Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

'Mark my words', PTI won't exit assemblies: Bilawal

Foreign Minister and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday while reaffirming to foil the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Assemblies' dissolution said that "Mark my words" that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would not exit assemblies.' (Report on Page 8)



China firmly supports Palestinian people in establishing independent state: Zhao Lijian

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Wednesday that China firmly supported the Palestinian people in establishing an independent state and asked the international community to unswervingly adhere to the two-state solution

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Discussing national security

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.



COAS General Asim Munir calls on Prime Minister

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army relating to national security were

PM House on Wednesday.

Staff (COAS) General Asim- discussed in the meeting, which ulated General AsimMunir on and love between the people development of the institution," Munir called on Prime Minis- was the first after General Asim- the assumption of the office of and armed forces will further the prime minister maintained. ter Shehbaz Sharif here at the Munir assumed the office of COAS. Army Chief, a statement issued Professional as well as matters by the PM Media Wing here said. over your appointment as Army tent officer like you will help Agencies

The prime minister congrat- Chief. The relations of trust further improve the professional

He said, "The nation is happy

strengthen."

COAS General AsimMunir

"The leadership of a compe- thanked the prime minister.

President urges bureaucracy to provide prompt services to public

Alvi on Wednesday urged civil servants to transform bureaucracy into a service-oriented discipline by increasing its efficiency and outreach, especially to the underprivileged and underserved areas of the country.

He said the bureaucracy should focus on providing relief to the people by removing redundant impediments, thus providing hassle-free swift services to the people at their doorsteps.

The president expressed these views while addressing the participants of 117th National Management Course (NMC), comprising senior civil servants of different services and occupational groups, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press

Addressing the participants, the president said that the bureaucracy should focus its energies, abilities, knowledge and expertise to provide relief to the people

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif door policy and improving service delivery to all parts, especially to the people of far-flung areas. Commitment to the welfare of

> the people should be the central pillar of bureaucracy, which most of the time did not require money but a change in attitudes, President urges bureaucracy to

> provide prompt services to public President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the participants of the 117th National Management Course, comprising of senior civil servants of different

services and occupational groups,

at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. The president highlighted the need to review Pakistan's bureaucratic processes to bring in an exponential increase in its effectiveness, efficiency and outcome with the help of Artificial Intelligence-based technologies.

While replying to a question, he said the bureaucracy needed to provide solutions to probof Pakistan by adopting an open-lems by identifying them, factor-



benchmarking the best practices around the world and setting key performance indicators with a definite timeline for the achievement of targets.

The president said that Pakistan was facing population growth, which was putting tremendous pressure on its limited resources, however, out-ofbox ideas and solutions could help better manage the population growth and thus converting them into an economic and finan-

He said that out of 8 million pregnancies every year, half were unwanted, and by improving the availability of contraceptives these unwanted pregnancies could be reduced to half, which would help reduce population growth.

Replying to another question, the president said that although provinces spent more than 20% of their budgets on education, however, the quality and quantity of the educational services required substantial improve-

He underlined the important streaming. APP

role of civil bureaucracy in ensuring the allocation of resources and its judicial, purposeful and objective utilization to improve the condition of existing schools and create new facilities, both in-house and online and to bring over 20 million out-of-school chil-

dren into the education system. He said that assistive technology and enabling conditions for over 20 million differently-abled persons could make them economically empowered and would ensure their main-

Govt providing underprivileged class access to education: AhsanIqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning tutional and technical capacities in delivering oped a Mental Health Psychosocial Support Development and Special Initiatives, Professor AhsanIqbal said here Wednesday that the government was committed to providing the

underprivileged class access to education. Addressing the International Summit on Higher Education and Workforce Development the minister said that the access to higher education was one of the keys to growth and

development. The Summit was organized under the auspices Higher Education System Strengthening

Activity (HESSA) Project. The HESSA project is providing technical assistance to 16 Pakistani universities distributed across all provinces in improving their instimarket-relevant education and research, with an overarching goal of enhancing the employability potential of graduating students.

The summit was a timely initiative within the context of Pakistan's development priorities as US support for Pakistan's Higher Education System has a long history which ranges from primary and basic education to establishing Centers of Excellence to strengthening overall

higher education systems, said the Minister. Ahsan Iqbal said that youth in Pakistan are not only concerned about their future education, but also about their livelihoods, their mental health,

The Planning Ministry has already devel-

Handbook.

Therefore, mainstreaming this group and its energy into the socioeconomic development process will be critical to the overall socio-ecoomic development of Pakistan, he added.

It is noted that Pakistan's estimated youth unemployment is between 8.5 to 10 percent, with 80 percent youth workforce having a low level of education and poor skills base primarily due to the gaps in quality, access, and relevance of the skills vis-à-vis what is needed in the market.

We as a nation face key challenges as to how to equip our young population with the knowledge and skills required to support the national development agenda and priorities.

PM greets volleyball team

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday congratulated Pakistan's men's volleyball team for winning the Central Asian Volleyball Championship.

He termed the victory as the outcome of the team's hard work and dedication.

"It is a testament to our olayers' grit, determination, and hard work in reviving Pakistan's glory in the arena of sports," he said in a tweet.

Petroleum prices unchanged, deadline for filing tax return extended

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday announced to maintain prices of petrol and speed diesel for the next fifteen days from December 1 to 15, 2022.

The Finance minister said that the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel for the next 15 days from December 1st to 15th will be the same as per the prices announced last month.

The previous price of petrol Rs.224.80 per litter will remain unchanged for the

The minister said that the prices of kerosene oil and light diesel have been reduced by 10 rupees and the price of light diesel has been reduced by 7.50 rupees per liter, which will be applied from Decem-

Apart from this, he has extended the date of submission of tax returns for fifteen days and asked to submit the tax returns till December 15.

He said that due to the insistence of the business community and the current situation in the flood affected areas, the date of submission of tax returns has been extended till December 15, 2022.

PM condoles death of former Chinese president

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister friend who made valuable Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed profound grief over the death of the former President of China, Jiang Zemin.

The prime minister said the late Chinese president was a wise leader and a statesman who was regarded in Pakistan as a great friend.

"In Pakistan, we fondly remember him as a great Wednesday. APP

contributions to strengthening Pakistan-China relations," he posted in a tweet.

China's former leader Jiang Zemin, who steered the country through a transformational era from the late 1980s and into the new millennium, died at the age of 96, the Xinhua news agency reported on

President, PM vow not to let terrorism harm anti-polio efforts

ISLAMABAD : President- the children of the country DrArifAlvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the suicide attack at a police van deputed on the security of an anti-polio team and said such nefarious designs would not be allowed to harm the country's commitment to eliminate

In their separate statements on the terrorist incident in Quetta's Baleli area, the president and the prime minister expressed their resolve to continue efforts till the complete end of polio.

and police personnel for saving country. APP

from the crippling disease.

He prayed for the forgiveness of the souls of the deceased and for the early recovery of the wounded.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said polio workers across the country were fulfilling their responsibilities without caring about their lives. He stressed that eliminating

polio virus from the country was amongst the top priorities of the government and vowed not to rest until polio was completely eradicated.

He asserted that 'evil President Alvi paid tribute elements' would fail to harm to the efforts of health workers the anti-polio campaign in the

Imran Khan vows to field PTI's founding members in next elections

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf(PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asserted that the party would field long-standing and founding members in the next general elections, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

According to details, the former prime minister met founding members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and at his residence in Lahore's Zaman Park.

During the meeting, the PTI Chairman noted that he wanted to meet party's long-standing workers. Calling the members 'assets', he said such loyal workers cannot be ignored at any

Imran Khan vowed to field PTI's long standing and founding members in the next general elections. He also directed the attendees to mobilise the party

for the upcoming elections. Earlier on November 28, Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry confirmed that the

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) leadership agreed upon dissolving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab assemblies.

Talking to journalists at Zaman Park in Lahore, Fawad Chaudhry noted that the PTI leadership held a party leaders' meeting to decide upon quitting all assemblies to push the incumbent government for fresh elections.

He said, "The party leadership agreed upon dissolving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab assemblies, while our members in Sindh and Balochistan assemblies will submit their resignations."

Fawad Chaudhry further said that the government would be forced to hold elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) within 90 days as per the Constitution. "The opposition, in the provinces, will also be invited to put forward their names for caretaker government," he added. ARY

The Spokesman

Discussion

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir calls on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.



Imran Khan should not use Quaid-e-Azam's name to achieve his 'nefarious agenda': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Imran Khan while congrat-Information and Broadcast- ulating Chief of Army Staff ing Marriyum Aurangzeb General Syed Asim Munir on on Wednesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan should not use the name of Quaid-e-Azam and expressed the hope that the Mohammad Ali Jinnah to new leadership of the military achieve his "nefarious agenda".

"Whether Quaid-e-Azam has said that the (wrist)watch with the image of Mecca should be sold from Toshakhana, or deficit is to offer a lifetime extendid he say to offer a lifetime sion to the army chief behind extension to the army chief behind closed doors," she said while addressing a news conference here to brief the media persons about the decisions taken by the federal cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

assuming the charge cited a "farman" (saying) of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah would end trust deficit between the nation and state.

She said "if Imran Khan thinks that the meaning of trust closed doors then the mistrust actually prevails in his mind." Marrivum went on to say

that Imran Khan made an offer to the (former) army chief for a lifetime extension, "launched malicious (social and other constitutional office army chief behind closed doors media) campaigns against holders to violate the Constitu- and quipped that Imran and his The minister said today the martyrs and officers of Pak tion so that he could remain in wife allegedly demanded a ring



Army, formally invited the head of an institution to intervene in the politics and above all forced

the power".

She asked Imran Khan whether he made the offer for a the governor, deputy speaker lifetime extension to the former

of the five-carat diamond from a businessman in line with the "Farman" of Quaid-e-Azam"

"Whether Imran Khan spent the donation money for political purposes in line with the sayings of Quaid-e-Azam and abducted Taybba Gul and put her in the Prime Minster's House for blackmailing the NAB chairman, or locked up the FIA DG in the PM's House, or did victimization of political opponents or sell the gifts from Toshakhana, or launch the campaign against the military martyrs, or plunder national exchequer after stealing public mandate while following the teachings of the father of the nation," Marrivum asked while taking a jibe against the PTI chief. Agencies

China firmly supports Palestinian people in establishing independent state: Zhao Lijian

№ News Desk

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Wednesday that China firmly supported the Palestinian people in establishing an independent state and asked the international community to unswervingly adhere to the two-state solution.

Yesterday, President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message to the commemora- tional Day of Solidarity with



tive meeting of the Interna- the Palestinian People.

Jinping's tenth consecutive out in his message, the Palescongratulatory message to the commemorative conference, which fully demonstrates China's firm support for the just cause of restoring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and also reflects China's responsibility as a permanent member of the Palestine high on the inter-Security Council, he said during his regular briefing

Zhao Lijian said that as statehood at an early date,"

This is President Xi President Xi Jinping pointed he added. tinian issue was the core of the Middle East problem, which was related to regional peace and stability and international fairness and justice.

international community should unsweryingly adhere to the two-state solution, put the question of national agenda, and help the Palestinian people realize their dream of independent

The spokesperson said that China would continue to work with the international community to make positive contributions to the realization of lasting peace, general security and common prosperity in the Middle East.

It is worth mentioning here that on November 29, the United Nations held a commemorative meeting of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian

Death Anniversary of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq remembered

跨 Umer Mustafa

Certainly, the death of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan created a huge vacuum which would remain unfilled after his demise. The death On December 1st. we are remembering the great son of the soil, Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan, on his second death anniversary to pay rich tributes to the deceased and laud his matchless service for the nation. The Central Chief Organizer of Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir and Former Speaker Legislative Assembly, Khan left for eternal abode on December 01, 2020. The deceased was laid to eternal rest at his ancestral graveyard in his hometown Hajira on December 02,2020.

Mr Sadiq, who was elected from-LA-18 Poonch-II in three consecutive general elections in 2001, 2006 and 2011, had remained adviser to the chairperson AJK Council from Nov 30, 2008 to July 4, 2011, and Legislative Assembly Speaker from July 25, 2011 to July 30, 2016.

Sadiq was a senior parliamentarian who had started his carrier as a teacher and later joined PPP in 1979 as district

councilor and rose to the third highest position in the state after resigning from his job and twice elected as member legislative Assembly. The main motive of the PPP to serve the poor of the country and ensure they get 'Roti, Kapra and Makan (Bread, clothes and home), attracted the deceased leader to join this party as he thought that if he had to do anything for the poor, the PPP would be the appropriate platform. keeping this in mind, he carried on journey on this path and served the people, not only of his own constituency but all across the state. His services for public would be remembered always. The onslaught on democracy by military dictators and extra-judicial killing of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had forced him to revolt against the societal injustice and join politics. He raised voice against the dictatorship and practically participated in the struggle against the unconstitutional punishment of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. He had to face jails and was arrested many times, but he did not leave the path of struggle and carried on his journey to fight for the

rights of people. He also served as advisor to Prime



Minister of Pakistan and speaker legislative Assembly as well. He was known as a principled politician who earned wide respect in the political circles of AJK irrespective of political affiliations. He was known as a very humble and a genuinely respected politician in various segment of the society.

Many people hailing from different segments of the society including senior parliamentarians and politicians, leaders and representatives of different political and religious organizations admired his outright character and believed that the death of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan was a great loss to the entire state and that AJK is deprived of an experienced parliamentarian and devoted politician.

However, some close friends and fellows of late speaker are of the view that the political struggle of Sardar Ghulam Sadiq Khan was a beacon of light for the coming generations who believed in the value based politics and will be remembered for long. He had virtually created political awareness among the masses.. The deceased was a man of fidelity and morality, possessing high qualities and abilities. He was a party's asset and had made great contributions to the supremacy of democratic and parliamentary traditions in the state [AJK]. During his political career Khan promoted tolerance, brotherhood and interfaith harmony. Being an ideological worker he remained loyal to his party it till his death. He spent his entire life in the service of the poor and devoted his entire life to the service of the people. His death is not only a loss for the PPP but it is a great loss for the entire state.

For a thousand years the narcissus has been lamenting its blindness With great difficulty the one with true vision

is born in the garden. May the departed soul rest in eternal make before that, adding that he in this regard. (Dunya News)

peace. Ameen Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi.

NA sub-committee formed to evaluate **DRAP** performance

ISLAMABAD: The National Assem- authority was mandated to effective bly Standing Committee on National Health Service, Regulations and Coordination on Wednesday formed a sub-committee to evaluate the performance of the Drug Regular Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to ensure the provision of standard and quality medicines to the general public.

Chairing the sub-committee meeting, PML-N lawmaker Dr. Nisar Ahmed Cheema said that in the previous three years, innovative steps have been taken for the betterment of DRAP and to further improve the performance of the authority.

"After assuming charge by Asim Rauf as chief executive officer (CEO) of DRAP, a marked improvement, and valuable changes have been observed in the performance and working of the DRAP. I really appreciate the way the CEO DRAP has been working," Nisar Cheema added.

DRAP officials briefed the sub-committee regarding DRAP"s e-governance and its performance.

DRAP Asim Rauf said that the APP

coordination and enforcement of the Drugs Act, 1976 to regulate the manufacture, import, export, storage, distribution, and sale of therapeutic goods in the country.

He said that in the year 2019, DRAP started digitally transferring manual data from the past 10 years containing 4.2 million files and now it was the first public-sector organization to have the capacity to perform duties from anywhere in the world.

"The digitalization will help save millions of dollars to the stakeholders as well as speeding up all the processes from registration to licensing", Asim Rauf added.

Chairman of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA), Arshad Mehmood (North) announced that PPMA will give the drugs at a 50 percent discount to the public health sector and hospitals.

Dr Nisar Ahmed acknowledged the announcement of PPMA and appreciated them for the provision of relief Later talking to the media, CEO to the public health sector hospitals.

'Mark my words', PTI won't exit assemblies: Bilawal



№ News Desk

KARACHI :Foreign Minister and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday while reaffirming to foil the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkha-

foundation day, the foreign minister said that PPP never opted for the politics of violence and division, adding that attempts were made to limit the party to one province by bringing a "selected party" into power, but we ousted that selected government through constitutional tactics. "We will solve the country's problems together with the people's mandate," he said.

"Mark my words, the threat of resig-

nation from Imran Khan is a deceit because they will never resign from the provincial assemblies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab," claimed Bilawal.

He said that if PTI wants to resign,

PPP is ready to compete with it. "PPP wa Assemblies' dissolution said that workers have handed a big defeat to "Mark my words" that the Pakistan the "selected" (Imran Khan) in by-elec-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would not exit tions in Malir and Multan," he added. "My mother also did not compro

While addressing the party's 55th mise on the principles despite the difficulties," the PPP chairman added.

FM Bilawal It is wrongly said that the leader takes the U-turn. He added that genuine leaders never take U-turns and always stick to their principles. He gave a reference to Benazir Bhutto Shaheed and said she stood up in Rawalpindi and challenged the dictators and terrorists of the time to promote the politics of conscience in the country.

Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz return to London

LONDON: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif and Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif have returned to London after their visit to European countries, ARY News reported.

According to the details, the PML-N leaders returned to London after their brief stay in different European countries. The family teacher London from Geneva via Heathrow Airport.

The PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz along with their family departed for Europe from London on November 21.



father-daughter duo along with the family departed for Europe this morning. It is Nawaz Sharif's first international trip after three years of stay in London. ARY

Khawaja Asif claims he is in contact with PTI leaders

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif while claiming of being in contact with the some members of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said that some people from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa doesn't want the assemblies to be dissolved.

Speaking exclusively to Dunya News, he said that a strategy can be devised after former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's decision on dissolving assemblies.

ed to make final decision within a day or two and what prediction he can



say that several people from KP and Punjab doesn't want assemblies to be dissolved.

It is pertinent to mention here The minister said the PTI is expect- that former PM Imran Khan had announced to dissolve assemblies in Punjab and KP and will soon give date

NTDC Press Release

Federal Minister, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan inaugurates 220 kv grid station Jhimpir-II

gy (Power Division), Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan has inaugurated 220 kV grid station Jhimpir -II at Jhimpir in District Thatta, today. The project will add power to the national grid generated through wind power plants located in Jhimpir wind cluster.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan said that the major focus of the present government is to utilize indigenous sources of energy to lessen the reliance on expensive, imported fuel for the generation of electricity. He said that major focus is being given to electricity generation through solar, wind, hydel and nuclear, which are not only cost-ef-



further said that, in addition to this clean the transmission system is also being

fective but also environment friendly. He $\;\;$ energy being injected into the system,

The grid station and its allied transmission lines were completed at the cost of Rs 8,250 million and will evacuate $510\,\mathrm{MW}$ of clean renewable energy from wind power plants located in the Jhimpir wind corridor.

The Managing Director NTDC, Engr. $\,$ Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan also spoke on the occasion and said that the grid station will have sufficient capacity to transmit additional power in the future. It will also strengthen the reliability of the NTDC transmission network and improve voltage profile in the associated HESCO region. Local politicians, NTDC officers and staff were also present during the inauguration ceremony.

PPP Foundation Day

PESHAWAR: Provincial President of Pakistan People's Party Najam Uddin Khan addressing to celebrate PPP Foundation Day, organized by PPP minorities wing in Provincial Capital.



Auditorium hall named after martyred

Captain Wali Wazir inaugurated B Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: According to details, IGFC South KP Haroon Hameed Chaudhary inaugurated the auditorium hall named after martyred Captain Abdul Wali Wazir in Cadet College Wana.

Principals of government educational institutions, tribal elders, Muhammad Usman, father of martyred Captain Abdul Wali Khan and other members of his family besides a large number of people participated in the inauguration ceremony.

He said on this occasion that Cadet College wana and other educational institutions must provide a conducive environment for students to acquire knowl-

Achieving the best educatechnical education is also



Wana: IGFC (S) KP Haroon Hameed Chaudhary inaugurated martyred Captain Abdulwali Wazir Auditorium Hall at Cadet College Wana.

enough talent among the tional environment and children here, they can make a name in all fields of Paki- Bismillah Khan and others He said that there is educational environment.

Tribal elders Malik Ajmal Wazir, Malik Jameel, Malik stan by giving them a good discussed with IGFC South in a very friendly atmosphere

peace and security and other

On this occasion, Malik Ajmal praised the Cadet College Wana and demanded to increase the quota allocated for tribal people.

Malik Ajmal demanded from the IGFC regarding peace and order that all black glass vehicles should be dealt with indiscriminately to maintain peace.

IGFC said that efforts are being made to increase health, education and commercial activities in the

A meeting has been held with the trade union regarding the Angoor Ada border, the security position here is better for peace and security.

No one can in any way be allowed to disturb the peace or sabotage,

Martyr Captain Abdul Wali, who was a student of Cadet College Wana, was martyred in North Waziristan this year.

Inspire Pakistan takes pride in serving refugees



ISLAMABAD: Inspire Pakistan takes pride in serving refugees by empowering their youth by protecting their right to education and also through provision of protection services in partnership with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Pakistan. This helps in the progress and development for the welfare of Afghan Refugees during their temporary stay in Pakistan. Inspire Pakistan through support of UNHCR, established Urban Cohesion Hub at Rawalpindi where needbased services are provided to Afghan refugees and host communities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to benefit from integrated services in health, education, vocational skills, legal support, protection and recreational activities for social cohesion.

Third Graduation ceremony embedded with "16 days of activism"for the year 2022 was held where Afghan and host students were advised to support all types of global campaigns for 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and to end violence against women and girls. Later on students were given certificates on completion of different courses including Computer, English language, Beautician, Tailoring and Culinary Arts.

UNHCR and GIZ-RMSP participated along with the Afghan refugee as well as host community providing an example of social cohesion. Ms. Nikola Errington, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR was the chief guest whereas guest of honour was Mr. Khursheed Ahmed, Technical Advisor, Urban Projects, Refugee Management Support Programme (RMSP). GIZ. Graduates in their speeches thanked the UNHCR and Inspire Pakistan for providing support and expressed their gratitude to the teachers for providing illuminating knowledge for their bright future.

Ms. Nikola Errington in her speech at the occasion especially focused on the students and urged them to stand united against violence against women. She further said that 16 Days of activism is an opportunity to unite with partners around the world and reflect on what we can each do in our own communities to eliminate the disproportionate violence faced by women and girls.

Policeman among four killed in Quetta suicide blast, TTP claims responsibility

👺 Raja Furqan Ahmed

QUETTA: At least three people including a woman were killed and $28\,$ others, including 20 cops, injured in a suicide attack near a Balochistan Constabulary truck in Quetta's Baleli area on Wednesday.

Quetta Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Ghulam Azfar Mahesar told reporters at the site of the attack that the explosion took place near a police truck which was on its way to provide security to

"Due to the impact <code>[of the blast]</code>, the vehicle toppled and fell into a ditch," he stated. The official said that a total of three vehicles were hit in the blast — the police truck, a Suzuki Mehran and a Toyota Corolla. The Quetta DIG said up to 25kg of explosives were used in the blast. He said policemen were riding the truck to join their duty. Mahesar added that the wounded have been moved to the Civil Hospital Quetta. The official later said that the deceased civilians included a child and a woman. The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

FWCCI schedules organizing first ever Boss Ladies Expo 2022'

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) has scheduled to organize first ever 'Boss Ladies Expo 2022' on 03 Dec, 2022 to encourage, facilitate and promote real estate business, said Mrs. Rubina Amjad, President FWCCI. She was talking to media in a meeting held here today. She said that real estate offers to women is an extraordinary opportunity for economic empowerment and career advancement. Women of all segments may take part and start their businesses equitably shoulder to shoulder with men.

She said that FWCCI has first ever organized 'Boss Ladies Expo 2022' to facilitate and promote real estate business. Expo Program also include renowned 'Panel Discussion 'by experts on the subject.

She said that the sector has huge potential where women can become an agent or even tap other lines as developer, interior decorators etc. She said that it is also a promising opportunity for new start ups to learn more about current real estate trends and seek inspiration from other successful females already engaged in this busines

Shan Shares expands partnership with Saylani Welfare Trust to tackle hunger



KARACHI: Shan Shares, the CSR identity of Shan Foods, has expanded partnership with Saylani International Welfare Trust (SWIT), a non-governmental organization focusing primarily on feeding the poor and homeless, by sponsoring another free meal set up in an effort to provide free meals to the underprivileged members of the society.

This initiative is part of the agreement Shan Shares had signed last year with the Saylani Welfare Trust to regularly sponsor food for underserved people and provide their products for the preparation of meals. Under this collaboration, thousands of people have already been provided with meals free of cost since the launch of its first food truck. By sponsoring another meal set up, Shan Shares aims to expand its outreach in the city and share meals with more communities. These efforts are in line with Shan Shares' mission to achieve the goal of zero hunger in society

Maria Rashdi, Head of Corporate Communication and PR Shan Foods, while commenting on the arrangement, said, "Hunger has been a global issue for a long time. Today, a staggering 811 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat which automatically obstructs their further growth in life. Shan Shares is committed to erasing the inequalities prevalent around us and working towards creating an equitable and peaceful society for all. The first step to a just world and an empowered community is to make sure people's basic needs are met and everyone has equal access to opportunities needed to live a fulfilled life. We hope that through this collaborative initiative with Saylani Welfare Trust and our other collective efforts, our efforts will help to put an end to hunger and people will be empowered to fight against poverty and inequalities as per Shan Shares' vision."

MoU signing ceremony between LHF and History Department GCU



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The MoU signing ceremony between Lyallpur Heritage Foundation district administration and Department of History, Government College University for the promotion of historical heritage and providing opportunities for students and researchers to advance in the field of research was held at the DC office in which Deputy Commissioner/ Chairman Lyallpur Heritage Foundation Imran Hamid Sheikh and representing the Vice Chancellor, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences Dr. Asim Mehmood signed the memorandum of understanding.

In-charge Foundation Bazla Manzoor and Chairman of GC University History Department Professor Dr. Rizwanullah Kokab were also present. Documentation was also exchanged on this occasion. The Deputy Commissioner said that under the MoU, GC University History Department students and the researchers will not only have access to the historic buildings preserved under the Lyallpur Heritage Foundation, but they will further research on them and convey the history of the region to the world through their articles. He said that this MoU is a revolutionary initiative which will lead

to more research. The Deputy Commissioner said that under the auspices of the Lyallpur Heritage Foundation the district administration, various measures are being taken to preserve and restore the cultural and historical buildings of the region so that the future generation is familiar with the history, culture and lifestyle of the region.

Interior Designs Project Exhibition at Kinnaird College

Kinnaird with modernism. The design-College's center for Learn- ers added the cultural elements Kinnaird College is playing its ing and Cultural Development (KCLCD) organized tables, pottery designs and the Project exhibition in which students received appreciation for brilliant display of their innovative interior design creations. Based on latest ideas of home and office décor, all projects reflected the immense talent of young designers. The show was final part of one year interior design course which taught the students the practical skills and exposure required for joining the field

of Interior designing. Principal KC Prof. Dr. Rukhsana David graced the project show as a chief guest. She praised the young designers for their impressive projects, which presented a beautiful blend of tradition

such as customized cushions. thematic paintings with other décor ingredients. Director KCLCD Ms. Maha

Jamil acknowledged the hard work of young designers for making the project show a memorable event. She shared that KCLCD is putting great focus in the development of skilled based youth, and for this very cause various skilled based short courses are being offered to young students which enables them to become Hina Hayee was praised by the market by instilling creative, critical and ethical quali-

ties in the practice. Technical and Professional Education is very necessary

development of the society and active role in this mission said by Rizwan Anwar Executive Director KCLCD. He said the basic objective of the project show was to display the creative and Innovative designs which are not only deeply rooted in the cultural and social sensibilities of our society but also present socially responsible designs solutions. Such shows also pays path for the new talented designers, he concluded. Course Instructor Miss

professionals who can impact The Chief Guest and Executive Director where as all participating Students including Mariam Maqbool, Rafia Sajjad, Neha Tahir, Qandeel, Nageen Ashraf, Sara Ashraf, for the promotion of positive Noureen Rohail, Aimen Usman, Sofia Awais, Hiba Ideas and Efforts.



Waajid, Faiza Farooq, Maria Arif, Amina Muazzam were Sultana, Juwariyah Irfan, encouraged for their Profes-Irum Naz, Hina Ahmad, Izza sional Exhibits, Great Design

Thursday, December 1, 2022



15º – 23º Clear

SERVICES	
Namaz 1	Timings
Fajr	5:25 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	3:22 pm
Maghrib	4:59 pm
Isha	6:27 pm

EMERGENCY

FINITIVE I	
Rescue (Police) 1	5
Bomb Disposal 1	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 1	6
Emergency Ambulance 1122	&
& Rescue Services 445112	2
Motorway Police926604	4
Motorway Police 9270601-2	0

Women Police

Stations		
Islamabad	92225	
Rawalpindi	9270601-	

ENQUIRY				
Edhi Ambulance				
PIA Flight Info	114			
PIA Cargo	9280979			
Railway Inquiry	117			
Railway Exchange	9270831-5			

WASA Rawalpindi

HU3FI I	ALS
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

BKUC students stage protest against hefty fines, sexual harassment

News Desk

CHARSADDA: A large $number\ of\ students\ o\widetilde{f}$ the Bacha Khan University Charsadda (BKUC) staged a protest against the administration for the alleged imposition of hefty fines and sexual harassment, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

Outrageous students also seized the control of central gate of the university and chanted slogans against the vice-chancellor (VC) and other officers. Following the protest, hundreds of students and teaching staff were trapped inside the varsity building.

Police officials tried to calm down the outrageous students and held negotiations, however, it remained inconclusive. The protesting students demanded the BKUC VC hold talks at the central gate.

The protesting students levelled serious allegations of sexual harassment against the BKUC manage-

They said that the varsity administration levelled false allegations of harass-

DC Islamabad assures to resolve issues of business community

ISLAMABAD: Irfan Nawaz Memon, Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad said that the business community is the key stakeholder in the economic development of the country and assured that he would take all possible measures to resolve their key issues. He said that a Committee would be formed to address the issues of the business community including encroachments in markets, board tax and professional tax. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

Irfan Nawaz Memon said that due to the consistent water boring in Islamabad, the water tables have gone very low and water shortage could develop into a serious crisis in the federal capital in future. He stressed that the business community should raise its voice against this issue for its optimum solution. He said that the business community should cooperate in curbing frauds in cooperative housing societies. He said that

Islamabad is a serious issue and stressed that the business community should cooperate in addressing this issue. He said that the business community should arrange fire alarms, fire extinguishers and water tanks in commercial and industrial buildings to cope with fire incidents and he was ready to facilitate them in such efforts. He assured that he was ready to work with ICCI in addressing the other major issues of the business community.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry highlighted the various issues of the business community that needed the attention of DC Islamabad for redress. He said that instead of issuing notices to the business community for meeting tough firefighting requirements, these requirements should be revised in consultation with them to facilitate them in this issue. He said that 2 underground parking lots in Jinnah Super Market should be operationalized and shifting of courts from F-8 Markaz should be expedited to address construction of buildings over Nullahs in the concerns of the business community.



He said that encroachments from markets should be removed in consultation with stakeholders and pushcarts set up under Ahsaas Program should be removed from markets to a separate location. He said that the professional tax belonged to the local government and stressed that it should be suspended till the completion of election

of local government in Islamabad. He said Chaudhry, Zahid Qureshi, Ch. Muhamthat board tax should be charged according to the gazette notification of 2014 and double the rate of contractors should be revised.

Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Mian Shaukat Masud, Tahir Ayub, Babar

mad Ali, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Raja Hassan Akhtar, Ahmed Khan, Khalid Chaudhry, Saif ur Rehman Khan and representatives market associations also highlighted various issues for the attention of DC Islamabad and stressed for their

National Day of UAE

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Alzaabi cutting the ribbon during inauguration ceremony of celebration 51 National Day of UAE at a shopping mall in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

World must take notice of Modi regime's brutal actions in IIOJK: Mushaal

№ City Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Mullick came down hard on UN bodies and world powers for their criminal silence over brutal militarization, ethnic cleansing, demographic change and wave of state terrorism unleashed by Indian fascist government in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal, a wife of senior detained hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said in a statement on Tuesday that the scenic valley had been under brutal military siege since India illegally landed its troops in Srinagar on 27 October 1947, as over 1 million Indian troops remain deployed across the occupied territory to brutally suppress the dissenting voices.

The Chairperson stated that Indian troops have turned Kashmir into a living hell for its residents by resorting to every



and grief have become part of Kashmiris' lives for over seven

She said that fascist Narendra Modi regime further intensified its crackdown against the Kashmiris since revoking IIOJK's special status in August 2019, as Kashmiris were witnessing extrajudicial killings, massacres, nocturnal raids, torture and rape on daily basis in the occupied valley.

Mushaal questioned as for how long would the world remain silent on brutal militarization of IIOJK. She vowed by Jamaat-e-Islami. "Sealing that Kashmiris' cry for right to self-determination cannot be kind of brutal tactics, as blood silenced by brutal militariza- Kashmiris into withdrawing

endless stories of torture and agony in IIOJK," she added.

In its latest move to change the demography of the valley, Mushaal said that Modi regime has added 7.72 lac new voters, majority of them non-local Hindus in the final electoral rolls of IIOJK aimed at benefiting BJP in the so-called assembly elections in the occupied

valley. The hurriyat went on to say that Modi's Hindutva regime was planning to seize 188 more Jamaat-e-Islami properties in IIOJK, adding that the occupation authorities recently seized 11 properties worth 90 crores INR belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami for supporting the freedom struggle.

She said that the IIOJK authorities have already sealed properties including schools, mosques and orphanages run properties in the occupied territory are meant to bully

tion. "It is time to highlight the their support to freedom move-

ment," Mushaal added. Mushaal lamented that Indian troops were regularly destroying Kashmiris' houses during violent military operations, as Modi regime was planning not only to render Kashmiris homeless but also deprived them of their identity.

She said that illegal confiscations and demolition of properties were part of India's systematic settler colonialism campaign in the occupied, as Modi was using every brutal tactic to muzzle the freedom

voice of Kashmiris. The Chairperson said that fascist Modi and his henchmen must know that their cruel methods against the Kashmiris were bound to backfire. Mushaal urged that world and human right organizations $must\,wake\,up\,to\,take\,notice\,of$ Modi regime's brutal actions in IIOJK, who turned the scenic valley into a slaughter house and largest open prison in the

Telenor Microfinance Bank announces USD 15m Equity Injection from Shareholders

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Telenor Microfinance Bank (TMB), operator of Pakistan's leading digital payments platform Easypaisa, has received US\$ 15 million (PKR 3.4 billion) equity injection from its shareholders Telenor Group and Ant Group. This is the first tranche of a total investment of US\$ 30 million planned by the shareholders to support the latest business plan.

This tranche brings the total equity invested by the shareholders since 2018 to USD 305 million. The investment has further strengthened the Bank's capital position and placed the organization on an upward trajectory to continue its growth in Pakistan's digital finance space.

Senior management from both Telenor Group and Ant Group visited Pakistan a few weeks earlier to meet the Leadership team of TMB and reaffirmed their support for the Bank's future roadmap.

In pursuit of its mission of creating a financially inclusive and cashless society, TMB has become the first Bank in Pakistan to successfully roll out a digital-first model. With more than 11 million monthly active users, the platform continues to diversify its offerings and is enabling customers to use a suite of digital financial services including payments, savings, digital lending, eliminating the need to physically come to a branch.

 $Commenting \ on \ the \ development, M.\ Mudassar\ Aqil, CEO\ Telenor$ Microfinance Bank & Easypaisa said; "We are thankful to our shareholders for their continuous trust and confidence in us. The commitment by Telenor Group and Ant Group is evident from the US\$ 305 million investment till date in the business, which is the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the history of Pakistan's banking sector. This equity injection will allow us to pursue our Digital-First strategy and make digital financial services accessible to every Pakistani. With more than 11 million monthly active users and growing, together with the largest digital payments platform in the country, we remain committed to transform Pakistan into a cashless and financially inclusive society through collaboration and technology."

Being the leader of the fintech revolution in Pakistan, Telenor Microfinance Bank/Easypaisa is providing best-in-class services to millions of users across Pakistan. The Bank continues to work towards financially empowering Pakistanis through a robust portfolio of innovative digital banking solutions in line with its mission of a financially inclusive Pakistan.

Red Bull off The Roof: The Concert Drives to You



LAHORE: Red Bull Off The Roof is a brand-new, innovative addition to the Pakistani live music ecosphere. Where once the audience went to the concert venue, this new breakthrough brings the CONCERT

venue TO THE AUDIENCE. Since 2013, Red Bull has held Off The Roof shows across the world. This year, the show finally comes to Pakistan where musicians will travel in and perform on the top of a bus. A gigantic tour buswill carry a number ofrenowned Pakistani musicians. At the Expo Center, Lahore, the musicians will perform on the roof of the bus to the audience standing below and around.

To be heldon December 24, 2022 at the Expo Center in Lahore, Pakistan, Red Bull Off The Roof will be headlined by none other than the former Strings-man Bilal Maqsood. Accompanying acts include metal band Takatak, hip-hop artist and music producer Rizzy Rozeo

& Taha G. Links to Embed here:

Red Bull Off The Roof Bus which is custom-made for Red Bull Off The Roof by Lahore-based designers Hassan Mian and Hira Rafique, is sure to be a beautiful sight, according to Bilal Maqsood. Naturally, he is excited to be performing atop a bus for the first time.

This bus is going to create a buzz for sure. This will definitely change the fabric of our live music industry," said Bilal Maqsood. "I think our bands are going to be standing in a queue waiting to be the next band to play on top of that bus. And Red Bull being a huge supporter of Pakistan's music industry, it won't leave any stone unturned in making this show special."

The Pakistani music icon believes the idea behind the show is unique and offers the promise of such wildly interesting concerts in different

"Red Bull Off The Roof is such an amazing idea. The whole idea behind this tour bus is to provide the ultimate concert experience with a little twist that the bands are performing on the roof of the same bus they travel in. The live performances are all about the experience you get. And this is going to double or triple the experience because the locations would not be your regular concert venues. They could be anywhere outdoors, near the mountains or the beach, maybe on the runway. It could be done anywhere."

So, don't think twice about getting a once-in-a-lifetime experience on December 24, 2022.

RCCI urge youth to promote culture of research

Mews Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has emphasized that as no nation in the world could progress without focusing on research, the youth should promote a culture of research in all walks

RCCI Acting President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh who was invited as a Chief Guest on 7th Multidisciplinary Student Research International Conference at University of Wah, said that information and digital technologies were the future technologies in which the new generation of Pakistan should acquire special expertise to enable



them to serve the country to cope with the challenges of modern era. RCCI Former Vice President Mr. Tallat

Mahmood Awan along with Mr. Abdul Rauf, Executive Committee member were also present.

Pakistan is very lucky to have 60% youth in the national population. Youth is our future and its our collective responsibility to provide them an environment where they can seek business opportunities over job opportunities, he added.

With the motive to encourage students to become job creators instead of job seekers, RCCI aimed to provide opportunities to our youth to participate in interactive sessions, training workshops, to learn about success stories, innovative ideas which enhance their knowledge about entrepreneurship.

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Egypt expresses support for **Palestinians**

he Arab League celebrated on Nov. 29 the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People with a high-level diplomatic and cultural event in Cairo. The event was attended by many representatives

of Arab countries and foreign diplomats in Cairo as well as a number of public figures.

Ahmed Aboul Gheit, secretary-general of the bloc, delivered an opening speech at the event, which also witnessed speeches by Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki, and representatives of the UN, Al-Azhar Al-Sharif and the Egyptian Church.

Aboul Gheit criticized the international community's inaction over continued Israeli atrocities against the Palestinian people, including the killing of civilians by the occupation forces, the recent incursions and the unjust siege Israel has imposed on more than 2 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip for

He specifically thanked the new Australian government for its reversal of a previous government's decision to relocate the Israeli Embassy to Jerusalem.

He warned of the consequences of countries transferring their embassies to occupied Jerusalem and urged those that did to retract their decision, just like Australia.

Aboul Gheit called on the countries of the world to recognize the Palestinian state in order for it to obtain full membership in the UN.

He also appealed to the international community to support Palestinian diplomatic efforts to present the issue of occupation at the International Court of Justice, stressing that this path is what gives Palestinians hope that the world has not abandoned

Meanwhile, Al-Maliki gave a presentation on the dangers associated with the formation of a right-wing government in Israel and the negative repercussions this entails for the two-

Aboul Gheit emphasized the need to put the recent Algiers summit decisions into action by backing the Palestinians and confronting the Israeli extreme right.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the country stands with Palestine on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and will always support the Palestinian cause as the central issue of the Arab world.

The ministry stressed that Egypt's position with regard to the Palestinian issue has not changed and will not change.

It is not conceivable that regional stability will be achieved in the Middle East without a just and comprehensive settlement of the issue on the basis of the two-state solution, it added

Egypt stressed the need to put an end to the cycle of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories and to stop taking unilateral measures, foremost of which are illegal settlement activities, policies of eviction of Palestinians in Jerusalem, changes to the demographic character of the city and the division of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surroundings, the statement said.

Egypt said it will, with the help of the international community, keep making unceasing and earnest efforts to restart the peace process and persuade parties to come together for

Digital knowledge is booming -but at what cost?

Dr. Bashayer Al-Majed

ots of trade areas are flattening. While 2021 saw global growth recover well after the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Economic Forum predicts a drop in growth from 5.5 percent to 4.1 percent in 2022.

With so much uncertainty due to rising fuel costs, growing inflation in many countries and increased damage from climate change-related natural disasters, people are likely to be conservative with their spending. The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants' "Global Economic Conditions Survey: Q3 2022" suggests business confidence is low, with concerns around increased costs, decreased consumer spending and fluctuating foreign exchange rates.

However, one area that seems to be booming is digital knowledge. Of course, this has been vastly influenced by pandemic-related lockdowns around the world. With people unable to leave their homes, many sought to help their children with home schooling, stimulate their minds and interact with others, use their time to learn and develop, or even take the opportunity to develop new skills and change career direction. One wonderful way this was seen was with free interactive courses - primarily for children but not exclusively — teaching computer programming and coding. This has boosted the spread of digital knowledge by teaching the next

cate digitally.

Knowledge being available digitally is wonderful; it makes the sharing of information and knowledge widely and easily available. Scientific advances are made so much easier now that academic papers can be quickly catalogued, searched and shared. Information is there for others to build on and develop. The same is true of legal cases, ideas and DIY tips. It is easy for us to hear other people's stories, to help us understand one another and build empathy, hopefully allowing us to treat one another more humanely and to learn more about ourselves in the process.

But, of course, there are negative aspects too. Knowledge can be exploited. We are pressured to share information about ourselves in order to access tools or social pages or to interact with others. Those without social media are often seen as unsociable or as outsiders. In an increasingly busy world, it is hard for people to pin down communally convenient times to pick up a phone and chat, and even harder to meet face-to-face in a cafe or someone's home.

Social media offers a communal space to peek in on the lives of our family and friends, to indicate we care and are paying attention by giving a "like," a "share" or even an appreciative comment or GIF. But what do we give up in return? Do we even really know or understand how much of ourselves we give away to the algorithms and the advertising companies that process and sell our data in return

generation how to create and communi- for letting us make very personal videos everyone, globally, is paid a fair wage for to make our friends laugh or to let them know that their struggles are not theirs

You only have to click the drop-down menu in the "manage cookies" tab on each page you open to see the vast list of companies your data is being shared with. Data is big, big business. And the more we trade online, the bigger it gets. We are reliant on governments to set the policies governing privacy laws, but big business has a lot of influence and there are also complications thanks to the international nature of websites and trading. And what if the government itself is corrupt?

There is also an impact with regards to where labor is located, as digital knowledge can be based anywhere. Now that working from home is much more the norm, corporations do not even have to pay for offices to locate staff and they have the luxury, in many cases, to employ workers from the lowest-paid nations, not only exploiting poorer countries and workers with fewer labor rights and benefits, but reducing employment in richer nations.

And the cheaper a company is to run, the larger it can grow. Yes, this makes products cheaper, we hope, but on the other hand large corporations hold more influence over the industry, consumers and policymakers. If two or three big tech firms control the majority of data flow globally, there is much less choice for consumers and therefore much less consumer power over whether or not to hand over personal data.

It is in everyone's best interest to ensure

their work, with safe conditions and benefits. The world is now a truly global place, with people everywhere interconnected by knowledge and technology. This empowers us all, builds a global community and speeds development and scientific and health advances. Companies should employ the best workers for the job, regardless of where they are from, but they will only do this if everyone is paid an equal and fair wage.

Shared knowledge is power and is a wonderful thing, but governments need to ensure privacy policies are in place to protect citizens, with real options to deselect data sharing. It also needs to be much more transparent what data is being kept or sold and to whom. There is currently too much exploitation of customers' data, of employees in richer nations, who are losing their jobs because they expect a fair wage, and of employees in developing countries, who do not.

As the richer nations struggle economically over the next year, this is an opportunity for developing nations to establish more of a foothold in manufacturing, but also in IT and digital knowledge. However, these nations are also likely to be the ones that suffer most from climate change-induced natural disasters. It is definitely time for some more global thinking and collaboration. The world needs to work together so we can all succeed.

Dr. Bashayer Al-Majed is a professor of law at Kuwait University and visiting fellow at Oxford



America not to blame for Europe's problems

Dr. Amal Mudallali

he weather forecast predicts a not-so-frosty winter for Europe. But the transatlantic relationship is already threatened with deep freeze if the disputes over high gas prices and trade are not resolved in the same spirit of solidarity that Europe and the US have exhibited since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

in Europe and the thermometer has already recorded zero degrees in Poland this week. The anxious Europeans are fretting over a winter that will leave them not only shivering from cold, but boiling in anger and frustration with their American ally over the gas

When President Joe Biden was elected, Europe was elated to have a president in the White House who values the European-American relationship. He assured them "America is back," to sighs of relief in Europe's capitals. But today, two years on and with a major war in their backyard, the Europeans are asking, "is the US still our ally or not?" It is the Ukraine war again and its consequences that are testing the relationship.

American officials and experts point to energy market dynamics as the reason for the rise in gas prices and insist this is not the result of any intentional US policy or action.

The Europeans and the Americans sound like two ships passing in the night, each accusing the other of not understanding them. The Europeans complain that the US does not understand what they are going through and does not consult with them. Experts in America express astonishment at the Europe-

ans, saying they "do not understand how the energy market works in the US." One expert was more blunt, saying that the "US is not a charitable organization" and it needs to sell its gas according to what the market dictates. He pointed to the fact that there are middlemen, reselling by companies in Europe and other factors that affect the price, not government policy. But the problem is bigger than the price of natural gas, it goes deeper to the heart and health of the transatlantic relationship. Europeans are worried about what Winter is here. Temperatures are falling they call America's new economic nationalism, protectionism and trade and economic policies. They are worried that America will push them out of the global market with its new economic policies.

What changed everything and is worrying to the Europeans is America's new Inflation Reduction Act, which Congress passed in August. This act, Biden's biggest achievement as he seeks to tame inflation and boost the green economy, has become Europe's nightmare. It contains hundreds of billions of dollars in industrial subsidies, especially support for green industries and manufacturing. The EU's trade ministers, during their last meeting, called the act "discriminatory." Other Europeans have said it distorts competition, likened it to "China's economic isolationism," and threatened to retaliate.

Officials in Europe say the combination of high gas prices and the new American subsidies are threatening European industries and making them uncompetitive. Some companies are already either shipping operations to the US or relocating entirely and hoping to benefit from the subsidies, leading to fears of "mass deindustrialization," as The Economist described it. The German chemical manufacturing giant BASF was reported as saying

that it would be "permanently" downsizing in Europe, giving the high energy prices as the principal reason. The Wall Street Journal also reported that Tesla "is pausing its plans to make battery cells in Germany as it looks at qualifying for tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act."

There are efforts to contain the crisis and the EU-US Trade and Technology Council will meet on Dec. 5, raising hopes that the two sides can iron out their differences, especially to allay Europe's fears of what it calls "unfair" competition. The Europeans want to at least be treated like Canada and Mexico and benefit under the new act.

The problem for Europe, however, is within the continent and not across the Atlantic. The Europeans are divided, with the last meeting of EU energy ministers revealing deep and "almost irreconcilable" divisions, according to AP. The ministers were trying to agree on a price cap for gas but their "heated" discussions led to more divisions. They are slated to meet again in December, but if they do not do the heavy lifting before the meeting to bridge the gap in their positions, the energy crisis might turn into a political one.

Europe is at a critical juncture in its history and in its relationship with the US. The longer it remains bogged down in the protracted war between Ukraine and Russia, the deeper its problems will become. Only a peaceful end to this conflict, and soon, can give the Europeans a chance to recover and put their economies and lives on a better trajectory than the one they are on now. Blaming the US will not solve Europe's problems. The US is doing what is in its interests.

Dr. Amal Mudallali is a consultant on global issues. She is a former Lebanese ambassador to the UN.

The vicious spiral of climate change and biodiversity loss

Ranvir S. Nayar

hile the global focus remains on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, there is far less awareness about yet another danger staring humanity and the planet in the face: Biodiversity loss. According to a report released last month by the World Wide Fund for Nature, there has been a 69 percent average decline in the wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish across the globe

At a UN biodiversity meeting in 2010, a report warned that the world was losing its wildlife at a rapid clip of 2.5 percent every year. The final resolution at the meeting called for ending the decline in wildlife populations entirely by 2020. More than 12 years later, the UN Biodiversity Conference begins again in Montreal next month and reports say that the world is still losing its wildlife at the same rate of 2.5 percent per year. This shows that absolutely nothing has been done, even though almost all the wildlife and biodiversity loss is due to human actions and is hence within our control. The main causes are habitat loss, the introduction of invasive species and pollution.

Of late, a new cause — also mainly due to human activities — has entered the scenario: Climate change. With extreme droughts, flash floods, severe heat and cold waves becoming commonplace all over the world, the rate of loss of biodiversity in its entiretv and not just in wildlife populations is increasing. With rising temperatures, forest fires have become a regular feature of summers in every part of the world, including Siberia, the Himalayas and the Canadian north. The fires do not just burn down tens of thousands of square kilometers of already-diminishing forest cover, they also kill millions of animals and a wide range of plants. In many ways, we are not even aware of what we are losing in the hundreds of forest

fires that take place each year.

Despite dozens of meetings and hundreds of declarations, global leaders have singularly failed to address either climate change or biodiversity loss and this has propelled the Earth into a vicious downward spiral toward catastrophe, as the two phenomena continue to feed each other and in a rapidly accelerating manner.

Ultimately, the main reason for the lack of action by political leaders and corporations is money. In terms of climate change, the rich world has reneged on its promise to deliver \$100 billion per year to the developing world. This is one of the main issues blocking any progress in countries meeting their climate targets.

The situation is identical in biodiversity. Already, the global financing gap for addressing biodiversity challenges has shot up to \$711 billion a year. Some estimates put that figure at almost \$1 trillion a year by 2030. With such large sums in play, the rich countries continue to hold back, even though corporate profitability in most countries has been at record nigh levels for several years now.

When the UN biodiversity summit opens, a new report will be released by the UN Environment Program that is likely to show the extent to which this gap has widened and highlight the imperative for the rich world to meet its commitments. The short-sighted, ostrich-like approach that has been on display is certain to boomerang on the rich countries and their businesses, as neither is immune to the

vere impacts of climate change or biodiversity loss. The upcoming meeting does offer a window of opportunity for the world to strike an agreement, maybe along the lines of the loss and damage fund that the Sharm El-Sheikh climate change summit came up with last week. But the bottom line there, as well as in Montreal, will be whether or not the rich countries live up to their promises on time and

• Ranvir S. Nayar is managing editor of Media India Group.

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UNDP and Japan to work together for stabilization, economic recovery

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan and the Government of Japan have signed an agreement to launch a project of US\$3.9 million "for the stabilization and economic recovery through social cohesion, local governance, and livelihood opportunities" for communities in Kurram and Orakzai districts. The agreement was signed by H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mr. Knut Ostby, Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan. With generous support from the

Government of Japan, the two-year project will assist more than 200,000 individuals, with a particular focus on youth and women. The project will use innovative approaches to engage youth in policy dialogues and sports/cultural events for social cohesion and trust building. Employment opportunities will be provided to 1,300 youth through digital skills, incubation, and skills training. Community organizations will engage in the planning process and rehabilitate 50 community physical infrastructure schemes. Thirty-five offices will be constructed for village councils to strengthen local governance. Two common facility centres for women entrepreneurs will be operationalized. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



The project is aligned with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's development agenda and aims to build trust between communities and local government and promote sustainable livelihoods.

"The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is strongly committed to the sustainable development of the merged districts. We appreciate the continued support provided by the Government of Japan for improving the conditions for the people of the merged districts," said Muhammad Qaisar Khan, Additional Secretary, the Planning and Development Department, Government of

While speaking at the ceremony Ms. Samar Ihsan, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs, said. "Government of Pakistan is committed to working with UNDP and the Government of Japan. The entire tribal belt has been severely affected by the two decades of insecurity and its after-effects. Stabilization and economic recovery of merged districts are important for durable peace and

At the signing ceremony, H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in his speech, mentioned, "This project justice in Pakistan.

will not only support recovery and income generation but also enhance social cohesion and local governance to ensure the sustainability of the outcomes. Japan and UNDP have a long-standing partnership, and I greatly appreciate UNDP's tireless effort and dedication to achieving sustainable and inclusive development in Pakistan.

Speaking on occasion, Mr. Knut Ostby, Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan, stated, "We are grateful to the Government of Japan for their long-standing partnership with UNDP. With their generous support, we were able to expand and strengthen the efforts of the Government of Pakistan, which are critical for achieving stability and sustainable development in the merged districts and bringing it at par with the rest of the country."

The signing ceremony was held in Islamabad and was attended by senior officials from the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad, the Economic Affairs Division, Planning and Development Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In the past five years, the Government of Japan has made a substantial contribution of more than US\$24 million through partnering with UNDP in key areas of social cohesion, livelihoods, youth empowerment, climate change adaptation, electoral and legislative processes, and the rule of law and

KC-EU raises violations of Kashmiris' rights ahead of debriefing on EU-India HR Dialogue



跨 Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) has raised issue of human rights violations in Indian Illegal occuthe EU parliament.

Chairman Kashmir Council Eur

Ali Raza Syed dispatched a letter to Mr. Ahsan Untoo and other innocent Josep Borrell, High Representative of European Union and Maria Arena, the chair of Subcommittee of EU's parliament on human rights before the European authority debriefing which held on November 29, 2022.

The letter specially mentioned prolonged detention of famous Kashmiri human rights defender Khurram Parvez who is in an Indian imprison since 22 November 2021. Rejecting the fake allegations on Khurram Parvez, the letter stated, human rights activists like Khurram Parvez just share information and testimony on human rights violations with UN human rights bodies. In his letter Chair of KC-EU Ali Raza Syed call EU's authorities to use their good office for release of Khurpied Kashmir ahead of a debriefing on ram Parvez from Indian prison. Chair's EU-Indian Human Rights Dialogue in KC-EU also called for early release of other noted prisoners including Asif Sultan, Fahad Shah, Sajad Gul and

people currently languishing in jails on fake charges.

Addressing the European authorities the letter said, we request you take immediate notice of the situation while using your good office to ensure that legal and civil rights of Kashmiri prisoners are secured. The letter also warned about the threats to life of more than 1100 Kashmiri prisoners, who are systematically being shifted from Indian occupied Kashmir to other jails in Uttar Perdesh (North-Central part of India). Giving an example of such threats the letter described that a Pakistani prisoner, Mohammad Ali Hussain, who was in Indian jail, was killed allegedly in a fake encounter by Indian occupation forces. The Pakistani prisoner was killed away from the jail and the circumstances clearly indicate towards a premeditated and use of pellet guns by Indian Occupacold blooded murder.

Quoting reliable sources of Kot-Bhalwal jail in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the letter pointed out, 30 to 50 prisoners from Kot-Bhalwal in occupied Kashmir are being shifted to other jails, which is a clear violation of the law of the land. The stress caused by fear, insecurity and anxiety, is so high that two days ago as a prisoner died of a sudden heart attack in Kot-bhalwal jail.

Ali Raza Syed in his letter further disclosed that the innocent Kashmiris are regularly arrested under imposed black laws such as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which violates every notion of civil and political rights of citizens. They are regularly tortured, raped, humiliated and killed with impunity granted to the Indian occupation forces. The letter recalled, We are all aware of mass graves and the tion forces in Kashmir

More than 100 million people forcibly displaced in 2022: UNDP



№ News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Humanitarian aid alone cannot overcome record levels of internal displacement globally, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) said in a new report, while calling for urgent action to support people uprooted by climate, conflict and crisis. For the first time ever, the number of people forced to flee their

homes surpassed 100 million this year. Most, 59.1 million, are displaced within their own countries, often for years or even decades.

These internally displaced persons (IDPs) struggle to cover their basic needs, find decent work, or have a stable source of income, among other challenges.

UNDP described their plight as an "invisible crisis" because it rarely makes the news.

As climate change could force more than 216 million to move elsewhere within their homelands by mid-century, the report advocates for longer-term development solutions to reverse internal displacement.

More efforts are needed to end the marginalization of IDPs who must be able to exercise their full rights as citizens including through access to vital services such as healthcare, education, social protection and job opportunities," UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner

"In tandem with critical humanitarian assistance, this stronger development-focused approach will be vital to set the conditions for pathways to lasting peace, stability and recovery."

The report – Turning the tide on internal displacement: A development approach to solutions – calls for placing this "invisible crisis" on the international agenda. It cites sample data from a survey of some 2,653 IDPs, and people

from host communities, in eight countries: Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Somalia and Vanu-A third of the IDPs said they had become jobless, while nearly 70

One third also reported that their health had worsened since fleeing their homeland. The data was collected by the Internal Displacement Monitoring

per cent do not have enough money to meet their household needs.

Centre (IDMC) between January 2021 and January 2022. The report underscored that overcoming internal displacement depends on governments implementing key development solutions, including ensuring equal access to rights and basic services, promoting socio-economic integration, restoring security and building social cohesion.

UNDP also highlighted the need for better data and research. The agency underlined its commitment to bridging this gap through a Solutions to Internal Displacement Index, that will monitor progress and help governments shift from humanitarian to development responses

75th anniversary of Pak-Turkiye diplomatic ties

ANKARA: A tree plantation ceremony was held in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The event, hosted by Turkish Deputy Minister Ambassador Faruk Kaymakci. was attended by Ambassador of Pakistan to Türkiye Dr. Yousaf Junaid, officials of Pakistan Embassy and Turkish diplomats.

Ceremony held in Ankara commemorates 75th anniversary of Pak-Turkiye diplomatic ties

Deputy Minister Kaymakci highlighted how the two states had supported each during critical times, as the relationship evolved from a strategic perspective.

relationship would further grow from strength to strength symbolized by the tree saplings planted today, a press release issued by Pakistan Embassy

Ceremony held in Ankara commemorates 75th anniversary of Pak-Turkive diplomatic ties

In his remarks, Ambassador Yousaf Junaid recalled that the relationship between the two nations described by the Prime Minister as "Two Hearts One Soul" was much older than 75 years.

He underscored the long tradition of extending mutual support on all core issues, which testified to the enviable amity existing between the two sides.

The Ambassador expressed satisfaction on the existing robust institution-

He expressed hope that this special al frameworks in place to take the relationship forward.

Ceremony held in Ankara commemorates 75th anniversary of Pak-Turkive diplomatic ties

In particular, he referred to the economic and connectivity opportunities and the recently signed Trade in Goods Agreement as the harbinger of a new future of this relationship.

The tree plantation ceremony was followed by a bilateral meeting of the Ambassador with Deputy Minister Ambassador Kaymakci.

In the meeting, both sides took stock of the successful visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Istanbul on 25-26 November 2022 and agreed to followup on the decisions taken during the



A.P. Moller-Maersk opens doors to 560,000 sq. ft. Integrated Logistics Park at Port Qasim

KARACHI: A.P. Moller -Maersk (Maersk), the integrated logistics company, inaugurated its new Integrated Logistics Park at Port Qasim in Pakistan today. Present at the inauguration were His Excellency Jakob Linulf, the Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Honorable Chairman Port Qasim, Rear Admiral (R) Syed Hasan Nasir Shah HI(M), Hasan Faraz, Managing Director, Maersk Pakistan, the leadership team at Maersk Pakistan and leaders from the top businesses in Pakistan.

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted economies worldwide brought most lives to a standstill and disrupted the global supply chains. However, goods did not stop moving around the world and all the essentials required to battle the pandemic kept moving. This was possible because shipping and logistics companies showed immense resilience in their operations amidst the most



challenging times. Ships kept sailing, ports stayed operational, warehouses remained open, and cargo kept moving despite international borders getting closed.

During this time, Maersk's tions ensured customers' cargo integrated logistics solutions created maximum value for importers and export- ened Maersk's position by being ers. Maersk's end-to-end soluable to store goods that were in

kept moving. The warehousing facilities especially strength-

supply chains when needed. This garnered a lot of confidence in the customers' minds about Maersk's resilience, commitment and ability to react quickly and appropriately to the changing behaviour of the end consumers.

Building on this background, Maersk Pakistan took the bold decision to invest in an Integrated Logistics Park that would act as a warehouse, including a consolidation & fulfilment centre and cold storage, at Port Qasim. Maersk Pakistan went on from acquiring a 26-acre land parcel to carefully designing and constructing a six-shed facility spread over 560,000 sq. ft. that will answer all the requirements of its customers through a single location.

This facility will cater to storage requirements of cargo from retail & lifestyle, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), automotive and technology sectors. Located within Port Qasim, the Integrated Logistics

house destination for customers to manage their import and export cargo with the least time exporters and traders of Pakidelays while connecting to and from vessels.

The Maersk Integrated Logistics Park will come equipped with modern Warehouse Management Systems. With Maersk taking care of the movement of cargo – ocean transportation on one side and landside transportation on the other side of the warehouse – customers will experience lesser handovers of their cargo, leading to higher efficiencies, faster turnaround times, deeper visibility and better control over the cargo movement. All of this will result in better predictability of supply chains.

Hasan Faraz, Managing Director, Maersk Pakistan, commented during the inauguration of the facility, "At Maersk, our purpose is to improve life for all by integrating the world. With our stateof-the-art Integrated Logistics Park, we want to ensure that

lower demand and slowed down Park will be the perfect ware- we play an important role in connecting and simplifying the supply chains for importers, stan." He added, "I am proud of this major investment in Pakistan and is a critical building block in the logistics infrastructure. It is also apt to recognise the unwavering support our customers have extended, with whom we could have meaningful conversations that helped us design a solution that creates value in their supply chains."

His Excellency Jakob Linulf, the Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, said, "Pakistan has incredible potential to grow, and there are enough opportunities for trade to flourish here. Despite the various current challenges, Maersk has played an important role as a trusted partner for Pakistan's traders." He added, "Maersk's commitment to invest in a large facility such as the one inaugurated today in Port Qasim speaks volumes of the potential that is out there to be harnessed."

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
42,348.63	42,373.59	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
42,515.63	42,274.16	
Index Value	Change	
3,696,503,572	-24.96	
Percentage	Time	
-0.06%	30 Nov, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	SE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
7,573.05	+61.05	
Percentage	Time	
+0.81%	30 Nov, 4:45 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
33,673.18	-179.35	
Percentage	Time	
roromago		
-0.53%	30 Nov, 12:17 pm GMT-5	

Open Market Forex Rates

Change

-58.85

Time

30 Nov, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Index Value

27,968.99

Percentage

-0.21%

-		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	150.29	151.54
Bahrain Dinar	597.33	601.83
Canadian Dollar	164.72	166.07
China Yuan	31.27	31.52
Danish Krone	31.3	31.65
Euro	247	249.5
Hong Kong Dollar	28.76	29.11
Indian Rupee	2.74	2.82
Japanese Yen	1.9	1.95
Kuwaiti Dinar	730.16	735.16
Malaysian Ringgit	49.99	50.44
NewZealand \$	139.86	141.06
Norwegians Krone	22.65	22.95
Omani Riyal	584.13	588.63
Qatari Riyal	61.5	62
Saudi Riyal	63.7	64.3
Singapore Dollar	163.43	164.73
Swedish Korona	21.46	21.76
Swiss Franc	236.22	237.97
Thai Bhat	6.26	6.36
U.A.E Dirham	65.7	66.3
UK Pound Sterling	287.5	290.3
US Dollar	229.5	231.5

PTA hosts consultative workshop on gender inclusion strategy in Peshawar



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with UNESCO Pakistan, hosted a consultative workshop in Peshawar for the development of digital gender inclusion strat-

The workshop, held at PTA's Peshawar Zonal Office, was the first of a series of five consultative workshops being organized to collect multi-stakeholder experts' input for a strategy to reduce digital gender divide in Pakistan. Experts from various stakeholder groups including Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa IT Board, Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), telecom operators, academia, and digital gender rights groups participated in the workshop.

Director Wireless PTA and the head of PTA's initiative for gender inclusion in ICTs, informed the participants that workshops are being conducted to capture insights of experts and local communities. The objective is to ensure that the gender inclusion strategy is responsive to the needs of the people and can be effectively integrated into the systems that are already in place. She further added that the strategy will enable PTA to initiate a collaborative effort with stakeholders to bridge the digital gender divide in Pakistan.

The gender inclusion strategy is being developed with support from UNESCO Pakistan. It aims to recommend specific measures that can be initiated by PTA, with other core potential collaborators,to support women's connectivity. The next workshops in this series are planned to be held in Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Islamabad.

Special wing to be established in SBP on riba-free economy within a week: Ishaq Dar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Senator Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, has said that a special wing to be established in SBP to make recommendations, propose reforms& formulate a framework for a swift transition from a conventional interest-based economy to an Islamic riba-free economy in light of a decision by Federal Shariat Court (FSC) that has ruled that Pakistan should implement the riba-free banking system & transform its economy by the year end 2027.

Senator Ishaq Dar added that the two most important institutions that will make the transformation possible are SBP & SECP as these are the institutions that regulate the banking system and the corporate sector - and, Ministry of Finance will extend its full support to these institutions. He also advised the Islamic banks that they should make their services competitive enough to be able to compete with conventional banking services.

It is pertinent to note that FPCCI and Centre for Islamic Economics, Jamia Darul Uloom Karachi, have organized a first-of-its-kind seminar on interest-free economy comprising all the stakeholders from government, religious political parties, top Islamic finance institutions, business community and banking industry. The seminar saw the participation of federal minsters for finance & revenue and religious affairs; Haji Ghulam Ali, Governor KPK; Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman; Senator Siraj Ul Haq; Senator Sajid Mir; Mr. Jameel Ahmed, Governor SBP and Mr. Suleman Chawla, Acting



Group photo of participants on the occasion of Hurmat-e-Sood Seminar at FPCCI in coordination with Centre for Islamic Economics, Jamia Darul Uloom Karachi, Senator Ishaq Dar; Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Mufti Abdul Shakoor; Mufti Taqi Usmani; Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Senator Haji Ghulam Ali; Maulana Fazlur Rehman; Senator Siraj Ul Haq; Senator Sajid Mir; Governor State Bank, Mr. Jameel Ahmed; former Presidents FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, Mr. Sultan Chawla and other dignitaries were also present on the auspicious gathering.

President FPCCI, among other dignitaries.

World-renowned scholar of Islamic Finance & the head of Centre for Islamic Economics. Jamia Darul Uloom Karachi, Mufti Taqi Usmani, presided over the seminar and have demanded that, in accordance with its responsibility, the government should ask commercial banks to take their appeals against FSC decision back to pave the way for the speedy implementation of FSC ruling. He expressed his resolve that the

religious institutions will not let any delaying tactics of any vested interests to spoil implementation of the aforementioned ruling and have demanded that an oversight committee should be set up by the government to monitor the implementation status; and, also provide guidance to the governmental institutions.

Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman highlighted that, issues of religious and national importance; vears.

and, he is happy that the government paid heed to his demand to take back the appeals by the central bank and the government-owned NBP. He also shared his observation that the finance minister is a willing supporter of the interest-free economy; and, at the same time, he has been successful in getting Pakistan out of FATF gray list and avert the likely default

Senator Siraj Ul Haq apprised that when he was the finance minister of KPK, international donors were reluctant to lend money to his government as they also wanted their value system and culture to be adopted by a country which is taking loans from them. He extended his full support to the government and business community for the much needed transition to the riba-free economy.

Mr. Suleman Chawla apprised that the business community of Pakistan is fully supportive of FSC's decision for the transition to an economy based on Islamic principles and FPCCI is all-willing to take precedence in the efforts to achieve this goal of national importance. He also appreciated the finance minister for the decision to take back appeals against the FSC decision by SBP & NBP.

Mr. Jameel Ahmed, Governor SBP, apprised that the share of Islamic banking in the total banking industry has reached a significant level; and also informed that now assets of Islamic banking stand at 20 percent and deposits at 21 percent. Most importantly, he added, the growth rate of both assets and deposits have while being a government ally, we still raise the outpaced the commercial banking in the recent

Traditional sweet

PESHAWAR: A worker is preparing traditional sweet item Gajar Ka Halwa (Gajrela) in his shop at Qisakhuwani Bazaar in Provincial Capital.



Tributes paid to SM Muneer: The business community has lost a gem

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday paid glowing tributes to SM Muneer who breathed his last

Mr. Muneer was a great business leader, he remained Parton-in-Chief of many trade associations including United Business Group (UBG) and Karachi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), he was the former CEO of TDAP and a philanthropist who commanded great respect in business and social circles across the country, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that SM Muneer was born on 17 April 1945, he received many medals from the government, and his absence will be felt for



millions of people as the business community has lost an asset that was a remarkable example of service to mankind.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that SM decades but he will remain in heart of Muneer was a "true gentleman" and a very

successful businessman who improved the image of the country abroad through his best practices.

The majority of the businessmen always welcomed his views and guidance as well as his optimism and commitment to improving the business environment.

He was considered a true friend by businessmen across Pakistan, he was always supportive of young entrepreneurs, businesswomen, and anyone who contacted him for support.

With his generous donations and contributions to community initiatives and social activities, he became popular in Pakistan and other countries.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that he was the most generous and helpful person I know, always making time for everyone. He made many lives happier.

He prayed for the mercy of Allah for the deceased and patience for his family members so that they can bear the loss.

ASA Microfinance Bank partners with Systems **Limited & NdcTech**



News Desk

KARACHI: ASA Microfinance Bank (Pakistan) Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ASA International Group plc, one of the world's largest global microfinance institutions providing microloans to emerging entrepreneurs across Asia and Africa, has entered into a partnership with Systems Limit- CEO, NdcTech. ed & NdcTech to implement Temenos next-generiary of Systems Limited mere technological collabowill deliver end-to-end core ration.

banking implementation and support services to ASA MFB. The agreement has been

signed by Mr. Asif Peer, Group CEO Systems Ltd and Mr. Saeed Uddin Khan, CEO, ASA MFB (Pakistan) Ltd. It was also attended by senior officials of both institutions including Mr. Rob Keijsers, Group CIO, ASA International & Ms. Ammara Masood. On this occasion, Asif Peer,

Group CEO, Systems Limit ation Core Banking system. ed said, "Systems Limit-NdcTech, a longstanding ed's partnership with ASA premier partner of Temenos Microfinance Bank for platand a wholly owned subsid- form modernization is beyond

Zong 4G builds a Digital Lab in Hands School, Karachi



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: In line with the brand motto, Let's Get Digital, Pakistan's leading telecommunication and digital partner, ZONG 4G has partnered with HANDS, one of Pakistan's top non-profit organizations to establish a computer lab for an underprivileged school in Karachi.

With the aim to bridge the digital divide in society and to offer high-quality education to the marginalized strata of society in Karachi, the partnership will empower thousands of children with digital

ILO recognizes MMBL's WIN program as a best practice case study

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan's largest empowerment program, Women Inspirational Network (WIN)' has (EFP) and the International Labour of the global population. Organization (ILO), under PRS/ STRIDE project funded by Government of Japan, as a best practice case documenting similar cases globally. The event was graced by Senator Rukhsana Zuberi as chief guest.

Mobilink Microfinance Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance converged connectivity and online Bank's (MMBL) flagship women services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's been recognized at the Women lives, creating opportunities for Empowerment Conference held greater digital inclusion, and drivin Karachi - a joint venture of The ing economic growth across coun-Employers' Federation of Pakistan tries that are home to more than 8%

Women empowerment remains a strategic priority in MMBL's longterm ambition of fostering inclusive study in ILO's upcoming publication and sustainable economic growth and prosperity across Pakistan. The WIN program aims to help bridge the gender gap in economic opportunity



by enabling women entrepreneurs to succeed professionally through skill development, digital and financial literacy, strategic guidance, and access to customized banking products and

Thus far, the program has equipped 900+ women entrepreneurs with the skills to make informed business decisions and drive their businesses toward prosperity. These inspirational stories have encouraged thousands of aspiring women entrepreneurs to take their first steps toward financial independence, leading to significant growth in MMBL's female borrower base and heralding a robust change at the grassroots level. Welcoming this development,

President & CEO, MMBL, Ghazanfar Azzam said, "WIN receiving global recognition for its impact on women empowerment in Pakistan is commendable. Diversity and Inclusion are deeply woven into MMBL's business philosophy, and we have undertaken concrete steps to inspire inclusive and sustainable development at the national level.

Corps Commander Polo Cup: MP Black, FG/Din Polo wins second day matches

LAHORE: Master Pants Black and FG/ Din Polo were the victorious teams on the second day of the two-week eightgoal Corps Commander Polo Cup sponsored by Diamond Pants here at the Jinnah Polo Fields (JPF).

Manuel Carranza's heroics helped Master Paints Black edged past Team Diamond Paints/Sheikhoo Steel by a close margin of 10-8 in the very challenging and stimulating first match of the second day of the tournament.

The sterling performance of foreign player Manuel Carranza was the highlight of the match as he played outstanding polo and kept on scoring goals one after another for Master Paints Black, taking his tally of goals to seven goals out of total ten. Sufi Mohammad Haroon (two goals) and Sufi Mohammad Amir (one goal) converted the remaining three goals to complete the tally of ten goals.

Nicolas Antinori excelled for Team Diamond Paints/Sheikhoo Steel and added significant six goals in his team's tally while Lt Col Omer Minhas (R)



for Diamond Paints/Sheikhoo Steel, of 8-10 goals. John Fisher and Bilal Haye

pumped in the remaining two goals which lost the match by a close margin ment will be played at Pakistan Park.

professionally officiated the match as field umpires.

Tomas Marin Moreno stole the show in the second match of the day as he steered FG/Din Polo to a thrashing 12-4 triumph over Team DS/Barry's. Tomas Moreno was in sublime form as his classic game was fully applauded and cheered by the high-charged crowd present on the occasion. He amused the spectators with his stick work so as the perfect pony performance that helped him thrash in tremednous ten goals out of 12 goals.

His teammates also fully supported the star of the day as Saif Noon and Shah Shamyl Alam beautifully converted one goal apiece for FG/Din Polo. Rulo Trotz hammered a hat-trick of goals and Dani-yal Shaikh malleted one goal for Team DS Polo/Barry's. John Fisher and Juan Cruz Greguol supervised the match as field umpires. Tomorrow (Thursday), two important matches of the tourna-

Secretary Sports Punjab distributes grant money cheques

and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta distributed cheques of Rs 7.2 million grant money among 12 more provincial sports associations at an impressive ceremony held here at Punjab Stadium on Wednesday.

In all, cheques of Rs 3 crore 8 lakh have been distributed among provin- culture in the Punjab prov- Sports Board Punjab have cial sports associations.

Additional Secretary Sports Malik Sanaullah, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan, Secretary Punjab Olympic Association Idris Haider Khawaja, Assistant Director Zahoor Ahmed and representatives of different provincial sports amount must be spent on associations were also present on this occasion.

Punjab government has events. taken a revolutionary meas-



ince by distributing grant organized several top class money cheques among provincial sports associa-

"Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood has played a key role in the al Sports Punjab Muhamrelease of this huge grant money," he added.

He said that this grand sports activities and its utility should be reflected in the in all parts of the province. Addressing the ceremo- shape of encouraging and v. Ehsan Bhutta said the positive results of sports

ure for the growth of sports Department Punjab and grounds and gymnasium ation. APP

sports events in recent

months and we will continue

this healthy practice in future

ipants, Director Gener-

mad Tariq Qureshi said that

government has allocat-

ed a huge amount for the

promotion of sports culture

"Now with this amount,

rovincial sports associa

While briefing the partic-

as well," he added.

He said that the talented male and female players of the province will improve their performance to a great extent after the release of this huge grant money.

As per detail, a grant of Rs 20 lakh was given to Punjab Olympic Association and Rs 10 lakh to Punjab Football Association.

Rs 7 lakh each were awarded to Punjab Boxing Association and Punjab Volleyball Association, Rs 5 lakh to Punjab Kick Boxing Association.

Five provincial sports associations such as Punjab Canoeing Association, Punjab Junior Sports Association, Punjab Bodybuilding Association, Punjab Rowing Association and Punjab Tug of War Association were given Rs 3 lakh each while Rs 2 lakh each were granted tions should hold maximum to Punjab Muay Thai Associ-"Sports and Youth Affairs sports events at all stadiums, ation and Punjab Ski Associ-

England, thanks Ben Stokes for flood donation



Pakistan's former skipper Shahid Afridi Monday extended a warm welcome to England's cricket team on their arrival to Pakistan to play a Test series after 17 years.

The Englishmen have not faced Pakistan in a Test series since 2005.

Afridi took to his Twitter handle to welcome the English squad, particularly their skipper Ben Stokes, who announced to donate his match fees from the three-match Test series against Pakistan to the country's flood appeal.

"Warm welcome to @englandcricket on their arrival to [Pakistan] after 17 long years. Much respect to Ben Stokes for this gesture for flood victims, you are a true ambassador of our sport, May others be inspired through this," Pakistan's veteran eter wrote quote-tweeting Stokes' twe

Afridi added that he is looking forward to "good cricket" during the upcoming Test series between the two nations.

Tunisia upset holders France in vain as Australia qualify for Round of 16

defending champions France went in vain as Australia booked a Round of 16 berth following their triumph over bottomplaced Denmark in the final round of Group D matches on Wednesday.

Tunisia put on a remarkable performance in their last group fixture against defending champions and marked another upset in the ongoing world cup. The triumph, however, proved insufficient for them to secure a knockout spot as Australia edged Denmark to finish as runners-up of Group D.

The African side put on a defiant show in the first half of the game to keep a much-changed French attack silent.

Their momentum-filled Tunisian side momentum just 13 minutes into the second half won the ball again and Aissa Laidouni played it forward to Wahbi Khazri, who turned and glide towards



the goal, stepped beyond two defenders before slotting the ball into the far corner. defeat when Antoine Griezmann struck

France came close to avoiding the upset

in the stoppage time, which was, however, ruled out for offside after a VAR review.

Despite failing to qualify for the knockout stage, Tunisia have something to celebrate as their triumph over France was their first win against European opposition at a World Cup and third overall in

Tunisia, however, wanted Australia to drop points in their group fixture against Denmark to allow them to make it to the next round but Mathew Leckie's secondhalf strike spilt beans on their hopes as the Socceroos' 1-0 win over Denmark bolstered them to finish second in Group D standings. A Sports

World Champion France will now await Group C runners-up in the Last 16 on Sunday, while Australia will take on Group C winners earlier on the same day. READ: PCB issues update on

commencement of Rawalpindi Test

President Punjab Cycling Association left Nepal



LAHORE: Barrister Adnan Hassan khan President Punjab Cycling Association left for Nepal for UCI MTB Elite Commissiare Course from 1st December to 7 December.

Pakistan cycling federation doing well in leadership of Syed Azhar Ali Shah president for promotion of cycling in country in all fields. Now first time PCF sent a Commissiare for MTB cycling discipline in future Pakistan cycling federation will arranged National MTB events

Mr. Adnan Hassan khan president Punjab Cycling assocation will left for Nepal from Lahore on 30th Nov for MTB training camp. The costs in this will be borne by the Nepal Cycling Federation. It is note worthy that all this was made possible by the President of Pakistan Cycling Federation Syed Azhar Ali shah.

His tireless efforts made it possible for Pakistani commissiares and coaches to train . So far, more than a dozen male and female $\,$ coaches and riders have been trained. Mr. Shah said that the newly trained coaches/ Commissiare are playing a vital role in promoting cycling in Pakistan.

PCB, ECB agree to delay decision on commencement of Rawalpindi Test

Sports Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Wednesday discussed the outbreak of viral infection in the England men's Test team camp and unanimously agreed to delay the decision on the commencement of the first Test, which is due to start on Thursday, until 0730 Pakistan time tomorrow (Thursday).

The two boards made the decision based on medical advice from the England doctors, which revolved around the players' health and welfare, agreeing that the England cricket team are able to select an XI for the first of the three ICC World Test

Championship matches will be played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, a PCB statement said.

The two boards also agreed, subject to the England players not recovering well enough to take the field on Thursday morning, then the Test will commence on Friday and will be a fiveday match. In this scenario, the schedule of the second Test in Multan and the third Test in Karachi will remain unaffected and will be played as per the original schedule i.e. 9-13 and 17-21 December, respectively.

Further information for the ticket buyers will be shared on

Pakistan's Shoaib beats Indonesian boxer to win ABF title



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's promising pugilist Muhammad Shoaib produced a masterclass to defeat Hendrik Barongsay of Indonesia and seal the Asian Boxing Federation (ABF) lightweight (61kg) championship belt in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday.

The 25-year-old Quetta-born boxer, who has now won all his four pro fights he featured so far, prevailed over his seasoned opponent in the 10th round with the official scorecard after the fight reading 117-57 for him.

Known as the "Coolest Boy", Shoaib had outwitted Thai boxer Sornram Sopakul in Bangkok in September this year to qualify for fighting for the Asian title. Talking to APP on phone, he said he wanted to make the nation

proud by excelling in the boxing world. "I knew my opponent was a seasoned boxer but I believed in myself. I knew I could beat him. I had come here for victory. "I wanted to make it a spectacular match for the audience at

the event, as well as my fans back home. My opponent lost the way as I targeted to outsmart him in the early rounds. "My dream is to raise the green flag high in the world. I'm

thankful to the nation for supporting me and praying for my

Shoaib, who will now have the opportunity to feature in the bigger events said, he was determined to take on the world's

"I promise I will not let down my nation as I feel myself fully prepared to outshine the best boxers," he added. APP

65th Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

跨 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Northern created history at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore when they defeated Sindh by an innings and 55 runs to win their maiden 65th Quaid-e-Azam Trophy title inside four days of the five-day final. Northern's captain Umar Amin bagged the winning trophy and also PKR 10,000,000. (one crore).

Northern have been the finalist twice since the revamp of the domestic system in 2019-20. They were lucky the third time after losing out on the title both in 2019-20 and 2021-22 seasons.

Starting their second innings with a deficit of 309 runs, Sindh lost six wickets in the first session and were 105 for six at the lunch interval. That the Sindh managed

first-class century which included a 63-run partnership with first innings top run-getter Asif Mehmood (21 off 33 balls) and a 62-run eighth wicket partnership young 21-year-old Rohail Nazir with Muhammad Umar (36 off 31).

Fawad's 113-run innings came off 130 balls, which included 18

For Northern, Aamir Jamal and Musa Khan bagged three wickets apiece, while Mehran Mumtaz took two wickets.

This edition of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy will also be remembered for Northern's complete dominance in the tournament. Mohammad Huraira topped the batting charts with 1024 runs and was awarded best batter of the tournament. For his match-winning double-century, Huraira was also named player of the final. The 20-year-old Mubato score 254 in 56.2 overs was sir Khan for his all-round perforlargely due to Fawad Alam's 43rd mance (522 runs and 31 wickets)

was named player of the tournament. He was also named the player of the tournament in last year's Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. Another was named best wicket-keeper of the tournament. He completed 43 dismissals behind the stumps and scored 434 runs in the tournament.

Sindh's Abrar Ahmed was named best bowler of the tournament, he took 43 wickets in 12 innings. The mystery spinner couldn't feature for his side in the final as he, for his outstanding performance, was named in Pakistan Men's squad for the threematch Test series against England, starting from 1 December at the

Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. Scores in brief: Northern beat Sindh by an

innings and 55 runs Sindh 284 all out, 92.5 overs (Asif Mehmood 78, Fawad Alam Huraira (Northern

61 not out, Omair Bin Yousuf 36, Saad Khan 35, Saim Ayub 29; Musa Khan 3-61, Aamir Jamal 3-76, Mubasir Khan 2-59) and 254 all out, 56.2 overs (Fawad Alam 113, Muhammad Umar 36, Aaliyan Mahmood 33; Musa Khan 3-49, Aamir Jamal 3-63, Mehran Mumtaz 2-75)

Northern 593 all out, 141 overs (Mohammad Huraira 221, Umar Amin 114, Umar Waheed 109, Rohail Nazir 94; Aaliyan Mahmood 4-96, Muhammad Umar 4-116)

Player of the Tournament -Mubasir Khan (Northern) Best Batter - Mohammad

Huraira (Northern) Best Bowler - Abrar Ahmed Best Wicket-keeper -Rohail

Nazir (Northern) Player of the final - Mohammad

