



The promising trajectory of bilateral trade, with Pakistan's exports to the UK witnessing steady growth

British HC to Pakistan
Ms Jane Marriott

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FM, DG IAEA discuss issues related to nuclear energy



BRUSSELS: Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar Thursday met Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi, on the sidelines of the Nuclear Energy Summit in Brussels.

The Foreign Minister appreciated IAEA's role in enhancing peaceful uses of nuclear technology and for organizing the First ever Nuclear Energy Summit. He highlighted that as a founder member, Pakistan attached great importance to the Agency's work.

The Foreign Minister also highlighted the importance of nuclear energy in combatting climate change and Pakistan's desire to enhance share of nuclear energy in the energy mix. He also underscored the importance of technical cooperation work of the Agency to which Pakistan is also making significant contribution.

Foreign Minister Dar stressed that the international financial institutions and banks should support nuclear energy projects in developing countries to enable them to meet their energy needs and achieving zero emissions goals. He urged IAEA to continue its role in sensitizing the world about the importance of nuclear energy as a clean source.

The Director General IAEA appreciated Pakistan's collaboration with the agency. He added that in Asia, Pakistan is playing a key role in sharing experience and expertise with developing countries.

Terrorist Chakar Liaquat killed in Panjgur operation

RAWALPINDI: The security forces on Thursday killed a terrorist and injured the other two during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted on the night of March 20 and 21 in District Panjgur.

During the conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resolutely terrorist Chakar Liaquat was eliminated, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. Weapon and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorist, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities.

"Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR said. PR



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs special session of the Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council. APP

Special Apex Committee briefed about SIFC

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The Special Apex Committee was Thursday briefed about the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) initiative and major contributions made by it towards the investments, privatization and overall micro-economic stabilisation of the country.

Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) convened the Special Apex Committee Meeting here.

It was chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and attended by former Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Chief of the Army Staff, members of outgoing and incoming Federal Cabinet and Provincial Chief Ministers besides, high level government officials.

The meeting was conducted with a singular focus of briefing the Cabinet in the presence of the Caretaker Cabinet, marking a historic moment of seamless transition.

The Committee admired the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for envisioning and launching the SIFC in June 2023, which has now moved from its formative phase and evolved progressively under the Caretaker Government.

The committee underscored the need of continuing a consensual approach under SIFC to navigate the myriad of challenges being faced by the Country.

The Committee also vowed to ensure contin-

PM calls upon nation to become part of government's Green Pakistan initiative

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday called upon the provincial governments, civil society and all the citizens to become partners of the government's quest for Green Pakistan.

"Today is about investing in our future. I urge the nation to synergize their efforts in safeguarding this invaluable resource and ensure its effective stewardship for our next generation," he said in a message on observance of International Day of Forests 2024. He said Pakistan joined the global community in commemorating the International Day of Forests 2024. "This year's theme 'Forests and Innovations: New solutions for a better world,' highlights the need to harness technological innovations to address the growing threats to our forests."

The prime minister pointed out innovations could help sustainably restoring, protecting, managing, and using the forests in the most efficient manner by hampering risks of deforestation, habitat degradation, and climate change. He said Pakistan's total area under forest cover was less than 5 percent, and around 1.5 percent of these forests were lost every year which had profound impacts on Pakistan's biodiversity, environment and agriculture.

uation of policies and take tough decisions in the larger interest of the country by setting correct economic priorities.

The former Caretaker Prime Minister congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Cabinet and Chief Ministers on assuming their responsibilities and wished good luck for dealing with economic challenges and transforming Pakistan as one of the top economies of the world.

The Chief of Army Staff reassured the fullest support of Pakistan Armed Forces to backstop the economic initiatives of the Govern-

ment and ensured the provision of safe, secure and conducive environment to nurture country's true economic potential.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that SIFC is the way forward under the challenging times and an iron resolve is needed to serve the country like never before. He urged the Federal Cabinet to join hands, keep political differences aside, and work as a cohesive team to keep the momentum of economic stability. He also thanked the caretaker government for continuation of larger national economic agenda in a befitting manner.

Pakistan not invaded Afghanistan but acted against terrorists' hideouts: FO Mumtaz Zahra Baloch

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday said that the intelligence-based operation it had carried out on March 18 was not an invasion of Afghanistan but an action against the sanctuaries of terrorists hiding inside Afghanistan and posing threats to Pakistan's security.

"Pakistan has not invaded Afghanistan. We have no designs against Afghanistan... The operation was not against the people, institutions, or military of Afghanistan. The target was the terrorists belonging to Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group, which along with Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, is responsible for multiple terrorist attacks inside Pakistan," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

She said Pakistan respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and wanted friendly relations with the neighboring country. Both countries should work towards removing the issues hindering the strengthening of the bilateral ties, she remarked.

She told the media that Pakistan had repeatedly conveyed its serious concerns to the Interim Afghan Government over the presence of terror outfits including TTP inside Afghanistan which have consistently used Afghan territory to launch terror attacks inside Pakistani territory.

She said the Afghan side was repeatedly urged to take concrete action to ensure that the Afghan soil was not used as a staging ground for terrorism against Pakistan.

She said following the March 16 terrorist attack in North Waziristan, Pakistan had communicated with the Afghan side and also issued a demarche, conveying serious concerns about the involvement of Gul Bahadur Group in the attack.

The spokesperson informed the media that Pakistan had shared concrete pieces of evidence with Afghan side on the presence of terrorist hideouts which was also confirmed by international observers as well as the United Nations. Besides, Pakistan also conveyed the involvement of India in sponsoring and funding terrorist groups in Afghanistan to carry out terrorism in Pakistan, she added.

Responding to the media queries regarding the statement of US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu at the US Congressional hearing, the spokesperson said it was an internal matter of the US where the Congressmen and the Administration were involved.

She said Pakistan valued its relations with the US and believed in constructive engagement and expressed the hope that the US Congress would also continue playing a role in strengthening the ties. She observed that some statements made at the hearing regarding Pakistan showed a misunderstanding of the issues. Coming to the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, Spokesperson Baloch said Pakistan was starting work on the project within its territory, considering its significance for meeting its energy needs. She said Pakistan was also engaged with the US on the matter and had conveyed the cruciality of the project for Pakistan.

About the terrorist attack in Gwadar on Wednesday, she reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to protecting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects including Gwadar Port. APP

Attaullah Tarar for devising mechanism to counter fake news regarding CPEC



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday emphasized the need to devise a mechanism at the government-to-government and media-to-media level to counter fake news regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Attaullah Tarar said this during a meeting with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Jiang Zaidong who called on the minister here. The Chinese Ambassador congratulated Attaullah Tarar on assuming the portfolio of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The CPEC, Pakistan-China strategic relations, ongoing cooperation in the media and film sector, and China-Pakistan Information Corridor were discussed in the meeting.

Discussions were held regarding the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of media and the establishment of the Pakistan-China Information Corridor to prevent fake news about CPEC.

Pakistan highly valued its relations with China, the minister added that both countries were bound by the eternal bond of friendship. Attaullah Tarar said in 1998, his grandfather Muhammad Rafiq Tarar received the then Prime Minister of China on his visit to Pakistan as President. "We have seen Pakistan-China friendship from generation to generation. We have to inform our new generation about our historical and strong friendship," he maintained.

"We have to tell the new generation how China and Pakistan supported each other in difficult times," the minister said. Tarar said that China had supported Pakistan at every international forum including Shanghai Cooperation Organization and United Nations. He opined that a close and sustainable partnership between the two countries in the form of CPEC was in the wider interest of the entire region. The CPEC was an important milestone in promoting the economic development of Pakistan, Tarar remarked. APP

Gwadar attack martyrs' funeral prayers held



RAWALPINDI: The funeral prayers of the valiant soldiers of the Pakistan Army who embraced martyrdom while thwarting a terrorist attack were offered in Gwadar.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Thursday, Sepoy Bahar Khan (age: 35 years, resident of DG Khan district) and Sepoy Imran Ali (age: 28 years, resident of Khairpur district) had rendered the ultimate sacrifice while foiling the terrorist attack in Gwadar Port Authority Colony on March 20th.

The representatives of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Balochistan Police and civil society participated in the funeral prayer. The bodies of the martyrs have been sent to their native areas where they will be buried with full military honours.

"The Armed Forces of Pakistan stand by the nation and are determined to thwart terrorist attempts to sabotage the peace and stability of Balochistan. These sacrifices of our brave sons strengthen our resolve to fight against the scourge of terrorism. The war against terrorism will continue till the end of the scourge of terrorism from the motherland," the ISPR said. PR

ADB's pivotal role in promoting climate-conscious programs across Asia, Aurangzeb

Minister for Finance & revenue meets with Country Director ADB



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: The Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Young Ye, called on Minister for Finance & Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, at Finance Division, to discuss ongoing collaborations and future initiatives aimed at fostering economic development in Pakistan. ADB Country Director, Mr. Young Ye, congratulated Minister for Finance and Revenue on staff level agreement with the IMF and stated that the market has positively responded to the development.

During the meeting, Minister Aurangzeb expressed appreciation for the support pro-

vided by ADB over the years. He particularly highlighted ADB's assistance through Policy Based Lending (PBL) to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic and floods.

Furthermore, the status of ongoing policy-based programs, including the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Program and the Climate and Disaster Resilience Enhancement Program (CDREP) were also discussed.

Acknowledging ADB's pivotal role in promoting climate-conscious programs across Asia and the Pacific, the Minister emphasized the alignment of ADB's climate operations with Pakistan's own climate goals and commitments. The Minister outlined Government's priority areas for achieving macro-economic stability and sustainability, including measures to enhance revenue, SOEs reforms, privatization, and public-private partnerships.

Concluding the meeting, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the partnership between Pakistan and ADB, with a shared goal of promoting sustainable economic growth and development in the country.

President ICCI lauded Ambassador's role in bringing the people of two nations close

Ethiopian Airlines receives enthusiastic response in Pakistan; Envoy

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and had a detailed discussion with its leadership on strengthening cooperation between trade bodies of the two countries.

Upon his arrival at the ICCI, the ambassador was accorded warm welcome by the Islamabad Chamber's President H.E. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and other office bearers of the chamber. Both sides discussed matters of mutual



interest including the needful initiatives for fostering business and trade connections between the two countries.

On the occasion, the Ambassador highlighted the critical role being played by Ethiopia in "Look Africa and Engage Africa" policy by starting the Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi.

"The Ethiopian Airlines in Pakistan is getting an overwhelming response and now we are working towards expansion of its operations to Islamabad and Lahore as well," the Ambassador noted. He said steps were being taken to boost people-to-people and business-to-business relation between the two countries.

In the last one and half years, we have taken over 75-member business delega-

tion to Ethiopia and facilitated arrival of 50-member trade delegation from Ethiopia in Pakistan," he said, adding the mainstay of the Ethiopian Embassy's endeavours was economic diplomacy that would ultimately connect the people of two countries at grassroots level.

He also announced to take another trade delegation to Ethiopia this year in May. H. E. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari lauded the Ambassador's role in bringing the people of two nations close and called for the joint efforts to further strengthen the trade ties between the two countries.

He assured the Ambassador of all-out support in mobilizing another trade delegation to Ethiopia this year.

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
 Editor: Muhammad Hasam
 Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
 Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
 Phone: + 92 51 8354964

Why do reforms elude Pakistan?

HUSSAIN H ZAIDI

At the start of every political cycle, the new government is confronted with the choice between letting the economy move on the beaten track and introducing some fundamental changes to economic management. Every government, at least on the face of it, chooses the latter alternative. But it soon realizes that the reforms will entail considerable political cost and had better be put off. With discretion becoming the better part of valour, it is business as usual for economic managers. Why has shaking off the beaten track remained a tall order? To answer this question, let's look at the two perennial economic problems: the fiscal and trade deficits. In itself, the fiscal deficit isn't a vice. In fact, in the face of slow or falling economic growth, it becomes both necessary and desirable: the government needs to step up its spending at a time of sluggish economic activity thus leading to falling or stagnant tax revenue. Fiscal deficit, however, becomes a problem, and a serious one if it's persistently high, when, as in the case of Pakistan, it is undergirded by structural rather than cyclic factors. The structural issues are on both the expenditure and revenue sides. It is customary to categorize public spending as induced and autonomous. The former alters with, while the latter is independent of, the changes in national income or output level. Autonomous expenditures have to be incurred regardless of whether the economy is moving up or down the growth trajectory. The policy implication is that the government has little discretion in cutting back on autonomous expenditures. This explains why the cuts in overall expenditure almost always entail a reduction of the induced expenditure, such as development spending. Autonomous expenditures always soak up the lion's share in the total public spending. In the current financial year budget, autonomous expenditure (debt servicing, defence, civil administration, pensions, grants and transfers), accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the total outlays. With a narrow spending discretion available to the government, an uptick in tax revenue is the only viable option to cut back on the fiscal deficit. Be that as it may, several sectors of the economy remain undertaxed or outside the tax net. The trading sector generates 19 per cent of the total GDP, but its share in total tax revenue is less than 1.0 per cent. Likewise, agriculture makes up one-fifth of the economy, but farm income remains outside the tax net. The realty sector, professionals, entertainers, and now YouTubers and TikTokers by and large avoid or evade taxes hands down, leaving the salaried class to bear most of the direct tax burden. One of the first steps towards meaningful economic reforms will be to make all sections of society contribute to the state kitty proportional to their income. But since the undertaxed sectors represent the support base of one major party or another, they remain untouched. Fiscal constraints are compounded by tax exemptions or reliefs as well as subsidies, notably for commodities like sugar, whose major beneficiaries are big industrial houses, many owned by politicians across the political spectrum. Such packages not only perpetuate a culture of industrial un-competitiveness but also worsen an already skewed distribution of scarce resources. A country's trade deficit indicates in essence that it is consuming more than it is producing. The difference is met by borrowing abroad and thus accumulating external debt. Cutting the trade deficit will require either ratcheting up output or ratcheting down consumption. As Pakistan is the fifth largest country in the world, where more than 64 per cent of the population is under the age of 29 and is growing at a rate of 2.5 per cent per annum (per the 2023 census), cutting back on essential consumption is neither possible nor desirable. Given the nation's penchant for conspicuous consumption, it will remain difficult to slash non-essential consumption or even wasteful expenditure as well. This leaves a sustained increase in output relative to consumption as the only feasible option. An increase in output is either demand-pull or supply-push. If the demand for a commodity, such as shirts, rises, businesses will step up production until the output reaches capacity. Should the upswing in demand continue, the only way to satisfy it will be to import shirts, thus running the trade deficit. The credible and long-run option is to perk up the output capacity. But this will require either addition to the capital stock (investment) or shoring up the productivity of the existing resources (land, labour or capital). At 15 per cent, Pakistan's investment-to-GDP ratio is among the lowest in the world. The low investment is underpinned by a host of factors, such as low savings due to both low real incomes and a high national propensity for non-essential consumption, lack of entrepreneurship, barriers to entry for small businesses, macroeconomic instability, and security situation (this is especially applicable to foreign investment). Both the government and banks have been reluctant to support startups for their risky ventures. Through preferential credit and taxation and simplified incorporation procedures, entrepreneurship needs to be supported. Not only the size but the type of investment is also important. We need real sector investment, which raises the productive capacity of the economy, and not the quick-yielding speculative investment - in stocks and plots - in which wealth is not created but only changes hands. Although it is for individual companies to decide where to put their savings, the government can encourage the desired investment with the right tax and other incentives or disincentives. Such a move, however, will face stiff resistance from the powerful realty sector, which bankrolls many a political party. In addition, when an increasing number of parcels of land are being diverted from agriculture to housing societies, a significant expansion in national output is difficult to come by, especially because Pakistan's two largest industries - textiles and food - are agrobased. Not only does this diversion need to be halted by law but it may be ensured by a policy that houses serve as a place to live and not a speculative venture.

The writer is an Islamabad-based columnist. He tweets/posts @hussainhzaidi and can be reached at: hussainhzaidi@gmail.com



Kamila Hyat

Beyond resilience

Many political commentators classify Pakistani society as an extremely resilient one. We have fought for democracy time after time - unlike nations in the Middle East such as Libya, Egypt and Iraq, and many others around the world which have endured three to four decades of harsh dictatorships. In Pakistan's case, even though the majority of our seven decades in existence have been spent under autocratic regimes, there has always been a pushback for the return of democracy. Each time, democracy has returned - even if it is, in Plato's words, a 'warped one'. Resilience also means that Pakistanis have withstood all kinds of hardships and injustices. There are places that have produced a different kind of resilience and spirit. From these nurseries have arrived people willing to fight to push back the inequities and injustices we see in society everywhere. They are willing to fight against misgovernance which leads to hyperinflation. They are ready to give everything they have to ensure a labourer does not receive a utility bill which is higher than his/her monthly wage and leaves him/her either without electricity or without food for his children. These nurseries include student unions, perhaps the most important places where thinking and debate happens and where resilience is created. Students at universities learn not only in their classes but also through debating different ideas and putting them into effect. Even in the US - the country

that calls itself the nation at the top of the pyramid of democracy - it is mostly students who have rallied for the people of Palestine. Unfortunately, these student unions have been banned in our nation since the 1980s. Now we only have on-campus 'groups' such as the Punjab Students Group, the Baloch Students Group, the Pashtun Students Group and others which essentially divide students on ethnic lines instead of uniting them as a nation. At the same time, we have also lost other unions such as those in the labour sector and on farms even when peasants have fought back, as they did in Okara, and continue to raise a little hope of victory. There can now no longer be any confidence that people across the country will rise up for any cause which does not directly affect them. Indeed, people have become more inward-looking. The idea of nationhood of national news which has an impact on everyone has somehow been lost. But at some point, there has to be an end to passive resilience and start of a willingness to fight. This is not a revolutionary idea. It is a matter of survival and a matter of getting some kind of meaningful life for people everywhere in the country. Men such as Manzoor Pashteen and women such as Mahrang Baloch have managed to achieve this to some degree for their people. People from parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan consider them their heroes. We need many more like them. But we also need a central figure who can be a hero for his/her people, and this country at its present moment needs heroes no matter where they come from or what their background is. We need these people because citizens are unable to keep up with hyperinflation that has affected almost everyone in the land. A secu-

city guard who earns a salary of say Rs15,000 a month simply cannot pay his monthly bills. And, of course, the fact that Rs15,000 is below the minimum wage is something that he does not really know, and others know even less about the fact that they have basic rights which should be protected and should be secured by the state. The state does little to ensure this, acting only as a mouthpiece for those who truly enjoy power in the country and overlooking the hardships of the people it should be serving. The first task of the heroes of the future must be to put an end to ignorance. People need to know what rights they have and how to exercise them. Today women across the country have little idea about their reproductive rights or other rights they should be enjoying as equal citizens of the state. The same is true for persons like 'haris', labourers and other low-paid workers who do not realize that they are being wrongfully done with by authorities, unwilling to address their grievances year after year and decade after decade. At some point, this resilience and its willingness to fight back against the odds will have to come. After all, for how long will people endure a situation where they have no gas in their houses but are forced to pay bills significantly higher than what they were paying just a few months ago? What will they do when these bills rise even higher, as many believe they will? After all, the country will go into a new agreement with the IMF this month. Unless people fight back, they will keep enduring more hardship and more threats to their wellbeing for years to come. The question is: who will take this resilience forward? It is popularly believed that a single charismatic figure is required to build any kind of revolution or uprising against injus-

tice. Revolution may be too strong a word in a situation where we are nowhere close to one. But we know that there is immense anger amongst people. In the most recent election, we have seen it among the youth and in their voting patterns. The existence of this rage will at some point emerge in a more open and direct fashion. Indeed, it should emerge in a more direct fashion. The fact that people are resilient is not really a quality worth praising. It is rather a factor which holds back the nation and prevents people from speaking up for their rights. It is imperative that they do speak up for their rights and against the injustices poured down upon them for so many decades. Even those who suffer these outrages themselves are unable to overcome the power of the elite which ruled the country and demand rights for those who have been killed, those who have died in a factory accident or those injured in some other way. This cannot continue indefinitely. If it does, we would be left with a nation where people live lives virtually as zombies. They work only because they must, in order to survive; many, of course, cannot find any work at all. The number of such people is rising rapidly. We need to think about the feelings that this will cause and the rage this will bring upon families who have struggled hard to educate their children and ensure that they go to universities. If after this stage in life they cannot find jobs, only anger, and with it fear, lies ahead. When this will surface and in what form is something we should be thinking about very hard right now, everywhere in the country.

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



The Congress policies in these provinces hurt Muslim susceptibilities. There were calculated aims to obliterate the Muslims as a separate cultural unit. The Muslims now stopped thinking in terms of seeking safeguards and began to consider seriously the demand for a separate Muslim state. During 1937-39, several Muslim leaders and thinkers, inspired by Allama Iqbal's ideas, presented elaborate schemes for partitioning the subcontinent according to two-nation theory.

PAKISTAN RESOLUTION

The All-India Muslim League soon took these schemes into consideration and finally, on March 23, 1940, the All-India Muslim League, in a res-

olution, at its historic Lahore Session, demanded a separate homeland for the Muslims in the Muslim majority regions of the subcontinent. The resolution was commonly referred to as the Pakistan Resolution. The Pakistan demand had a great appeal for the Muslims of every persuasion. It revived memories of their past greatness and promised future glory. They, therefore, responded to this demand immediately.

CRIPPS MISSION

The British Government recognized the genuineness of the Pakistan demand indirectly in the proposals for the transfer of power after the Second World War which Sir Stafford Cripps brought to India in 1942. Both

the Congress and the All-India Muslim League rejected these proposals for different reasons. The principles of secession of Muslim India as a separate Dominion was however, conceded in these proposals. After this failure, a prominent Congress leader, C. Rajgopalacharia, suggested a formula for a separate Muslim state in the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, which was rejected at the time, but later on, in 1944, formed the basis of the Jinnah-Gandhi talks.

PAKISTAN MOVEMENT

The Pakistan demand became popular during the Second World War every section of the Muslim community.

MEN, WOMEN, STUDENT, ULEMA AND BUSINESSMEN

Organized under the banner of the All-India Muslim League. Branches of the party were opened even in the remote corners of the subcontinent. Literature in the form of pamphlets, books, magazines and newspapers was produced to explain the Pakistan demand and distributed widely. The support gained by the All-India Muslim League and its demand for Pakistan was tested after the failure of the Simla Conference, convened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in 1945. Elections were called to determine the respective strength of the political parties.

To be continued....

Showbiz

Meghan Trainor preps for upcoming tour: 'Training for Olympics'

Meghan Trainor is 'eating clean' to feel 'good' on stage

As Meghan Trainor gets ready for her upcoming tour, she wants to give it her all! The Been Like This singer was the subject of an exclusive interview with People magazine on Wednesday at Olay Body's Audacy's Leading Ladies event at Brooklyn's Kings Theatre. In addition to her latest track with T-Pain, Trainor has released a new album that will see her return to the touring scene after a seven-year hiatus. The popular song All About That Bass singer remained upbeat when questioned about how it felt to be the star of The Timeless Tour later this year after taking such a long break. "I'm feeling fit. I've never been so fit," she told the outlet, adding that her



family is on board to help get herself tour-ready. "I already told my household. I was like, 'I am training for the Olympics, okay?' I want to train and eat clean and feel good when I'm dancing and singing. I don't wanna be so winded, because right now, I'm winded," she said. The Grammy-winning pop artist also mentioned that Sabara's birthday, June 14, is when her next album Timeless will be available. Along with that, she joked that she would likely be "busy" marketing her album on his birthday. Trainor wed Daryl Sabara in December 2018; the two have a boy named Riley, who is three years old, and a son named Barry, who was born in July 2023.

Tech

Apple issues big statement against US 'blockbuster' lawsuit



Apple has responded to the United States' lawsuit against the company, saying that it is wrong on the facts and that they will defend themselves against it. "We believe this lawsuit is wrong on the facts and the law, and we will vigorously defend against it," Apple said in a statement, according to CNN. A blockbuster antitrust lawsuit against Apple has been filed by the US Justice Department.

In a recent string of Big Tech companies to face monopoly accusations from the US government, it's the latest but largest. The American government is cracking down on the massive industry whose power has gone largely unchecked over the past several decades. After years of allegations by critics that Apple has harmed competition with restrictive app store terms, this long-anticipated lawsuit comes. "Apple undermines apps, products, and services that would otherwise make users less reliant on the iPhone," the Justice Department said in a press release. "Apple exercises its monopoly power to extract more money from consumers, developers, content creators, artists, publishers, small businesses, and merchants, among others." For instance, iPhone customers are directed by Apple to send high-quality photos and videos seamlessly to one another, however, multimedia texts to Android phones are slower and grainy.

Health

Ramadan 2024: Major study shows fasting can kill you — here's what experts say

Ramadan intermittent fasting is really healthy but also have severe effects for some people

People who follow intermittent fasting diets in Ramadan restrict the times that they eat rather than cutting out certain foods or restricting calories. Intermittent fasting is an alternative to traditional dieting. Many of the studies were done on animals rather than humans for intermittent fasting. As a result, research on intermittent fasting has yielded mixed results. In addition, it works as well or better for weight loss than calorie restriction as per some studies.

Intermittent fasting has also been linked to everything from a longer life span to clearer thinking. Moreover, as per some evidence, it might improve insulin resistance to help prevent or counteract diabetes. It also improves blood pressure and checks triglycerides and cholesterol, for benefits of heart health. It's important to point out that this doesn't mean intermittent fasting is a cause of death, study author, Victor Wenzhe Zhong, chair of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics at

the Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, noted in a press release. Though, this form of fasting is not deadly but has a number of detrimental health effects. "Short-term fasting can trigger the same fat-burning process as keto diets, which has been linked to health risks when used long term. Some research suggests that 24-hour fasting may lead to muscle loss", Courtney Peterson, associate professor of nutrition sciences at the University of Alabama Birmingham, told Yahoo Life.



ملک بھر میں بجلی و گیس چوروں کیخلاف کریک ڈاؤن کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (خبر روپور) ملک بھر میں بجلی اور گیس چوروں کے خلاف کریک ڈاؤن کے فیصلہ کو عملی جامہ پہنانے کے لیے خصوصی ٹیمیں تشکیل دی گئی ہیں۔ اس موقع پر ایف آئی اے کے کامیاب آپریشنوں کی خبر دی گئی ہے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی زیر صدارت پیشینہ انویسٹمنٹ فیسیٹی ٹیم میں کال کال اجلاس جاری ہے، آری چیف جی ٹی سی کے اراکین نے اجلاس میں شرکت کی۔

پاکستان نے افغان شہری آبادی کو نشانہ بنانے کے الزامات مسترد کر دیے

افغان شہری آبادی کو نشانہ بنانے کے الزامات مسترد کر دیے۔ وزیر خارجہ خواجہ محمد امجد علی خان نے ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کہا کہ پاکستان خود خارجہ میں بیٹھ کر افغان شہری آبادی کو نشانہ بنانے کی کوشش نہیں کرے گا۔



اسلام آباد (خبر روپور) وزیر خارجہ خواجہ محمد امجد علی خان نے ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کہا کہ پاکستان خود خارجہ میں بیٹھ کر افغان شہری آبادی کو نشانہ بنانے کی کوشش نہیں کرے گا۔

موسم بہار میں 18 ملین پودے لگائیں گے، مریم اورنگزیب

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) سینئر وزیر پنجاب مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں موسم بہار کے دوران 18 ملین پودے لگائیں گے۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں موسم بہار کے دوران 18 ملین پودے لگائیں گے۔

پنجاب اسمبلی: سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) پنجاب اسمبلی کے اجلاس کے دوران اپوزیشن نے سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن کی درخواست پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے جواب دیا۔

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معاشی چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کیلئے ملکر بیٹھنا وقت کی ضرورت ہے، شہباز شریف

ایس آئی ایف سی ایک اہم پلیٹ فارم ہے جسے جاری رکھا جائے گا، وزیر اعظم، ہمساری حکومت ہمارے پرجوش گرین پاکستان اقدام کے اگلے مرحلے کا آغاز کر رہی ہے، خوشحال کل کیلئے آج پودے لگائیں، پیغام

اسلام آباد (خبر روپور) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ معاشی چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کیلئے ملکر بیٹھنا وقت کی ضرورت ہے۔

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پی ٹی آئی نے سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) پی ٹی آئی نے سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن کی درخواست پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے جواب دیا۔

آزاد کشمیر کے تینوں میڈیکل کالجز کیلئے بجٹ کی منظوری

حکومت میڈیکل کالجز کو تمام بنیادی وسائل مہیا کرے گی، چوہدری انورالحق



اسلام آباد، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم اورنگزیب نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں موسم بہار کے دوران 18 ملین پودے لگائیں گے۔

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وفاق پنجاب حکومت اپنی حرکتوں سے باز آ جائیں، علی امین کی وارننگ

مریم نواز مینڈیٹ چوری کر کے وزیر اعلیٰ بنیں، پی کے پی کے عوام اپنا اور وزیر اعلیٰ کو تحفظ کرنا چاہتے ہیں، ویڈیو بیان

امریکی وزیر خارجہ کی سعودی ولی عہد سے ملاقات، غزہ کی صورتحال پر تبادلہ خیال

ریاض (انٹرنیٹ ڈیسک) امریکی وزیر خارجہ انٹونی بلینکن نے سعودی ولی عہد محمد بن سلمان سے ملاقات کی۔



اسلام آباد، وزیر خارجہ خواجہ محمد امجد علی خان نے ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کہا کہ پاکستان خود خارجہ میں بیٹھ کر افغان شہری آبادی کو نشانہ بنانے کی کوشش نہیں کرے گا۔

مودی کا دورہ ناکام، بھارت مقبوضہ کشمیر سے غیر قانونی پابندیاں ختم کرے، لطیف اکبر

حکومت پاکستان بلاول بھٹو زرداری کو چیئر مین کشمیر کمیٹی بنانے تاکہ موثر انداز میں وہ کشمیر یوں کی وکالت کر سکیں، پریس کانفرنس

اسلام آباد (بیورو رپورٹ) پی ٹی آئی نے سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن کی درخواست پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے جواب دیا۔

فیصل آباد، ایک درجن سے زائد سے ریلوے ٹرینیں بند کر دی گئیں

فیصل آباد سے کوئی بھی ٹرین لاہور، راجپوت اور ایلینڈی کے لئے نہیں چل رہی، دوکروڑ سے زائد عوام کھانسی، کھانسی اور کھانسی سے پریشان ہیں۔

کسی امیدوار کیلئے الیکشن میں حصہ لینے میں تشکیکی رکاوٹیں ڈالنا جمہوری روایات اور اصولوں کیخلاف ہے، فیصلہ جاری

اصولوں کیخلاف ہے۔ سپریم کورٹ نے فیصلے میں کہا کہ الیکشن کے لیے کسی امیدوار کو کسی بھی وجہ سے الیکشن سے حصہ لینے سے روکنا جمہوری روایات اور اصولوں کیخلاف ہے۔

امریکی سفیر عمران خان سے ملاقات کر کے انکا موقف سنیں: بریڈشٹین

واشنگٹن (انٹرنیٹ ڈیسک) امریکی سفیر جیمس ڈی ہینری نے پاکستانی سفیر عمران خان سے ملاقات کی۔

پرمقصدہ جھوٹا باہر ایوانوں

اسلام آباد (خبر روپور) پی ٹی آئی نے سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن کی درخواست پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے جواب دیا۔

پنجاب میں ضمنی انتخابات کیلئے الیکشن

پنجاب میں ضمنی انتخابات کیلئے الیکشن کی تیاریاں جاری ہیں۔

پولیس کے معیار، رمضان میں عوام کو بہتر سہولیات دینے کیلئے کوشاں، واجد محمود

چکوال کے تمام تھانوں میں سیوریج ہائی لٹ، تاجروں کو سہولیات دینے پر اہتمام فرماتے ہیں، ڈسٹرکٹ پولیس آفیسر

کسی امیدوار کیلئے الیکشن میں حصہ لینے میں تشکیکی رکاوٹیں ڈالنا جمہوری روایات اور اصولوں کیخلاف ہے، فیصلہ جاری

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امریکی سفیر عمران خان سے ملاقات کر کے انکا موقف سنیں: بریڈشٹین

واشنگٹن (انٹرنیٹ ڈیسک) امریکی سفیر جیمس ڈی ہینری نے پاکستانی سفیر عمران خان سے ملاقات کی۔

پرمقصدہ جھوٹا باہر ایوانوں

اسلام آباد (خبر روپور) پی ٹی آئی نے سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن کی درخواست پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے جواب دیا۔

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واشنگٹن (انٹرنیٹ ڈیسک) امریکی سفیر جیمس ڈی ہینری نے پاکستانی سفیر عمران خان سے ملاقات کی۔

پرمقصدہ جھوٹا باہر ایوانوں

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پنجاب میں ضمنی انتخابات کیلئے الیکشن

پنجاب میں ضمنی انتخابات کیلئے الیکشن کی تیاریاں جاری ہیں۔

پولیس کے معیار، رمضان میں عوام کو بہتر سہولیات دینے کیلئے کوشاں، واجد محمود

چکوال کے تمام تھانوں میں سیوریج ہائی لٹ، تاجروں کو سہولیات دینے پر اہتمام فرماتے ہیں، ڈسٹرکٹ پولیس آفیسر

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پرمقصدہ جھوٹا باہر ایوانوں

اسلام آباد (خبر روپور) پی ٹی آئی نے سائبر سکیورٹی کی جوڈیشل تحقیقات کی جائیں، اپوزیشن کی درخواست پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے جواب دیا۔

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Bilawal expresses sorrow over loss of lives in tragic coal mine incident



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the tragic incident at a coal mine near Hamai, Balochistan the other day.

According to a press release issued from Bilawal House, Bilawal Bhutto PPP stand with the affected families in this difficult time and pray for their patience.

He emphasized the urgent need for better safety measures in the coal mining industry and stressed that the protection and welfare of workers should always be prioritized.

Bilawal Bhutto urged the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and ensure strict enforcement of safety protocols in all coal mines.

Bilawal Bhutto reiterated that the PPP is committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of workers in all sectors.

Donald Lu, Asad Majeed rejected Imran's narrative regarding cipher: Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader and Senior Minister Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon on Thursday said the cipher was a drama, Imran Khan concocted a false narrative regarding the census to protect his political interests, not only Donald Lu but also Asad Majeed rejected the claims of Imran Khan. PTI founder hired lobbyists to save his politics and attempted to distort Pakistan's image.

In a statement, Sharjeel Memon said that the PTI's sloganeering during Donald Lu's speech made Pakistan a mockery in the eyes of the whole world. The congressman who supports the genocide of innocent Palestinians is also a supporter of Imran Khan. He stated that the rigging to install Imran Khan on the throne had commenced prior to 2018. The unannounced censorship serves as evidence of the rigging in 2018. There were irregularities in the constituencies during 2018, and European observers acknowledged that the results lacked transparency.

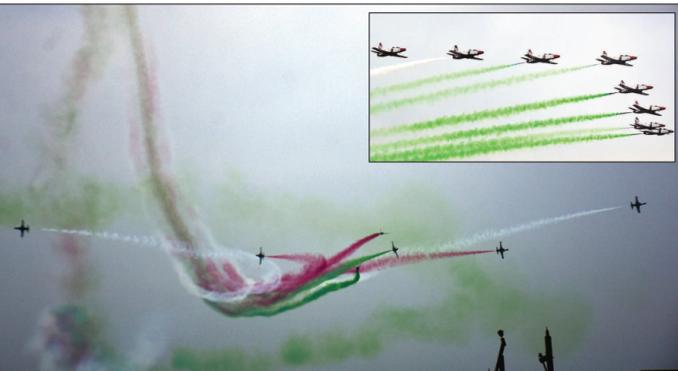
Memon stated that the introduction of RTS in 2018 was aimed at bringing PTI into power. To ensure PTI's victory in 2018, a "go-slow" policy was implemented with the voters during the election. The process of counting, custody, or delivery of the ballot boxes was kept secret during the 2018 elections. INP

Mir Jam Kamal, Jane Marriott outline key strategies to bolster the already robust trade relations between Pakistan & the UK

Jane Marriott highlights the promising trajectory of bilateral trade, with Pakistan's exports to the UK witnessing steady growth

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Mir Jam Kamal Khan, and British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, have outlined key strategies to bolster the already robust trade relations between Pakistan and the UK. Mir Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the deep-rooted political and historical ties between the two nations, underscoring the significant strides in trade and commerce. The minister lauded the Developing Countries Trading

Scheme (DCTS), initiated in June 2023, as a pivotal opportunity for Pakistan to amplify its trade volumes with the UK. Furthermore, Mir Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the imminent launch of the UK-Pakistan Trade Dialogue, aimed at fortifying trade and investment relations. Ms. Jane Marriott highlighted the promising trajectory of bilateral trade, with Pakistan's exports to the UK witnessing steady growth. SABAH



ISLAMABAD: Karakoram-8 (K-8) aircrafts of PAF perform aerobatic maneuvers during a rehearsal ahead of the Pakistan Day parade, in Federal Capital. ONLINE

KP govt should maintain good relations with federation: Kundi

DI KHAN: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday stressed upon the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government to maintain good relations with the federal government. Talking to the media here, he suggested the KP government to take steps in collaboration with the federal government for the development, prosperity and welfare of the province. The attitude of KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur towards the federal government was irresponsible, he regretted. He was of the view that the elected representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should give responsible statements for maintaining politi-

cal stability which was the need of the hour. Moreover, he said, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker should play an impartial role in running the affairs of the house. He said that administering oaths from the lawmakers elected on reserved seats was the legal responsibility of the speaker which must be fulfilled. Otherwise, the legal way would be adopted, he hinted. Replying to a question regarding the massive load shedding of electricity and gas in Dera Ismail Khan, the PPP information secretary said that he would contact the federal government for the purpose so that the issue could be resolved amicably. INP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Chief Ministers of all the provinces. INP

Mohsin Naqvi orders countrywide crackdown against gas, electricity thefts

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday making a major decision, tasked Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to initiate a crackdown across the country against power and gas thefts.

Chairing an important meeting at his office, the minister gave instructions to the Agency to take strict legal action against those involved in electricity and gas thefts. The FIA officials informed the minister that special teams were already constituted to crack down on electricity and gas thieves on the past instructions given in the last meeting. Upon receiving a detailed report on Greece boat accident submitted by the FIA officials, the minister directed that all the elements involved in this tragedy must be brought to justice.

He also directed strict action against all the elements involved in human trafficking to curb this evil from the society.

The minister also directed to further tighten the cordon against those involved in the Hundi/Hawala business.

The action against those involved in the Hundi/Hawala business has improved the value of the Pakistani rupee, the FIA Officials



informed the minister.

The minister also reviewed the progress on pending promotions of FIA officials and directed to deal with pending promotion cases on urgent basis.

All pending promotion cases should be disposed off within the prescribed period of one month, he directed the Agency's top leader-

ship.

In the meeting, the progress on the orders issued on the occasion of the visit of the Interior Minister to the FIA headquarters last week was also reviewed.

Interior Secretary Aftab Durrani, Additional DGs and Directors of all regions of FIA participated in the meeting.

SC declares verdict delivered by Saqib Nisar regarding appointment of ex-chairman PTV Ataul Haq Qasmi as null & void

Also put aside observations given by Saqib Nisar against Pervaiz Rashid, Ishaq Dar & Fawad Hassan Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan has declared the verdict delivered by former chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar regarding appointment of former chairman of Pakistan Television (PTV) Ataul Haq Qasmi as null and void.

The court also put aside observations given by Saqib Nisar against Pervaiz Rashid, Ishaq Dar and Fawad Hassan Fawad. The court termed no corruption or nepotism was proved in chairman PTV appointment case. The court also ended restriction of appointment of Ataul Haq Qasmi as director in any government institution in future whereas CJP Justice Qazi Faez Esa remarked that how this matter was taken up before the Supreme Court of Pakistan and why the court took notice of it. How this matter falls under the jurisdiction of Article 184-3 of the Constitution, where it is written that this is matter of public importance.

A three-member bench headed by CJP Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Naem Akhtar Afghan conducted hearing on review petitions filed by Ataul Haq Qasmi, Ishaq Dar, Pervaiz Rashid and Fawad Hassan Fawad against the verdict of Supreme Court of Pakistan rendered in 2018. Senior lawyer Barrister Muhammad Akram Sheikh appeared on behalf of Ataul Haq Qasmi, Barrister Zafarullah Khan on behalf of Pervaiz Rashid, former attorney general Salman Aslam Butt on behalf of Ishaq Dar, Muhamma Nazeer Jawad on behalf of PTV and Fawad Hassan Fawad appeared in personal capacity.

At the start of hearing CJP asked who is appearing on behalf of PTV. To this, Muhammad Nazeer Jawad came on rostrum and said he is appearing on behalf of PTV and that he has no objection on the review petitions. Justice Irfan Saadat Khan said who will pay the money.

To this Zafarullah Khan said Pervaiz Rashid will pay 20 percent of the total money. The Chief Justice asked why Ataul Haq Qasmi resigned. To this, Akram Sheikh said he resigned from the position due to bad health conditions. Then the court paused in the hearing. When the hearing started again, Fawad Hassan Fawad argued that Ataul Haq Qasmi used to do program on PTV.

The Chief Justice said how this matter falls under Article 184-3 of the Constitution. Where it is written that it is matter of public interest, he said. He said while directly referring to Fawad Hassan Fawad, does Ataul Haq Qasmi is your relative as nepotism is used for relatives. Chief Justice who is Ataul Haq Qasmi? To this, Fawad Hassan Fawad said that he is literary person since 50 years.

Justice Irfan Saadat Khan said did the poet had experience of running a channel. Fawad Hassan Fawad said that he was chairman board of directors of PTV and the board appointed him chairman. SABAH

Mubashir Hassan appointed PIO



ISLAMABAD: Senior Information Officer of Grade 20 Mubashir Hassan was appointed as Executive Director General/Principal Information Officer (BS 21) of the Press

Information Department (PID).

The appointment was made in accordance with subsection 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, said a notification issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Thursday. Mubashir Hassan is a senior officer of Information Group who has held various important positions and also successfully completed National Security and War Course 2024 from National Defense University Islamabad recently.

SC seeks details of all restaurants in Margalla Hills National Park

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday sought details from authorities within one month pertaining to the all restaurants working in Margalla Hills National Park.

The top court also sought complete details and original record pertaining to land lease agreement between Monal Restaurant and Directorate of Remount Veterinary and Farms (RVM) within a week.

A three-member bench of the top court presided by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case pertaining to the lease of Monal Restaurant.

The court stated that the Attorney General of Pakistan has admitted that the agreement of RVM directorate with Capital Development Authority (CDA) was not legal as it was signed without the authorization by the federal government.

The court further said that the lawyer of Monal Restaurant stated that there were also more restaurants in the area of Margalla Hills National Park.

The court directed the authorities to tell the number of restaurants in the National Park area and details pertaining to the date of lease, period and rent.

It said that the top court has been told that a delimitation of national park was underway. It directed the CDA to submit the required details after completion of this process.

The court said that the National Park Ordinance should be available to the public for education and research purpose. It said that the respondents if want would submit suggestions for the protection of the national park.

Further hearing of the case was then adjourned till after the Eid. DNA

Major int'l resources directed towards wars, degradation of humanity: Siraj

ISLAMABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has underscored the moral quandaries within the current international governance system, wherein a significant portion of resources is directed towards wars, conflicts, and the degradation of humanity rather than their utilization for the advancement of mankind.

Speaking at an Iftar dinner hosted in honor of diplomats and senior officials from various countries including the US, Britain, Iran, Turkey, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Palestine, Somalia, Iraq, Russia, Japan, Sri Lanka, and others at a local hotel on Thursday, he expressed disappointment over the failure of the international system to deliver justice to the people of Palestine and Kashmir, despite the clear resolutions passed by the United Nations. Sirajul Haq lamented that the ceasefire efforts in Gaza were hindered by the veto of a single country, despite 13 national votes in favor of it. The event was attended by leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami including Liaqat Baloch, Amirul Azim, Asif Luqman Qazi, Senator Mushahid Hussain

Syed, Raja Zafarul Haq, as well as representatives from Hamas, welfare organizations, and civil society. The JI leader thanked the participants and said the month of Ramadan is a month of spiritual cleaning and introspection to strengthen our relationship with God as well as God's creation. In this month we learn to be more kind and merciful, to be more tolerant and forgiving, and to be more generous and charitable towards the less fortunate. "Ramadan reminds us that its our common responsibility to try to alleviate poverty and eliminate hunger from this world, and to reach out to those who are deprived of the blessings of life."

Siraj said that a lot of useful resources go to fuel conflicts and wars. Resources, he said, that could have been used for the welfare of humanity, are in fact used to bring death, devastation and destruction. He said more people in the world are stricken by acute food insecurity than there were ten years ago. This is despite the much ado and the lip service accorded to food security on international for a, he said.

"When the world's biggest powers want to impose war in a region, we observe that thousands of billions of dollars are allocated to those wars. However, to help the world's most destitute, even hundreds of millions are hard to fetch."

Current global governance system, the JI chief said, is devoid of high moral values. Instead of finding solutions to the humanity's problems, it is bringing more devastation, he said, adding a clear example is the situation prevailing in Gaza today where 2.2 million people were first forced to live under siege in inhumane conditions and for the last five months the defenseless civilian population is subjected to continuous air strikes and indiscriminate artillery shelling.

He said that genocide is taking place with the world's most resourceful countries being complicit in it. The global governance is completely handicapped to prevent it from happening, he said. Haq said that resolution after resolution in UN Security Council is rendered to failure because of the unjust veto power given to some countries.

Over 13 countries vote in favor of a ceasefire but only one country has the power to disregard it and deny this chance to be given, Siraj said, adding 153 countries pass resolutions in General Assembly, but their voice does not carry any weight in the current governance system. "Millions of people come out on streets in protest in almost all major cities of the world, but their governments refuse to be influenced."

It shows, he added, that current global governance system cannot provide justice to the oppressed peoples anywhere in the world.

"The lofty ideals and humane values this governance system was claimed to be based upon, proved in fact to be tools in the hands of big powers to perpetuate their global dominance. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, despite the clear resolutions of the UN Security Council, it has failed to provide the right of self-determination to the 20 million people of Kashmir. Even after 76 years, he said, Kashmir still remains a nuclear flashpoint and a continuous threat to the security of this whole region. INP