



Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
انس بن مالک سے تعبیر کے متعلق دریافت کیا کہ آپ لوگ نبی کریم ﷺ کے عہد میں اسے کس طرح کہتے تھے۔ اس وقت ہم مٹی سے عرقاقت کی طرف جا رہے تھے، انہوں نے فرمایا کہ تعبیر کہنے والے تعبیر کہتے اور نگہبر کہنے والے نگہبر۔ اس پر کوئی اعتراض نہ کر سکا۔
(کنگناری: حدیث نمبر 970)
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Imran has become 'irrelevant' in political system

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan had become 'irrelevant'. The government was trying to fix the catastrophe wrought by Imran Khan during his four years disastrous tenure, she said in a statement.



Morocco upset Belgium 2-0 to ignite Round of 16 qualification race

Underdogs Morocco stunned last year's semi-finalist Belgium 2-0 in the Group F clash of the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2022 at Al Thumama Stadium here on Sunday. Last world cup's third-ranked Belgium, endured a massive dent in their campaign as they slipped to a shocking 0-2 defeat against spirited Morocco. Belgium had the opportunity to qualify for the Round of 16 with a victory but Morocco spoiled their hopes. (Report on Page 7)

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Pak-Afghan border clashes

Islamabad :Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi visits Pak-Afghan border reopens it after several days of clashes.



PM urges Pak-Turkiye joint research, resources pooling to face emerging threats

ISLAMABAD :Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that in wake of the common challenges and emerging threats facing both countries, Pakistan and Türkiye should work together through collective research and pooling of resources.

"We believe that Pakistan and Türkiye should work together and deepen their partnership through collective research and joint development and pooling of resources," Prime Minister Shehbaz told Turkish Anadolu Agency in an exclusive interview, published on Sunday, during his two-day visit to the country from November 25-26 to jointly inaugurate the third of four MILGEM corvette ships manufactured by Türkiye for the Pakistani Navy.

He said the "exemplary," Pak-Turkiye relations were "grounded firmly in common religious, cultural, and linguistic



links and transcend political changes on either side." Over the past seven and a half decades, the prime minister said, the two sides have always "stood by each other in the face of all changes."

"Pakistan and Türkiye support

each other on all issues of core national interests — whether it is Jammu and Kashmir or Northern Cyprus. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Türkiye, particularly its leadership, for its principled support on Jammu

and Kashmir dispute," he said.

"Confronted by common challenges and new and emerging threats, Pakistan and Türkiye have deepened their cooperation across various spheres, particularly in defense," Shehbaz Sharif said, lauding the Turkish defense industry which has "achieved spectacular success under the leadership of President Erdogan, defying all odds and challenges in the past two decades."

"Pakistan is Türkiye's largest defense customer," the prime minister underlined, adding that their collaboration on the construction of the MILGEM-class warships, not only has a "unique value" for the Pakistani Navy's capability enhancements but also "prominently stands out as a defining moment to further cement the bonds of friendship between our two nations and our two navies."

To a question, the prime minister said Pakistan's economy "was facing multiple global and domestic challenges" and was "on the verge of financial collapse" when he assumed charge.

"The economic policies of the previous government were not pro-growth and led the economy to multiple challenges," he said. However, the prime minister said his government had adopted a "mix of policies to tackle the economic downturn by accepting the fact that we have a very short time to step back from the edge of bankruptcy and financial collapse."

"No doubt, some of our policy options, like the withdrawal of untargeted subsidies, had added to the cost to the economy in the short term. But, most of our policies are more likely to offer benefits in the longer term," he remarked. APP

Imran continues to adopt 'undemocratic attitude': Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said coalition parties would not allow Imran Khan to dissolve the provincial assemblies for the "sake of his ego".

"Imran is continuously adopting an undemocratic attitude," he added.

Talking to a private news channel, the minister said that Imran's announcement to dissolve the provincial assemblies was just for political pressure, and even his own party members would not agree with his decision.

Castigating the PTI chief, the federal minister said Imran Khan was never a democrat as "he destroyed the political and social virtues in the country".

Ahsan Iqbal held that in Imran's era the political victim-

ization was at its "worst as false cases were made against the political opponents".

Declaring PTI's demand of early election as not-practical and undemocratic. The minister said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would require at least six months to carry out the delimitation of constituencies for the next elections.

Meanwhile, the minister added that six to eight more months were required for the rehabilitation and resettlement of flood-affected areas in Sindh and Balochistan.

Advising the PTI to return to the Parliament, Ahsan Iqbal said that PTI should realize its political and national responsibility and must return to the National Assembly. "We will welcome them (PTI)," he said. Agencies

COAS Bajwa inaugurates various healthcare projects of Fauji Foundation

RAWALPINDI: Chief Of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday visited and inaugurated various healthcare projects of Fauji Foundation.

The COAS was briefed regarding newly constructed projects including Artificial Limb Centre (ALC) which is a most modern facility offering modern solutions in its field and about Foundation University Nursing College which has the capacity to accommodate 396 students, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The army chief also visited the newly constructed New

East Ridge hospital which is a private patient care facility having 40 clinics and 146 beds, functioning under the umbrella of Fauji Foundation.

Over 1.5 million patients are treated every year at Fauji Foundation medical facilities across Pakistan, it added.

The COAS expressed his satisfaction over Fauji foundation's role and contribution as it was playing a vital role in providing both welfare in terms of job opportunities and free healthcare facilities to veterans, and their families and also caters to a large number of civilian and private patients across the country. ISPR

General Sahir Shamshad assumes charge as CJCS

RAWALPINDI: In an impressive ceremony held at Joint Staff Headquarters, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza assumed the appointment as the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) here on Sunday.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, besides a large number of serving and retired officers from tri-services, the

ceremony was also attended by former chairmen Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

A smartly turned-out Joint Services guard contingent presented salute as the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee arrived at the venue.

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza reviewed the guard of honour and March past. ISPR

Murad Saeed raises questions regarding Arshad Sharif's murder

PESHAWAR: Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Murad Saeed has raised important questions regarding the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya, ARY News reported on Sunday.

"On whose directives, cases were registered against Arshad Sharif? Who was threatening him? Who forced him to leave United Arab Emirates (UAE)? Which important personalities visited UAE between August 10 and 20?" the PTI leader asked while addressing a press conference in Peshawar.

Murad Saeed noted that it was being reported that Arshad Sharif's laptop was in his possession and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had summoned him in this regard. "No progress was made in the investigation in the past one month," he alleged.

"The investigation committee — which visited Kenya to probe Arshad Sharif's killing — should have recovered the things," he said, lambasting the committee for its 'responsibility' and 'traveling on public tax money'.

"Arshad Sharif's mother urged Chief



Justice of Pakistan (CJP) to constitute a judicial commission. Even the journalist, during his life, urged for a commission to investigate the cases registered against him but no action was taken," he added.

Murad Saeed also lambasted the journalist community for not raising voice against the 'injustice' against the slain journalist. "No one raised voice for Arshad Sharif when he was facing a difficult time", he added.

He called on Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to stop playing 'media games' and answers his questions.

"When they will find the answers to my questions, they would identify the killers," he added.

Speaking of party chairman Imran Khan's movement, Murad said that the former prime minister had always wanted real freedom. "Pakistan is a sovereign country and cannot enslave anyone", he noted.

A day earlier, a fact-finding committee, constituted to investigate the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif, believes that the laptop of ARY News anchor was in possession of PTI leader Murad Saeed.

The fact-finding committee has penned down a letter to Murad Saeed, summoning the PTI leader on November 28 (Monday).

"During the investigation, it has come on record that you are in possession of Apple MacBook of Arshad Sharif," stated the letter, requesting Murad Saeed to provide the device to ascertain the facts regarding the journalist's assassination.

"If you have any other evidence, provide it to the probe team along with the MacBook," the committee wrote to the PTI leader..ARY

Baba-e-Sahafat 'Maulana Zafar Ali Khan' remembered

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD :Eminent writer, poet, journalist and leader of the Pakistan Movement Maulana Zafar Ali Khan was remembered on his 66th death anniversary where people from all walks of life pay him rich tributes for his matchless services to the country.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan known as Baba-e-Sahafat (father of journalism) was born in 1873 in Sialkot. After graduation, he was appointed Secretary to Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk who was then in Bombay. He fought the freedom movement with his pen and used it as a unifier for burgeoning the required nationalism in the Muslim community which would be remembered as the father of Urdu Journalism, PTV news reported.

Later he worked for some time as a Translator in Hyderabad Deccan, rising to the post of Secretary Home Department.

He returned home on his father's death in 1909 and took over as Editor Urdu Newspaper 'Zamin-dar' which became one of the most influential newspapers of the sub-continent.

The paper was banned and the press was confiscated because of its revolutionary policies. He participated many times in the annual sessions of the All India Muslim League.

Pakistan concerned over BJP leadership's involvement in Gujarat riots

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expressed grave concern over confirmation of BJP leadership's direct involvement in anti-Muslim violence during the horrific Gujarat riots of 2002 that led to killing of over two thousand Muslims.

Pakistan also urged India to immediately constitute an independent commission of inquiry to bring the culprits of the horrific Godhra incident, as well as the Gujarat riots, to justice.

"The recent statement by the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shankersinh Vaghela, has confirmed Pakistan's long-standing assertion that the BJP led government under the incumbent Prime Minister — who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the time of anti-Muslim riots in Godhra — was directly responsible for

fomenting violence and massacre of Muslims," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

This has been further corroborated indirectly by the Indian Home Minister, who recently claimed that those responsible for Gujarat riots had been "taught a lesson" and "permanent peace" had been established in Gujarat by BJP's decisive actions.

Pakistan also stressed upon upon the international community, particularly human rights activists and defenders to take serious note of the aggravating situation of Islamophobia in India; and called on Indian government to ensure that the rights of minorities in India, especially Muslims, were safeguarded and their lives protected, it was added.

Enjoying holiday

ISLAMABAD: Families are enjoying Sunday holiday at multi-purpose sports ground in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Punjab Assembly Dissolution

CM Pervaiz Elahi clarifies PML-Q's stance

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has clarified his political party's stance on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan's call for the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly, ARY News reported on Sunday.

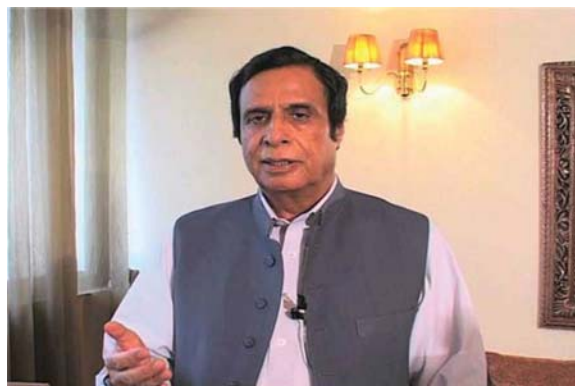
CM Pervaiz Elahi said in a statement today that the Punjab government is the trust of Imran Khan and PML-Q leadership will not leave its allies alone after making promises. He said that Shehbaz Sharif-led government would never run even a day after the dissolution of assem-

blies following the MPAs' mass resignations.

The chief minister clarified that they will not wait for a single minute if Imran Khan ordered to dissolve the assemblies. He added that Imran Khan was given a new life by Allah Almighty and his political strategy entered the decisive phase.

Pervaiz Elahi said that the massive public gatherings prove Imran Khan's popularity. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance will be shattered after the mass resignations of the MPAs.

He censured Pakistan



Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) for spreading lies. He claimed that the ruling politi-

cal party will face humiliation in the next elections.

The chief minister said that

the common people will be uplifted by the Punjab government. He vowed that the citizens will also get free medical facilities for cancer treatment soon.

On Saturday, former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan announced that his party has decided to quit all the assemblies in his address to a public meeting in Rawalpindi.

Imran Khan in his address in Pindi said: "I would announce the date of resignations after consulting chief ministers and the parliamentary party." ARY

MQM-P calls on PPP to correct constituencies ahead of LG polls

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has called on Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to correct constituencies ahead of local government (LG) elections in Karachi and Hyderabad, ARY News reported on Sunday, citing sources.

According to sources, Convenor MQM-P Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui held a telephonic conversation with PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari to discuss the upcoming local government (LG) elections in

Karachi and Hyderabad.

Source told ARY News that the two political leaders discussed the implementation of the agreement including delimitation of constituencies and voter lists. During the conversation, Asif Ali Zardari assured of full cooperation and implementation of the agreement, they added.

Meanwhile, MQM-P leaders later contacted local government minister Nasir Shah on directives from Convenor Dr Khalid Maqbool

Siddiqui. Sources claimed that a meeting between the two political parties would take place soon.

Sources added that the meeting will be arranged after Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah returns from United States (US). During the meeting, MQM-P's reservations regarding constituencies will be addressed.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan had made it clear that it wants local government (LG) elec-

tions with the correct constituencies.

Earlier on November 21, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced its verdict on holding local government elections in the Karachi and Hyderabad divisions.

A five-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja reserved the verdict on Nov 15 after hearing the pleas against delay in holding the polls.

In its verdict, the election commission has announced to organise LG polls in all districts of Karachi and Hyderabad on January 15.

The ECP also directed Interior Ministry, IGP Sindh to provide security for LG elections in Karachi and Hyderabad on January 15.

Last week, the Sindh High Court (SHC) ordered the Election Commission of Pakistan to immediately release the schedule for LG polls in Karachi and Hyderabad. ARY

2nd Day of Adab Festival attended by thousands of people

KARACHI: Adab Festival opened with a bang on its first day in Karachi at Frere Hall yesterday. The second day was even more packed with audiences. Adab Festival was attended by tens of thousands of people and every space, the sessions, children's tent, art exhibit, book and education fairs and food court were overflowing with people especially women, children and the youth.

The second day opened with a session for students on building innovation and capacity in the creative sectors by Dr Samina Zahir. Speakers during the day included Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Zehra Nigah, Arfa Syeda Zehra, Aitzaz Ahsan, Javed Jabbar, Sultana Siddiqui, Dr Ishrat Husain, Dr Shamsad Akhtar, Kishwar Naheed, Ifikhar Arif, Masood Lohar and Masood Lohar.

Fresh polio drive to reach 13.5m children

ISLAMABAD: The third Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) campaign of the current year 2022 will launch on Monday to vaccinate 13.5 million children under-five years of old children in 36 districts in Pakistan.

The campaign will start from November 28 across the country involving nine districts of Punjab, eight districts of Sindh, six districts of Balochistan, and Islamabad. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the campaign will be launched on December 5, targeting nine high-risk districts of the region.

Over 100,000 trained and dedicated "Sehat muhafiz" will be engaged in the vaccination drive to inoculate the targeted children at their doorstep.

On this occasion, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said that If we can eliminate the poliovirus from



southern KP, we will succeed in eliminating polio from Pakistan altogether.

He added that we are actually quite close to the finish line, and we are determined to get there as soon as possible.

"Pakistan has made great strides in the fight against polio, with virus circulation reduced to only one small part of the country," he said.

Dr. Shahzad Baig, Coordi-

nator of the National Emergency Operation Centre emphasized that the anti-polio campaign required collective action at all levels to eradicate the poliovirus from the country completely.

He said that our aim is to ensure timely and repeated vaccination of eligible children.

"High-risk districts are our top priority, and we are keen

to eliminate the poliovirus from the challenging areas while protecting the rest of the region as well," he added.

"I particularly urge all parents and caregivers to get their children vaccinated instead of hiding them or refusing to take the necessary drops during all vaccination drives. It is important to realize that the polio virus still exists in our surroundings, and no child is safe until all children are truly vaccinated," Dr. Shahzad Baig said.

Moreover, The National Emergency Operation Centre issued the "Sehat Tahhafuz" Helpline 1166 and 24/7 WhatsApp Helpline 0346-777-65-46 to assist the parents and caregivers in reporting missed children.

They added that repeated polio vaccination campaigns are imperative for building immunity among children and preventing possible death or lifelong paralysis. APP

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'Misleading, blatant lies':

ISPR slams tax records propaganda against COAS Gen Bajwa

RAWALPINDI: The military's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Sunday rubbished nefarious campaign launched against Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family related to their tax records.

In a statement, the ISPR said that the reports were "totally untrue and based on blatant lies".

"Misleading data regarding the assets of army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family have been shared on social media. These misleading figures are exaggerated and based on assumption," the ISPR said.

The military's media wing said that a certain group has "cleverly and dishonestly" attributed the assets of General Bajwa's daughter-in-law's father and family to the army chief and his family.

"An incorrect impression is being created that these assets were created by army chief General Bajwa's family during his six-year tenure. It is totally untrue, based on blatant lies and malice," said the ISPR.

The ISPR assured that all the assets of the army chief, his wife and his family have been declared to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

"Army chief and his family regularly file tax return. Like every citizen, the army chief and his family are accountable to the tax authorities for their assets," said the ISPR.

People behind leak identified: Dar Earlier this week, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar took notice of the "ille-



gal and unwarranted" leakage of tax information of Gen Bajwa's family members.

According to the statement released by the Finance Ministry, Ishaq Dar said leaking tax information is a sheer violation as the law ensures the confidentiality of tax information.

According to the FBR laws, the details, documents or declarations of the taxpayers should be kept confidential and leaking them is a violation of the law.

FBR widens probe into tax record leak

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Saturday included three more income tax officers in the investigation of leaked tax record details of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family.

Sources said that FBR will carry out an investigation from the chief commissioner, commissioner and additional commissioner in connection with the leaked tax record details of Gen Bajwa and his family.

The leaked tax details were downloaded from the deputy commissioner Lahore's login and then pictures were captured from the deputy commissioner's computer, sources said. ISPR

Azam Swati Arrested in controversial Tweets case



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Sunday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Senator Azam Swati, in a case related to controversial tweets against state institutions.

The PTI leader was taken into custody by a three-member FIA team from his farmhouse located in Islamabad's Chak Shahzad. A fresh case has been registered against the PTI lawmaker. FIA Cybercrime Wing has confirmed the arrest of the PTI leader.

Swati in his statement before being taken into custody said, today, the FIA team has come to arrest him with a warrant issued by the magistrate which he termed a legal way.

The PTI leader claimed he was taken into custody without arrest warrants earlier.

Azam Swati appealed to lawyers and lawmakers to come out of their houses.

Azam Swati has been arrested for second time in the same case over a month after he secured post-arrest bail from a court in the capital city.

"The charge of instigation for sedition requires more inquiry under the relevant clauses," the court had observed in a written judgment.

"The intention and objective of the petitioner's tweet will prove after recording evidence in the trial," the court said, adding that the accused is a 74-year-old man and has no criminal record.

'Red tape' to be no more hindrance for friend countries' investors: Ashrafi



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Inter-faith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said the 'red tape' would be no more hindrance for friend countries' investors in Pakistan.

On the successful visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Turkiye, he, in an exclusive talk with APP, said the unnecessary procedural obstacles created panic in foreign investors causing undue delay in business-oriented activities in the country.

He said after assuming the charge as chief executive of the country, Shehbaz Sharif had taken effective measures for ease of doing business and had assured the Turkish investors for all-out support for accelerating the economic activities between the two brotherly countries.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council expressed the hope that in the next three to five years, the business volume would reach approximately five billion dollars between Pakistan and Turkiye.

He termed it a big achievement on the part of the prime minister's meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He further said the way Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was accorded the official protocol during his visit to Turkiye had never been given to any head of state so far. "It is crystal-clear evidence of historic, Islamic, and brotherly relations between the two countries which are kept on strengthening in every sphere of life with every passing day," he maintained. APP

‘An Extraordinary Decade of China in the New Era’

VR photo exhibition goes online in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : Hosted by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China, the Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and China Cultural Center in Pakistan have launched an online Virtual Reality exhibition "An Extraordinary Decade of China in the New Era" on its Facebook and social media platforms.

The exhibition aims to present Pakistani friends the amazing stories of an extraordinary decade of China in the new era, starting from the 18th National Congress of the CPC in November 2012 to the 20th National Congress of the CPC in October 2022.

The photo exhibition consists of five parts: the preface and the five parts of "Continuing to create Miracle of Development", "Delivering a Happy Life", "Improving Governance Efficiency", "Bringing together strength of the People", and "Working together to build a Beautiful World". A total of 251 exquisite pictures are included, which vividly describe the new era. The wonderful stories of China's extraordinary ten years in the fields of politics, economy, culture, people's livelihood, and diplomacy have recorded the footsteps of the Chinese people's unremitting self-improvement in pursuit of their dreams, and demonstrated the era of the Chinese people and the



people of the world working together and advancing hand in hand.

At the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in November 2012, the new central leadership of the CPC with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core took over the relay baton of history. Since then, China has entered a new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

This is a great era when we build on past successes to make further advances. The century-old CPC is uniting and leading hundreds of millions of Chinese people to continue to strive for fulfilling

the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. China has realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and has embarked on the new journey to fully build a modern socialist country. From standing up to growing prosperous then to becoming strong, China is standing tall and firm in the East as a large country, and it is embracing an irreversible trend of national rejuvenation.

This is a great era when we break new ground while keeping to the right path. Standing at a new histor-

ic juncture in China's development, Chinese communists with Comrade Xi Jinping as their chief representative fully consider the overall goal of national rejuvenation and the international situation in a context of change at a level unseen in a century, and continue to integrate the basic tenets of Marxism with China's reality and fine traditional Chinese culture to explore new ground both in theory and in practice. They created Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, making new advances in adapting Marxism to the Chinese context.

Under the leadership of the Party, the Chinese people have turned China into a vibrant and prosperous country over the past 10 years. They enjoy a colourful and happy life, champion the national spirit of forging ahead courageously, demonstrate the institutional advance of "China's effective governance" and envisage for the world a future of building a community with a shared future for humanity.

This exhibition tells the fantastic stories taking place over the past 10 years in China's new era.

It records how the Chinese people pursue their dreams through unremitting efforts, and displays how the Chinese people and people around the world work together to tide over difficulties and promote common progress.

PM terms holding of LG polls as historic



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has said that today is a very important day in the history of the state as devolution of power from center to local bodies was going to take place in the region after a gap of 31 years.

He expressed these views while addressing a press conference here today.

"The credit for holding Municipal elections goes to the Tehreek-e-Insaf government that remained stick to its principle stand on the issue", the PM said that as per the vision and mission of Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan, powers were being transferred to the lower level through local body elections. Holding local elections, he said, will improve the continuity of the democratic process and strengthen democracy.

He said that it was high time that the leadership across the political spectrum should play their positive role to ensure that the elections were held peacefully across the liberated territory.

The PM said that, people should exercise their right to vote with full enthusiasm and freedom and chose their representatives who could work for better and bright future of the nation

"It is the first and foremost duty of every patriotic citizen to actively participate in the national duty so that the democratic process flourishes", he said.

Praising Pakistan Army for its professionalism, the PM said, "Oak army is the best army in the world".

Owing to deployment of armed forces he said the elections would be held peacefully. "Pakistan is a part of our faith and we are all Pakistanis", the PM said.

About financial problems being faced by the government, he said, "Due to the cut in the budget of Azad Kashmir by the federal government, the construction and development process has been hindered".

President FWCCI congratulated to General Asim Munir & Sahir Shamshad



Bureau Report.

FAISALABAD: President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mrs. Rubina Amjad, congratulated General Asim Munir on his appointment as Chief of Army Staff and General

Sahir Shamshad for his appointment as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. She has further prayed and hoped that both the Generals will play their pivotal part in safeguarding the borders of motherland, removing the uncertain situation prevailing in the country and growth of economic activities for sustainable economic development of Pakistan.

She said that Pakistan Army is a proud symbol for Pakistan's solidarity and alike male brethren, women are also shoulder in shoulder with the Pakistan Army.

LG polls in AJK

MUZAFFRABAD: A woman casting her vote in a polling station during local body election in the city.



Photo: Online

Healthy mother significant vital role to build up a healthy nation



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Healthy mother has a significant vital role to build up a healthy nation, said Mrs. Rubina Amjad, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI). She was addressing to the participants of Health Symposium organized by FWCCI Standing Committee on Health at Board Room of FCCI here today.

She said that promoting women's health means to improve not only individual health, but also the health and survival of family members. They can well bring up their children, their health and education extraordinarily she added.

We can rather say that Empowering Women is possible by Improving their health. Hence awareness on fatal health issues of 'Breast Cancer' and 'Breast Feeding Practices' is vital for all the women.

She said that Pakistan ranks seventh in the world in terms of number of

deaths due to breast cancer while it has the highest prevalence of breast cancer among Asian countries.

Around 40,000 Pakistani women die every year because of breast cancer. It is very important that an immediate action including awareness and early diagnosis to control the alarming mortality rate be taken by the Government and also the private sectors.

She said that, the breast feeding protects mothers from breast cancer, diabetes and blood pressure etc. We have to develop the action plan to promote the breastfeeding for the better health of the children rather than promotion of any formula milk.

Healthy food and lifestyle can prevent oneself from the various diseases that must be advocated in the different segment of the Society.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Alia Shaima, Focal Person Breast Clinic Allied Hospital University gave detailed presentation regarding Breast Cancer Awareness and its preventive

and curative measures. She said that high number of deaths occur in Pakistan due to this fatal health issue.

Speaking on this occasion Prof. Dr. Hina Ayesha, Head of Paediatrics, Faisalabad Medical University emphasized on breast feeding which she said that it is mandatory even in the light of the teachings of the Holy Quran. She said that breast feeding is preventive to Breast Cancer and no family taboos should bar the mother from breast feeding.

Dr. Najma Afzal, Chairperson FWCCI Health Committee in its concluding remarks highlighted on both the issues. She told that about 40000 women die because of breast cancer every year. She said that six million women have been saved in the world due to proper preventive and curative measures. She said that Breast feeding is important to the new born baby who also save the mother from many diseases as Breast Cancer, diabetes, improves IQ level of child and enhancing loving bonding between child and mother

PPAF distributes high-quality wheat seeds in flood-affected districts ahead of sowing season

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) has initiated free distribution of wheat seeds amongst the farmers worst affected by the floods in Balochistan. The distribution is being held under the European Union (EU) funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project which is being implemented by International Trade Centre (ITC) in collaboration with PPAF and Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO). Under this flood response initiative, certified wheat seed bags (50 kg each) will be distributed to 8000 farmers in districts Kech, Panjgur and Pashin before the end of the sowing season to support food security and overcome the expected shortage of crops in these areas.

The distribution is the select districts is being held in close collaboration with local administration departments and PPAF's on-ground partner organisations including Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), and Taraque Foundation, at specified distribution points to facilitate the farmers.

Nadir Gul Barech, Chief Operating Officer, PPAF termed the support from ITC under the European Union funded GRASP Programme as highly valuable and very timely.

Pakistan are providing education related to Nutrition and Food Sciences: NAEAC



Spokesman Report

KARACHI : Currently, more than 60 institutions and universities in Pakistan are providing education related to Nutrition and Food Sciences, which needs prior approval from the National Agriculture Education and Accreditation Council (NAEAC). Since its inception in 2008, NAEAC has registered more than 289 programs and deferred around 51 programs. These views were expressed by the Chairperson NAEAC, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Rajwana, in an awareness seminar held at Iqra University, North Campus.

He described in detail the functionality of the Council. He claimed the uniqueness of the NAEAC in that it not only evaluates the programs but also supports and encourages the institutions to improve their educational standards. He also mentioned the standards based on which the institutes are evaluated. The results decide the program's fate, whether it is accredited or deferred.

Director Academics, Prof. Dr. Syed Ali Raza, also expressed his gratitude to the Chairperson of the Council, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Rajwana, and the delegation who accompanied him. He appreciated the procedures adopted by the Council to ensure best qual-

ity practices and the significance of their role in improving the teaching standards. Furthermore, the director informed the audience that Iqra University has been ranked among the top universities in the world due to its high standards of education and research achievements. He briefed the members and the audience about the facilities offered in the Human Nutrition and Dietetics program. He stated that we have highly qualified faculty members, fully equipped and state-of-the-art laboratories, and a digital library, which will immensely benefit society in solving health issues related to nutritional problems.

He further assured the Council members that Iqra University's management would take full advantage of their guidance and implement the identified standards more diligently. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks delivered by the Head of the Human Nutrition and Dietetics program, Dr. Tooba Mehfooz. At the end of the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Syed Ali Raza presented the commemorative shields to Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Rajwana, Prof. Dr. Amanullah Malik, and Dr. Abdulla Ghaffar. The members were then given a tour of the campus buildings and the facilities available for the faculty and students.



Islamabad

15° – 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:23 am
Zohr 11:55 am
Asr 3:22 pm
Maghrib 5:00 pm
Isha 6:28 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
Holy Family 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

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

Six women die in road accident in Muzaffarabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Six women died, while five others sustained injuries as a vehicle met an accident in Muzaffarabad when they were returning to their homes after casting their votes in LG polls, ARY News reported, citing rescue sources.

As per details, the incident occurred at the Churi area of Neelam Valley in Muzaffarabad, when the women were being transported back to their homes after casting their votes.

As a result, six women lost their lives while five others including three females. The bodies and the injured have been shifted to the BHU.

Meanwhile, the voting process at polling stations no. 7 and 8 has been temporarily suspended.

Read more: Jhelum: Newly-wed couple among seven dead in road accident

Separately, seven people, including a newly-wed couple, died and five others sustained injuries when a dumper hit the vehicle in Jhelum city of Punjab province.

According to details, the road accident occurred near the Tobar Valley on Choa Saidan Shah Road where an out-of-control dumper truck ran over a passenger car and hit several other vehicles.

Upon receiving the information, rescue and police team reached the spot and shifted the injured people to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. Meanwhile, the deceased were also shifted to the hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Over 33 mln people affected due to rains, flash floods in Pakistan: Shazia Marri

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and BISP Chairperson Shazia Atta Marri has said that over 33 million people have been affected owing to heavy rains and flash floods in Pakistan.

She said this while attending a meeting of 26th Socialist International Congress held at Madrid, Spain, according to a communiqué here on Sunday.

In her speech, she expressed solidarity with the women and children affected by the wars and conflicts globally and highlighted the catastrophic impact of climate change in Pakistan in-detail.

Shazia Marri said, "We are expressing solidarity with the women and children of Palestine, Kashmir and all around the world where they are being tortured and harassed as the results of the wars and conflicts."

She said climate change had wreaked



havoc on Pakistan this summer and affected more than 33 million people, including 0.65 million pregnant women and about 4 million children.

The minister said climate change was probably the greatest threat being faced by

humanity today. "A few years back, many around the world, including Socialist International members were debating on the issue of climate change, as the debate continues, the climate-related disasters kept wreaking havoc," she added.

She said that climate change had become a reality and it feared the global community which was now, showing some seriousness towards it and "I hope, this seriousness of the world community would be changed into taking some real actions this time".

Shazia Marri further said by taking the example of recent floods in Pakistan, it was important to understand that climate change was not just an environmental issue, but a threat to health, livelihood, agriculture, peace and security and the overall economy of the world.

She said climate change was a threat beyond the imagination of the common man, which had endangered the future of our planet.

'Amroha's soil smells of creation', President Arts Council

Bureau Report

KARACHI : Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organized the exhibition "Vintage Power" of well-known artist Shaan Amrohavi at Ahmed Parvez Art Gallery. President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah, President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masood, Various painters and art connoisseurs including artist Shaan Amrohi participated. Painter Shaan Amrohi's masterpieces were based on the use of elephants and horses in historical wars.

Commenting on the exhibition, President Arts Council Muhammad Shah said that Shaan Amrohavi does very beautiful work. He is a man of that world who shows the wars of history. Those wars are still happening today. It shows the conflict. Shaan is The pride Amroha. The President of Bank of Punjab, Zafar Masood, is among us. He is the son of our Vice President Munawar Saeed. This family is the pride of Amroha. The smell of creativity comes from the soil of Amruha. This is a rare family. Bank of Punjab is working for the promotion of art and culture. Zafar Masood is a Punjabi whose mother tongue is not Punjabi but He is promoting the art and culture of President Bank of Punjab



Zafar Masood, while expressing his views on the exhibition, said that this event is suitable for Shaan Amroha. Shaan is carrying forward the legacy of Amroha.

Ahmed Shah inspires us. Ahmed Shah's services are commendable. We have successfully done the Islamic Art Festival in Lahore along with the Arts Council Karachi. Shaan has done a great job. There is a series on display called Vintage

Power. Shaan has been doing this for the past twenty years. We can't do anything until we support our artist's culture.

Literature and economy are side by side. We have left culture alone. Painting is a very powerful medium. Shaan was honored with the best watercolor award which is a matter of pride for us. All the artists who came here today proved that Shaan is a great artist. Do visit the exhibition to support Shaan's work.

Youth Development Program launched by PML-N

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that Youth Development Program had been started during the previous regime of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz which provided zero tax incentives to the young generation.

Delivering her speech at the launching ceremony of "Economic Affairs" magazine here, the minister said that in its previous tenure, the PML-N government created employment opportunities for the youth through this program, she said.

The minister said that in the program projects such as equipping the youth with technology were included.

Besides, facilities were also provided to the youth in small businesses, Marriyam Aurangzeb maintained.

"When the previous government came to power, it changed



the name of the program to Kamyab Jawan Program", she said.

About 66% of Pakistan's population consists of young people under the age of 30 and youth were a precious asset of the nation, she said.

She expressed the confidence that with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Charter of Economy, all institutions

be strengthened.

She said that "Economic Affairs" Magazine was being launched in connection with Pakistan's 75th-anniversary celebrations and it covered seventy-five years of Pakistan's economic achievements.

She said that details of economic ups and downs in the history of Pakistan were also included in this magazine.

She said that the "Economic Affairs" magazine should also be available online including on social media platforms.

"The magazine highlights developments in the industry, textiles, small and medium enterprises, banking and other sectors", the minister said adding that banks should support such periodicals.

The presence of this magazine in the libraries of universities and colleges should be ensured, she said.

The information minister appreciated the efforts of the team associated with the magazine.

Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid, Principal Information Officer Mubasher Hassan and other senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were also present on the occasion. APP

Let us build the asset that is Education!

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The basic infrastructure of educational institutes is not only the physical depiction of the education system in Pakistan but also acts as a symbol for the quality of education. Mud schools, deserted buildings, lack of resources, shortage of teachers, absence of strategy, outdated curricula, scarcity of output and deficiency of scope lie at the core of education in the majority of rural and many urban localities in Pakistan. On the extreme opposite, we have international standard schools with heavy resources but heavy fees catering only to the elite of Pakistan.

Socioeconomic elements, gender disparities, cultural norms and a phalanx of issues prevent many children from going to school or attaining higher education. More than 22 million children are out of school in Pakistan, making their number the second highest in the world.

Education produces critical thinkers and positive ideology builders, philosophers and scientists for the future of our country; to keep it on the right progressive track, making inventions and innovations with research and creativity. AAA Associates believes in rendering to the cause of education; facilitating the learning process, providing a platform for education, building infrastructure and supporting the learners and the educators. With its philanthropic arm Yusaaid Foundation, it gathers its efforts towards providing educational support in an effective and organized manner.

Educational services are required to boost the learning processes and the output of knowledge by providing efficient resources and instructional techniques. Our children deserve to utilise their capacities to the maximum. We need to provide all the possible avenues for young minds to flourish at a standard pace and become part of the growth and progress of our country.

There are many individuals and not-for-profit organizations in Pakistan helping the cause of education, including UNICEF. Early education, school readiness, and school completion by reduced dropouts are the key variables to focus on. All levels of education require revision of curriculum as the world is moving at a rapid pace and we need to align our strategies and efforts with the swift change in the world aborting the traditional ways and accepting the modern approaches. There is no greater force and deeper strength on earth than education, societies transformed into progressive and productive ones by making education a priority. Let us make this pledge together to empower our people with the power of education.

Security should be provided to doctors: Health Manager DHQ

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Lower Waziristan District Headquarter Hospital Wana Health Manager (HM DHQ Wana) Mamoon ur Rash-eed addressing a press conference in his office regarding the problems faced in District Headquarter Hospital Wana said,

That a very sad incident happened in the district headquarter hospital Wana yesterday, a few people came and beat up the doctors and other staff inside the hospital and after vandalizing the hospital, the staff were also threatened.

Now the doctors and other staff are insecure, some doctors are thinking that if the situation continues, it will be difficult to perform the duties.

The health manager said that (MERF) Medical emergency resilience Funds NGO has appointed fifteen specialist doctors in the hospital, which were not there before,

Recently we have shifted the emergency OPD to the new building but work is going on rapidly in other departments but if the situation for the doctors remains the same, no doctor will be able to perform duty here.

Health Manager DHQ Wana Hospital, through journalists, demanded the administration to provide foolproof security to the hospital.

He said about the hospital don't run just by building a nice building, but the first condition for the best setup is safety and security

It should be noted that in March this year District Headquarter Hospital Wana was handed over by the government to MERF NGO under the Public Private Partnership Policy

On the other hand, the land of the Hospital is owned by the Karmaz Khel tribe,

The government has made an agreement with the Karmaz Khel tribe that the class four jobs and other privileges of the hospital will belong to the Karmaz Khel tribe.

On which the Karmaza Khel tribe's position is that the NGO is violating the agreement and making the situation worse for us.

A few days ago, some members of the Karmaz Khel tribe had forbidden the said NGO to continue working in the hospital for violating the agreement.

The health manager of the hospital is of the opinion that these same people beat up the doctors and ransacked the hospital and also threatened the doctors,

Against which the police have taken action and arrested several people of Karmaz Khel tribe.

While cases have also been registered against more than 20 people under public order.

The health manager of the hospital says that if there is any problem with the Karmaz Khel tribe, they should come and talk to me, don't take the law into their hands and threaten the hospital staff.

Punjab may fall short of wheat sowing target this season

LAHORE: Punjab is likely to fall short of its wheat sowing target for the 2022-23 season, in what could be regarded as a major blow to the country's food security, The News reported citing sources.

With the inability expressed by the Sindh Government to sow even 75% of the targeted 4 million acres due to flood ravages, the wheat tillage progress in Pakistan's main agricultural plains has been slow, which will eventually result in lower national grain production.

Meanwhile, Punjab Agriculture Department, in the middle of the wheat sowing campaign, reached an official decision that cultivation cannot be made possible on the targeted land this year.

As per the Crop Reporting Service of the provincial Agriculture Department, Punjab might fall short of 16.5 million acres target set by the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) this year.

"We are expecting to bring land under wheat to at least last year's level of 16.2 million acres in the province despite several challenges. However, the 16.5 million acres target for this year area is expected to be missed though with a short margin," an official said.

Talking about the current pace of wheat sowing, he estimated that about 74% targeted area was cultivated till November 20, 2022, which was traditionally considered the optimal time for growing a good crop. He, however, hastened to add that with changing climate pattern, it was now considered that the optimal period of sowing stretched to November 30th.

Wheat sowing has been delayed in the rice zone due to two rain spells in recent weeks and in the mixed crop zone due to unwarranted interruptions in the launching of sugarcane crushing, the official maintained. Considering the sowing trend, it was projected that wheat cultivation would be largely completed by the first week of December.

The main pillar for this year's wheat sowing campaign has been timely sowing, the use of certified seed in greater areas and the promotion of fertiliser application. The subsidy is being provided to farmers on seed and fertiliser bags.

Punjab Pavilion is the center of attention at Lok Mela

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab is the land of five rivers and its culture is very attractive and beautiful as well as centuries old. Whether it is pottery work, chalk, khas, Dari on desikhad, Gotaknari, the art of soldering or wood, stone, artisans of ivory, metal or textile, and the art of tapestry are present in the Punjab Pavilion and are engrossed in the creation of their works of art.

Around 50 stalls of artisans have been decorated in the Punjab Pavilion, in which around 100 skilled craftsmen are engaged in the work. Among the artisans are Hajran Bibi Chungi Sazi from Bahawalpur, Shahada Bibi Kishda Kari, Ibrahim Alam Pottery Work, Asma Zahoor Kishda Kari from Multan, Muhammad Ahmed Block Printing, Zeeshan Rashid Camal Bone Work,



Shah Jahan Begum Moti Work, Surya Abdullah Chenri Making and Abdul

Rehman Camel Skinwork, Muhammad Aslam Khasa Making from Fais-

alabad, Muhammad Riaz Lacquer Art, Kaneez Fatima Chhabbi Making, Sarfaraz Hussain Khadi from Gujranwala, Ghulam Abbas Desi Dari khas, Zulfikar Ali Blue Pottery from Lahore, Ziaul Haq Woodwork, Muhammad Afsar Khan Brass.

Work, Fauzia Naheed doll-making from Rawalpindi, Hafeez Nasir Zariwork, Zahida Sultana Crocia work and Ghulam Hussain stone carving are worth mentioning here. In the festival, Shaikat Dholi, who made Pakistan famous at the international level, is also entertaining the fans. The Punjab Folk Dance Party is also showcasing its art. Regional traditional food stalls are also set up in the Punjab Pavilion, in which corn bread, greens, butter, chatniklassi etc. are very popular. Punjab Pavilion is visited by domestic and foreign tourists in numbers every day.

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Pakistan Permanent Pavilion at Shanghai FTZ

The establishment of the Pakistan Permanent Pavilion at the Global Hub, Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone (FTZ) is of great significance for enhancing the awareness of Pakistan’s high-quality and branded goods and expanding its exports to China and other countries. This was stated by Hussain Haider, Pakistan’s Consul General in Shanghai at the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan Pavilion, according to Gwadar Pro.

Terming the pavilion as an important sign of promoting the bilateral relations between China and Pakistan, the Consul General added that it would help create a better understanding of Pakistani products in a well-known global metropolis like Shanghai. He said that, “China is Pakistan’s second largest export destination and the opening of national pavilions in different cities has created more channels between Pakistani products and Chinese consumers.

With the passage of time, more Pakistani businessmen with a wider variety of products will find their way into the pavilion and Chinese market.” The CG further maintained that, “the Pakistani Consulate General will continue to build platforms for exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises, and will hold more docking meetings and activities at the National Pavilion in the future.”

The Waigaoqiao FTZ is China’s first of its kind, with the highest economic aggregate. It benefits from pilot policies and professional trade service teams that can help cross-border and domestic trade. Li Chunxi, Vice General Manager of Shanghai Waigaoqiao International Trading Operation Center Co., Ltd, congratulated Pakistan on the establishment of the Pakistan National Pavilion and welcomed more interactions with Pakistani businesses. Aqeel Chaudhry, who is in charge of the pavilion has been in China for over 20 years and has participated in the China International Import Expo (CIIE) for five years in a row.

He believes that the Pakistan Pavilion will benefit from the spillover effect of the extended CIIE and turn the exhibits into commodities. He also invited more Pakistani businesses to display their wares at the Pakistan Pavilion in Shanghai. The pavilion was elegantly designed and attracted the interest of visitors from all walks of life. Items currently in the 100-square-meters-plus pavilion are handmade carpets, copper and jade ornaments, carved wooden screens, tables and chairs. When Gwadar Pro interviewed people at the pavilion, they were upbeat about China-Pakistan ties and hoped that events like this would strengthen trade ties between the two iron brothers.

Asthama Resort at Khewra Salt Mines

Dr Sohail Taj

Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) has established ‘Allergological Asthma Resort’ at Khewra Salt Mines on the pattern of globally renowned ‘Asthma Resorts’ of Wieliczka Salt Mines, Poland and Ukrainian Salt Mines where Asthma patients are being treated through natural salt therapy.

The Khewra Salt Mines is the second-largest mine in the world which reserves 220 million tonnes of rock salt and presently produces 3,70,000 tonnes of salt per annum. The salt produced from the mine is supplied to various industries and for human, and animal consumption.

Khewra Salt Mines is situated in Tehsil Pind Dadan Khan, District Jhelum at an approximate distance of 200 km from Islamabad and 245 km from Lahore. The mine has an easy approach via Lahore – Islamabad Motorway through Lillah or Kalarkahar Interchange and the journey time by car from Islamabad is about two hours while from Lahore it is about three hours.

Talking to APP, the official guide of the mines, Abid said that hundreds of tourists comprising students, general public and foreigners were visiting the mine every week and enjoy the interior of the mines which has been illuminated with fancy lights to magnify the

intrinsic beauty of the salt rocks and salient features of the mine.

Hollow walls of salt bricks when illuminated give a beautiful look and by using different shades of rock salt bricks, a beautiful mosque and Pakistan monument were constructed. There are certain chambers filled with saturated brine water which are high in density and one can’t be downed in it when these ponds are illuminated with fancy lights to give a splendid view, said Abid while explaining the features of the mine.

There is an area of transparent salt of light of pink colour known as ‘Sheesh Mahal’ in which the reflection of the light shows marvellous colours of rock salt while another area has been named as ‘Crystal Palace’ that looks as the diamond shines on the walls.

A renowned mining engineer from Britain laid out the main tunnel at ground level in 1872 by using the scientific mining system “room and pillar method” in which 50 per cent of the salt is excavated while 50 per cent is left as a pillar.

Meanwhile, many philanthropic organizations have substantially contributed to the establishment of Asthama Resort at Khewra Salt Mines as the interior of the salt mines provides an environment, which helps to cure Allergic Asthma.

In an exclusive talk with the news agency, the Project Manager of Khewra Salt Mines, Farrukh Taimur said that Asthma patients had to spend about 110 hours inside the mine during treat-

ment. “The patients suffering from Asthma have to spend 6 to 8 hours in the mines in a day”, he added.

The salt had antiphobic, antimicrobial and anti-bacterial properties. “In simple words, nanoparticles of sodium absorb germs and purify the air. This purified air then enters into the lungs of the patient and creates immunity, he added.

The medical official Zawar Sajjad said approximately 50 patients per annum were being treated at the Asthama Resort. The 80 per cent of Asthama patients cured and treated at the resort mostly young and self-motivated patients used to show signs of improvement in a short period, he added.

Farrukh Taimur said that the Khewra Salt Mine is centuries old and getting affected by the climate disaster is a natural phenomenon but the mine’s management is looking for another safe portion for shifting the resort to the new location.

The other attractions of the mine included a narrow-gauge electric railway that carries tourists inside the mines and decoration pieces like lamps, vases and ashtrays which are manufactured with salt bricks at the local plants.

Visitors at the mine are of the view that Pakistan is blessed with natural beauty and resources and urged the government to further promote such attractive spots to enhance national and international tourism in the country.

Javed Manzil: A repository of Iqbal’s relics

Naeem Khan Niazi

House museums are very simple interaction with history manifesting architectural and historical legacy of those who changed the course of history through their achievements in arts, literature, philosophy, politics and other aspects of life.

The houses, famous for their architecture, historical feat or being once inhabited by some great figures, are preserved for posterity to provide coming generations, the glimpses of life style and achievements of legendary persons.

Like Emily Dickenson Museum, Massachusetts, USA; Elbert Einstein’s apartment in Bern, Switzerland; Gaudi House – Museum, Barcelona, Spain; the Bronte Parsonage, Haworth, England; the Javed Manzil in Lahore also boasts of its historic grandeur.

An abode to great poet and philosopher, Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal where he spent last span of his life and breathed his last on April 21, 1938, the Javed Manzil has been named after his son Justice *Javed Iqbal.

Situated in the close proximity of Lahore Railway Station, the location of the house complements well to busy political life of Allama Muhammad Iqbal who travelled extensively in length and breadth of the country during the movement for independence of Pakistan.

Earlier, in possession of Justice * Javed Iqbal, the Javed Manzil acquired from him to turn into ‘Iqbal Museum’ on the occasion of centenary birth celebrations of Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and declared it as a national monument in 1977.

Spanning over an area of seven kanal land, the four rooms of Javed Manzil (Iqbal Museum) that remained under the use of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, have been preserved to original form including the Bed, Drawing and Dinning rooms.

The belongings placed in the museum speak highly of the simple but graceful life style of the great poet, philosopher-Allama Iqbal.Javed Manzil: A Repository of Iqbal’s relics

On the mantel above the fire place in the bed room, are placed photos of Sir Ross Masood, grandson of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and King of Afghanistan Mohammed Nadir Shah. One chair stands by the left wall

opposite to bathroom with a spittoon, a dressing table, a wall-clock and some medicine used by the great poet, still part of the setting.

“Allama Iqbal love for the Afghan nation, as reflected in his poetry, was boundless,” remarked Prof. Mazhar Moeen, former Principal Oriental College, Punjab University and Chairman Department of Arabic. “I feel that Iqbal’s admiration for Afghanistan was because of its being an independent state for Muslim in Asia.”

Iqbal also penned down a travelogue; ‘Musafiryani Siahat Chandroza Afghanistan’ (Traveler: Few Days Travelling to Afghanistan) and its original manuscript is also preserved in the museum.

Picture of Cordova Mosque, Spain placed in the drawing room on a mantle-piece besides a simple six seats sofa also manifest great admiration of Allam Iqbal for the Muslims renaissance. Iqbal also has an honor of performing prayers at Cordova Mosque when he visited Spain, as it even today symbolizes the glory of Islamic rule in Europe.

Its architecture like most of the buildings of the glorious Muslim era in Europe, reflects finesses and grandiosity of the

Islamic art and culture.

Iqbal’s picture with teachers of Al Azhar University, Egypt is hung on one of the walls in the room and his son Javed Iqbal is also seen in the memorable photo.

The Dining Room houses a dinning-table with six chairs, two cabinets and a dressing table. Two rooms, at the museum, showcase various glass-cases with original manuscripts of Allama Iqbal’s poetic and prose works that won him perennial renown. The first-editions of Bang e Dara, Baal e Jibrael, Javed Nama, Zarb e Kaleem have also been displayed besides some personal diaries, invitation letters and correspondence.

Allama Iqbal’s educational certificates and PhD degree from the German University are also exhibited for onlookers to seek inspiration from the visionary poet and philosopher.

“Iqbal Museum’ conserves and exhibits important phases of Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s life,” said Director Archaeology Masood Ahmed Malik.

“This museum is a beacon of light for our younger generations. We are endeavoring to preserve relics of posterity to make it more convenient for the visitors,” he stated.

Another room in the museum, exhibits pictures of Dr. Iqbal’s wives; Karam Bibi, Mukhtar Begum and Sardar Begum. The youngest Sardar Begum was mother of Justice (R) Dr. Javed Iqbal and a daughter Munira Bano. Allama Iqbal had two children, Aftab Iqbal and Meraj Bano, with his wife Karam Bibi while no children with Mukhtar Begum.

The three plaster-of-Paris models of Government College, Lahore (alma mater of Dr. Iqbal), Model Scotch Mission High School, Sialkot (school where Allama Iqbal got early education) and Iqbal Manzil, Sialkot (birth-place of Allama Iqbal) are also on display.

On the entrance to museum, instead of main portico, a visitor is welcomed by the life-size photos of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal’s father Sheikh Noor Muhammad and mother Imam Bibi, before entering the room where carpets, dresses, garments and personal effects are displayed.

Dr. Iqbal’s spectacles, a wrist watch, an ash-tray, a ring, gold cuff-links, collars and bow-ties are also displayed providing an insight into the scholarly living of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Kashmiris being faced with an unending ordeal of terror, trauma

Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali

The innocent people of the disputed territory of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) have been faced with an unending ordeal of terror and trauma at the hands of Indian occupying forces.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars over Kashmir in 1948, 1965, and 1999, but have been unable to settle the dispute. After the partition of the Indian subcontinent, millions of Kashmiris felt unsafe and uncertain about their fate. They were required to accede to either of the two countries based on the wishes of their people and their geographical location.

Since 1947, Article 370 had given Jammu and Kashmir semi-autonomous constitutional status. Earlier, under its provisions, the region had freedom in all matters except its constitution, legislature, flag, foreign affairs, communications, and defense.

Anger has simmered in the region and the situation further worsened when the Modi-led regime on August 5, 2019, abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), by repealing articles 370 and 35-A. The Modi-led BJP government has also imposed a lockdown in occupied Kashmir, allowing Indian forces to perpetrate unspeakable crimes against the masses, with complete impunity.

It is worth mentioning that in IIOJ&K, including other bodies, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has strongly condemned the Modi-led fascist Indian government for forcibly implementing nefarious agenda by usurping all-fundamental rights of the people of Kashmir, including social, political, economic, and religious rights.

Ending the old status of Kashmir is an attempt to usurp the rights of Kashmiri people by eradicating their fundamental rights related to their social, linguistic, cultural, economic, and political existence, former Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Dr. Mehdi Hasan told APP.

Abrogating Article-370 and Article-35A, the Indian parliament has illegally allowed non-Kashmiris to

resettle in Kashmir permanently. Whereas actually, the Constitution of Kashmir first defines membership and settlement, Mehdi said. According to this amendment, non-Kashmiris are now allowed to buy property, keep it and settle in Kashmir permanently, he informed.

Moreover, the Indian forces were using rape, molestation, and sexual violence against women and children as a weapon of war, besides collective punishment, in a bid to suppress the legitimate freedom movement in the occupied valley,” Dr. Mehdi informed.

Indigenous Kashmiris have faced threats to their existence as well as their inherited rights, especially ‘relative’ land rights. This will make indigenous peoples aliens.

The former senator from Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Sehar Kamran (TI) told the news agency that the latest controversy has been reported by international media that extrajudicial murders of several Kashmiris have become a routine in the Kulgam area of the occupied territory.

Cruelty knows no bounds, and after the men were gunned down, their bodies were not returned to their families, she condemned adding that new Delhi was ‘losing the battle of hearts and minds of people in occupied Kashmir.

The Indian occupation forces’ state terrorism, war crimes, and human rights violations had made life a nightmare for over one million oppressed Kashmiris, especially women, senior citizens, and children, she remarked.

Violating all fundamental rights, India had imposed a military siege on some 10 million Kashmiris by converting the territory into the biggest jail on earth, where over 900,000 Indian forces had been deployed with no regard for human rights, she lamented.

Since 1989, she said, the Indian occupation forces had committed the worst crimes, as more than 162,000 Kashmiris had been subjected to inhuman torture, including beatings with iron rods, stripping naked, heavy roller treatment, hanging from ceiling, electrocution, burning of the body with iron rods, sleep deprivation, solitary confinement and other tortures including rape, molestation, and sodomy.

Pakistani Politics: A bouquet of inodorous flowers

Lust for power desists politicians to perform their core duty of serving the nation

AmjadMehmood

Political chaos is at its peak and taking over the nerves of the nation. All political parties are indulged in power politics sans



the care of public welfare and interests. Every passing day is adding more to the masses' frustration and vulnerability. Fakeness, propaganda, cross-accusation, and whatnot are happening all day and night. The economy has collapsed and just breathing on the vent borrowed from the IMF and so-called friends states. Society is leading to the worst form of polarization. Political and religious disarrays are leading to social collapse. Amid all this distressing situation the judiciary, army, and media had the opportunity to play a constructive role for the sake of the country but unfortunately, these institutions are also facing a kind of in-house provocation.

Real democratic societies and countries which have visionary political leaders are making their way to the epitome of success. A little political sense and care of public can emerge "Shining India" in the regime of a fascist leader



Narendra Modi. Political will, focused and consistent policies can turn Bangladesh into Asian Tiger with an ever-growing GDP. Even in some of the monarchs including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, people have some quality of life and access to all essentials even if their freedom of speech is compromised. On the other hand, people in Pakistan are unfortunate enough to taste the charm of real democracy, sincere political leadership, quality of life, and access to basic necessities including justice, opportunities for earning, shelter, health, and education.

Let's have a candid review of some known political parties in Pakistan and their role in contemporary politics.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Cricketer turned politician, Mr. Imran Khan launched his political party in 1993 with the sole

and the mantra of 'one page' sounded everywhere. The exceptional support from the judiciary to Mr. Khan's government was another feather in cap and this support to PTI is still unshaken.

The nation tied high hopes from his government as Mr. Khan memorized the concept of

from 1993 to 1996. Nawaz Sharif returned to the premiership under the title of his party as Pakistan Muslim League (N) (PML-N) with a two-thirds majority in 1997 and served until his removal in 1999 as a result of General Musharraf's military coup. He was jailed first and then tried for

a plane-hijacking case and later exiled for more than a decade. In 2011, he returned to politics and led his party to victory for the third time in 2013. He was again removed from the prime minister slot as a result of a controversial decision made by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2017.

The hate and romance story between PML (N) and the military establishment is an open secret. PNL (N) also has credit for caustic ties with the judiciary. After Mian Nawaz Sharif's disqualification in 2017, his younger brother MianShehbaz Sharif became the party president. His services as Chief Minister of Punjab were admired by opponents too however, his political style and stance never got public applause compared to his elder brother. He always advocated good relationships with the establishment and believed in performance instead of head-on conflicts which ultimately result-

ed in the fall of the government.

After his disqualification in 2017, Mian Nawaz Sharif chanted the slogan of "Respect to Vote" and publicly named the military leadership for conspiring against his government. Consequently, he faced serious hardships to a possible extent however, his younger brother, the sitting prime minister of Pakistan, managed to turn the table in his favor as a result of emerging conflicts between the establishment and Imran's government. Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a grand alliance of the majority of opposition parties and invisible support of establishment paved the way for fall of Mr. Khan's government in April 2022. PML (N) swiftly retrieved from the anti-establishment slogans and made a deal of compromises. Their journey to power and comfort is refueled



motto of provision of justice to the common man. Until 2011, he was a minnow in Pakistani politics. To dent the two parties' politics in Pakistan, the military establishment eyed Imran Khan as an alternative and started to fuel his politics by providing all-out support. The establishment was able to give a thin majority to PTI in the general election of 2018 when an RTS system was allegedly managed. In July 2018, Imran Khan's dream came true to become Prime Minister of Pakistan and formed a coalition government. Mr. Khan's government had unprecedented support from the military establishment

stan, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif joined politics under the guardianship of the military establishment and was ousted all three times from premiership without completing his tenure. In 1981, during military dictator General Zia's regime, he became the finance minister of Punjab. In 1990, Nawaz Sharif led the conservative Islamic Democratic Alliance and became the 12th prime minister of Pakistan. His government was ousted in 1993 when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the National Assembly. He then served as leader of the opposition to the government of Benazir Bhutto

and they start to fly again without fins. During their various tenures, PML (N) launched mega projects mainly related to infrastructural development such as motorways, underpasses, overhead bridges, roads, and a few industrial zones. Within Punjab as the chief minister, Shehbaz Sharif has made significant reforms and developments in the health and education sectors. PML (N) takes the credit for launching the millions-dollar mega project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan.

During the last 4 years, media, social media, and courts in their decision-less comments remind-



ed the public that the Shariff family was involved in large-scale corruption. Panama scandal, Avenfield apartments in the United Kingdom, and money laundering, such cases were lodged in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). A Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigated the cases, a monitoring judge was appointed on cases by the supreme court, and resultantly former prime minister Nawaz Sharif along with his daughter were convicted. MianShehbaz Sharif, his son Hamza Sheh-

stan Peoples Party' in 1967 at Lahore. The like-minded revolutionaries from all over Pakistan under the leadership of Mr. Bhutto gave hope to the nation for a government that truly represents the meaning of democracy. The slogans of equality, government of common men, and empowerment of the public boosted their popularity to an apex level. In a short span, Zulfikar Bhutto became a national leader and was later known as 'Quaid-e-Awam'. He was born in a feudal family in Sindh and studied at the Univer-

After Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the party was led by his daughter Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto who was later elected twice as prime minister of Pakistan from 1988 to 1990 and then from 1993 to 1996. His son-in-law and Benazir's husband, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, took the charge of the party as de-facto leader after the sad assassination of Benazir Bhutto on December 27, 2007, at Liaquat-Bagh Rawalpindi, and later he became the 11th President of Pakistan in 2008. After the general election of 2008, PPP was able to

nationalist parties that are equally relevant in Pakistani politics and sometimes become utterly significant in the make and break of governments. MuttahidaQaumi Movement (MQM), Jamat-e-Islami, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), JamiatUlema-e-Islam (F), Awami National Party (ANP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) are a few prominent names amongst these parties to consider for their vital role which mostly used for bargaining to form provincial and federal governments. Their core agenda revolves



baz and many other prominent PML (N) leaders were arrested by NAB and remained in custody for a longer period. The party is re-installed at the same position with controlled power from where it was removed in 2018.

PML (N) is seriously lacking to catch political momentum with a solid and blunt stance for their future politics. Historically, they remained successful in grabbing the vote and support of the business community and middle-class people of society. Mian Nawaz

sity of California and the University of Oxford. He trained as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn, before entering into Pakistani politics. He remained a cabinet member of President Iskander Mirza and was assigned several ministries during President Ayub Khan's military rule. He also served as foreign minister in 1963. Mr. Bhutto served as the fourth President from 1971 to 1973, and later as the 9th prime minister of Pakistan from 1973 to 1977. The Pakistan Peoples Party introduced land

form a coalition government and Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani was elected as the prime minister of Pakistan. Currently, Mr. Bilal Bhutto Zardari is the Chairman of PPP and serving as a foreign minister of Pakistan.

A party launched in the name of 'people' never risked giving the party's command to an ordinary party leader or worker. Once the largest party in Pakistan has now squeezed to Sindh province only. Mr. Asif Ali Zardari is considered a 'guru' of make and

around getting a share in power more than volume and in most cases, they remain successful. MQM, PML (Q), and JUI (F) have exceptional guts for making political deals. These small parties are not more than a 'Stepney' of the establishment in Pakistani politics. Democracy, political values, and services to the nation and country are irrelevant terms for these political parties.

There are many developed nations and countries in the world who have secured pres-



Sharif has the aura of a political leader and his presence in public helps the party to mobilize the voters. To some extent, Maryam Nawaz has shown her magnetic value in public to attract voters; however, the doldrums between pro-establishment and anti-establishment are utterly damaging to the party.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)

A rebel against his 'political daddy', military dictator General Ayub Khan, launched a political party following the socialist ideology known as the 'Paki-

reforms, nationalization of industries, and administrative reforms to reduce the power of the bureaucrats. Pakistan's current constitution is also provided by Mr. Bhutto's government in 1973. He is also credited as the pioneer of Pakistan's nuclear program. Mr. Bhutto was awarded a death sentence by the Supreme Court of Pakistan for authorizing the murder of a political opponent and was executed on April 04, 1979. This judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan was later termed as the judicial murder of Mr. Bhutto.

break in contemporary politics of Pakistan. His negotiation skills in politics have registered several political wonders in recent years and the party remains relevant for the federal government. Once known as an anti-establishment party, having a rich legacy to fight against dictatorship and despotism has turned into the role of a 'caddy boy' of the establishment in Pakistan.

Smaller in Size, Relevant & Opportunist Political Parties

There are several other small-scale regional, religious and

tige and recognition as a result of their honest political leadership. In recent years, Jacinda Kate LaurellArdern, the prime minister of New Zealand is a glaring example to quote as she took the charge of the office at the age of 37 and this young politician put her country on a fast track of advancement with commitment and hard work. The million-dollar question is, can Pakistani politicians come out of their ego shells and state of polarization to show a little care, honesty, and commitment to turn the destiny of nation and country?

PFC to take part in single-country expo in South Africa on 1st Dec

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a single-country expo in South Africa starting on 1st December to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products.

PFC Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq, while talking to a delegation of industrialists led by CEO of Marvel Cables Ch Zeeshan Elahi Arain, on Sunday said that PFC along with ChenOne would be participating in the mega event and conference being held by the Ministry of Commerce.

He said ChenOne would also exhibit its high-quality international standard products to capture its share in the global market. He said it's an excellent opportunity to showcase Pakistani products and develop business deals with international buyers.

He said a delegation comprising around 225 exhibitors and business delegates from Pakistan representing 20 major sectors, including pharmaceuticals, tractors, agriculture machinery, engineering and sports goods, and chemicals would be visiting Johannesburg to participate in the exhibition.

Ashfaq underlined that around 130 companies would be exhibiting their products. The federal government had invited 16 member states of the South African Development Community (SADC) to join the moot, he said, adding that the conference would also be attended by dignitaries from South Africa, including the minister for trade and industry.

He highlighted that the expo would also offer professional buyers a sourcing platform with a wide variety of products ranging from basics to the most creative and qualitative.

He said PFC and ChenOne had already attended several other international fairs in the US, China, Italy, Sri Lanka and other countries, and introduced their products which were in great demand. He hoped in receiving orders from foreign buyers.

He said the main purpose of attending the single-country expo was to help strengthen the national economy and TDAP was facilitating the manufacturers of export products.

He said he would also hold a series of marathon meetings with tycoons for investment to avail the government's unprecedentedly special package for foreign investors.

Govt authorizes disbursement of Rs 241 bn under PSDP

ISLAMABAD :The Federal Government has authorized the utilization of development funds amounting to Rs 241.26 billion out of total allocation of Rs 727 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects of the federal ministries and division in first four months (July-October) of fiscal year 2022-23 under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

Out of the total authorized/dispursed amount, the total amount spend on the development projects during the corresponding period stood at Rs 98.8 billion.

According to the disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20% in the first quarter (July-September), followed by 30% each in the second and third quarters, and remaining 20% in the last quarter (April-June) of a fiscal year.

The government also authorized/dispursed Rs 100 billion for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform.

The detail shows that Rs 57.133 billion out of total allocated amount of Rs 160.2 billion have been disbursed for corporations while Rs 184 billion have been disbursed for the federal ministries out of total allocation of Rs 563.3 billion.

For National Highway Authority (NHA) the government has disbursed/authorized Rs 29.9 billion out of total allocation of Rs 117.2 billion, whereas for NTDC/PEPCO, the government has disbursed Rs 27.2 billion.

The federal government has also disbursed/authorized Rs 87 billion out of total allocation of Rs 87 billion, however so far only Rs 0.78 billion have been spent over the development projects of cabinet division.

Similarly, the data shows that Rs 494 million have been disbursed for Aviation Division, and Rs 161 million have been disbursed for Board of the Investment.

The government also authorized the utilization of Rs 1.9 billion for Climate Change Division out of which only Rs 38 million have been spent during the period under review.

For Higher Education Commission (HEC), the government has authorized the release of Rs 17.78 billion, Rs 25.2 billion for provinces and special areas, Rs 435 million for Commerce Division, Rs 36 million for communication division (other than NHA), and Rs 445 million for Defense Division.

Likewise, the government also disbursed Rs 286 million for Finance Division, Rs 180 million for Establishment Division, Rs 1.4 billion for Federal Education and Professional Training Division, and Rs 4.3 billion for Housing and Works Division. APP

ICCI terms 100bps hike in SBP interest rate a big blow to businesses

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has shown great concerns over the 100bps hike in the SPB key policy rate as it would play havoc with the cost of doing business and cause the closure of many industries leading to further slump in the already fragile economy.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that businesses were already struggling for survival due to multiple challenges including massive rupee-dollar fluctuation, hike in utility tariffs & POL Products and increasing energy shortages. In these difficult times, instead of taking measures to promote the ease of doing business, the government has made an unprecedented hike in the policy rate that would prove destructive for the business and economic activities. He said that on the one hand the government has announced to promote interest-free banking in the country and on the other hand, it is hiking interest rates, which is contradictory.

He said that the interest rate in Thailand is 1%, Taiwan 1.63%, Singapore 2.65%, Malaysia 2.75%, South Korea 3.65%, China 3.75%, Indo-



nesia 5.25%, Bangladesh 5.75%, India 5.9%, Vietnam 6%, but in Pakistan it has been raised to 16%, cumulatively increasing it by 625bps in 2022. He said that due to the recent hike, the

policy rate has jumped to a 24-year high level in the country as it was only in 1998 that the policy rate was over 16 percent. He said that after adding Kibor, the policy rate would go up to

18.50 percent while after including bank profit and insurance it would go up to 22 percent. He said it would badly affect business and investment in the country as who will borrow at such high borrowing cost. He stressed that the SBP should withdraw the recent hike in policy rate and bring it to single digit level to reduce production cost and improve the competitiveness of our exports.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Vice President ICCI said the SBP has further tightened the monetary policy on the plea to address the higher inflation and contain the risk to financial stability. However, they said that it would prove counterproductive as the manufacturers would pass on the burden of costly loans from the banks to the consumers by raising the prices of their products and the common man would face more inflation that would make his life miserable. They said that the business community is already in crisis due to gas shortages & load shedding while letters of credit are not opening. They urged that the SBP should review its decision and withdraw the hike in policy rate to save businesses from further troubles.

Share of manufacturing in GDP waning rapidly

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said the share of manufacturing in the GDP is declining which is creating serious problems.

The country cannot progress unless manufacturing is given top priority, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that a large portion of capital is going to non-productive sectors, which is benefiting a few while affecting the economy and masses.

The business leader said that improved production, exports, and employment opportunities will remain a dream unless manufacturing is made more profitable than other non-productive sectors.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that investment



in manufacturing can be lured to reduce dependence on imports, cut the deficit and tackle unemployment.

He noted that the share of manufacturing in GDP has been declining by an aver-

age of 0.1 percent every year for decades. Manufacturing accounted for 15 percent of the GDP in the 90s, which has now fallen to 11 percent and is declining further at a worrying pace.

He further said that too much dependence on imports in absence of good manufacturing leads to a trade deficit and if the trade deficit continues to rise, then the balance of payments deteriorates, which results in debt.

The situation has reached the point that every government that comes to power has to start its tenure with the IMF program. The government borrows and announces that this is the last loan but soon it has to borrow again to save the country from bankruptcy.

The country that cannot control its spending and violates financial discipline invites IMF to rule it, he said.

Removing hurdles

ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in removing heavy containers with the help of crain as open roads at Faizabad after the PTI long march in Rawalpindi.



Photo: Online

SBP issues clarification on holding payments to Google

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The SBP statement comes after news reports had been circulating in different sections of media that Google Play Store services will no longer be available to Pakistani users from next month as the SBP had suspended the direct carrier billing (DCB) mechanism.

The Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA), the Service of Data Innovation and Telecom, and four cell versatile administrators (CMOs) consistently composed a joint letter to the SBP requesting that it rethink its choice to renounce the DCB system for the installment of the dollar charge considering the country's ongoing liquidity emergency.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the central bank said: "The fact is that in order to facilitate the domestic entities, the SBP specified certain Information Technology (IT) related services, which such entities can acquire from abroad for their own use and make foreign exchange payments there against up to USD 100,000 per invoice. Such services include, Satellite Transponder, International Bandwidth/ Internet/ Private Line Services, Software License/

Maintenance/ Support, and service to use electronic media and databases."

Entities desirous of utilising this option designate a bank, which is approved by the SBP one time. Subsequently, after designation, such payments can be processed through the designated bank, without any



further regulatory approval, it said.

However, during recent off-site reviews, it was observed that in addition to utilising the aforesaid mechanism to remit funds for IT related services for their own use, telcos were remitting bulk of the funds for video gaming, entertainment content, etc. purchased by their customers using airtime, under Direct Carrier Billing (DCB). DCB is, in general, an

online mobile payment method, which allows users to make purchases by charging payments to their mobile phone carrier bill.

It said that the Telcos were allowing their customers to purchase above mentioned products through airtime and then remitting funds abroad reflecting such transactions as payments for the acquisition of IT-related services.

"Thus, in effect the telcos were acting as intermediaries/ payment aggregators by facilitating acquisition of services by their subscribers. Therefore, in view of the violation of foreign exchange regulations, the SBP revoked the designation of banks of telcos for such payments," it added.

However, to facilitate their legitimate IT related payments, the telcos have been advised through their banks to resubmit their requests, the SBP included.

It said that if any entity, including a telco, intended to operate as an intermediary or payment aggregator and such arrangement involved the outflow of foreign exchange, it had to approach the SBP, separately through its bank, to seek special permission to provide such services under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.

Naveed Qamar attends China-South Asia Exposition in Kunming



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Additional Secretary Foreign Affairs (Asia Pacific) Mumtaz Zahra Baloch attended and addressed the 6th China-South Asia Exposition and the 26th China Kunming Import and Export Fair held in Kunming this week, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. At the opening ceremony, Minister Naveed Qamar urged companies participating in the expo to find new approaches to enhance investment ties between Pakistan and China. He said Pakistan has learned from China that the miracle of Chinese development owes its origin to the establishment of special economic zones. "We are aware of the significance of SEZs and doing our best to provide state-of-the-art one window facility to business enterprises," he said.

He said these establishments in China's manufacturing, engineering, automobile industry, and joint ventures between Pakistan and Chinese enterprises are offering attractive investment opportunities to the business community. Pakistan is also committed to offering attractive investment opportunities to local

importers of various goods. "I must acknowledge that the geographical location and historically close ties between Pakistan and China have great potential and under the Belt and Road Initiative, both countries can get fruitful results," he said. Later, while addressing the 3rd China-South Asia Cooperation forum, Pakistani Additional Secretary of Foreign Affairs (Asia Pacific) Mumtaz Zahra Baloch welcomed the resumption of the China-South Asia Cooperation Forum after two years.

"We have broken new ground under CPEC and Pakistan is ready to work with friends and partners all over the world especially in the region to win opportunities for development and prosperity," she said.

She also added that Pakistan has suffered recently from the worst flooding in history because of climate change and it would like to work together with China to combat climate change for mutual benefits. "We would also like to deepen cooperation in the agriculture industry, Information Technology, Science and Technology and enhance bilateral trade. This way, we can unleash the dynamism of our region in this worthy pursuit," she added.

FPCL signs MoU with SECMC for utilizing Thar coal



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The FFBL Power Co. Ltd. (FPCL) Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) for the use of Thar coal in the company's power plant in Karachi. According to Gwadar Pro, it was stated by the two companies in separate statements. In Karachi, FPCL operates a 118-megawatt coal-fired power plant next to the Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Ltd. (FFBL) Fertilizer Complex.

The MoU is a significant step forward in harnessing indigenous resources to achieve better energy prices while reducing the burden on foreign exchange, according to FPCL. This reflects the company's commitment to economic development and strengthening the national

economy through reduced reliance on imported energy.

The FPCL power plant provides up to 60 MWs of electricity to K-Electric, the company is in charge of supplying electricity to Karachi. According to the company's website, the remaining electricity is supplied to the FFBL Fertilizer complex. SECMC operates Pakistan's first open-pit lignite coal mine in the Thar desert, with an annual capacity of 7.6 million tons. The company is a collaboration between the Sindh government, Engro Group and its partners, and China Machinery Engineering Corp (CMEC) under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative. SECMC currently supplies coal to four mine-mouth power plants with a combined capacity of 1,320 MW.

England set foot in Pakistan after 17 years to play historic Test series

Sports Reporter

SLAMABAD: England squad on Sunday stepped foot in Pakistan to play a historic Test series in the country after a gap of 17 years, which will roll into action from December 1 at Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi.

A strong English Test squad landed in the country early Sunday from Abu Dhabi, where they practised against England Lions to race up the preparations for the historic series.

England will take on hosts Pakistan in three Tests in Rawalpindi, Multan and Karachi respectively under the leadership of their newly-appointed captain Ben Stokes, who redeemed his 2016 failure to steer England to their second T20 World Cup title.

The Rawalpindi Test, scheduled to commence on December 1, will mark the first Test between Pakistan and England on the former's soil after 17 years. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi will host England for a Test match for the first time.

Taking to Twitter, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) shared the footage of their Test squad touching down in Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention that England last toured Pakistan for a full-fledged tour back in 2005 when they played three Tests and five ODIs.

ENGLAND SQUAD: Ben Stokes (c), Ben Foakes (wk), Joe Root, James Anderson, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Rehan Ahmed, Will Jacks, Keaton Jennings, Jack Leach, Liam Livingstone, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Mark Wood



Morocco upset Belgium 2-0 to ignite Round of 16 qualification race

DOHA: Underdogs Morocco stunned last year's semi-finalist Belgium 2-0 in the Group F clash of the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2022 at Al Thumama Stadium here on Sunday.

Last world cup's third-ranked Belgium, endured a massive dent in their campaign as they slipped to a shocking 0-2 defeat against spirited Morocco.

Belgium had the opportunity to qualify for the Round of 16 with a victory but Morocco spoiled their hopes of storming into the next round and claimed three important points.

Substitute Abdelhamid Sabiri was Morocco's star of the match as he ended the deadlock with an astonishing 73rd-minute strike off a free kick that breezed past Thibaut Courtois and crashed into the nets.

The second-half goal filled Morocco with



momentum and they intensified their attack on the European side. The attack paid them off in the stoppage time when Zakaria Aboukhilal fired another goal to guarantee an astounding win over

Belgium.

Following their stunning victory, Morocco replaced Belgium at the top of Group F standings with four points and can qualify for the knockout stage if they avoid defeat against Cana-

da in their last group match on Thursday.

Belgium, on the other hand, has to beat the last world cup finalist Croatia on December 1 to make their way into the last 16. A Sports

Ayan Shahadat and Yamna zahid clinch Junior Champ Archery title

Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Ayan Shahadat and Yamna Zahid won the boys and girls titles in the second Junior Champ Archery Tournament 2022, Pakistan's biggest junior archery event "Junior Champ Archery Tournament 2011" organized by "Bakman Archery Club" and Al Nadi Al Burhani Sports Center.

It was held on the green field of Al Nadi Al Burhani Sports Center in which more than 250 archers from all over the country fully participated. In the overall competition, Generation School won the general trophy while Safiyyah Boys School came second. Mustali Yahya, Tahir Zaini and Ali Asghar Samiwala were the chief guests, while Asghar Azim, Secretary of Pakistan Sports Writers Federation,



Group photo of the successful archers of the 2nd Junior Champ Archery Tournament with the organizing committee members and officials.

was the chief guest of the closing ceremony of the 10 meters competition, who wore medals and gave away trophies to the athletes.

On this occasion, event organizer Abid Butt, Laeeq Butt, archery coaches, representatives of participating schools and fans were also present in large numbers.

According to the results, Ayan Shahadat of Gener-

ation School won gold, Murtaza Mustafa of Al Nadi Al Burhani won silver in 20 meters boys, and Burhanuddin Ibrahim of Sifiya Boys School won bronze medal, while in girls Yamna Zahid of Pak Archery Club won gold, Maria Mustali of MSB School won silver and Maskan Masoom of Government College for Women Nazimabad won bronze

medal.

In 15 meters boys, Hussain Kagzi of Al Nadi Al Burhani club won gold, Muhammad Karimi of the same club won silver and Abdullah Ibn Ali of Generation School won bronze, while in girls Minh Sharjeel of D Royal Club won gold, Shehzal Nasir of Usman Public School won silver and Generation. Ayeza Shahadat of the school won the bronze medal.

In 10 meters boys, Abdul Hadi of Bakman Club won gold, Haider Hasnain of Safiya Boys School got silver and Abdul Ali Mustali of MSB School got bronze medal while Zakia Siddiqui of Bakman Club won the bronze medal in girls. Gold, Jumana Murtaza of Sifiya Girls School, Silver and Emma of Generation School Shahadat won the bronze medal.

FG/Din Polo claim Coca-Cola Aibak Polo Cup

LAHORE: FG/Din Polo outpaced Newage Cables/Master Paints by 9-5 to win Coca-Cola Aibak Polo Cup 2022 that concluded here at Lahore Polo Club on Sunday.

To witness and enjoy the challenging and enthralling Aibak Polo Cup final, the officials of Coca-Cola, Century Ventures Director Ayaz Lakhani, Director Kamran Afzal, Director Wasim Mazhar and COO Century Ventures Nazia Wasim, Lahore Polo Club President Omer Sadiq, Secretary Agha Murtaza Ali Khan, executive committee members and a great number of polo lovers, players and their families were present.

At the concluding ceremony, officials of Coca-Cola and Century Ventures distributed prizes and shields among the winners and top performers.

In the main final, both the teams played superb polo and gave tough time to each other, but FG/Din Polo dominated the last two chukkers and managed to take a huge lead, which helped them win the title clash comfortably by 9-5. Argentinean player Tomas Marin Moreno stole



the show by displaying high-quality mallet and polo pony work and firing in fabulous five goals for the winning side. Shah Shamyil Alam also played well and banged in a brace while Farhad Muhammad Shaikh and Mian Abbas Mukhtar contributed with one goal apiece. For the losing side, Juan Cruz Greguol pumped in all the five goals.

Earlier in the subsidiary final, Remington Pharma outlasted Diamond Paints/Sheikhoo Steel 7-4. For Remington Pharma, Hamza Nawaz Khan emerged as hero of the day as he smashed in superb five goals while Ahmed Zubair Butt converted a beautiful brace. For Diamond Paints/Sheikhoo Steel, Osman Aziz Anwar, Omer Asjad Malhi, Mir Huzaifa Ahmed and Nicolas Antinori scored one goal each.

Talking to media after the prize distribution ceremony, Mian Abbas Mukhtar and Farhad Muhammad Shaikh from FG/Din Polo said: "The way the spectators supported polo at the Lahore Polo Club boosted the morale of the teams. We worked really hard and this title triumph is the result of this hard work. We will work harder and try to win more titles in the upcoming high-goal events."

Arshad Nadeem gets the Gold Medal in National Athletic Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Arshad who belongs from Pakistan Wapda in first attempt his distance was 71.78 in Javelin Through while in second attempt his through was 81.21. Pak Army Muhammad Ibrar got 2nd and Muhammad Ammaf Pak Army secured 3rd position.

Overall Army got 14 gold, 11 Silver and 8 Bronze total 33 medals and total points 428 in the Championship, and got first position Pakistan Wapda 7 gold 5 silver and 7 bronze total 19 medals 257 points and achieved 2nd position and HEC 2 gold 4 silver and 5 bronze with 144 points and got 3rd position.

In Women's Wapda secured 1st position with 12 gold 10 silver and 9 bronze total 31 medals and 387 points Pak Army 2nd position with 7 gold 5 silver and 5 bronze total 17 medals and points 228 points while HEC 2 gold 5 silver and 5 bronze total 13 medals and points they got 178. In marathon race won by Sher-K- Khan his distance was 30 minutes 52 second and he also got gold medal.

The Pakistan Athletic Federation President Akram Sahi distribute the medals. On this occasion Burjan Ceo Zahid Hussain also the chief guest also gave away the prizes among the athletes.

Messi's Argentina sink Mexico to keep WC hopes alive



LUSAIL: Lionel Messi's Argentina recovered from a shock loss against Saudi Arabia to thwart defenceless Mexico 2-0 to keep their FIFA World Cup 2022 campaign alive.

Argentina's star player and skipper Messi ended the deadlock with a vital 64th minute strike to put former champions on track of a much-needed victory.

Following Messi's magic, Enzo Fernandez joined the scoring with a sublime strike when he received the ball from Messi following a short-corner routine and executed a couple of stepovers before dispatching the ball into the top corner with a curling effort.

The triumph powered two-time champions Argentina to the second spot in the Group C standings behind leader Poland.

Mexico, on the other hand, who are yet to taste a triumph in the ongoing World Cup sank to bottom but are still in race for the Round of 16 berth.

Argentina have still a major task ahead of them as they take on Robert Lewandowski's Poland in their last group match on Thursday (December 1), while Mexico will lock horns with Saudi Arabia on the same day. A Sports

Huraira's fourth ton of the season puts Northern in charge of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHPRE: "Mohammad Huraira's fourth century of the season and Umar Amin's unbeaten 79 put Northern in a position of strength on the second day of the first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final against Sindh at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Sunday.

Huraira and Umar's unbroken 269-run partnership for the third wicket helped Northern post 296 for two in 63 overs at stumps. Northern are leading by 12 runs with eight first-innings wickets in hand.

The right-handed batter Huraira, who entered into the final with 803 runs, is now topping the batting charts with 996 runs. The 20-year-old also topped last year's first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy with 986 runs.

In pursuit of Sindh's first innings score of 284, Northern's innings started poorly as Hasan Raza (14) and Abdul Faseeh (0) were dismissed by Muhammad Umar with 27 runs on the board in the ninth over.

Opening batter Huraira was joined by captain Umar and both batters played shots at will, never allowing Sindh bowlers to settle down. Huraira brought up his fourth century of the tournament off 118 balls. His 150 runs came off 161 and returned unbeaten on 193 off 202 balls, smashing 29 fours and two sixes.

Left-handed Umar's 145-ball innings included 11 boundaries. Earlier, resuming at the overnight score of 230 for seven, Sindh could only add 54 more runs as they were bowled out for 284 in 92.5 overs.

World Cup is wonderful, allegations against Qatar are misleading

DOHA: HE Second Vice President of the Republic of Costa Rica and Minister of Sports Mary Munive Angermuller expressed her appreciation for the exceptional arrangements and preparations by the State of Qatar for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, describing them as wonderful and beautiful.

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), HE noted that the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 made it possible to meet various nationalities and cultures on the land of Qatar and learn at the same time about the culture and civilization of Qatar, its architecture, museums, and traditional clothing and food, adding that the tournament also made it possible to examine the country's renaissance, its advanced infrastructure, the hospitality and generosity of its people and its respect for others.

She stressed that everyone is now living this unique experience of the Qatar World Cup, which has become a source of happiness

and joy for those who attend it or watch its various activities.

HE Second Vice President of the Republic of Costa Rica denounced the organized smear campaigns that Qatar has been subjected to since it won the bid to host the World Cup, describing them as misleading, irresponsible and baseless allegations, adding, in a related context, that she believe that irresponsible journalism exists everywhere and her country Costa Rica is no exception.

She explained that they encountered complications with the press, which might not perform its journalistic role as it should, and they have suffered from it, explaining that such press might be behind this false information against Qatar.

HE confirmed that her arrival and presence in Qatar, her awareness of people's lifestyle, and the respect and hospitality they provide to their guests, revealed to her the falsity of those campaigns and the incorrect information

they broadcast and spread.

She stressed that Qatar's unique and exceptional World Cup experience deserves to be conveyed to others to tell them: come and see the truth for yourself; try this cultural sharing that is different from what you are used to and enjoy the game and the atmosphere of Qatar, which is very wonderful.

HE added that the truth is that the mere presence in the State of Qatar to be part of the 32 countries participating in the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and the ability to raise the flag of the country in this far part of the World and sing our national anthem among large numbers of different nationalities is a great honor for any athlete, especially for us as representatives of our government. She warned that the fake media campaigns against Qatar and the Qatar World Cup are intended primarily to detract from the real goal of the World Cup, which is to unite everyone to enjoy this global football event.

She emphasized the great importance of this edition of the World Cup, which is being held in the Middle East for the first time, especially in terms of introducing this strategic region of the world and promoting openness and cultural communication between the people of the region and the people of the whole world, pointing out that without the Qatar World Cup, all these crowds of masses and fans would not have come to the region and Qatar in particular to see for themselves and verify the falsity of the media and refute its allegations, and experience at the same time openness and cultural exchange.

She said Costa Rica was no exception, and they are really happy to come to Qatar, explaining that their delegation consists of about two thousand people who came to get to know this region of the world, which would not have been possible without the World Cup in Qatar.

HE hailed the relations between the State of Qatar and



the Republic of Costa Rica. She said the relations began strongly after 2010, noting that the Qatari embassy in the capital, San Jose, was the first embassy of a Middle Eastern country there.

She explained that during her visit to Doha, she met with a number of officials and expressed to them her country's thanks and gratitude for the assistance provided by Qatar to confront

6 months ago, will continue the path of close relations with Qatar, noting that Costa Rica enjoys environmental and cultural richness and looks forward to exchanging experiences with Qatar and continuing to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Regarding Costa Rica's participation in this edition of the World Cup, HE Second Vice President of the Republic of Costa Rica and Minister of Sports expressed shock and frustration due to the harsh defeat of the Costa Rican team in its first match against Spain, which it lost by 7 goals, but she saw no problem in falling, as the important thing is to get up again and continue progressing.

She stressed that they are with the team and hoped that they appear in a better form in the next two matches against Japan and Germany, emphasizing that just being in Qatar among 32 teams and 200 delegations of FIFA participating the tournament is considered a great honor. (QNA)