine's military says Russia's immediate target is the strategic hilltop town of Chasiv Yar, 15km (9 miles) west of the devastated city of Bahmut. Officials believe the eastern town could enable Russian forces to attack major eastern cities such as Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. The military has suggested Moscow is keen to seize Chasiv Yar before Russians mark victory in World War Two on 9 May. However, a Ukrainian military spokesman has denied that Russian troops have broken through to the Siverskiy Donets-Donbas canal on the outskirts of the town. Russia claimed on Friday that its forces had captured three villages in Ukraine's east in the past two weeks. Military spokesman Lt Col Nazarov Volynsky said the invading force had gained a foothold in the village of Ocheryntse but Ukrainian soldiers were working to drive them out. Lord Cameron, who met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, said it was Russia that had launched an attack into Ukraine and Ukraine "absolutely has the right to strike back at Russia". Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said his remarks were tantamount to admitting the West was involved in a "hybrid war" against Moscow. The UK has provided billions of pounds in military support for Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, ranging from tanks and precision-guided missiles to air defence systems. - Agencies

guard, Oleksandr Pivnenko, warned recently that Russia was preparing "unpleasant surprises" and quietly arming 30,000 people a month. A Russian strike on Kharkiv on Friday killed an elderly woman in her home, and a tram carrying passengers also came under fire, according to Mayor Ihor Tereshchuk. Ukraine's military says Russia's immediate target is the strategic hilltop town of Chasiv Yar, 15km (9 miles) west of the devastated city of Bahmut. Officials believe the eastern town could enable Russian forces to attack major eastern cities such as Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. The military has suggested Moscow is keen to seize Chasiv Yar before Russians mark victory in World War Two on 9 May. However, a Ukrainian military spokesman has denied that Russian troops have broken through to the Siverskiy Donets-Donbas canal on the outskirts of the town. Russia claimed on Friday that its forces had captured three villages in Ukraine's east in the past two weeks. Military spokesman Lt Col Nazarov Volynsky said the invading force had gained a foothold in the village of Ocheryntse but Ukrainian soldiers were working to drive them out. Lord Cameron, who met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, said it was Russia that had launched an attack into Ukraine and Ukraine "absolutely has the right to strike back at Russia". Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said his remarks were tantamount to admitting the West was involved in a "hybrid war" against Moscow. The UK has provided billions of pounds in military support for Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, ranging from tanks and precision-guided missiles to air defence systems. - Agencies

Public notice for loss of shares

1250 Shares of Sui southern Gas company Limited under Folio # 38137 And Distinctive Number are given below. In the Name of Mrs Shumaila Siddiqui W/O Muhammad Iqbal Siddiqui having Cell No 0347-2944626, have been Lost. If No Claim/Objection is Lodged Within 7 days with Shares Registrar, CDC SHARE REGISTRAR SERVICE LIMITED, head office, CDC house, 99-B, block B.S.M.C.H.S, Main Shakra-E-Faisal, Karachi-74400. Duplicate Shares certificate will be issued by SSGC to the Shareholder Concerned And No One Claim Will Be Entertained Thereafter.

Table with 4 columns: Certificate No, From, Distinctive No, Number of Shares. Rows include certificate numbers 2038137, 3004952 and distinctive numbers 139601045, 672413154, 139602044, 672413403.

Governors appointed for Punjab, Baluchistan and KP



LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday nominated Sardar Salim Haider Khan for the coveted office of Punjab governor. Sardar Salim originally hails from Attock and served as a federal minister in the PPP's government in the past. He is currently serving as the divisional president of PPP from Rawalpindi division. Speaking to media, he said that the PPP chairman officially conveyed him that he would be the Punjab governor and notification in this regard would be issued by tonight. Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) has decided to appoint PML-N Balochistan chapter president Jaffar Khan Mandokhel as Governor Balochistan. PML-N central leadership approved the name of Mandokhel as Governor Balochistan.

Summer Camp Season 7 advertisement. Includes a table of packages (1 Child to 6 Children) with prices for 1, 2, and 3 activities. Lists activities like Swimming, Kids Aerobics, Table Tennis, and Kids Yoga. Includes rules and regulations and contact information for the camp.