



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ جو چاہتا ہو کہ اس کے رزق میں فراخی ہو اور اس کی عمر دراز ہو تو وہ صلا رکھی کیا کرے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6429)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Govt crushes people by inflation under IMF pressure: Elahi

Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi says the incompetent government has crushed the people by increasing inflation under IMF pressure. The economic problems will not be solved by approaching International Monetary Fund (IMF). Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who claimed to sell clothes for providing relief, has took off the clothes of the masses. These people are here only to wreak havoc.



Govt to bring country out of economic crisis: Daniyal

PML-N leader Daniyal Aziz says the country is going through a difficult time due to which the government has to take tough economic decisions. Due to poor policies of the previous government during last four years, the country is facing economic crisis. The government in collaboration with the allied parties is committed to bring the country out of the current difficult situation.

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Hours-long outages

Country facing 7,000MW power shortfall

ISLAMABAD: With power shortfall surging to 6,775 megawatts, all nine power distribution companies (Discos) on Friday started observing hours-long forced load shedding urban and rural areas across the country. According to sources, the total demand for electricity in the country is 26,775MW while 5,219MW electricity is being generated from water and government thermal plants are generating 1,284 megawatts of electricity. Meanwhile, the unannounced electricity load shedding up to 14 hours is being carried out in different parts of the country due to power shortfall.

Amid sweltering hot days, the country is being hit badly by unannounced load shedding of up to 14 hours after the electricity shortfall peaked at 7,000MW. According to sources privy to the matter, the duration of unannounced load shedding nationwide remained between six hours to 14 hours after the demand for electricity in the country peaked at 28,000 MW. "There is a nationwide power production of 21,000MW, resulting in a shortfall of 7,000 MW," they said adding that in major cities, there are power outages of an hour after every two hours. The LESCO is also facing a shortfall of 1200 MW after its demand peaked at 5200MW as compared to a power supply of 4000MW. Lahore is facing power outages between six to eight hours. South Asia has been in the grip of an extreme heat wave since last month, with parts of Pakistan reaching a temperature of 50 degrees Celsius as officials warned of acute water shortages and a health threat. Swathes of Pakistan and India have been smothered by high temperatures since April in extreme weather that the WMO has warned is consistent with climate change.

Accountability

President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the ombudsman of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Ch Muhammad Naseem, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

Economic crisis

No more burden on masses; time for elite to sacrifice: PM

Says Pakistan armed forces guarantors of peace, security

Bureau Report

GWADAR/QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Friday said that having increased oil prices again with a heavy heart, the government believed that anymore burden on the poor masses would be unjust and it was a time for the elite class to sacrifice. "I have called a meeting tomorrow... The billionaire elite should come forward and sacrifice for the poor masses and provide their resources through austerity... This will start from me, ministers, advisors, federal and provincial secretaries and government officers," the prime minister said. Addressing the inauguration

ceremony of Eastbay Expressway and groundbreaking of seven more development projects for

PM vows short-term steps to cut inflation, poverty ahead of next polls

Gwadar, he said the elite would have to play their part in that noble cause.

"This is their duty. I will ensure that they shower their resources for the poor and bear strict measures," he remarked. A component

of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the 6-lane Eastbay Expressway would connect the Gwadar Port with the Makran Coastal Highway, also providing a link to Karachi.

While addressing the officers attending the Command and Staff Course at Command and Staff College here Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Friday that armed forces of Pakistan were the guarantors of peace, internal and external security, and regional stability, besides contributing to the global peace efforts. The prime minister paid rich tribute to the achievements and sacrifices of Pakistan armed forces.

On arrival, he laid a wreath at the Shahuada Monument

to pay homage to martyrs of Pakistan. The prime minister said that Pakistan's successes in war against terrorism were unparalleled and duly acknowledged by the world. He said the armed forces had always done a commendable job in service of the nation during natural calamities. The armed forces of Pakistan are very important state institution and are pride of the nation, he reiterated. Shehbaz Sharif said that the country's defence was sacred and Pakistan's security, sovereignty and integrity would be ensured at all costs. "The nation owes its freedom to monumental sacrifices of our heroes our martyrs, the prime minister remarked.

POL prices hiked in best national interest

Marriyum says PTI was in utter confusion in economic matter

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb has said that the government increased the petroleum prices in the best interest of the country. The PML-N leader said that their party knows that the petroleum price hike would damage them politically but they have to make this decision in the larger interest of the people. It would have been easier for us to leave the government and let an interim setup make these decisions but we took the challenge, just like in 2013 when we took the challenge to end 18-hour-long load shedding, she added.

Maryam said that the PTI was in utter confusion in economic matters, they

denied going to the IMF at first, destroyed the economy and then went to the IMF. They changed five finance ministers, seven FBR chairmen and six finance secretaries, she added. Taking to some PTI leaders Maryam said that the people who are criticising our economic strategies are the same people who were fired from their ministries for incompetency. It was the PTI government that did this strict deal with the IMF, the finance secretary was sacked for pointing out the flaws in the deal, she added. They took flour prices from Rs35 to Rs90, but PM Shehbaz is trying his best to provide cheap flour to everyone, she said.

Chaos in Azadi March

Govt likely to file treason case against Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Key federal government officials deliberated over going ahead with filing treason charges against PTI Chairman Imran Khan and the chief ministers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan over PTI's May 25 'Azadi March' during a special committee meeting of the cabinet.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, the cabinet's special committee meeting was chaired by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah. Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Law Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, including Interior Secretary Yousuf Naseem Khokhar and Islamabad Police IG Nasir

Akbar were in attendance. During the meeting, interior secretary and IG Islamabad briefed the participants on PTI's 'Azadi March' held on May 25. The participants deliberated over filing a case under the charges of sedition against former prime minister Imran Khan and the chief ministers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan, and Gilgit-Baltistan, Khalid Khursheed, the statement read.

"However, the committee postponed the meeting to deliberate over the matter further till June 6 to present its final recommendations before the federal cabinet," the statement read. During the meeting, Sanaullah urged the committee to recommend the federal cabinet file a treason case against Imran Khan.

Weekly inflation goes up by 2%

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on June 2 for the combined consumption group, witnessed an increase of 2 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 178.12 points against 174.62 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released on Friday. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 20.04 percent.



percent, 1.41 percent, 1.70 percent and 2.44 percent and 0.15 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 28 (54.90%) items increased, 05 (9.81%) items decreased and 18 (35.29%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded increase in their average prices on WoW basis, included potatoes (9.08%), eggs (6.38%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (4.59%), bread (2.72%), mustard oil (2.65%), pulse masoor (2.33%), cooking oil 5 litre (2.18%), pulse gram (1.99%), sugar (1.93%), cooked beef & pulse mash (1.69%) each, vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (1.51%), bananas (1.35%), hi-speed diesel (20.69%), petrol super (19.91%) and toilet soap (1.40%). The commodities that witnessed decrease on

WoW basis included, chicken (4.68%), garlic (2.75%), wheat flour (1.91%), tomatoes (1.26%) and LPG (0.74%). On year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed increase in prices included onions (177.62%), tomatoes (152.57%), mustard oil (70.50%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (68.02%), garlic (67.44%), pulse masoor (66.92%), petrol (64.78%), cooking oil 5 litre (64.72%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (62.43%), lpg (60.14%), diesel (56.45%) and washing soap (42.92%). The commodities that witnessed decrease in prices included chillies powdered (43.42%), pulse moong (21.62%), electricity charges for q1 (11.71%), sugar (11.16%), bananas (9.95%), potatoes (6.89%) and gur (1.46%).

\$28.80

Rupee sheds 0.17% against US dollar

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee on Friday reversed the momentum as it shed 0.17% to close at Rs197.92 against the US dollar in the interbank market owing to concerns regarding widening trade deficit and depleting foreign exchange reserves. According to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency closed at Rs197.92 compared to Rs197.59 recorded a day earlier.

The decline comes on the back of a widening trade deficit — which peaked at \$43.33b during the 11 months (July-May) of the outgoing fiscal year — and depleting foreign exchange reserves that dropped to levels worth just six weeks of imports — their lowest since December 2019.

A day earlier, the central bank revealed that the reserves held by the SBP fell to \$9.723 billion, below the closely watched \$10 billion level, on May 27. Today's decline was attributed to higher dollar demand from importers that pushed the US currency higher.

Govt planning to get rid of me via treason case: Imran Khan

Says warned neutrals about economic crisis in case of removal of his government

BUNER: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that the government is planning to get rid of him by filing a treason case. Imran Khan made the revelations during his address to a huge public gathering here on Friday. "They [opponents] are talking about the treason trial against Imran Khan. They want to get rid of me through a treason case. Will Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif file a treason case against me — the people who are owning assets abroad? I will never surrender before any superpower like this imported government."

Imran Khan said he wants to ask something from the 'neutrals' — the term the PTI chairman used to mention military establishment. The PTI chairman criticised that being apolitical is a good thing but national security is also important. "I had warned them about a major economic dent if the conspiracy succeeds against my government." "I have always given the examples of the Soviet Union and the United States (US) having the strongest military powers. The Soviet Union had fallen just after the economic collapse."

Khan alleged that Shehbaz Sharif-led government is preparing to rig the upcoming elections and fixing the match with the nexus of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).



Imran Khan granted three-week transit bail from Peshawar High Court

the elections as the nation will always remember them as traitors and thieves. I want to give a message to the nation that we have to fight for real independence." Imran Khan said that India, Israel and the US had hatched the conspiracy to weaken Pakistan. He added that

celebratory moments were witnessed in Indian electronic media and newspapers after the ouster of the PTI government in Pakistan.

He said that the Sharif family has strong ties with the business community of India. "[Indian Prime Minister] Narendra Modi is the person who is involved in atrocities against Muslims but he had been invited by Nawaz Sharif at a wedding ceremony." The former prime minister criticised that Nawaz Sharif had never talked about Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav just to appease India. Imran Khan said that the PTI government had borne the pressure of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and reduced petrol price up to Rs10 per litre.

He added that the PTI government had protected the nation from inflation but the 'US slaves in the shape of the current rulers' hurled petrol bomb at the nationals. He censured the incumbent government for hiking the petrol and diesel prices up to Rs60 in just one week. The former prime minister also expressed suspicions that the current rulers are going to dissolve their corruption cases by shutting down the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). He asked Buner people to be prepared for his call to fight for real independence in the country.

Exports' promotion

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail held a meeting with a delegation of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Atif Munir Shaikh at Finance Division on Friday.



Photo: PID

Petrol price hike challenged in LHC

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The recent hike in prices of petroleum products has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC). Advocate Azhar Siddique filed a plea in the LHC pertaining to fuel prices. The petitioner stated that the federal government has jacked up the prices of petroleum products which would lead to a further rise in inflation. He contended that cabinet permission was not sought for hike in fuel prices.

The petitioner pleaded with the court to declare the recent increase in fuel prices void. The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), the federal government and other concerned authorities have been made respondents in the case. The federal government Thursday increased the prices of petroleum products by Rs30 per litre.

The development was announced by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail while addressing a press conference in Islamabad. After the hike, the price of petrol is set at Rs209.86, diesel at Rs204.15, and kerosene oil at Rs181.56.

Alarming situation

Pakistan draws world attention towards IIOJK

FM Bilawal pens a letter to UN chief's about malicious conviction of Yasin Malik

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, as part of Pakistan's ongoing efforts to draw the attention of the international community to the alarming situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), has addressed a letter to Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres. The letter apprises the Secretary General of the circumstances of Yasin Malik's conviction in a manifestly dubious and politically motivated case filed by the Indian National Investigation Agency, his chronic ailments and the ruthless treatment meted out to him in Indian jails.

It also highlights that the incarceration of Yasin Malik, his sham trial on concocted charges, his malicious conviction and the attempt to portray the legitimate freedom struggle of the Kashmiris as terrorism, illustrate India's blatant disregard of its international legal obligations, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday said. The Foreign Minister underscored that the malicious trial and conviction of Yasin

Malik was a part of Indian government's ongoing attempts to persecute and oppress the Kashmiris and their leadership and to implicate them in fictitious and motivated cases.

He noted that by denying a fair trial to Mr. Malik, arbitrarily detaining him and meting inhumane treatment to him in jail since 2019, India is in contravention of international human rights law, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. He also cautioned that in line with the well-documented pattern of Indian behaviour, there was credible risk of "custodial murder" in case of Yasin Malik.

The Foreign Minister urged the Secretary General to play his role in promoting a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions; and called upon the international community to: Take immediate cognizance of India's outrageous targeting of indigenous Kashmiri leadership through motivated cases; ii. Preval upon India to dismiss all the baseless charges against Mr. Yasin Malik

and ensure his immediate release from prison.

Urge India to release all other Kashmiri leaders incarcerated on trumped-up charges and allow the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to determine their own future through a free and impartial UN-sponsored plebiscite as prescribed in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions; Compel and counsel India to end its egregious violations of human rights against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and implement the recommendations of the two OHCHR Kashmir Reports. Preval upon India to repeal draconian laws including UAPA and repeat UN-supervised investigation into the human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, allow access to independent monitors for assessment of the ground situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and to allow the Kashmiris to determine their own future through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

PPP to hold 'Pakistan Khappay' rallies tomorrow

Kaira criticizes Imran Khan's behavior with opponent political figures

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples' Party has announced to hold "Pakistan Khappay" rallies across the country tomorrow (Sunday) to reject PTI Chairman Imran Khan's recent statement.

The announcement was made by Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira and PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi at a news conference here on Friday. Qamar Zaman Kaira criticized Imran Khan's irresponsible statement and said good governance and implementation on constitution are solution of Pakistan's problems.

Kaira said that former premier Imran Khan has had the same attitude since 2013 and didn't want to change his behavior with opponent political figures. Kaira said that Imran Khan was neither show-

ing flexibility in his attitude nor paying respect to others. "Imran Khan is constantly pressurizing the national institutions and has started the blame game," Kaira added.

Central Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi also strongly rejected the statement of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regarding the division of the country.

He said that now the former Prime Minister had taken political asylum in Peshawar. "Imran Khan always thinks of himself as Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto but he does not have that intellect nor vision," Faisal concluded.

Faisal Karim Kundi said Imran Khan is creating chaos in the country. He said there should be media blackout of Imran Khan as he is promoting hatred in society.

Exports up by 27.78% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country witnessed an increase of 27.78 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. According to PBS data, the exports from the country were recorded at \$28.848 billion during July-May (2021-22) against the exports of \$22.576 billion recorded during July-May (2020-21), showing growth of 27.78 percent. The imports during the months under review also went up by 44.28 percent by growing from \$50.028 billion last year to \$72.182 billion in July-May (2021-22).

Based on the data, the trade deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$43.334 billion, showing an increase of 57.85 percent over the deficit of \$27.452 billion recorded during last year, the PBS data revealed. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports of the country increased by 55.66 percent during May 2022 as compared to the exports of same month of last year. The exports during the month under review were recorded at \$2.601 billion against the exports of \$1.671 billion during the same month of last year.

The imports into the country increased from \$5.297 billion in May 2021 to \$6.644 billion in May 2022, showing growth of 25.43 percent.

IHC bins contempt of court plea against PM

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday dismissed a petition filed against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other members of government, in the context of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) May 25 long march. Barrister Kulsom Khaliq filed the petition sought contempt of court proceedings against the federal cabinet for lodging FIRs against PTI workers. While the petition was heard by Chief Justice Athar Minallah, was declared inadmissible for hearing.

During the hearing, the IHC questioned, "When did the Supreme Court declare that an FIR cannot be lodged?" The lawyer Kulsom took the position that she is a lawyer and his profession prompted him to take the matter up while multiple cases were registered within the courts of Islamabad, government violated court's decision.

Kulsom Khaliq added that the district administration had registered cases in violation of the decision of the apex court, which had then ordered the release of party workers. "Cases have been made against the people of my party," Kulsom added.

CJ IHC Minallah questioned the lawyer, "What was done against you? Was your home raided?"

Avoiding bankruptcy

Tough steps will revive national economy: Petroleum Minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Friday said the incumbent government had taken tough decisions regarding subsidies on petrol and diesel, in compulsion, giving a special focus on reviving the national economy and steering the country out of the confronted financial crunch.

Addressing a news conference along with senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, he said the previous government of PTI gave unjustified subsidies on petroleum products without any budgetary allocations and



approval from the quarters concerned like the ECC and the Federal Cabinet. Terming the subsidies 'landmines'

installed by the PTI government before facing the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan, he said it put around Rs700-800 billion extra burden on the national exchequer in three months, if taxes were included. Drawing a comparison, the minister said around Rs 528 billion expenses were incurred annually to run the affairs of the whole federal government.

Besides, Dr Musadik said the previous government also violated the commitments made with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about the subsidies for getting financial assistance.

Won't accept spoiler's role in Afghanistan: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful, stable and sovereign Afghanistan, saying that the country does not want any spoiler's role in the neighbouring country. Addressing a weekly press conference, FO spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed pointed out that Pakistan was constantly raising concerns over rising terrorism and cross-border attacks. Speaking about the grand jirga in Afghanistan, the FO spokesperson said that the purpose to involve tribal jirga in talks with banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was to establish peace in Afghanistan.

Asim Iftikhar noted that India has

always played a spoiler role in Afghanistan. However, he said, Pakistan would continue to take steps in accordance with the constitution for peace in the region.

"Everyone is aware of India's role in Afghanistan. We want our neighbouring country to be peaceful and free from negative role and we do not want to see the role of any spoiler here," the spokesperson added. In response to a question regarding the flow of Indian aid from Pakistan to Afghanistan, the spokesperson said that the aid was allowed on humanitarian grounds as the Afghan people were facing a serious food crisis. Earlier in April, Pakistan extended

by two months the time for transportation of Indian wheat and lifesaving medicines to Afghanistan via Attari-Wagah border crossing on a humanitarian basis.

The Foreign Office spokesperson in a statement said that the extension manifests Islamabad's sincere efforts towards addressing the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Pakistan had in November 2021 allowed, as a special gesture to the Afghan people, the transportation of 50,000 MTs of wheat and life-saving medicines as humanitarian assistance from India to Afghanistan via Wagah border on exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes.

ECL rules

Bring changes within 'legal ambit' in a week: SC

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday directed the federal government to bring the recent changes in the rules of the Exit Control List (ECL) within the "ambit of the law" in a week.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Mohammad Ali Mazhar, had taken suo motu notice on apprehensions that criminal justice might be undermined by people in authority.

Chief Justice while addressing the Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf said that those suspects were also excluded from the ECL list who were added by the apex court. He further questioned that who add names of people in ECL in NAB cases? On question of CJ Umar Ata Bandial, the Attorney General

said that names in ECL list have been added on the order of NAB chairman. On which CJ said that it means NAB must have added names after thinking carefully. The CJ said that every case in NAB is on corruption case but the bureau does not add everyone in the ECL list. He further said that as per NAB, names of people who were involved in the corruption of billions of rupees have been excluded from the list.

While Justice Mazhar Naqvi said that it would have been better that the names of people could have been excluded from the ECL list after reviewing properly. The government says going out of the country is the basic right of anyone but if that is the case then what is the purpose of ECL, he questioned. The Attorney General said that according to me ECL should not even exist. On which CJ said that we will not decide on a personal opinion. CJ added that to make the arrange-

ments within a week as we don't want to intervene in the authority of any executive.

On a question about ECL amendments by SC judge Muneeb Akhtar, Attorney general said, "The government amended the ECL rules after fulfilling all legal aspects. The cabinet has written that the amendments will be applied retroactively. Amendment of ECL Rules is at the discretion of the federal government." He told the court that cabinet members names were removed from the ECL so the government could function smoothly. "There is no law that states discussion with NAB is necessary for removing the names." SC ordered NAB and FIA to submit the record of high profile cases and to submit the soft copies of every record. While Prosecutor General requested for some time for the submission of the record and said that the orders of SC can be implemented after



the appointment of NAB chairman.

SC said that the government will appoint NAB chairman after proper consultation. We hope that the government will appoint an able and

honest man on the seat. While the court urged NAB to work honestly rather than attacking someone on personal revenge. CJ Bandial said that we should work on application of justice

and not think that on which rank our Supreme Court stands. International watchdogs observe Pakistan on the basis of assumptions not on data. Meanwhile, the SC has adjourned the

NFEH asks govt to take steps to resolve environment issues

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: On the eve of the World Environment Day to be observed on June 5, President National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) Muhammad Naeem Qureshi has said that Pakistan is facing tremendous environment issues, particularly climate change, heatwaves, air pollution, water contamination and deforestation, resultantly, public health and the country's economy has suffered heavy losses.

In a statement, Qureshi said that Pakistan's forest cover has massively deforested to 5.01 percent of its total land, which is too low, as UN standard says a country should have at least 25 percent of its total land under forest cover.

Qureshi said such deforestation has contributed to warming as mean summer temperature in the country has risen alarmingly. Sindh's temperature



in 60 years has risen by 2 degrees centigrade while Karachi has warmed by 3 degrees centigrade in the same period. There is need to reduce this temperature by ensuring mass tree plantation in and out of the city, he added.

He said that the federal as well as provincial government had still not done sufficient work to tackle the environment issues, which was the matter of great concern. He said that Pakistan is among the top 10 countries of the world most affected by climate change in the past 20 years.

He said: "The changes in climate had started around fifty years back due to rapid industrialization with substantial

geopolitical consequences. As things stand, we are at a crossroads for a much warmer world; therefore, effective and efficient strategies are required to tackle climate change causing crippling water crisis in the country."

He said that Pakistan's climate change concerns include increased variability of monsoons, the likely impact of receding Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalayan (HKH) glaciers due to global warming and carbon soot deposits from trans-boundary pollution sources, threatening water inflows into Indus River System (IRS), severe water-stressed conditions particularly in arid and semi-arid regions impact-

ing agriculture and livestock production negatively, decreasing forest cover and increased level of saline water in the Indus delta also adversely affecting coastal agriculture, mangroves and breeding grounds of fish.

Pakistan's water sector remains vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. To ensure that Pakistan is adequately prepared to deal with the changing climatic realities, it is important to understand the nexus between water availability, agricultural productivity and climatic variability, NFEH president said. There is also need to control water losses in rivers, canals, tributaries, and water courses by cementing their canals besides adapting to water conservation measures like drip irrigation system, says NFEH president. He said that 40 percent of drinking water is lost in Karachi due to leakages and pilferage, so actions should also be taken to stop leakages and water theft.

Pakistan rally

ISLAMABAD: 'Istehkam-e-Pakistan' rally, led by prominent business leaders Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Bakhtawari, Sherjeel Mir and others, held here on Friday regarding political & economic stability of country, strengthening provincial coordination, protection of atomic assets and solidarity with Pak Army.



Photo: Spokesman

StormFiber launches ultra-fast broadband in Gujrat, Okara, Abbottabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: StormFiber has been rapidly expanding its Fiber to the Home (FTTH) footprint to provide superior quality broadband to the far reaches of the country. In its latest move, the broadband service provider has added three more cities, Abbottabad, Gujrat and Okara to its fiber-optic coverage, taking its tally of fiberized cities to eighteen.

The strong wave of digitization across the globe has compelled consumers to shift from copper based to fiber-optic based connectivity. This technology offers high bandwidth, scalability and reliability, which are essential to meet the dependencies on an internet connection in today's day and age. StormFiber has been on the forefront in its movement towards digitizing Pakistan through fiberization and currently stands as the country's fastest growing fiber-optic brand.

Abbottabad-The City of Schools: Located at the heart of the famous Hazara Belt, Abbottabad serves as a critical transit point to various major tour-

ist regions such as Nathia Gali, Naran and Ayubia. Besides being a famous travel destination, the city also hosts several outstanding academic institutions, and is often referred to as the City of Schools. Availability of ultra-fast broadband will enable the citizens of Abbottabad access global opportunities, thereby leveraging their talent to its full potential.

Gujrat-The City of Valor: Surrounded by cities such as Sialkot and Gujranwala, Gujrat is a central part of the golden triangle of export economy of Pakistan. The city contributes over 98% of electrical fan manufacturing across Pakistan. The trio has been significantly contributing to the improvement of country's balance of trade, which is expected to accelerate through access of a reliable broadband service.

Okara-The City of Agriculture: Known for its fertile lands, Okara is a major contributor to the potato, tomato, sugarcane, rice, wheat, and maize produce of the country. The city holds a vital position in the agricultural sector of Pakistan and is home to fruit orchards of some of the renowned

companies. StormFiber's expansion to Okara is expected to provide greater accessibility to digital market spaces that would propel the growth of agri-based businesses in the city.

Speaking on the expansion, Fawad Laher, Managing Director, StormFiber, said, "When we started our journey of StormFiber, we had made a commitment of providing superior quality broadband services to the citizens of Pakistan, which they truly deserve. Expansion to these cities testify our resolution and InshaAllah, with our team's sheer dedication and relentless efforts, we will keep striving to further our mission."

Maroof Ali Shahani, COO, Cybernet stated, "Our expansions to Gujrat, Abbotabad and Okara are strongly aligned with our strategic mission of fiberizing the far-reaches of Pakistan. With the speed of digitization in the global arena, it is time Pakistan also makes high strides in this direction. Accessibility to ultra-fast broadband is pivotal to a country's economic growth and we commit to play our role in all possible ways in this journey."

Condolence meeting in memory of Ustad Irshad Ali Khan held

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan held a condolence meeting in memory of Ustad Irshad Ali Khan in the lobby area in which President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah, Iqbal Latif, Ustad Salamat Hussain, Ustad Mahmood Ali Khan, Ustad Khurshid Khan Imran Javed, Waqas Babar, M Ashraf, Zaid H Fahim, and others spoke while Noman Khan performed the duties of moderator.

On this occasion, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah said that people like Ustad Irshad Ali Khan were the capital of the nation. He was second to none. He had a very good and quiet nature. Zakir Ali Khan used to play the drums with his permission. There should be an instrumental music festival so that the young generation has a chance to learn. Inshallah we will have a mega festival in July, he added.

Iqbal Latif, chairman of the Liaison Committee said that he was everyone's favorite personality, his passing is a great loss to us, said Ustad Mahmood Ali Khan said that he was very old with us, he always worked according to the will of the composer, there was a lot of talk about his intelligence.

KP Govt resolves problems of minority community on priorities: CS

PESHAWAR: A delegation from the minority community Friday called on Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Shehzad Khan Bangash and informed him about their issues and problems. Secretary Auqaf Saqib Raza Aslam and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary said that under the Constitution of Pakistan, followers of all religions have equal rights and the solution of the problems of the minority community is among the priorities of the government.

He said "The provincial government is taking all possible steps to solve the problems of the minority community." After hearing the problems of the minority community, he issued directions to the Auqaf secretary for immediate solution.

Dr Shehzad Khan Bangash said that the government respects the rights of minorities and strives to protect their rights. Agencies

In first 10 days

Over 100,000 students registered for MDCAT 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical Commission envisions improving standards of healthcare delivery in Pakistan by fostering an environment that produces healthcare practitioners who imbibe the values of compassion, commitment, and excellence.

The Pakistan Medical Commission strives to improve healthcare education through the advancement of quality medical and dental education in Pakistan. The Pakistan Medical Commission successfully implemented and conducted the single largest computer-based MDCAT examination in Pakistan to ensure that every student entering the field of medical study has the necessary aptitude, knowledge concepts, and analytical skills required for a rigorous medical and dental training program.

During the current year right after PMC announced the registration for MDCAT 2022 in the first ten days of the registration over 100,000 students have already registered and selected their center of choice from among 22 centers in Pakistan and 10 international exam centers and also selected their preferred date for taking the exam.

The Spokesperson PMC stated that PMC has devised a comprehensive complaint management system (CMS) to facilitate students/stakeholders having any issue and for the prompt redressal of their concerns and queries, if any student having registered or wanting to register has any queries or issues please contact us through the online Complaint Management System.

Int'l delegation visits IUB for collaboration

Staff Reporter

BAHAWALPUR: An international delegation visited the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and have collaborative meeting as well as signed Letter of Agreements (LoA) to Inter-Universities Consortium on Climate Change, Sustainability and Conservation (CCSC).

The delegation has fruitful discussion with Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The International delegation includes Dr. Piya Muhammad Rafi from Cardiff University, United Kingdom, Ms. Sana Nasir, Country Representative, Catharsis, Mental Health Solution, Germany. Mr. Nasir Elia, CEO, BritSol, United Kingdom also working in collaboration with UASIASD, UNDP, UNIDO, ADPC, UKAid in Pakistan. Muzaffar Iqbal Ch., Pasban-e-Adab, Literary Forum, Pakistan. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur officers includes Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum, Patron/Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Abid Shahzad, Director, International Linkages, Dr. Muhammad Ali Raza, Director, National Inter-cropping Center, Dr. Muhammad Imran, Chairman, Department of Hospitality Management, Dr. Safeena Sidiq, Senior Medical Officer/Director, Woman Health Center, Dr. Samar Fahad, Director Enabling Center, Mr. Salman Mahmood Qureshi, Director, IUB-Sustainable Tourism, Ms. Kalsoom Akhtar, Member Syndicate IUB.

LCBDDA organizes Open House Session for students of BNU

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Lahore Central Business District Development Authority (LCBDDA) also known as Central Business District (CBD) Punjab organized an on-site open house session for the final year students of the Architecture Department from Beaconhouse National University.

Young & inspiring architects were given a detailed tour of the site with a briefing about the project during their visit. The Technical Directorate of LCBDDA arranged a special session and briefed the students on how to bring forward their architectural perspectives and highlighted the positive aspects of the future in this degree. LCBDDA is profound towards the betterment and development of the country and considers the youth to be the future's driving

force. CEO-LCBDDA, Mr. Imran Amin while sharing his views about the visit said "We at LCBDDA are always keen to facilitate the youth by giving them hands-on experience in the professional environment and improving their professional careers as they are pacemakers and future of Pakistan. CBD Punjab has a strong belief in providing youth a beacon of opportunities where they get life-changing experiences to grow further".

The students were quite excited to get the on-site learning experience. LCBDDA has not only facilitated the youth in the architectural learning or construction sector but also in the fields of IT, Marketing, Finance and Human resources. CBD Punjab has always strengthened its core mission by adding dynamically to the development of the country.

Fearing Stagnation

FPCCI decries unprecedented power tariff hike

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has expressed the shock and awe of the entire business, industry and trade community at the unprecedented, one-tranche and massive electricity tariff hike of Rs. 7.91 / kWh; resulting in Rs. 24.82 / kWh base tariff for the year 2022 - 23, while it was Rs. 16.91 / kWh for the outgoing year 2021 - 22. It is a rate hike of a staggering 47 percent by NEPRA; and, it will jolt the cost of doing business and ease of doing business indices, he added.

Suleman Chawla explained that the cumulative effect of the fuel and power rate increase my unleash a historical economic stagnation; and, will result in a lot of bankruptcies, inevitable defaults on account of electricity bills, many export orders would not be fulfilled, huge loss of employment opportunities and loss of tax revenue

will follow. Acting FPCCI Chief added that inflation has already climbed to 13.8 percent, which is a 30-month high; and, with accounting for the latest developments, it is slated to cross 20 percent in a short span of 4 - 8 weeks.

Suleman Chawla apprised that the collective price spirals through combined multiplier effects of fuel and power prices will affect the masses the worst through food inflation; who will be further hit by impending unemployment. Hence, the government should come up with a protective mechanism for SMEs in consultation with the apex chamber; as SMEs are the real engines of growth and employment generation.

Dissecting the main contributing factors in the power tariff hike, he enlisted rising fuel prices, capacity costs & challenges, transmission & dispatch (T&D) losses and rupee devaluation - which all can be dealt with better management & planning.

RCCI AI and Info Tech Expo begins in Rawalpindi

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A two-day Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology Expo organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) began at a local hotel in Rawalpindi here on Friday.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Federal Minister of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Senator Talha Mahmood. Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Chief Commissioner of Inland Revenue Muhammad Iqbal, Asim Shehryar, CEO IGNITE, representative of Anjuman-e-Tajiranj Shahid Ghafoor



Paracha, former President RCCI, Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Talat Awan, Chairman Expo Raja Omar Iqbal, Vice Chairman Waqas Bin Mahmood, Chamber members including executive members and CEOs of IT companies and a large number of young IT entrepreneurs were also present on the

occasion. Federal Minister Talha Mahmood in his address said that the top priority of the government is to create a conducive environment for the business community. He said that the Rawalpindi Chamber deserves appreciation for organizing the conference and expo. He said that the private

sector should come forward and lend a helping hand to the government. Business and education are closely related. Progress and prosperity can be achieved if both given priority and focus. He assured his services to act as a bridge between the government and the business community. Undoubtedly Pakistan is a country rich in natural resources, however, proper management is required to get the desired results, he said.

Chairman Expo Raja Omar Iqbal gave a detailed briefing on the aims and objectives of the conference including scope, priorities and potential of the IT sector in Pakistan.

The conference also included panel discussions on topics related to artificial intelligence, automation, robotics and industry academia linkages.

Earlier in his address, Chamber President Nadeem Rauf said that IT is an emerging sector. Pakistan's share in IT Services and exports stood at just \$4 billion dollars whereas neighboring country India's share has been manifold, approximately \$133 billion dollars.

ISLAMABAD
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:16 am
Zohr 12:06 pm
Asr 5:05 pm
Maghrib 7:14 pm
Isha 8:56 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
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WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

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CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Waqda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249

N Waziristan confirms eighth wild polio case

MIRANSHAH: In the second case from Miran-shah, a 20-month-old boy was paralyzed by wild polio, health officials confirmed on Friday. The child had onset of paralysis on 15 May and is suffering from disabilities in all four limbs, the Pakistan Polio Laboratory at the National Institute of Health confirmed late on Wednesday. "Following the first two cases in April, the polio programme took immediate steps to ring-fence this area and prevent the virus from spreading further, particularly in the historic reservoirs of Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. Pakistan has made tremendous success against polio over the past few years, and we are taking all steps to protect the gains made by the programme," said Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel.

UNODC Pakistan launches programme for 2022-2025

Julien Harneis reiterates that work of UNODC directly support efforts of Member States related to SDG 16

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Pakistan (COPAK) hosted Government officials, Diplomatic Corps, Civil Society and Private Sector partners to celebrate achievements of UNODC's Country Programme for Pakistan II (2016-2021) and to launch the Third Phase of the Country Programme (2022-2025). The event was held here on Friday.

UNODC COPAK's results under the previous Country Programme (CP-II) 2016-2021 include support at the policy level, with the development, enactment, and approval of Bills and Acts, and assistance at the technical and operational level, training more than 40,000 law enforcement personnel through face-to-face as well as eLearning courses, also providing equipment and infrastructure facilities to Government counterparts. In addition, UNODC supported the creation of important digital platforms such as the Prison Management Information System in 65 Prisons of Sindh and Punjab, and Case Management Information System to facilitate communication between investigation and prosecution.

At the launch, Julien Harneis, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan also reiterated that "the work of UNODC directly support the efforts of Member States related to SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" and SDG 5 "Gender Equality" which is imperative for promoting rule of law, gender responsiveness to fighting crime, improve overall governance structures, and promote citizen-centric policies for sustainable growth."

Sabino Sikandar Jalal, Acting Secretary



ISLAMABAD: From Left to Right: Dr Jeremy Milsom Representative UNODC Country Office Pakistan, Julien Harneis, Resident Coordinator's Office (UN-RCO), Sabino Sikandar Jalal Acting Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control, Shahzad Roy, UNODC National Goodwill Ambassador Country Office Pakistan. Spokesman photo by Ghulam Farid

Ministry of Narcotics Control, pointed out that "Given the complexity and international linkage of trafficking in illicit drugs, no country can win this war alone. Concerted efforts by the international community can help in addressing this menace more effectively". In a video message, UNODC's Executive Director Ms. Ghada Waly expressed her gratitude to all the partners who have been supporting UNODC in Pakistan and shared that the Country Programme is "a tailored implementation vehicle of the UNODC Strategy 2021-2025 in Pakistan-proposing integrated, scalable, and sustainable solutions to address the multifaceted responses to all forms of crime, inclusive of gender-responsive programming for achieving rule of law while promoting human rights".

In addition to the four country-level priorities, UNODC COPAK coordinates and integrates activities with its regional vehicle, UNODC's Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, as well as with numerous Global Programmes. The eLearning cross-cut-

ting programme also provides Government partners with state-of-the-art eLearning modules in English, Urdu, and Pashto.

Dr. Milsom stressed that CP-III will be a much more innovative Country Programme, which will better integrate and synergize all thematic areas at national, regional, and global level.

While engaging with the audience, the Goodwill Ambassador for UNODC Pakistan, Shehzad Roy said, "I had been following UNODC's work even before joining them as a Goodwill Ambassador, The Agency's work is commendable; I am a strong advocate of all they do, and emphasize their mandate specially under SDG 16 - peace and security-which UNODC prioritizes and is so well known for" ... All this work which they are doing is interlinked to make Pakistan a more secure place". He also Government of Pakistan as UNODC GWA for partnering and paving the way for our work. He thanked all the donors for their financial support which had made it possible to bring about change and make a difference".

Health Corner

Coffee may cut risk of acute kidney injury

ISLAMABAD: If you need another reason to start the day drinking a cup of joe, a recent study by Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers has revealed that consuming at least one cup of coffee a day may reduce the risk of acute kidney injury (AKI) when compared to those who do not drink coffee.

The findings, published May 5 in the journal *Kidney International Reports*, show that those who drank any quantity of coffee every day had a 15% lower risk of AKI, with the largest reductions observed in the group that drank two to three cups a day (a 22%-23% lower risk).

"We already know that drinking coffee on a regular basis has been associated with the prevention of chronic and degenerative diseases including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and liver disease," says study corresponding author Chirag Parikh, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Division of Nephrology and professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "We can now add a possible reduction in AKI risk to the growing list of health benefits for caffeine."

AKI, as described by the National Kidney Foundation, is a "sudden episode of kidney failure or kidney damage that happens within a few hours or a few days." This causes waste products to build up in the blood, making it hard for kidneys to maintain the correct balance of fluids in the body.

AKI symptoms differ depending on the cause and may include: too little urine leaving the body; swelling in the legs and ankles, and around the eyes; fatigue; shortness of breath; confusion; nausea; chest pain; and in severe cases, seizures or coma. The disorder is most commonly seen in hospitalized patients whose kidneys are affected by medical and surgical stress and complications.



Using data from the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study, an ongoing survey of cardiovascular disease in four U.S. communities, researchers assessed 14,207 adults recruited between 1987 and 1989 with a median age of 54. Participants were surveyed seven times over a 24-year period as to the number of 8-ounce cups of coffee they consumed per day: zero, one, two to three, or more than three. During the survey period, there were 1,694 cases of acute kidney injury recorded.

When accounting for demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, lifestyle influences and dietary factors, there was a 15% lower risk of AKI for participants who consumed any amount of coffee versus those who did not. When adjusting for additional comorbidities — such as blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), diabetes status, use of antihypertensive medication and kidney function — individuals who drank coffee still had an 11% lower risk of developing AKI compared with those who did not.

"We suspect that the reason for coffee's impact on AKI risk may be that either biologically active compounds combined with caffeine or just the caffeine itself improves perfusion and oxygen utilization within the kidneys," says Parikh. "Good kidney function and tolerance to AKI — is dependent on a steady blood supply and oxygen."

More studies are needed, Parikh says, to define the possible protective mechanisms of coffee consumption for kidneys, especially at the cellular level.

"Caffeine has been postulated to inhibit the production of molecules that cause chemical imbalances and the use of too much oxygen in the kidneys," he explains. "Perhaps caffeine helps the kidneys maintain a more stable system."

Parikh and his colleagues note that coffee additives such as milk, half-and-half, creamer, sugar or sweeteners also could influence AKI risks and warrant further investigation. Additionally, the authors say that consumption of other types of caffeinated beverages, such as tea or soda, should be considered as a possible confounding factor. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Pak-Turkmenistan Relations

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar holds meeting with Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atajan Movlamov at Foreign office and discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest, including energy and connectivity projects.



Photo: Spokesman

PARC working to improve agriculture

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali says PARC towards self-sufficiency in major food items

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Addressing to a ceremony organized by employees association of PARC (EAPARC) held at NARC Auditorium, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali Chairman PARC, said that PARC has the outset focused on agriculture as 70% of the country's population is dependent on agriculture as well as 45% of the employment is related to agriculture.

The Chairman in addition said that owing to the hard-work of these scientists Pakistan is now self-sufficient in its major food items like wheat, rice, sugarcane, maize etc. He assured that



our scientists are always ready to take any challenge faced by the agricultural sector in Pakistan. The Chairman also viewed the steps taken to resolve the issue of contract employees regarding their regularization. Dy. Director General NARC Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Muhammad Ishaq Secretary PARC,

PARC's technical Members including a large number of PARC's scientists / employees were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director General NARC Dr. Imtiaz Hussain said that under the patronage of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali,

PARC would play its outstanding role in agricultural research and development. Together with the scientists of PARC, they will be engaged in achieving the agricultural goals of the country under modern agricultural research system so that the country can move towards agricultural self-sufficiency.

The President of EAPARC Liaqat Ali Wahla assured that the association will continue its efforts to promote scientific research and disseminate knowledge at the doorstep of farmers. He also paid a vote of thanks to the Chairman PARC and Sr. Management for providing promotion opportunities to the PARC's employees

Legend Hotel holds event to pay tribute to A Hameed

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Saima Khusnood performing kathak dance to pay glowing tribute to legendary composer A Hameed on his 31st Death Anniversary.

ISLAMABAD: The Legend Hotel, Islamabad, at its huge and elegant auditorium, paid a glowing tribute to the legendary composer A Hameed on his 31st Death Anniversary.

This was a joint production with Mausikaar and A Hameed Memorial society. Large number of elites and music lovers, including foreigners showed up for the show. They were welcomed by the Hotel and Mausikaar's members.

The event began with a presentation on A Hameed's film songs by a

renowned writer, film critic, and a teacher Aijaz Gul, followed by Mr. Irfan Ul Haq, Director, Legend Travel & Trips, giving details of how this company facilitates the local and international travelers around the world, and how it creates cultural events for them in Pakistan.

The General Manager, Legend Hotel, Tahir Khan emphasized on the importance of cultural events, and vowed to continue with more and more events as the hotel is equipped with all the required facilities. The Managing Director, Legend Hotel, shared about other properties and how this group is growing all

over Pakistan in such a short span of time. President Masuikaar, Dr. Seema Khan thanked the audience and highlighted the contribution of her organization, promoting the culture of Pakistan in Pakistan and abroad, and has provided stage to many legends of today and the past.

The evening began with a beautiful kathak dance of Saima Khusnood, followed by classy performance on Santoor by Ali Raza. The vocalists of the evenings who mesmerized the audience were Mehmooda Qamar, Muhammad Ali, and few others. They all sang hits of A Hameed's compositions.

COMSTECH organizes int'l virtual training on GIS, SRS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH inaugurated two weeks long comprehensive virtual training on Geographical Information System (GIS) and Satellite Remote Sensing: Application for Natural Hazards, Land Cover and Water Resources.

The training was organized in collaboration with International Islamic University in Uganda, National Centre of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar and Department of Forestry, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Dir Upper.

The objective was to develop the participants' basic knowledge of space technology and GIS and to be able to acquire free resources of satellite data and open access software to further enhance the capacity and apply that in their field of interest.

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shafiq from the National Center of Excellence in Geology, University of Peshawar said in his opening remarks that the space sciences and geographical information system are emerging technologies. The application of these technologies include monitoring, management of natural resources, urban and regional planning, governance, and defense. He said the application of space science is expanding tremendously. He said that the capacity of developing countries is not adequate to fully utilize the space technologies to contribute in the socio-economic development. He stressed the need of basic training and capacity enhancement of young researchers so that they can fully utilize these technologies for the benefits of their countries.

Prof. Dr. Ismail, Rector Islamic University, Uganda said in his address that I am delighted to be the part of this event jointly being organized by IUIU and COMSTECH. He encouraged informal communication with open mindedness among the experts of different fields and said such communication lead to the practical projects and initiatives. He said that education is to know the skill and attitude and apply that in your daily life, and this is all about capacity building.

The Coordinator General COMSTECH said that this event is part of OIC Africa Program. Several programs under different thematic areas going to be held under the OIC Africa program for the capacity building of Africa with the emphasis on least developed countries. In the next phase in-person trainings would be conducted in different African member states of OIC.



ISLAMABAD: Joint Secretary Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Arshad Munir inaugurating Digital Media Simulation Lab and Studios at Information Service Academy on Friday.

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 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Can the West win economic war against Russia?

Maximilian Hess

For 100 days Ukrainians have been resisting a brutal Russian invasion; they fight alone but are financially backed by the West. The US Senate just passed a \$40bn aid package with bipartisan support, at least \$15bn of which will go to the Ukrainian armed forces. Much of the remainder is earmarked for the other front in the conflict with Russia: the geo-economic war. Despite these efforts, however, Russia's economy remains on its feet – largely thanks to record-high hydrocarbon prices and continued European gas purchases – allowing the bloody conflict which already claimed thousands of civilian lives and destroyed most of Ukraine to continue at full force. The dire fact that, after all this suffering, Ukrainians still seem to face at least another 100 days, if not more, of ruthless invasion, bloody offensives and unspeakable atrocities calls for a re-examination of the West's strategy and tactics in its economic war against Russia.

The West has a soft underbelly – from Greece's opposition to Russian shipping sanctions, to

the Netherlands' refusal to pump more gas in Groningen, to the opposition in the United States from the Trumpist right as well as the far left to allocating more aid for Ukraine. And while the West has had significant success building a sanctions alliance, including Singapore and Switzerland, the Global South – at risk from Russian threats to global agricultural markets and wary of previous Western policy disasters – is hesitant to fully put its weight behind a sanctions regime. To increase the success of its sanctions regime, the West needs the support of more nations, and to achieve this, it needs to ensure it has developed strategies to protect not only itself but any potential allies from costs. There is no way that the West can expect would-be allies such as Serbia to refuse Russian gas deals when no genuine alternative is on offer.

Nearly one-quarter of the funding authorised in US President Joe Biden's Ukraine aid bill is earmarked for mitigating the war's economic impact on Ukraine and third countries. It is a start, but it does not go far enough – Ukraine's own reconstruction bill is already in the hundreds of billions of dollars. It is a band-aid approach, where-

as what is required is the grafting of a new limb to replace the Russian one Putin has severed, for Putin's war on Ukraine is a war against the current world order. Several Western nations have already taken significant steps to try and preserve the status quo and protect themselves from potential future aggressions by Russia. For example, many European states re-embraced defence spending and Germany even altered constitutional debt limits to do so. However, even this newfound sense of Western unity is insufficient in such a globalised era – India, for example, is happy to buy Russian oil at a discount to global prices.

Furthermore, the longer the war drags on, the more enticing Moscow's offers to jointly challenge the US-led order may seem to Beijing, which has so far refrained from offering Russia direct economic support. The West needs to adopt a new "neomercantilist" approach to sanctions, embracing "the need for strategic trade protectionism and other forms of government economic activism to promote state wealth and power". The nature of the geo-economic war is to remove Russia's state wealth and power while avoiding the

same for the West and its allies. That does not mean the ultimate aim should be to end liberalism and the free-trading world, but neomercantilist tools can and should be employed to protect it in the long run from Russia's existential threat. Some of the groundwork for this has already been done, such as the US efforts to restructure development support under the Development Financial Corporation (DFC).

Other worthwhile proposals include the Department of Energy offering to sell oil options and potentially pledge secure supplies to allies, to help limit uncertainty. But these efforts do not go far enough. Just as Congress authorised Biden's \$40bn Ukraine bill, for example, it rejected a proposal to effectively expand DFC. Europe can put forward solutions too, for example socialising the cost of major increases in gas drilling in the Netherlands. Such a policy can be implemented far more quickly than building new LNG terminals, though efforts to build new energy infrastructure should also receive significant state support. European export credit agencies should be part of the fight, significantly expanding their capita could make them a key factor in making sanctions support and

compliance more attractive for the developing countries.

Another vector of this approach should be a Western acknowledgement that food system inequality, fragility and interdependency mean Russia's blockades will potentially be far more crippling to the Global South.

A Western merchant marine and aid plan should be developed immediately to mitigate this and build credibility with would-be allies threatened by Putin's perfidiousness. Finally, the US must remember it has a geo-economic lever more powerful than any other – the use of federal reserve swap lines. The selective offering of such support could help bring even the most reticent partners into line with Western sanctions given its potential to provide economic and monetary stability. Demand-side policies are the carrots to the supply-side policies' sticks in the West's geo-economic war against Russia. They must be the focus of the coming offensives, for without them this war will be far more costly and difficult to win.

The writer is a Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute and a Political Risk consultant. Courtesy Al Jazeera

Kashmiris' genocide in IIOJK

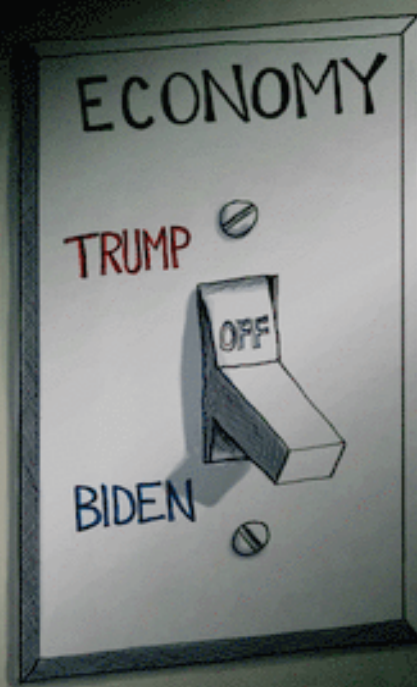
India is trying to put the new wine in old bottles, by repeating 1990s old mantra of blaming Kashmiri freedom lovers and Pakistan for its dirty game and achieving its nefarious targets. According to the credible information, after getting the occupied valley free from Hindu Pandits, a plan of Muslims' genocide would be implemented. It is agenda of Modi regime who is forcing Pandits to leave Kashmir to prepare ground for genocide of Kashmiri Muslims and to defame Kashmiris' freedom struggle as the Pandits are being targeted in Kashmir is under a well-thought-out plan to create hatred between them and Muslims.

The Indian government is also changing demography of IIOJK as already International experts have warned of impending danger of genocide in IIOJK as US-based Genocide Watch has warned India is preparing for genocide in IIOJK. It is duty of Int'l community to act fast to prevent genocide of Muslims in IIOJK and to resolve Kashmir as per UN resolutions and will and wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir which will bring peace and stability. The plan was aimed at trying to artificially alter the demography of the Muslim population in the occupied valley.

The Indian government was implementing a plan to settle the pandits in separate colonies on the Israeli pattern. However, the Kashmiri Pandit community was protesting over the BJP government's discriminatory treatment. With Kashmiri Pandits already unsatisfied over the failure of fulfilling the promise of providing security and the poor law and order in IIOJK, efforts were also being made by the Indian government to create hatred between the Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims. According to the information, the talks of atrocities on Hindu Pandits in IIOJK were nothing but mere lies and propaganda.

Since the civilians were never ever targeted in the Kashmiri freedom struggle, the claim of targeting Pandits was also incorrect. India has been portraying the Kashmiris' freedom struggle as terrorism and communalism for decades. Under a planned strategy, Hindutva BJP-RSS India by buying some people and established groups in IIOJK promoted them as militant organisations and defamed the original freedom struggle of Kashmir. Hurriyat leadership, which never forced the Kashmiri Pandits to leave IIOJK, was even today ready to take responsibility for protecting Hindu Pandits in their own places not in separate colonies. Muslims, who were in favour of the Kashmiri Pandits' presence in IIOJK, also wanted their participation in the Kashmiris' self-determination. The illegal Indian act and violation of International law on August 5, 2019, not only made the life of Kashmiris miserable and terrible but also turned the whole region into destabilisation and unrest. According to the information, contrary to Indian claims that the situation in IIOJK is returning to normalcy is, in reality, rhetoric and lies for the outside world. The real situation in IIOJK is altogether different. India is thus trying to create a highly militarized Safe Zone for Kashmiri Pandits by splitting the Kashmir Valley and enslaving the Muslims of the Valley on a pattern adopted by Israel in Palestine. Meanwhile, according to Kashmir Media Service, the Indian Home Ministry has reportedly advanced deployment of remaining companies of Indian paramilitary forces and has directed strengthening of forces at Police Stations, Police and Indian troops Posts level in Kashmir valley in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

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Time to start healing the planet

Andrew Hammond

As final preparations are made for World Environment Day, the Earth is facing a triple emergency. While pollution poisons much of our air, land and water, we are also discovering that habitat loss and other related pressures mean an estimated 1 million species are threatened with extinction. Yet, as important as these twin challenges are, perhaps the single biggest environmental problem is global warming, as the climate is heating up too quickly for people and nature to adapt to. It is the climate challenge that will be the focus of the UN's Bonn climate conference, which starts on Monday after preparatory meetings this week, only half a year after COP26 in Glasgow. As will be discussed in western Germany, the good news is that the climate-related solutions and technology already exist and are increasingly affordable. However, the needed collective, transformative action is being held back, including by the impact of the Ukraine war.

That conflict has seen a significant shift, especially in Europe, around the concept of energy security. This reflects the deep dependence that much of the continent has on Russian supplies of fossil fuels. In May, the EU announced both a partial oil embargo and a new energy plan to try to tackle this. The oil embargo agreed on Tuesday will see about 90 percent of Russian oil banned by the end of the year. This was agreed only two weeks after the EU had set out a new "RepowerEU" energy plan with a headline goal of aiming to cut Russian gas out of the European energy equation before 2027, and

by two-thirds before the end of 2022. The European Commission claims 95 percent of the plan's €300 billion (\$320 billion) in financing will go into the energy transition, speeding up the Green New Deal, including €86 billion for renewables and €27 billion for green hydrogen infrastructure.

Critics of this, including the UK's COP26 President Alok Sharma, are worried the European Commission may be substituting dependence on Russian oil and gas with imports from other countries by investing billions in, for instance, gas import terminals in Germany, Finland and the Netherlands, as well as pipelines in Croatia, Poland, Greece, Spain and Italy. The bloc is enabling increased natural gas purchases from nations like the US, Egypt, Israel and the Gulf states, producing more biomethane and having coal plants run longer hours. It is in this context – and the world's failure to so far meet the delivery timetable on cutting carbon dioxide emissions set out in Paris in 2015 – that the Bonn conference meets. The UN will once again make clear that only urgent, unprecedented action can avoid worsening risks of drought, extreme heat and floods across the globe.

So, the scale of the challenge is huge and growing. Actions that are affordable and feasible need to be taken collectively by governments, businesses and individuals as the world seeks to turn this situation around under the terms of the flexible 2015 Paris treaty, which has the potential to be ratcheted up. The challenge is keeping temperature rises to no more than the mark of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as set out by the Paris agreement. But the UN warns that there is now a very high risk that, under current emissions trajectories and national pledges,

global warming will significantly exceed that amount. While the difference between a 1.5 C degree rise and higher may seem inconsequential to some, the difference is profound, according to the UN. For instance, the portion of the global population subject to water stress could be 50 percent lower with overall warming of 1.5 C compared to 2 C. Meanwhile, a forecast 99 percent of corals could be lost at 2 C compared to perhaps 10 percent at 1.5 C.

What is now needed is proactive, concerted global action, starting in the second half of 2022, and the roadmap for moving forward is already clear. Firstly, implementation of the Paris deal will be most effective through national laws, where politically feasible, as legislation is difficult to roll back. While the 2015 pledges made in Paris are not yet enough, the treaty put in place the domestic legal frameworks that are crucial building blocks to measure, report, verify and manage greenhouse gas emissions. In the future, the ambition must be that these frameworks are replicated in even more countries and are progressively ratcheted up. As World Environment Day approaches, we must double down on transforming our economies and societies to make them more inclusive, fair and connected with nature, shifting from harming the planet to healing it. There may still be time if we act now to help co-create and implement, with governments, businesses and other organizations, what could become the cornerstone of sustainable development, with the implementation of the Paris Agreement at its heart.

The writer is an Associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics. Courtesy Arab News

A moment of reckoning at Davos

Mark Leonard

Davos Man has had a grim 14 years. The late Harvard University political scientist Samuel P. Huntington popularised the term in 2004 to describe a new overclass of evangelists for globalisation. Davos Man, he claimed, wanted to see national borders disappear and the logic of politics superseded by that of the market. But since the 2008 global financial crisis, politics has increasingly trumped economics, a trend that reached its apotheosis in 2016 with Donald Trump's election in the United States and the Brexit referendum. Both events represented a backlash against Davos Man's vision of a frictionless world governed (not run) as efficiently as possible by "multi-stakeholder processes." Moreover, at this year's annual gathering in Davos, attendees had to confront an even bigger challenge than national politics: the return of geopolitics.

Political and business leaders grappled with the fact that we now live in a world where central-bank reserves can be confiscated, commercial banks can be summarily disconnected from the SWIFT international payments system, and private assets can potentially be seized to pay for a country's reconstruction. The sessions on climate change, meanwhile, looked beyond the Paris climate agreement's decarbonisation targets to focus on the links between the war in Ukraine, the current global energy crisis, food shortages, and inflation. For example, German Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck held a panel with India's petroleum and gas minister and the CEO of an oil company to discuss whether Europe and India can end their use of Russian oil and gas without setting back their economic goals. A panel on migration dealt not with the question of skills training – as would have been the case in previous years – but rather with the weaponisation of refugees.

At a panel on the future of technology, a senior

Japanese policymaker discussed how geopolitics is transforming the relationship between the market and the state. In the old days, innovations like the internet were initially developed by the state and then picked up by private companies.

But today, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, drones, and other technologies are being developed by the private sector and then weaponised by the state. Export controls and restrictions on technology transfers thus have become essential elements of national security.

But the most anxious of all sessions were those focusing on the fear of a new cold war, which would spell the end of the globalised world. Many leaders from outside Europe and North America sympathised with Ukraine but refused to see the war as a global conflict about values.

They worried that Moscow's actions, and the countermeasures taken against Russia, would accelerate the fragmentation of an already divided world through rising energy prices, mass starvation, and the politicisation of markets. Moreover, they did not buy into the notion, heavily promoted by the Biden administration, that we are in a battle between democracy and autocracy. That framing, they feared, would lead to a world even more deeply divided along ideological lines. Representatives from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia repeatedly expressed fears of having to choose between China and America, describing that prospect as an "existential threat."

This year's Davos gathering was totally unrecognisable from the conference I started attending 15 years ago. It is now clear that while Davos Man was not interested in geopolitics, geopolitics has become very interested in him. The weaponisation of interdependence has reshaped every aspect of his life. The geopolitical takeover of globalisation is almost complete, and its primacy will almost certainly outlast the war in Ukraine.

The writer is Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Courtesy Gulf News

Schoolchildren should hold high slogan “Learn for a thriving Korea”

Kim Jong Un becomes pillars supporting a prosperous future Korea

Spokesman Report

PYONGYANG: Dear members of the Korean Children's Union across the country, Dear delegates to the National Meeting held in celebration of the 66th anniversary of the founding of the KCU, I am very happy and pleased today to see you, our proud KCU delegates, who have come from various parts of the country, from as far afield as Jongilbong Secondary School at the foot of Mt. Paektu and Chodo Secondary School on the front line of the country, and other model KCU members.

When I see your dignified appearances and dear faces, I feel as if I am seeing your friends and teachers, your parents, brothers and sisters who saw you off on your journey to Pyongyang.

I extend warm congratulations to you delegates and other KCU members across the country, who are greeting the KCU founding anniversary amid the great concern and blessing of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people in this hope-filled period when the dawn of a thriving socialist country is breaking.

My warm greetings also go to your teachers and parents who are striving to bring you up as excellent persons. June 6 is a special holiday not only for the KCU, but also for our Party and all our people. Nowhere else in the world are schoolchildren like our KCU members, the several million of whom, with red neckerchiefs around their necks, are all rallied behind their organization and who are growing up to be dependable masters of the future.

Our KCU members boundlessly love the benevolent Party and their motherland that embrace them and are bringing them up; they are studying diligently, living in high spirits and exalting the honour of their country by dint of their outstanding talents. To our Party and country, you dear KCU members are treasures more valuable than billions of tons of gold, and represent our hope and our future. In the past, our dependable KCU members carried forward the revolutionary traditions of the Anti-Japanese Children's Corps and, flying proudly the flag of the KCU, fought bravely for their motherland and people and performed many laudable deeds.

The children's vanguard and child guerrillas were born in our country, and the heroic deeds performed by our KCU members such as defending the portraits of their leaders and saving forests from fire even at the sacrifice of their lives have never been seen anywhere else in the world.

Our KCU members are patriots who have donated Sonyon (children's) tanks, aircraft and ships to the Korean People's Army and contributed to socialist construction and the development of their country's economy. In the days of the "Arduous March" they overcame the trials, displaying patriotism as they zealously studied and briskly conducted such socio-political activities as schools assisting military units.

Former KCU members have now become heroes and labour innovators who are held dear and respected by people across the country, or officials responsible for major national affairs. They are here today to congratulate the KCU members of the new generation. Our Party and people regard it as a source of great pleasure and pride to have such an excellent children's organization, and a bright, promising future is in store for Songun Korea with this large contingent of young revolutionaries numbering millions.

Today the KCU, nurtured in the benevolent embrace of the great Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il who were endowed with boundless affection for children, the future of the nation, has developed into a powerful organization of successors to the revolution that is demonstrating its dignity to the world. Every trace on the path traversed by the KCU is associated with the warm care of the Generalissimos, who put forward new slogans for it in keeping with the progress of the revolution and guided its work at every step in order to train its members into true sons and daughters who are infinitely loyal to the Party and their socialist motherland. Our Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were ever-victorious, iron-willed commanders who left the enemy shaking with fear; yet to the schoolchildren, they were benevolent fathers who loved them dearly and cared for their learning in every detail.

They made it an eternal policy of the DPRK to give free education to the children across the country and supply them with new school uniforms—the first such policy in the world; they had splendid palaces and camps built for them in the best locations in the country and were always anxious to provide them with better things.

The world knows no such leaders as our great Generalissimos who, calling children the kings of the country, ensured that caring for them was the most important of the affairs of the Party and state, and devoted their whole lives to the good of the children. The KCU is truly the glorious Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il organization of children, which developed under their warm care, and membership of this organization is a source of great pride and glory for KCU members.

Dear KCU members, You are successors to the Songun revolution and masters of the future. The future of Korea is yours, and in your faces we see the future of the country. Our Party is determined to hand down to you a thriving socialist country that will be the greatest in the world.

The prosperous and powerful Korea you will be in charge of will be a country where laughter fills every home, where everyone is living in harmony and which is the strongest in the world. It is you who will take charge of this great country and make it even better. KCU members should always remember the great trust in and care for them shown by the great Generalissimos Kim



Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and, just as sunflowers turn towards the sun, make positive efforts to learn from the glorious childhood of the Generalissimos.

You should steadfastly carry on the line of the revolution, flying the flags bearing the immortal smiling images of the Generalissimos in front of the KCU flag. The KCU is the dependable reserve of the KPA and the youth league, which are the vanguard of the Songun revolution in carrying out the cause of our Party.

KCU members should become genuine young revolutionaries and the vanguard in the Songun era who defend the Party to the death, just as Kim Ki Song and Kim Kum Sun, heroic members of the Anti-Japanese Children's Corps, did and the child guerrillas did during the Fatherland Liberation War, and they should advance straight ahead along the road indicated by the Party. What is important for KCU members at present is to prepare themselves as able revolutionaries who are knowledgeable, morally sound and physically strong, and pillars of a thriving Korea.

The future of a thriving Korea will be represented first in their academic records. In our country, where now space rockets are launched and CNC machines produced in large quantities and which will be at the forefront of development in the future, schoolchildren with a poor

Congratulatory speech at national meeting of Korean Children's Union held in celebration of 66th anniversary of its founding

academic record are good for nothing and cannot keep up with the country's progress.

Schoolchildren should hold high the slogan, "Learn for a thriving Korea," and study zealously without idling even a moment. The ranks of the KCU should produce inventors and scientists who will distinguish themselves worldwide with their great achievements.

Schoolchildren should, in a spirit of patriotism, study well, observe socialist ethics, love their organizations, collective and fellows, respect their teachers and elders, take an active part in sport and do-good-deeds movements, and thus become model KCU members. It is in the KCU that people experience a political life for the first time in their lives.

The red KCU neckerchief has been inherited from the Anti-Japanese Children's Corps and is also a part of the red flag of the Workers' Party of Korea. KCU members, bearing in mind that the honour of Party membership and the gold medal of Hero start from the red neckerchief and badge of the KCU, should take part in an organizational life voluntarily and sincerely.

They should acquire the habit of treasuring their organizations, taking a voluntary and active part in an organizational life and implementing without fail the tasks assigned by their sub-branch organizations. Standing behind them are their KCU school instructors and their class teachers—their KCU sub-branch instructors—who are their most intimate mentors and the protectors of their political integrity.

Our Party places great trust in the KCU school instructors and its sub-branch teachers. It hopes that they will follow in the footsteps of the instructors of the Anti-Japanese Children's Corps and take care of and love.

DPRK Govt pays close attention to education, healthcare for children

“Children of Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage will grow happily”

Spokesman Report

PYONGYANG: In early September this year members of the diplomatic corps in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea visited Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage. Following is part of their impression:

The Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK pay close attention to the intellectual education, healthcare and even food supply for children.

It is hard to believe that these are orphans as they are under such scrupulous care. Comrade Kim Jong

Un is, indeed, the genuine father of the children, said Cuban ambassador.

I was quite moved while looking round the orphanage equipped with all the conditions necessary for the orphans' living. The leadership of the DPRK and the Workers' Party of Korea spare nothing for children.

I could feel Comrade Kim Jong Un's direct care in every nook and cranny of the orphanage, added Russian ambassador.

Taking care of orphans is a Gordian knot and economic burden in other countries. However, the DPRK gives importance to bringing up orphans and

Diplomatic Corps' members in Democratic People's Republic of Korea visit Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage

provides them with all the conditions for their happy living even though everything is in short supply.

I was struck with wonder as I saw that these baby home and orphanage are giving the orphans education necessary at the stages of nursery and kindergarten, said Syrian ambassador.

During his on-site guidance at the Baby Home and Orphanage, General Secretary Kim Jong Un paid close attention to the living and studying conditions for orphans and the management of these facilities. This shows his warm love for orphans. I hope that the children of Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage will grow happily under his warm care, said Chinese Councillor.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,314.88	42,237.91
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,310.94	41,145.35
Index Value	Change
4,788,078,877	- 923.03
Percentage	Time
-2.19%	3 Jun, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,532.95	- 74.71
Percentage	Time
-0.98%	1 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,068.26	- 180.02
Percentage	Time
-0.54%	3 Jun, 10:27 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,761.57	+ 347.69
Percentage	Time
+1.27%	3 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	140.4	141.65
Bahrain Dinar	527.34	531.84
Canadian Dollar	156.84	158.19
China Yuan	25	25.25
Danish Krone	28.6	28.95
Euro	207.5	209.5
Hong Kong Dollar	25.27	25.62
Indian Rupee	2.55	2.63
Japanese Yen	1.44	1.48
Kuwaiti Dinar	647.67	652.67
Malaysian Ringgit	45.28	45.73
New Zealand \$	129.24	130.44
Norwegians Krone	21.18	21.48
Omani Riyal	515.68	520.18
Qatari Riyal	54.47	54.97
Saudi Riyal	51.9	52.5
Singapore Dollar	144.77	146.07
Swedish Korona	20.31	20.61
Swiss Franc	207.17	208.92
Thai Bhat	5.78	5.88
U.A.E Dirham	53.2	53.8
UK Pound Sterling	243.5	245.5
US Dollar	196.4	198.5

FrieslandCampina
Engro celebrates
World Milk Day**Staff Reporter**

MULTAN: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) has organized a seminar on "Dairy is for life" at Bahaud-din Zakariya University (BZU) in Multan to commemorate World Milk Day.

Speakers at the seminar highlighted the importance of milk in the nutrition of daily lives including various aspects of its consumption for the treatment of malnutrition among adults and senior citizens and the phenomenon of stunted growth among growing kids in the country.

The event was addressed by distinguished academicians and experts including Vice Chancellor (VC) of Bahaud-din Zakariya University Prof. Dr. Mansoor Akbar Kundi along with former DG Prof. Dr. Nuzhat Huma, National Institute of Food Science and Technology, Prof. Dr. Khalid Ahmed Gul, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Nishtar Hospital, Multan, Prof. Dr. Hakoo-mat Ali, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Saeed Akhtar, Director Institute of Food Science and Nutrition, Dr. Muhammad Tauseef Sultan, Associate Prof. IFSN, Prof. Dr. M. Riaz, President Academic Staff, BZU, Dr. M. Hanif, Chairman Dept of Economics, Col. Azhar Nadeem Buzdar, Manager, FCEPL, Mr. Ahmed Zubair Mughal, Head Research and Development, FCEPL, Prof. Dr. Abdul Raheem, Islamic Studies, Mr. Javed Iqbal, CEO, Doaba Foundation, Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, Chairman Dept of Food Sciences, Prof. Dr. M. Zubair, Dean Faculty of Pharmacy, BZU, Prof. Dr. M. Umar, Social Sciences, Dr. M. Farooq, Director Quality Enhancement, BZU, Mr. Shahid Mubeen, Quality Manager, Volka Foods, Dr. Farukh Arsalan Siddiqui, Gen Sec, ASA, BZU.

The seminar concluded with the MoU signing ceremony between FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) and Bahaud-din Zakariya University.

ICCI slams unprecedented hike in the prices of POL products*Shakeel Munir says decision would badly squeeze purchasing power of common man leading to sharp decline in growth of business activities***Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the government has made massive hike of Rs.60 per litre in the prices of petroleum products within a week, which is the unprecedented increase and termed it a very harsh decision that would unleash a new wave of high inflation and cause great increase in the cost of doing business.

He said the decision would badly squeeze the purchasing power of common man leading to a sharp decline in the growth of business activities. He said that the government has also hiked electricity price by Rs.8/unit that would give rise to production cost and further push up inflation. He urged that the government should immediately reconsider such unwise decisions to save the businesses and the people from its dire consequences.

He said this while addressing a meeting of the business community.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that the



price of petrol has jumped to almost Rs.210/litre and diesel to over Rs.204/litre taking these prices to the record highest level in country's history. He said that this unprecedented hike in POL prices would multiply the energy and transport costs and further increase the cost of doing business due to which trade and industrial activities would badly suffer.

ICCI President said that the SBP has already increased the policy interest rate by 150 basis

points, taking it to 13.75 percent, which has made credit cost unaffordable for the business community. He said the recent hikes in POL and electricity prices would make our products more uncompetitive in the international market and affect exports.

He wondered who would do business and invest in Pakistan in an environment of frequent hikes in the utility tariffs and POL products. He stressed that the government should make dras-

tic cuts in all non-development expenditures and reduce the profit margins of OMCs instead of putting an unbearable burden on the masses. He urged that in these difficult times, the government should avoid taking harsh measures and focus on promoting ease of doing business to improve exports and steer the economy out of current challenges.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that petrol price has gone up from Rs.108.56/litre to around Rs.210/litre and diesel from Rs.110.76/litre to over Rs204/litre from 1st June 2021 to 3rd June 2022, which shows an increase of almost 93 percent and 84 percent respectively in a period of just one year. They said that the repeated hikes in the POL prices and utility tariffs would shatter the confidence of investors who needed consistent prices and tariffs to make long-term investments in Pakistan. They urged that the government should reconsider the latest hikes in POL and electricity prices to save the masses, businesses and the economy from further troubles.

DHA Possession of Plots

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: Administrator DHAI-R opened the "Possession of Plots" Sector A, B & C, Phase-IV. Secretary DHAI-R along with senior officials were also present at the occasion. It was attended by a large number of respected members and the real estate community.

**IT Park to be established near Karachi Airport: Amin ul Haq****Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunications Syed Aminul Haq has informed that a piece of land at a cost of Rs31 billion has been acquired from Civil Aviation Authority near Karachi Airport for setting up an IT Park in Karachi where plots will be available at much lower rates so that maximum number of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) associated with IT services could be encouraged to establish their businesses at the IT Park which will be fully equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and all IT related facilities.

Exchanging views at a meeting during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), the IT Minister said that ground breaking ceremony for IT Park will be staged within the current month and the leadership of Businessmen Group and Karachi Chamber will be specially invited to grace the ceremony with their presence.

Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala, Vice Chairmen BMG Anjum Nisar, Jawed Bilwani, General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil, President KCCI Muhammad Idrees, Vice President Qazi Zahid Hussain, Former Presidents Majid Aziz, Shamim Ahmed Firpo, Agha Shahab Ahmed Khan and KCCI Managing Committee Members attended the meeting.

Amin ul Haq, who was accompanied by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Faisal Ali Subzwari and Member National Assembly Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, further informed that although he intended to launch 5G technology in the month of December 2022 but it has been extend-



KARACHI: Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala and President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Idrees presenting crests to Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haq and Member National Assembly Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui during their visit to KCCI.

ed for three months to March 2023 which will initially be launched in major cities of Pakistan.

He said that rigorous efforts were being made to improve IT exports and an ambitious target of US\$15 billion has been set for IT exports in the next five years. "We want to bring the IT exports at par with textile exports and would strive really hard to leave behind the textile exports and make IT exports the leading exports of Pakistan", he added.

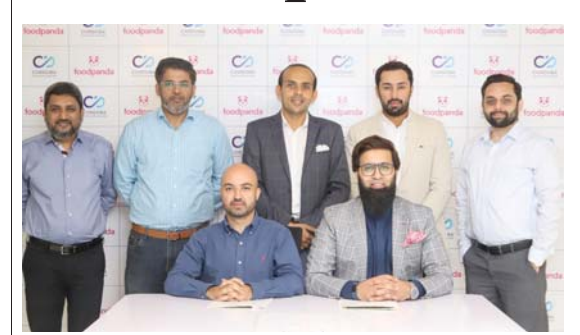
"When I assumed charge of the Ministry, the IT exports were less than \$1 billion which improved to US\$1.4 billion in 2019-20 and reached US\$2.1 billion 2020-21. We expect IT exports to rise further and reach US\$3 billion this year", he said.

He further stated that the Ministry has invested a sum of Rs60 billion to improve connectivity across the country. "Our plan of action is not confined to Karachi only but we have initiated IT and telecommunica-

tion projects in Jamshoro, Dadu, Larkana, Badin and other areas of the country as well."

"Keeping in view the grievances being faced by the business community, I demanded from the Prime Minister to twist the ears of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and he has agreed to do so", the Minister said while appreciating the support being extended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Faisal Ali Subzwari assured full support and cooperation in resolving issues being suffered by the business community Karachi. "My Mobile number is available with representatives of business community hence, instead of contacting anyone else from my office, you should directly get in touch with me as I am just a call away", he said. "As 95 percent of my Ministry's work happens in Karachi, I spend five days a week here and just a day in Islamabad".

CLVL collaborates with foodpanda**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Cordoba Logistics & Ventures Limited ("CLVL") and foodpanda Pakistan signed an MoU under which CLVL will facilitate foodpanda riders in acquiring motorcycles on an affordable basis to operate on the platform. The partnership extends across the country, offering foodpanda riders the necessary means to participate in the growing e-commerce sector, creating sustainable economic opportunities and driving financial inclusion.

The program also aligns well with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 8, focusing on 'decent work and economic growth', and once launched will help create more flexible working opportunities across the community. The pilot project will start in June with an aim

to scale it across Pakistan over the next several months. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman CLVL, Zeshan Afzal said: "This strategic partnership to implement SDG-8, will promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, create flexible economic opportunities, and decent work for all. We hope that this initiative will prove to be a stepping stone for even greater collaborations between both the organisations."

"Opportunities like these help fulfill the ever growing demand for creating avenues of livelihood for the youth," said Muntaqa Peracha, Managing Director foodpanda Pakistan. "I am glad that this collaboration will further facilitate our existing and potential riders as we continue striving for excellence and vow to support our heroes."

CDO JS Bank, chief of Zindigi bags global award**Spokesman Report**

DUBAI: Noman Azhar, Chief Digital Officer, JS Bank and Head of Zindigi was presented with the Global Visionary Leaders Award at the world-renowned BSV Blockchain Convention 2022. This convention is known to be the largest blockchain technology-related conference in the world, where global leaders from the financial and technology

industry are invited to share their expert opinions.

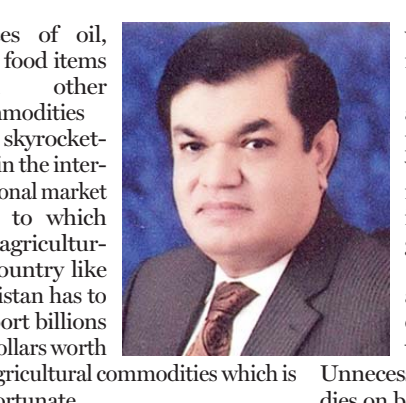
Speaking at the ceremony, Noman Azhar shared his insights on how blockchain will increase the efficiency & reliability of existing processes and it is a state-of-the-art way of developing new solutions which will be more reliable, secure, and scalable. Zindigi is a Digital financial service initiative powered by JS Bank.

Economic direction should be determined in budget 2022-23*Country will remain weak sans agri income tax, says Mian Zahid Hussain***Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the economy should be given a clear direction in the forthcoming budget so that the confidence of domestic and foreign investors is fully restored.

The budget needs to focus on agricultural and industrial development without which the country could not be self-sufficient and the people could not get any relief, he said in the budget proposals.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that



prices of oil, gas, food items and other commodities are skyrocketing in the international market due to which an agricultural country like Pakistan has to import billions of dollars worth of agricultural commodities which is unfortunate.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that it must be realised that it is impossible to increase production, exports, employment and revenue

without developing the industrial sector.

The current tax rate was a major obstacle in the process of industrialization which needed to be reduced immediately to expand the industrial base and increase government revenue.

Similarly, strict measures are needed to curb unnecessary imports in order to save foreign exchange. Unnecessary imports and subsidies on borrowed dollars should be stopped, tax concessions should be withdrawn from influential, agricultural income should be taxed and a twelve-month deadline should be given to all auto manufacturers in

Pakistan to make all parts locally to save six to seven billion dollars annually.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the circular debt is reaching Rs 3 trillion while the process of taking domestic and foreign loans should be stopped to keep the state-owned companies alive.

These companies should be privatized urgently and the system of direct taxation should be improved while reliance on indirect taxes should be reduced to ensure economic justice.

He suggested that policies should be formulated for the development of the country instead of promotion of the elite. Targeted subsidies for low-income earners should be linked to the rate of inflation, and the

additional revenue of Rs 100 billion earned due to the appreciation of dollar should be used to support the needy.

Remittances of \$32 billion annually from Pakistanis abroad is causing inflation. This money should be used to promote agriculture e-commerce and startups.

Next year, Pakistan will need \$21 billion to pay off its debt, which is impossible without an agreement with the IMF, he said, adding that during the tenure of the previous government, the rupee was devalued by 47% but it did not increase the exports as expected while imports were increased remarkably so the rupee should not be further weakened.

