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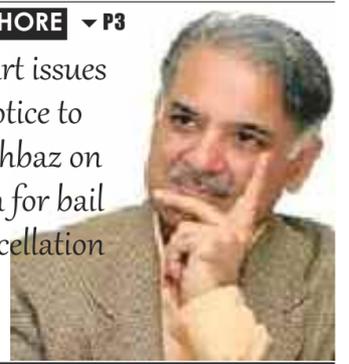
Press clubs play pivotal role in affairs of journalists: Farrukh

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Court issues notice to Shehbaz on plea for bail cancellation



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PM asks youth to protest against 'foreign conspiracy'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has called on the youth to protest for two days against a "foreign conspiracy" being hatched against his government as the National Assembly is all set to vote on the no-confidence motion against him today (Sunday).

"...I want you to protest for a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan," the prime minister said during a live Q&A session with the people on Saturday, as the Opposition looks in a firm position to oust the government.

The PTI effectively lost its majority in the 342-member National Assembly Wednesday when a coalition partner — MQM-P — said its seven lawmakers would vote in support of the

Opposition alliance. Before them, several other allies had switched sides.

The premier said the "conspiracy" against his government has been proven as the politicians were being "traded out in the open" and trying to take down an elected government just because "they don't like it."

The country will "have no future" if the situation keeps moving in a similar manner, the prime minister said, as he advised the youth to hold "peaceful" protests. "This is your right," PM Imran Khan said that when the United Kingdom attacked Iraq under the false pretext of having weapons of mass destruction, two million people came out on the streets and protested against it. —Online



ISLAMABAD: A view of shipping containers at D-Chowk as placed by local administration to block all routes towards Constitution Avenue during security measurement for today's voting of No-Confidence Motion against Prime Minister at Parliament House. —Online

Pakistan not a part of any bloc, but a partner in peace: FM

■ Says Pakistan is a responsible country striving for peace

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Saturday said that rather than becoming a part of any bloc or any conflict, Pakistan had consciously chosen to be only a partner for peace and development.

"We are positioning Pakistan as an economic hub, a melting pot for positive global interests. Centered on economic security, our focus remains on enhancing connectivity, development partnerships, and peace within our borders and beyond," the foreign minister was delivering his keynote speech at the second edition of Islamabad Security Dialogue.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was a responsible country striving for peace, prosperity and connectivity in the region. In principle, Pakistan was also ready to consider East-West connectivity to help address challenges of poverty and underdevelopment in South Asia.

"For that, we obviously need a willing partner that demonstrates good faith, and is committed to creating an enabling

environment for meaningful engagement. Unfortunately, we face a toxic mix in India: an extremist ideological regime, which thrives on anti-Muslim hate and hostility with Pakistan, and will do anything to retain its predominantly Hindu electoral support base," he added.

Qureshi said the recent firing of a supersonic missile by India into Pakistan's territory reflected India's disregard for aviation safety as well as regional peace and stability.

"This incident is consistent with India's irresponsible conduct. It must be addressed by the international community, including the UN Security Council. Despite provocations, Pakistan continues to act with maximum restraint and responsibility," he added.

The foreign minister said it was evident that durable peace, security and development in the region hinged on a peaceful and just resolution of the long-standing Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian Illegally Oc-

cupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), accompanied by unabated repression of Kashmiris, had seriously undermined the prospects of peace, he added.

The foreign minister reiterated that India must halt violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in IIOJK; reverse its unilateral and illegal actions including the demographic changes in the occupied territory; and implement the UN Security Council resolutions which guarantee the Kashmiris' right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices.

"India must also rethink its policy of fomenting destabilization in Pakistan and embrace a progressive agenda that can benefit the entire region. The onus remains on India to create an enabling environment," he added.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was committed to peaceful co-existence and cooperative multilateralism for win-win outcomes. Pakistan's outlook and

Ramzan moon sighted, 1st Ramzan today in Pakistan

PESHAWAR: The moon of holy month of Ramzan was sighted on Saturday evening in Pakistan and first Ramzan will fall today (Sunday April, 3) in the country.

Chairman, Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad who presided over the meeting in Peshawar, announced that the crescent moon of Ramzan-ul-Mubarak has been sighted in Pakistan and first Ramzan would fall on April 3 (Sunday) in the country.

The meeting was attended by members of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, officials of Pakistan Meteorological Department, Ministries of Science and Technology, Religious Affairs, SUPARCO, Aukaf Department and other concerned Departments here at Aukaf Department.

Azad said that moon was sighted by a large number of people in different cities of Pakistan. The meeting of zonal committees were also held in respective cities including Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Islamabad. Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) had earlier predicted the possibility of sighting of Ramzan moon on April 2. —APP

'PTI govt created 5.5m jobs in three years'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib Saturday said that through its prudent economic policies, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government had created around 5.5 million jobs during the past three years.

"The per year jobs average stood at 1.84 percent," he said in his tweet.

The minister said comparing the PTI government's three-year job creation ratio with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's five-year ratio (5.7 million) is incorrect. —APP

Gold prices decline by Rs150 to Rs131,300

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs 150 and was sold at Rs 131,300 on Saturday against its sale at Rs 131,450 in the local market the previous day.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs129 to Rs 112,568 from Rs112,697 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went down to Rs 103,188 from Rs 103,306, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs1520 and Rs1303.15 respectively. The price of gold in international market decreased by \$2 and was traded at US\$1925 against its sale at US\$ 1927, the association reported. —APP

Need stressed to promote Pak-Italy trade ties

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President called on Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of Italy in his office on Saturday.

They discussed with him the prospects for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President and Sheikh Amir Waheed former President ICCI were also present in the meeting. Addressing the delegation, Ambassador of Italy said that his country wanted to further strengthen trade and economic relations with Pakistan to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

He said Pakistan could achieve multiple benefits for its economy by developing close cooperation with Italy. He said that more awareness in the Italian business community about Pakistan would help in enhancing trade relations. He said that Pakistan should focus on value addition of its products and Italy can help it with its advanced technology in various fields including marble and tourism. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI said that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Italy was not reflective of their true potential and urged both the countries to focus on developing. —APP

Global conspiracy for regime change

Fawad directs to set up probe commission

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain immediately after assuming charge of the Ministry of Law and Justice issued directives for setting up a commission on global conspiracy against Pakistan.

The commission would look into the factors such as the change of government and the no-confidence motion through a global conspiracy. The commission would hold thorough investigations into the global conspiracy and compile its report. The federal law minister also issued orders to replace dozens of legal officers in Islamabad,

Karachi and Lahore. He also directed all officers of the Ministry of Law and Justice to perform their duties in an efficient manner.

Fawad greets nation on cancellation of Shabbaz Sharif's bail

Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Saturday congratulated the nation on acceptance of the application for cancellation of Shabbaz Sharif's bail.

In a tweet, he said the hearing of the petition would be done arguments on Monday. He expressed the hope that a decision on cancellation of bail of Shehbaz Sharif would be taken on Monday. —Agencies

Early general polls sole solution to take country forward: Sh Rasheed

ISLAMABAD: Terming next 24 hours crucial for final round of politics, Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Saturday said only early general elections was sole solution to take this country forward.

Talking to the media here, that Minister said the politics in the country was changing every second and situation could be changed after every hour.

Reiterating his support to Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said the opposition's no-confidence motion has increased the popularity of Imran Khan amongst the masses. Those who have sold out their conscience and became dissident would not be able to face people in their constituencies.

The minister said the PM exposed the corrupt elements before the nation but unfortunately, the courts could not indict them on February 18.

He said the no confidence motion

against the PM was a foreign conspiracy and accused the opposition of being a part of it. "They should be charged for treason and their parties should also be banned", he said.

Rasheed suggested three options to counter the motion. "First and foremost, the establishment should intervene and call for early elections immediately either after Ramazan or Haj. The next option, the minister said, was that the three main parties including PML-N, PPP, and JUL-F should be banned and an inquiry should be initiated against them as they brought foreign funded no confidence motion. As a third option, he advised PTI 155 members to resign from all the assemblies.

Referring Article 94 of the Constitution, the minister said even if the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister succeeded, the premier would

continue to hold office until a new leader was sworn in.

"Under the Article 94, the President may ask the Prime Minister to continue to hold office until his successor enters upon the office of Prime Minister," he disclosed. He said the Constitution was silent on how long the process of electing a new leader of the lower house should take after a no-trust vote succeeds. Announcing to launch a political battle against the opposition, the Minister said it was his political responsibility to bury the opposition's politics. To a question he said GHQ was in his constituency and Army Chief was his college fellow and he had voted to him in the last general elections. He said notification to upgrade Waqar un Nisha college into a university has been issued and Rawalpindi was unique city which has five universities. —APP

Full text of Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa's speech at first-ever Islamabad Security Dialogue

Worthy guests, diplomats, panelists, participants, ladies & gentlemen!

Assalam-o-Alaikum & Good Afternoon! It is my profound privilege and pleasure to address this august gathering of some of the best Pakistani and global minds "Together for ideas" is a very appropriate theme chosen by the organisers for this dialogue.

I am certain that the policy practitioners and scholars present here or participating virtually, will not only discuss Pakistan's security vision but also formulate ideas to guide us on how best to tackle Pakistan's future security challenges.

I would like to appreciate the National Security Division for identifying the need for Pakistan to have its own security dialogue.

I commend the NSD and its Advisory Board for putting together the first iteration

-COAS talks about a wide range of internal and external issues during his speech

of this Dialogue. I hope this trend of integrating intellectual input into policy-making continues to grow.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an almost universally acknowledged fact that the contemporary concept of national security is not only about protecting a country from internal and external threats but also providing a conducive environment in which aspirations of human security, national progress and development could be realised. Surely, it is not solely a function of armed forces any more.

National Security in the age of globalisation, information and connectivity has now

become an all-encompassing notion; wherein, besides various elements of national power, global and regional environment also play a profound role National security is thus multi-layered: outer layers being the exogenous factors of the global and regional environment and inner layers being the endogenous factors of internal peace, stability and developmental orientation.

A nation at peace and a region in harmony are thus essential prerequisites for the attainment of national security in the true spirit.

No national leaders of today can ignore these factors. I also firmly believe that no single nation in isolation can perceive and further its quest for security, as every single issue and security dilemma faced by today's world is intimately linked with global and regional dynamics. Whether it be human security, extremism, human rights, environmental hazards, economic security or pandemics, responding in silos is no longer an option.

Ladies and Gentlemen! The world has seen the ravages of World Wars and the Cold War, wherein polarisation and neglect of virtues blighted the human future and brought catastrophic consequences for humanity.

On the contrary, we have witnessed how multilateral rule-based platforms con-

tributed towards the good of mankind.

Today we face similar choices; whether to stay etched in the acrimony and toxicity of the past, continue promoting conflict and get into another vicious cycle of war, disease and destruction; or to move ahead, bring the dividends of our technological and scientific advancements to our people and usher in a new era of peace and prosperity.

We must not forget that the desire to achieve autarky was historically divisive and a stimulus for grabbing more, leading to "Haves" and "Have nots". History has taught us that the way ahead has always been through an interconnected, interdependent and collective sense of security. Today, the leading drivers of change in the world are demography, economy and technology.

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FIQH-E-JAFRIA	
SEHR 4:17	IFTAR 6:35