

## Indian actor Sonam Bajwa impressed with Sajal Ali

Thursday 09 May 2024

## May 9 assaults on military installations won't go unpunished: Khawaja Asif

KOMAL BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has vowed that no one will be allowed to desecrate the sanctity of the motherland and its heroes. In a video message today, he said May 9 will always remind the nation how a riotous group in its lust for power, attacked the very foundation of the country. The minister said even the enemies of Pakistan could never dare do what was done on May 9 at the behest of a violent group. He said the military installations and memorials of our heroes were targeted and attacked. Khawaja Asif said all of it was done under a pre-orchestrated plan which cannot be imagined in any civilized country. He said the Pakistani nation identifies the planners, abettors and implementers of May 9 incidents. Khawaja Asif said their malignism still resonates in the terrible memories of May 9 and perpetrators behind these crimes will be punished as per the law and the Constitution.

## Pakistan's lunar mission 'ICUBE-Q' enters moon orbit

JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's lunar mission (ICUBE-Q) entered the moon orbit on Wednesday. Pakistan's historic lunar mission (ICUBE-Q) was launched on Friday on board China's Chang'E6 from Hainan, China, according to the IST, the satellite ICUBE-Q has been designed and developed by IST in collaboration with China's Chang'E6 mission. ICUBE-Q orbiter carries two optical cameras to image the lunar surface. Following successful qualification and testing, ICUBE-Q has now been integrated with the Chang'E6 mission. The satellite is the first in a series of China's lunar exploration missions. The launch activity was telecast live on the IST website and social media platforms. Chang'E6, China's Lunar Mission will touch down on the Moon's far side to collect samples for return to Earth for research.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the National Conference on Education Emergency.

## PM declares Education Emergency to enroll 26m out-of-school children, aspires highly educated Pakistan

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday declared an 'Education Emergency' across Pakistan to enroll around 26 million out-of-school children and promote literacy to make the country regain its lost space and develop it as one of the most educated societies in the world. "Today, with iron conviction, and the support of provinces, we will handle the challenge of 26 million out-of-school children. We will bring them back to school...I declare from this moment an Emergency in Education all over Pakistan...The way we did it in Punjab, we will do it in Pakistan," the prime minister said addressing the National Conference on Education Emergency. He told the gathering of federal ministers, parliamentarians, vice-chancellors, diplomats, and development partners that he would personally supervise the programme and meet all the chief ministers, setting aside political affiliations, with a vision to march in unison, expressing the hope that the provinces too would extend their support. "This is about our children and our future... This is a very challenging task, no doubt. But nations which had faced difficulties and defeat in the past arose from the ashes of defeat. Germany and Japan are the examples. Why can't Pakistan be? I guarantee, if we move in unison to find our space, Pakistan will emerge as one of the most educated societies one day," he remarked. The prime minister, recounting the achievements of the Punjab Government during his chief ministership, highlighted the boosted enrollment rates, especially for girls, through initiatives like the Zevar Taleem Programme, and rescuing 90,000 boys from brick kilns to sending them to schools.

## Sindh, Punjab bar councils announce lawyers' strikes on May 9 after Lahore police clashes

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The Punjab Bar Council (PBC) and Sindh Bar Council (SBC) on Wednesday announced a strike by all lawyers and bar associations in the provinces for May 9 after clashes with the Lahore police. Lahore's GPO Chowk became a battleground earlier today between riot police and lawyers after the latter staged a protest rally and attempted to enter the Lahore High Court (LHC). The lawyers' attempt to gain entry into the high court were repelled by police, who baton-charged, fired tear gas and used water cannons to disperse them. The correspondent said that dozens of lawyers were arrested and wounded in police action, while some members of the press, law enforcement agencies and bystanders were also affected. Negotiations between the police and lawyers failed to resolve the impasse, the correspondent on the ground added. In a press release issued after a press conference held by the PBC, LHCB and Lahore Bar Association (LBA), PBC Vice Chairman Kamran Bashir Mughal and Pir Imran Akram Boda, chairman of the PBC executive committee announced a strike by all lawyers and bar associations in the province tomorrow (Thursday) against the LHC chief justice and police's "thuggery". They said rallies would be taken out against the treatment meted out to lawyers today and a protest would be registered. They said that the strike would be strict

enforcement agencies and bystanders were also affected. Negotiations between the police and lawyers failed to resolve the impasse, the correspondent on the ground added. In a press release issued after a press conference held by the PBC, LHCB and Lahore Bar Association (LBA), PBC Vice Chairman Kamran Bashir Mughal and Pir Imran Akram Boda, chairman of the PBC executive committee announced a strike by all lawyers and bar associations in the province tomorrow (Thursday) against the LHC chief justice and police's "thuggery". They said rallies would be taken out against the treatment meted out to lawyers today and a protest would be registered. They said that the strike would be strict



LAHORE: Lawyers gathered for a protest or strike.

strike and boycott of court proceedings for Thursday with instructions for advocates to not attend proceedings. The SBC demanded the federal and Punjab governments to take immediate notice of the matter, address the involvement of the Lahore police in the "shameful and inhumane" treatment of lawyers and take action against the responsible police officials. The council condemned the "excessive and unwarranted use of police force" against lawyers and termed it a "shameful act" that was a grave violation of the force's duty and discipline. The Karachi Bar Association also announced a boycott and sent a letter to the sessions judges of the city's districts to suspend judicial work and issue the same directions to their subordinate courts. Speaking to Dawn News earlier, LHCB President Asad Butt had said that the lawyers' protest would continue until their demands were met. "The police have inflicted cruelty by using force against a peaceful march," Butt said, noting that dozens of lawyers have been injured by tear gas shelling. He demanded that the notification of the division of courts be withdrawn immediately and that cases filed against lawyers should be dismissed. According to a previous PBC press release, dated May 7, the LHCB's joint action committee comprising a dozen members had met on Tuesday where it had decided to "welcome" the protest rally announced by the LBA.

## Arif Alvi calls for transparent inquiry into May 9 events

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Former president Dr Arif Alvi has called for formation of an independent commission to ensure fair investigation into the May 9 riots and hold those involved accountable. This demand came after his meeting with PTI leaders Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz Cheema, and Ejaz Chaudhry at an anti-terrorism court of Lahore where they are facing charges related to the May 9 violence. During the meeting, Dr Alvi expressed solidarity with the detained PTI leaders, stating that the public stood behind them for their support for the party. He emphasised the importance of respecting the choices made by the public in elections, alleging that PTI's mandate was stolen in the general elections. Dr Alvi said the PTI founder was the most renowned leader of Pakistan, asserting that his global recognition underscored his significance to the country. He highlighted the need for a transparent trial process, advocat-

ing for the formation of an independent commission to investigate the May 9 violence and ensure the conviction of the main culprits. Dr Yasmin Rashid, a former provincial minister and one of the detained PTI leaders, spoke of her resilience in jail, stating that she remained steadfast and determined on her stance despite facing difficult conditions. She described her routine which involved encountering cats and lizards during the day and dedicating the other half to reading books.

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## Hajj 2024: Pakistan's first flight with 180 pilgrims to depart today

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: The first Hajj flight will take off from Karachi airport on Thursday (today) with 180 pilgrims, officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs said. The officials said the first flight would take off at 10:30 am on Thursday. According to them, as many as 180 pilgrims would depart from Karachi to Medina whereas the second flight with 150 pilgrims would depart for the holy land at 2 am. More than 68,000 intending pilgrims under government's regular Hajj scheme would be flown to Saudi Arabia

by 259 flights of several airlines in a month-long pre-Hajj flights operation. From May 24 to June 9, most flights would arrive at Jeddah while the post-Hajj flight operation from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan would start on June 20. On the first day (Thursday), 11 flights carrying 2,160 intending pilgrims would depart for Medina from Pakistan's airports. As many as 680 pilgrims in three flights from Islamabad would be taken to Medina, two flights with 330 pilgrims would embark from Karachi, and three flights with 670 pilgrims would leave Lahore.

## IHC approves Bushra Bibi's petition seeking transfer to Adiala Jail

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday approved the petition of former premier Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi seeking her transfer from their Banigala residence - which had been declared a sub-jail - to Adiala Jail, where her husband is currently incarcerated. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb pronounced the verdict, which had been reserved last week. Although Bushra Bibi's petition had been disposed of last month due to her lawyers failing to appear before the court, a plea was filed the same day seeking its restoration. The former first lady was taken into custody on January 31 after an

Islamabad accountability court sentenced her and Imran to 14 years in jail in the Toshakhana reference. While the IHC had on April 1 issued the order sentencing her in the Toshakhana reference, she remains in custody in the Iddat case. Imran also remains incarcerated in other cases. Following the Toshakhana verdict, Bushra had arrived at Adiala Jail, where the National Accountability Bureau's team was already present, to surrender to the authorities. Subsequently, she was taken into custody by the anti-graft watchdog. However, she was moved to her Banigala home after it was declared a sub-jail in a late-night notification.

Her shifting to the residence has been under discussion for months as she and her husband denied submitting any application to declare the residence a sub-jail. Almost a week after her arrest, Bushra Bibi had challenged the residence's status as a sub-jail, urging the IHC to let her complete her 14-year sentence in Adiala Jail. In a subsequent hearing, the Adiala Jail administration had opposed moving her back to the prison, claiming that overcrowding posed security threats for the former first lady. In March, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb had asked if the authorities sought permission from Imran before converting his Banigala residence into a sub-jail.

## Hollywood film on Pakistan's culture to highlight country's soft image: Tarar

SABA SHAFIQ

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that the production of Hollywood film on Pakistan's culture will give people around the world an opportunity to know more about the country and highlight its soft and positive image. This he said during a meeting with the members of the Hollywood production team visiting Pakistan to shoot an international film on Pakistani culture. He said the film produced by the Hollywood production team will be an important milestone for the Pakistani film industry. In the meeting, discussions were held regarding the great cultural heritage and history of the country, including the preparation

of a film based on Pakistani culture. The minister also praised the Hollywood production team about the progress in the film industry in the country. He thanked the Hollywood production team for deciding to produce a film on Pakistani culture. "It is a great honour for our culture and people," he said adding Pakistan was a country with a great cultural heritage. "Our history, literature, music, and art are unique and appreciated worldwide," Attaullah Tarar maintained. The minister said he believed that this film would give the world a new opportunity to see the beauty and diversity of Pakistan. While throwing light on the measures taken by the government for cinema revival, he said it was the only industry in Pakistan that enjoyed tax amnesty.

for the film industry had boosted the film industry and its related sectors. He said in the budget 2022-23, five years of tax exemption was given to filmmakers. Similarly, income tax exemption of five years has been given on the establishment of new cinemas, production houses, and film museums which as a tax exemption has been given for ten years on the export of film and during.



The government under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif restored the film policy in its previous term," he said and added that the film sector had been given the status of an industry so that the youth could get an opportunity to enter this sector. He said a film finance fund had been established at Rs 1 billion in the budget of 2022-23. Moreover, he said medical insurance for artists and tax incentives



# Pakistan team in Ireland for T20 matches ahead of World Cup

**ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN**

LAHORE: The Pakistan cricket team on Monday night departed for Ireland to play T20 series ahead of world cup.

The team, led by Babar Azam, flew off to Ireland from the Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore. Fast bowler Muhammad Amir could not accompany the team due to visa delay. He will join the team shortly.

Acting Punjab governor Muhammad Ahmed Khan saw the team off at the airport. He wished the national team all the success in the Ireland and England tour.

In Ireland, Pakistan will play three T20 matches on May 10, 12 and 14. Thereafter, the team will depart for England against whom it will play four matches on May 22,

25, 28 and 30.

National team's kit unveiled. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday unveiled the national team's kit for the T20 World Cup.

At the unveiling ceremony held at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, along with captain Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and other PCB officials, were present.

Also Read: Babar Azam is sure Pakistan will win T20 World Cup

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi expressed confidence that the national cricket team would bring home the T20 World Cup trophy, just as they did in 2009.

He said if it were up to him, he would have



announced a prize of more than \$100,000 for the team. He stated that the national cricket team possesses immense talent and will receive additional rewards for their victory. He plans to travel to the United States to watch the Pakistan-India match. Babar Azam sounds optimistic.

Skipper Babar Azam expressed the hope that the Green Shirts would win the T20 World Cup being played in the United States and the West Indies next month. "In the past also our focus was to bring the trophy, and I hope that we will return with the trophy," Babar said during a press conference at the Gaddafi Stadium here.

He was sure that every player of the team would give his 100 percent in the World Cup.

## Holding PSL in Balochistan will be considered: Mohsin Naqvi



**PEAK POINT**

QUETTA: PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi says national and international sports events can be organised in Balochistan.

"Holding of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches in Quetta is being mullied over," he said while addressing a press conference during his visit to Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, Home and Tribal Affairs Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove, former caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul

Haq Kakar, and PCB officials accompanied the minister at the press conference. Mohsin Naqvi also visited the stadium where he was briefed by the PCB officials.

Addressing the news briefing, he said, "On the special invitation of the Chief Minister Balochistan, he has visited the Akbar Bugti Stadium." Installation of floodlights was the longstanding demand of the provincial government, he said while announcing that the floodlights would be installed within three months.

"The installation of floodlights will help promote cricket and sports activities in the province, which is rich in talent. Youth of the province will be provided opportunities at the national level," he added.

Earlier, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti extended his gratitude to the federal minister for giving attention to the sports in Balochistan.

## Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: Pakistan beat Canada 5-4 to bag third win

**SABA SHAFIQ**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan hockey team on Wednesday defeated Canada 5-4 in their fourth pool match to solidify their position to earn a final spot in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, underway in Ipoh, Malaysia.

With the win, Pakistan has accumulated 10 points in four matches and is now a strong contender for the title. According to information made available here by Pakistan Hockey Federation, Canada took early lead in the 5th minute with a goal from Sean Davis and another in the 17th minute from Harbir Sidhu.

Pakistan's Abubakar Mahmood scored two goals in the 28th and 29th minutes, levelling the score. After halftime,



experienced goalkeeper Abdullah Ashfaq Khan took over the Pakistani goalkeeper. Rana Waheed Ashraf and Ghanfar Ali scored goals in the 36th, 44th, and 45th minutes, respectively, solidifying Pakistan's lead.

Canada's Sean Davis scored a field goal in the 45th minute, and Avjot Butter scored another

field goal in the 50th minute, reducing Canada's goal deficit. However, Pakistan emerged victorious in the end. Six teams are participating in the event, including hosts Malaysia, Pakistan, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and Canada. Pakistan will play their fifth and final pool match against New Zealand on Friday.

## Mohammad Amir awaits visa to join team in Ireland for T20I series

**JAVED KHAN**

ISLAMABAD: Pacer Mohammad Amir is likely to miss the first match of the T20I series against Ireland as he is yet to receive visa for travel.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) authorities said they are in contact with the Ireland officials in this regard, adding that the hosts are responsible for timely issuance of visas to players. Amir had last visited Ireland in 2018.

Meanwhile, Pakistan cricket team has reached Dublin and it will hold the first training session on May 9 after a day-long rest.



In Ireland, Pakistan will play three T20 matches on May 10, 12 and 14.

Thereafter, the team will depart for England against whom it will play four matches on May 22, 25, 28 and 30.

Pakistan's squad for Ireland and England is following:

Babar Azam (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan.

## SA Gardens, Wapda quality for National Challenge Cup semis

**KOMAL BUTT**

ISLAMABAD: SA Gardens and Wapda emerged victorious in the National Challenge Cup 2023 quarter-finals, securing their berths in the semi-finals here at the Jinnah Stadium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday. In the first quarterfinal, SA Gardens edged past WSTC with a narrow scoreline of 1-0. Umar netted the lone goal of the match in the 38th minute. WSTC couldn't break through SA Gardens' defense despite a fierce battle.

The head coach of SA Gardens Zafar Iqbal conveyed his gratitude towards the Pakistan



Football Federation for organizing such events. "I am very happy that my team qualified for the next stage," he said. "I would like to thank PFF for holding such events and I hope PFF will continue to organize such events in a professional and befitting manner."

In the second quarterfinal, Wapda secured a victory against PAF with a 1-0 triumph. The decisive goal, scored by Shayek Dost in the 9th minute propelled Wapda into the semi-finals. Commenting on the match, Wapda's head coach, Muhammad Habib, expressed his team's eagerness for the competition. "We have been waiting for the competitions for so long," he stated. "Both the teams played very well and we will continue to carry this momentum in semi-finals."

## GCP wins overall trophy of KP HED Inter-College Boys Games

**PEAK POINT**

PESHAWAR: Government College Peshawar clinched the overall trophy of the Inter-College Boys Games, which concluded here under the aegis of Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Wednesday.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education Department (HED) Meena Khan Afridi was the chief guest on this occasion. Director Higher Education Dr. Fareed Ullah Shah, Principal and Provincial President Sports Committee Professor Dr. Muhammad Ishaq, Deputy Director Sports Dr. Imran Ullah Khan, Regional Directors Hazara, Bannu, Swat, Mardan and Peshawar, Ex-Director Sports and Organizer Peshawar Zone Abdul Rashid Anwar, Principal of various colleges, teaching staff, players, and large number of students



spectators were also present.

The colourful ceremony was started from the recitation from Holy Quran by Daud Sardar, Student of BS Political Science, followed by a Naat Sharif presented by Prof. Bakht Noor Farooqi and the National Anthem.

Speaking on this occasion, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for

Higher Education Department, appreciated the organizing committee for holding different games in which a total of 324 male and female colleges divided in eight different zones across the province took part. He said sports teaches us discipline, unity, tolerance and above all accepting defeats and victories of others. He advised the stu-

dents to take active part in sports which is now an integral part of the academic. He said the present government is fully giving attention to organize different sports activities across the province. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education Department said that the projects related to developing sports infrastructures in the province would be re-started so that to ensure playing field facilities at the Tehsil and District levels. He said a bigger Games involving all the male and female colleges would be organized very soon wherein the cash prizes for the winners, runners-up and third position holders teams and in the individual games would be increased to double. He said no country could progress without education and that is why the government is fully committed to ensure quality education to the youth.

## New Zealand all rounder Mitchell Santner is disappointed at not getting a chance in the IPL

**SYED MUHAMMAD HARIIS**

INDIA: New Zealand all rounder Mitchell Santner has expressed his disappointment over not getting a chance in the IPL. Santner has been with Chennai Super Kings in IPL since 2018 so far he has played only 16 matches. Santner has only been given one match this season with the Kiwi cricketer describing the sit out as a disappointment. Mitchell Santner



is a challenge. Sometimes it is frustrating but try to stay focused. Santner said, "I try to help other players when you get a chance then you should do well for the team."



# Naqvi visits CDA for briefing on administration, management, development

**ARSHAD MALIK**  
 ISLAMABAD, May 8 (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited Capital Development Authority (CDA) for briefing on the administration, management and development of Islamabad. Chairman CDA Mohammad Ali Randhawa welcomed the minister. The minister directed to immediately start development work in sectors which were not developed for 20 years and also to allot plots to the allottees who have not received, despite paying the amount for the same.

He also directed to formulate a comprehensive strategy for early possession of the plot because despite paying money, no possession of the plot is an insult of the

citizens which is definitely not acceptable. Mohsin Naqvi's order to digitization of land records of Islamabad and in this regard CDA tasked for computerising land records in 6 months. It was decided in the meeting that CDA will have a fast one-window system which is a major initiative for the convenience of the citizens of Islamabad. CDA should ensure the provision of services without delay to the citizens of Islamabad so that there is no hassle of waiting, Mohsin Naqvi directed. The Minister ordered to provide more services online and enable CDA's smart app within three months. He also instructed to ensure availability of call centre facility at all times and construction of cycling and walking tracks on green bal-

ance should be completed soon. Naqvi asked for a landscaping and beautification plan in Islamabad and the Diplomatic Enclave will be made the most beautiful area of the city in 3 months. CDA should start work on opening new sectors, Mohsin Naqvi directed adding that he will not tolerate any further delay in the sectors which have not yet been given possession to the people. After introduction with the senior officers of CDA the minister planned a sapling in the lawn of CDA head office. Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Agha, IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Memon, Director Admin ICT Attendance of all CDA members in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting at CDA headquarters.

# Coca-Cola Pakistan Receives Governor's Appreciation Certificate for Responsible Business Practices

**PEAK POINT**  
 ISLAMABAD: Coca-Cola received Governor's Appreciation Certificate at a ceremony in Lahore. This certificate, the highest form of appreciation from the Governor's office, was awarded in recognition of Coca-Cola's vision and its innovative approach to adopt principles of sustainability throughout its operations. Director Public Affairs & Stakeholder Management, Dr. Faisal Hashmi received the award on behalf of the company. The recognition is for the company's initiatives on environmental and social sustainability as part of its portfolio for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), in particular to honor the company being the first to receive rPET approval, Pakistan's first plastic road initiative that Punjab is adopting and being part of awareness building on plastic circularity. "This recognition of our role as a thought



leader reinforces our commitment to work cross-sectionally and stream-line collections, as most of our bottling partner plants are located in Punjab province," said Faisal Hashmi. Coca-Cola's bottling partner, Coca-Cola Içecek a Turkish investor with operations nationwide employing about a million people along the chain. Coca-Cola has pledged that it will work towards recycling about 6000 MT of plastic in 2024 and is working with the government and packaging alliance, CoRE, to formulate a regulatory path for Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate (rPET). This year, Coca-Cola along with its partners, Capital Development Authority (CDA) and National Incubation Center (NIC), will mark the three-year anniversary of the first-ever plastic road of Pakistan. This 1 KM road, thrice as durable, was built in Islamabad under a public-private partnership, using 10,000 tonnes of recyclable plastic and demonstrates scalable ways to reuse un-recyclable plastic.

# CCP Initiates Phase 2 Review of PTCL's Acquisition of Telenor Pakistan

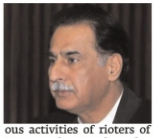
**ZAHID YAQOOB KHAWAJA**  
 ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has successfully concluded Phase 1 of its review of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) acquisition of Telenor Pakistan. This strategic transaction, involving the consolidation of telecom services, marks a significant development in the telecommunications sector for the growth and improvement of services for the customers. Owing to the size of the transaction as well as its impact on market competition, CCP has decided to undertake a more detailed assessment in Phase 2 of the review process. This decision also aligns with CCP's precedence for evaluating Mergers & Acquisitions within the telecom industry. PTCL, a leading telecommunications provider, expresses confidence in the review process and hopes for expeditious final clear-

ance and is actively cooperating with CCP, providing comprehensive information and documentation to facilitate a thorough evaluation. As the telecom landscape evolves, PTCL reaffirms its dedication to innovation, customer satisfaction, industry best practices and also to further advance the ambition of the company towards the betterment of the customers, the company as well as to the economic growth and digital transformation journey. For the customers in particular, the benefits revolve around various domains including superior network coverage in both urban and rural areas by combining the networks of two operators. The consolidation will result in accelerated growth and improvement in broadband services. It will also boost 4G services as well as increase data speeds resulting from combining the data capacity/spectrum of both networks.

# May 9 to be remembered darkest day in Pakistan's history: Ayaz

**SEHRISH NAZ**  
 ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday said that May 9 will always be remembered as the darkest day in Pakistan's history when the very foundations of the country were attacked by the miscreant elements, compromising the integrity and prestige of martyrs. He also said that every patriotic Pakistani has categorically denounced the conspiracy to create a wedge between the nation and its armed forces, said a news release.

"Pakistan owes its existence and integrity to the sacrifices rendered by brave personnel of our security agencies," he expressed these views while denouncing the nefarious designs and mayhem perpetrated by anti-state elements, involved in the riots on May 9, 2023. While strongly denouncing the nefari-



ous activities of rioters of May 9, the Speaker also reiterated that every Pakistani would continue to safeguard the integrity and respect of martyrs who had rendered their lives for the honor and integrity of the motherland. He also said the rogue elements had committed such heinous crimes which were not only unimaginable for every peace-loving and patriotic Pakistani but which even the enemies of Pakistan could never have dared. While referring on the blatant attacks on the symbols of national pride and honor such as the Jinnah House, monuments of the martyrs, military installations and state institutions, the Speaker regretted that no one had ever dared to cast evil eye on these sacred icons of national pride. He reaffirmed the pledge to restore and protect the state assets, adding that Pakistan owed its development and prosperity to sacrifices of brave personnel of Pakistan security forces.

Sadiq also said that exemplary punishment was essential to discourage the propagandists and their handlers involved in 9th May riots. He also said that people and Parliament stood shoulder to shoulder with its security forces especially in the war against terrorism. The Speaker also expressed his firm belief that Pakistani security agencies would eliminate terrorism and extremism from the soil of Pakistan once and for all and Pakistan would again be on the path to progress and prosperity.

# Women role crucial in climate advocacy, mitigation to achieve community resilience: Romina

**PEAK POINT**  
 ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Wednesday said the role women were crucial in climate advocacy and mitigation efforts to ward off serious impacts of environmental degradation and achieve community resilience among the vulnerable population of the country. She was addressing the Pakistan Gender Climate Award 2024 second edition hosted by the civil society coalition for climate change, in collaboration with the Embassy of France, the French

development agency, the European Union delegation to Pakistan, the UAE embassy, and UNDP. Romina Khurshid Alam stated that Pakistan's commitment to gender inclusivity in national mainstream and climate action was unwavering as its national climate policy and adaptation plans have rightfully prioritized gender as an area for action. PM's coordinator stated that the recognition of women achievers through this award ceremony underscores the critical nexus between gender and climate. "It serves as a powerful reminder of the

indispensable role that women play in driving climate action forward, often in the face of unique challenges and barriers," she added. She also extended her heartfelt appreciation to the foreign governments represented at the event for their invaluable support and partnership in the country's collective journey towards a more sustainable and resilient future. While congratulating the women achievers, she also remembered Mr. Shabbir Hussain, climate beat reporter who passed away while reporting & raising awareness on climate change and said her ministry was working on awarding climate hero title attributed to his name. Executive Director, of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC), Aisha Khan in her opening remarks appreciated the commitment and dedication of the winners of the awards towards sustainability, climate resilience and action, community welfare, and innovation. She informed the participants that the submissions for the awards continued for a month whereas it took three months for evaluation and selection of the three most deserving candidates by a five-member jury.

# Shell Pakistan announces profit for Q1 2024

**PEAK POINT**  
 ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) announced the first quarter results for the company. The company posted a profit after tax of PKR 314 million compared to the loss after tax of PKR 476.2 million made in the same period last year.

The Mobility business grew its network with 5 newly commissioned sites and refreshed 13 sites. The business added 13 non-fuel retail facilities across the network. The Lubricants business introduced Shell Lubricant Solutions, providing end-to-end lubricant services to B2B customers, rooted in technical expertise and business collaboration.

In collaboration with Layton Rahmatulla Trust (LRTB), the Company organised an eye camp for mechanics, to provide free eye screening to ensure healthy eyesight and contribute to the well-being of our communities.

Mechanics are an important part of our lubricants partner community. SPL remains committed to operational excellence, safety performance, strengthening its financial position, and play a responsible role in society.

# Pakistan attaches high importance to its ties with Iran: Pirzada

**PEAK POINT**  
 ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Wednesday said that Pakistan attaches high importance to its brotherly ties with Iran. He was talking to Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amir Moghaddam, who called on him. Pirzada said that it was an honour for him to meet and welcome Iranian President Ayatollah Ibrahim Raisi and accompany him during his visit to Pakistan. The minister acknowledged the ambassador's tireless efforts for strengthening the two countries' relationship. During the meeting, the two sides discussed various bilateral issues. They emphasized the shared commitment of Iran and



Pakistan to standing up for the rights of the people of Kashmir and Palestine. They noted that the two countries had been resolute in their support for the two longstanding conflicts. Minister Pirzada lauded the stance taken by Iran on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine, where the world had witnessed a concerning silence from so-called human rights advocates. He highlighted the importance of Iran's principled position in the face of grave injusti-

The minister informed the ambassador that the message of the Iranian President for the Prime Minister of Pakistan had been duly conveyed. Moreover, he himself delivered the Iranian President's message to the people of Pakistan through a speech in the National Assembly, he added. Ambassador Moghaddam commended the efforts and arrangements made by the government to facilitate the visit of the Iranian President, underscoring the importance of such high-level exchanges in strengthening bilateral ties. He expressed appreciation for Minister Pirzada about his speech in the National Assembly upon the Iranian President's recent visit to Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change Environmental coordination Romina Khurshid Alam in a group photo with the Ambassadors of France, European Union, UAE during ceremony of Pakistan Gender Climate award 2024.

# Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar to visit Pakistan on today

**PEAK POINT**  
 ISLAMABAD: The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi will visit Pakistan on Thursday, May 9, as a special envoy of the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrehaman bin Jassim Al Thani.

In Islamabad, the Minister of State will call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz



Pakistan and Qatar have longstanding and multifaceted bilateral relations characterized by high-level exchanges and visits.