



Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

PM for all possible steps to overcome power, gas shortage

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed the authorities concerned to take all possible steps to overcome the shortage of gas and power, and reduce public difficulties. The prime minister gave the said directives while chairing a meeting to deliberate on the formulation of a strategy to cope with the shortage of electricity and gas, a PM Office statement said.



Asad Qaiser says giving extension to ex-COAS Bajwa was 'a mistake'

Former National Assembly (NA) speaker Asad Qaiser has asserted that the then-PTI government's decision to give extension to former COAS retired Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was 'a mistake'. ARY News reported on Saturday. Speaking to a private news channel, the former NA Speaker said that the PTI government's decision to extend the tenure of former COAS Gen Bajwa in 2019 was a mistake. (Report on Page 8)

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Dialogue on Persons with Disabilities

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing interactive dialogue on Persons with Disabilities, organised by WHO at Governor House on Saturday. Begum Samina Arif Alvi is also present in the meeting.



Photo: PID

President urges business community, organizations to create opportunities for disabled persons

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the business community and private organizations to create opportunities in collaboration with the government for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) so as to help assist them to lead a better life and contribute to society. While addressing an Interactive Dialogue on 'Persons with Disabilities' (PWDs) organized by World Health Organization (WHO) at Governor House Sindh, he said that the government was making all-out efforts to provide disabled persons with their rights and facilities.

President Dr. Arif Alvi said, "The government alone cannot do it all and the private sector should come forward in this regard."

First Lady Samina Alvi was also present on the occasion. He said that the society needed inclusiveness and acceptability. He said that persons with disabilities including physically challenged, visually impaired, hearing impaired and mentally challenged persons be provided with more easy access to technology and increased accessibility to public places by making good conditions for them.

The president emphasized that the inclusion of PWDs into the mainstream would help them grow as more fruitful citizens of society. He said that mainstreaming would also help dispel prejudiced notions among our populations and transform the dependence of PWDs into their freedom through job creation opportunities for them.

India will never be able to achieve her nefarious designs: COAS

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited frontline troops in Rakhchikri Sector of Line of Control (LOC) on Saturday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS was briefed on latest situation along LOC & operational preparedness of the formation.

He interacted with officers and soldiers and appreciated their high morale, professional competence and combat readiness while performing their duties in challenging conditions.

Gen Asim Munir emphasised, "We have noticed highly irresponsible statements from Indian leadership on GB & AJK recently. Let me make it categorically clear, Pakistan's armed forces are ever ready, not only to defend every inch of our motherland, but to take the fight back to the enemy, if ever, war is imposed on us."

He said any misconception resulting into a misadventure will always be met with full might of our armed forces backed by a resilient nation.

The Army Chief said Indian state will never be able to achieve

her nefarious designs, adding that the world must ensure justice and deliver what is promised to the Kashmiri people as per UN resolutions.

Earlier, on arrival, Lieutenant General Shahid Imtiaz, Corps Commander Rawalpindi received COAS. ISPR



Govt. ensuring equal rights, opportunities to PWDs: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the government was ensuring equal rights and opportunities to the persons with disabilities (PWDs), in every walk of life.

No country and society could achieve progress without inclusion of PWDs in all sectors of life, the prime minister said in message on the observance of 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities' on December 3.

The prime minister said the government was also ensuring that the PWDs should get all rights including health, education, jobs, transport and voting and get access to all facilities of life.

He said today, the world was observing the Day of PWDs and they appreciated efforts of all persons with disabilities who had been striving to improve their lives and their



families by facing different challenges.

These efforts by the persons with disabilities were precedent for others to follow, he added.

The prime minister stressed upon the public and private sectors to strive for the betterment of PWDs with joint efforts, adding the media should also spread awareness about the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

Reiterating resolve, the prime minister urged the people to play their role for making the PWDs as effective members of the society and for their inclusion in the national mainstream. APP

Thailand-bound airline makes emergency landing at Karachi airport

KARACHI: A Thailand-bound Turkish airline flight made an emergency landing at Karachi airport over a passenger's misbehaviour, ARY News reported.

According to details, the Thailand-bound passenger was boarded at Istanbul airport via Turkish airline flight TK-172 but the drugged passenger was offloaded at Karachi airport when he started misbehaving with the staff and other passengers.

The Turkish airline landed at Karachi airport upon getting permission from the control tower at Karachi airport.

However, the Civil aviation authority said that it wasn't an emergency landing. The Turkish airline landed at the flight's captain's request when a passenger started misbehaving with the staff and passengers.

Imran Khan says will go for dissolution of assemblies

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman on Saturday backtracked from his offer to government for talks and clarified that his previous statement was just meant to emphasize gravity of the situation.

Addressing a meeting of parliamentary party of KP, PTI Chief claimed that Pakistan's economic situation is spiraling out of control and country heads towards default but Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his predecessor Miftah Ismail are engaged in a public spat.

Criticizing incumbent government, former premier said the only achievement of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and its allies in past seven months is that they managed to get relief for themselves in corruption cases against them.

PTI Chief also announced that they will dissolve Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies in the current month and go for to elections.

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)



expressed willingness to go into talks with Imran Khan-led PTI without any precondition to stem political turmoil in the country.

PML-N leaders Khawaja Saad Rafique and Rana Sanaullah announced it in a press conference after a party huddle chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss Mr Khan's offer for conditional talks on election date.

Sources quoted the participants in the PML-N meeting as having said that the talks could be held with

PTI if Mr Khan was serious for it. Holding negotiations was a positive gesture, but there should not be any precondition, they said, adding that the government also sought an end to the political deadlock in the country.

Rafique, who is federal railways and aviation minister of the coalition government, said Mr Khan could go for an adventure of dissolving assemblies but the PML-N would not be a part of any unconstitutional act.

Saudi Arabia condemns assassination attempt on Pak envoy in Kabul

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Saturday strongly condemned the armed attack on Pakistan's embassy in Kabul and the assassination attempt on Charge d'affaires Ubaid Nizamani.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly condemns the armed attack on the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the Afghan capital Kabul, and the failed assassination attempt on the Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan," the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia condemns assassination attempt on Pakistan's envoy in Kabul.

Sherry slams Imran for anti-parliamentary democracy remarks

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Saturday slammed Imran Khan for his anti-parliamentary democracy remarks and said Khan's statement against parliamentary democracy was condemnable.

In a series of tweets, the Federal Minister expressed that Imran Khan and his party had always railed against parliamentary democracy.

Senator Sherry Rehman said in his (Imran Khan) eyes, the system in which he gets power is correct, then be it the presidential system.

"He is a dictator in the guise of a politician himself," she alleged. The Minister added that by mocking the moral standards of the people of Pakistan, Imran Khan had humiliated every Pakistani.



was now teaching the nation high morals, she said, adding, "If he himself follows moral principles, why is he not leaving politics after disqualification?"

The Minister said the political parties and the nation had made sacrifices for the restoration of the constitution and parliamentary democracy in the country. "Imran Khan's 26 years of political struggle have been spent in eating money in the name of charity. But our leaders and workers have sacrificed their lives for the restoration of this democratic system," Sherry Rehman said.

Begum Alvi underlines need to safeguard PWD's rights with provision of facilities

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Saturday stressed upon the need of paying special attention to the rights of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) so that they should not lag behind in playing their effective role in the society.

The First lady, in a message on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities being observed on December 3, said that over one billion people of the world's population suffered from some form of disability.

She observed that PWDs were not handicapped, but they possessed slightly different capabilities. They possessed certain capacities like other ordinary people.

She said it was a collective



responsibility of all to encourage the PWDs to become effective members of the society.

Begum Alvi also stressed upon the business community to provide employment

opportunities to the PWDs according to the quota and their talents. They should also

provide safe and friendly environment to the PWDs at the places of jobs.

Due to the existence of certain hurdles in the social, physical and basic infrastructure, the PWDs were deprived of the quality educational and health facilities, she added.

She called upon the nation to provide all possible support and facilities to the PWDs in their surroundings and include them in their daily life activities by safeguarding their rights.

She appealed to the media to highlight the rights of the PWDs and dispel and discourage the negative attitudes and stereotypes in the society, adding it was regrettable that persons with disabilities were kept aloof from the mainstream of society.

Fawad regrets judiciary's inaction

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry while hitting out at former president and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N supreme and former PM Nawaz Sharif for running away from the country and finding excuses to avoid elections, expressed regret that the judiciary isn't playing its role.

Talking to media in Lahore



on Saturday, the PTI leader while reacting to Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and

Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique's presser on behalf of the federal govern-

ment asked if former PM Nawaz Sharif kept them in the party to boo others but they should have courage to ask their leadership about NRO.

"If they feel bad that people call them thieves and bandits, then they should ask their leadership," he said and asked if anyone have doubts about the plundering of the leadership of both parties.

Quoting a journalist who said court was opened midnight on former COAS Gen (r) Qamar Javed Bajwa's

orders, Fawad Chaudhry said that this is a question mark on our justice system, adding that the establishment will have to think, if the decisions are made behind closed doors because the common man no more expect justice from the courts.

The former federal minister went on to say that a meeting of the party's Sindh Parliamentary Party will be held shortly adding that we have made our decisions and we are ready for the elections.

Waiting for Imran Khan's signal to dissolve Punjab assembly, says Pervaiz Elahi

News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi on Saturday again vowed to stand by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan said that he is waiting for his [Imran Khan] signal to dissolve provincial assembly.

He said this in his meeting with Speaker Punjab Assembly Sibtain Khan who called on him and discussed ongoing political situation in detail.

Matters pertaining to the rules and regulations of the Punjab Assembly and other legal issues and technical aspects of the constitutional situation also came under discussion in the meeting.



The two leaders reiterated their determination to vigorously fight against the uncon-

stitutional tactics of the opposition. Speaking on the occasion,

the Punjab CM said that he stand by Imran Khan will continue to stand by him,

adding that the PTI chairman is the real leader of the nation and leaders like him are found in decades.

On the occasion, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader and former federal minister Moonis Elahi said that those trying to create misunderstandings are bound to fail and the Punjab assembly and chief ministership is of former PM's.

Speaker Sibtain Khan said that the party is united under the leadership of Imran Khan, adding that Muttahida Ulema Board Punjab Amendment Bill, Punjab Empowerment Ministry of Persons with Disabilities Bill will be presented in the assembly session.

PPP, Balochistan govt refused to dissolve Sindh, Balochistan PAs: Rana

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan has underscored the need to resolve all issues with consultation in a democratic system. Talking to newsmen in Lahore on Saturday, he said that PPP leadership and Balochistan Government have refused to dissolve Sindh and Balochistan Assemblies. To a question, he said that no decision has been taken by the coalition government regarding No-Confidence motion in the Punjab and KP Assemblies. To another question, the Interior Minister said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan always refused to talk with opposition but now he is ready for talks.

He said that nation has confidence in military leadership. Answering a question he stated, Now, Moonis Elahi statement has cast doubt over the institution narrative so it should be clarified, The



minister further stated that the government and the nation has trust that the commitment the military leadership and institution have made to the nation is true and respectable. He said that the institution will perform its national duty in the country service under the same commitment so that politics progresses and matters advance in the country favour. While speaking about the

possibility of moving a no-confidence motion against Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, Sanaullah said that no final decision has been made on it.

He said that the stakeholders held a meeting on Friday and another meeting will be held today as well and PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif advice will be taken. I personally believe that we should keep the federal government in its place in case the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies are dissolved, he said, adding that the assemblies in Sindh and Balochistan will remain in place as the two governments have refused to dissolve the bodies. He said that the ruling coalition will be in a better position whether there are by-polls or a general election in Punjab. ARY

Asad Qaiser says giving extension to ex-COAS Bajwa was 'a mistake'

LAHORE: Former National Assembly (NA) speaker Asad Qaiser has asserted that the then-PTI government's decision to give extension to former COAS ret'd Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa was 'a mistake', ARY News reported on Saturday.

Speaking to a private news channel, the former NA Speaker said that the PTI government's decision to extend the tenure of former COAS Gen Bajwa in 2019 was a mistake, adding that his party regret the mistake.

However, Asad Qaiser said, it was a 'collective decision' of all political parties to extend the tenure of the then-army chief. ARY

In letter to CJP, Imran Khan demands judicial inquiry into Arshad Sharif's killing

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has penned down a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, demanding a judicial inquiry into killing of journalist Arshad Sharif, ARY News reported on Saturday.

According to details, the former

premier wrote a letter to CJP Umar Ata Bandial and demanded a judicial inquiry into killing of Arshad Sharif.

In the letter, Imran Khan demanded the chief justice to constitute a 'free' judicial commission to investigate the murder of senior journalist.

Thousands of Pakistani citizens have

written letters to Chief Justice of Pakistan, demanding justice for the journalist.

Earlier in December, the daughter of martyr journalist Arshad Sharif, Alizah Arshad wrote a letter to the Supreme Court (SC) judges and demanded the constitution of a judicial commission

to probe into her father's assassination case.

Alizah Arshad stated in her letter that she is seeking justice for her father who had been martyred in Kenya 36 days ago. As an investigative journalist, her father exposed the corruption of elites and presented evidence, she wrote.

US calls for probe as it denounces attack on Pakistani embassy in Kabul



WASHINGTON: The United States Friday condemned the attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul targeting its head of mission, Ubaid Nizamani, and called for a full investigation.

"We offer our sympathies and wish a quick recovery to those affected

by the violence," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told his daily press conference.

"The United States is deeply concerned by the attack on a foreign diplomat, and we call for a full and transparent investigation," he added.

APP

Real task is to save economy, not assemblies' dissolution: Sheikh Rashid

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) head Rana Sanaullah said on Saturday the real task was to save the country's struggling economy, not dissolution of assemblies.

Sheikh Rashid, in a tweet, said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chair-

man Imran Khan was fully aware that Pakistan could not afford more-political instability. He said the elections could guarantee political and economic stability in the country.

"No matter when polls are held, the Pakistan Democratic Movement's politics has been buried, he added.

Indictment of Shahbaz Gill deferred till Dec 12

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Saturday deferred the indictment of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in a case pertaining to incite mutiny in state institutions. Additional Sessions Judge Islamabad Ahmad Arshad Mehmood conducted the hearing as duty judge on Saturday as Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra was on leave. Accused Shahbaz Gill and Amad Yousuf did not appear before the court.

The court accepted their requests seeking exemption from court



appearance. The lawyer told the court that Gill could not appear because he was ill as he was a patient of asthma. He further said that Amad Yousuf had to come from Karachi but he could not get flight today. Accepting lawyer's plea, the judge granted them exemption from court appearance today and deferred Gill's indictment in the case till December.

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Magnitude 6.1 quake hits Indonesia's West Java

News Desk

JAKARTA: A quake of 6.1 magnitude hit Indonesia's West Java area on Saturday, the country's geophysics agency BMKG said, sending people running out of buildings.

The quake has no tsunami potential, the agency said. It was felt in capital Jakarta, around 200 km from the epicentre.

One person was injured and four houses were damaged in the town of Garut, said Abdul Muhari, spokesperson for Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency (BNPB).

Some residents of other towns and cities in West Java said on social media they felt the quake strongly. A Reuters witness in Bandung, the capital of West Java province, said guests of a hotel ran out of the building but had since returned inside.

Last month a shallow quake of 5.6 magnitude hit West Java's Cianjur, killing more than 300.

The head of BNPB, Suharyanto, told local news channel MetroTV that authorities were still making checks

in other places near the epicentre on Saturday.

"Hopefully the impact is not as bad as Cianjur because this time the epicentre is pretty deep," he told MetroTV.

The magnitude was initially reported at 6.4 with a depth of 118 km (73 miles) and was later updated with a depth of 109 km.

BMKG reported a smaller 2.9 magnitude quake at 107 km depth hit near the first quake over an hour later. News Desk

BURHAN-SWABI MOTORWAY CLOSED DUE TO FOG

ISLAMABAD: As the winter season has arrived, the National Highways and Motorway Police have closed Motorway M1, Burhan to Swabi, due to dense fog situation, ARY News reported.

According to details, the early morning and evening fog was affecting the traffic in north zone of the Motorway. In this regard, the authority has closed Motorway M1 - Burhan to Swabi - for public transport to avert any misfortunate incident.

12th Pakistan Mountain Festival

Youth cleanup Margalla Hills Trail-5

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: More than one hundred university students and nature lover participated in the hiking and cleanup drive at Margalla Hills Trail-5 after an interactive session on wildlife and biological diversity of the Margalla Hills on Saturday. The daylong event was organized by the Development Communications network (Devcom-Pakistan), DTN and Islamabad Wildlife Management board (IWM) in connection with ongoing two-week long 12th Pakistan Mountain Festival. Pakistan Mountain Festival is the annual flagship event of Devcom-Pakistan to commemorate the UN's International Mountain Day (IMD) that falls on December 11.



The students of CS Adventure Club of the Comsats University Islamabad Campus, SZABIST Islamabad Campus, GBC Council participated

in the event. Before the nature walk and cleanup, the IWMB chairman scientific committee ZB Mirza briefed the partic-

ipants about the biological diversity and natural heritage of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP).

ZB Mirza said the Margalla Hills National Park has been quite neglected since it was established in 1980. Though, it is the third-largest national park in the world with an area of 17,386 hectares (42,960 acres) under the foothills of Himalaya. In the recent decade, its importance was realized after seeing the impact of unwanted haphazard constructions and movement of vehicles more than its carrying capacity. Many initiatives has been taken so far to protect the wildlife and biological diversity including awareness raising among the communities living in the habitats.

Mirza urged the youth to respect diversity of species, and help manage wildlife and human beings live together. The park is rich in biodiversity, especially rich in Sino-Himalayan fauna, most notably gray goral, barking deer and the Leopard. Combined MHNP is home to around 600 plant species,

Kabaddi match played between FCCI -XI and Central Jail Faisalabad



Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: In the match played between FCCI -XI and Central Jail Faisalabad's Kabaddi teams, where the Central Jail's team won by 35 points against 32 points. DIG Saeedullah Gondal was the chief guest. He gave Rs. 20,000 to the first team, Rs. 10,000 cash and trophies to the second position team. Executive Member Faisalabad Chamber Shafiq Hussain Shah President Divisional Kabaddi Association Faisalabad, Chairman Riaz Kamuka, Senior Vice President Kabaddi Association Chaudhry Shabbir Sindhu, Superintendent Jail Mansoor Akbar, Deputy Superintendent Attaur Rahman Awan and other jail officers were also present on the occasion.

The technical committee was headed by international kabaddi commentator Tayyab Geelani, Abdul Hakeem, Prof. Parvez Akhtar, Shehzad Saleem Khokhar, Babar Sheikh, Mozaal Butt, Arshad Dogar. A large number of "Asiran" Jail watched the match, cheering the players on various occasions.

Disabled Day celebrated

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Lower Waziristan the Additional Assistant Commissioner Wana attended the World Disability Day Programme as Chief guest Organized by district administration in collaboration with District youth office.

District youth officer, doctor from DHQ Hospital Rehabilitation department, NSTOP officer, Elders, youth, media Personnel, elected bodies and special person from Wana Subdivision attended the programme.

Special person highlighted their issues while addressing the programme. The Addl. Assistant Commissioner Wana assured them the support and reiterated that district Administration will hire members of Special persons in Polio teams as volunteers and in fixed teams.

Moreover, their issues are already sent to concerned Social welfare, Bait-ul Maal, BISP, Ehsaas, Education and health departments for necessary actions at the earliest.

The Addl. Assistant Commissioner Wana explained the theme of Accessibility and equitable opportunities to the special person and assured the special person of the cooperation they desire wherever needed.

Isphanyar Bhandara organized a luncheon in honor of the minority community



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Member of the National Assembly Isphanyar Bhandara organized a lavish luncheon in honor of the minority community on Saturday at his residence.

According to the details, the luncheon in honor of the minority citizens was held on behalf of Isphanyar Bhandara on Saturday at his residence at No. 1, Park Road, Murree Estate, Rawalpindi. Citizens from Sikh, Hindu, and Christian communities and other religions attended the lunch. A large number of people participated.

Speaking on the occasion, former Member National Assembly Isphanyar Bhandara welcomed the participants and wished them all the best in the future.

He said that the role of the minority community in the construction and development of Pakistan is unforgettable. Since the creation of Pakistan, the minority community has played a role in the country's development alongside its fellow citizens and, in the future, will continue to play a role in the country's development.

Amazing

PESHAWAR: A loading motorcycle carrying clothes as a woman sits on clothes on his way at Karkhano Market in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Grand Jirga of JUI Wana Postponed

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Wana) has postponed the Grand Jirga to be convened in connection with peace and order In this regard, Jamiat Ulema Islam Wana President Maulana Mirzajan Wazir, General Secretary Maulana Rafiuddin Wazir, Maulana Sabirullah Wazir and other members said while holding a press conference at District Press Club Wana.

That the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam is striving for peace in Waziristan, in connection with which the Jamiat convened a grand jirga on December 4 after completing consultations with tribal elders belonging to different schools of thought and others at the district level.

But unfortunately the district administration sent us a notice and flatly refused to give us AC Jirga Hall, which we strongly condemn.

Secretary General of Jamiat Maulana Rafiuddin said, that the Grand Jirga of Jamiat called on December 4 regarding peace has been postponed for an indefinite period with mutual consultation.

In response to a question regarding peace and security during the press conference, he said that there can be no room for it,

That peace and order is the responsibility of the state, it is the duty of all the units of the state to protect the life and property, honor and dignity of its citizens.

He said that if the district adminis-



tration needs our support to maintain peace, they are ready to do so.

Federal and Provincial govts to pay special attention to the southern region of KPK

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Senator Dost Muhammad Mehsud has called upon both the Federal and Provincial governments to pay Special Attention to the Southern region of KPK in order to bring it at par with the developed parts of the Country. He lamented that Dikhan region being the Main Junction of the CPEC Route has been deprived of its due share in the Overall Socio-economic development Package as envisaged initially.

To accrue viable benefits out of this Belt and Road Initiative, the Senator Suggested that Motor way be Extended from Yark(Dik)- DGK-Kashmore to Karachi- Gawader , while the Dik-DGK-Kashmor Indus Highway be Dualised, with the view to ensure Speedy Trans-

portation of Goods and Services and Passengers. Moreover, he suggested that Dikhan be linked with the Main Railway Line from Kotla Jam(Bhakker) via Bridge. From there New Railway line be laid to link it with Pezu- from where it is already linked with Gambila, Bannu, Karak and Kohat. It is pertinent to mention that this Railway track had been laid by the British in early 20th Century linking Kohat with Tank via Pezu. Both Passengers and Goods trains were operated on this track till 1996. Ironically in 1997-98, during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif, then CM Punjab and current PM Shabaz Sharif, in league with a local Business Tycoon and MPA Seth Kabir Marwat and thus the whole Railway tracks were Sold to Ittefaq Foundaries on a mere price of 1 Rupee per Ton, thus

causing an irreparable losses to the National Economy and caused the downfall of the Railway System in Southern KPK. He demanded that the case be referred to NAB to ascertain the true facts by recovering the looted amount and give exemplary punishments to the accused for depriving the people of travelling facilitate just to fulfill their lust for money.

He opined that this Southern KPK Railway Line should be restored by linking it with Zhob via Gomal Valley in the South, and be Extended to Wana. The Huge amount on M1 be diverted towards Gawader-Hoshab-Turbat-Quetta-Zhob-Gomal- Tank-Pezu-Kohat-Havelian rail line, for Smooth and speedy transportation of Goods via this railway line instead of M1.

GCT launches its 160th charitable school in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) has launched its 160th charitable school in Sindh as a step forward to achieving its goal of enrolling 100,000 out-of-school children in the province by the year 2025. The new charitable school has been opened in an underprivileged part of the Azizabad area in Karachi.

The new GCT school in Azizabad in the next few years will enroll a total of 720 students from underprivileged families for education up to class 8th. Another GCT school is functional nearby and has been functional for past many years. The location of the two schools shows that the issue of out-of-school children in the midst of Karachi is as grave as in a faraway rural area in Sindh.

A large number of concerned philanthropists, dignitaries from various walks of life, and donors of the GCT attended the launching ceremony. Speaking at the launching ceremony, the GCT CEO, Zahid Saeed, thanked the concerned donors and philanthropists for continuously supporting the drive of this charity to educate underprivileged students in Sindh. He said the generous and uninterrupted support this charity had been receiving from its donors would enable it to achieve the target of increasing the number of its charitable schools in Sindh to 250 by

2025 for enrolling a total of 100,000 children from needy families.

He said the concerned donors and philanthropists had to come forward and generously support genuine charitable drives in the education sector as they did so during the coronavirus pandemic and as in the recent flood calamity, which had massively damaged the school infrastructure in Sindh. Zahid Saeed informed the audience that the GCT has employed over 1400 qualified teachers to educate around 99,000 students from underprivileged areas of Sindh. 2,000 orphan children are fully supported by GCT.

He praised the noble services of GCT patron-in-Chief, Sardar Muhammad Yasin Malik, who had been exceptionally supporting genuine charitable causes in the society including the campaign to enroll out-of-school children in the country.

Zahid Saeed mentioned that the GCT is fully open to the idea of launching partnerships with like-minded charities to further its goal of educating every child in the province. Zahid Saeed told the audience that the GCT partnered with the Sindh government also in furthering its drive to educate underprivileged children. For this purpose, GCT has been running 17 schools in partnership with the Sindh Education Foundation, Government of Sindh.

ZARAI TARAQIATI BANK LIMITED
INVITATION TO BID
 Tender No. ZTBL-10-2022

Maintenance & Support Services for Routers, Switches, IP Cameras & NVR Installed in all Branches of ZTBL

Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited, Head Office Islamabad, a Public Sector Bank, invites sealed bids from authorized distributors / suppliers / Contractors registered with Income Tax & Sales Tax Departments and who are on Active Taxpayers List of the Federal Board of Revenue for Maintenance & Support Services for Routers, Switches, IP Cameras & NVR Installed in all Branches of ZTBL.

2. Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, etc. are available at IT-Procurement Facilitation & Assets Management Department, ZTBL Head Office, Islamabad. Price of the bidding documents is Rs. 1,000/-. Bidding documents can also be downloaded from www.ztbl.com.pk free of cost. The bidder must register with ZTBL by submitting bidder registration form available on ZTBL website before participating in the bid.

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Fajr	5:27 am
Zohr	11:57 am
Asr	3:21 pm
Maghrib	4:59 pm
Isha	6:27 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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Islamabad	9222596
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MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7

Cooking oil prices likely to go up

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Amid high inflationary pressure due to unstable financial condition of Pakistan, the prices of cooking oil are likely to increase this month.

According to details, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has decided to impose an additional duty on imported edible oil to promote local production and companies.

A Total of five percent regulatory duty will be imposed on imported cooking oil, edible oil is currently subject to a two percent additional import duty and a 17 percent sales tax.

On the other hand, the price of 40 kg of edible oil at the local level will be fixed at 7 thousand PKR.

However, this inflation of cooking oil will only burden the people using imported cooking oil, meanwhile, it won't make any difference to the people using local production.

It may be noted here that leading exporters Ukraine and Russia were aggressively offering the oil to bring down their stocks. The discount could prompt Indian and European buyers to increase purchases of sunflower oil in the coming months and reduce buying of soyoil, which could weigh on its prices.

Second phase of AJK LG polls concludes peacefully

MUZAFFARABAD: Polling in the second phase of local government (LG) elections in Azad Kashmir, except for a few minor incidents at some polling stations, ended peacefully on Saturday trending with a very high turnover in four districts of Poonch division.

This was said by Divisional Commissioner Ansar Yaqoob while talking to APP via telephone. "Polling continued from 8 am to 5 pm without any interval and long queues of voters were witnessed at polling stations showing much interest of people in elections," he added.

Yaqoob said minor quarrels were reported from a polling station of Khursheddabad in Haveeli district and another polling station at Namnota Lower near Khaigala Town of Rawalakot tehsil where the law enforcing officials had overcome the situation very soon.

According to AJK Election Commission, more than one million voters had used their right of franchise in four districts of the Poonch division namely Sudhanoti, Bagh, Poonch (Rawalakot), and Haveli to elect 875 councilors of local bodies on general seats.

Pak-Uzbekistan can play key role for regional economic integration: Ishaq Dar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan could play a key role in regional economic integration.

This he said in a meeting with Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Mr. Oybek Usmanov, who called on the federal minister, here, at Finance Division, said a press release.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomed the ambassador and highlighted profound fraternal relations and deep-rooted cultural and historical linkages between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The finance minister and the Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan discussed measures to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

The ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan shared their government's keen interest in enhancing the relations with Pakistan on multiple fronts through the enhancement of trade, investment and business.

The ambassador also invited the finance minister on behalf of his government to visit Tashkent in Janu-



ary 2023 for co-chairing a joint ministerial meeting.

The finance minister shared that the government of Pakistan attaches great importance to strengthening bilateral relations and mutual interests to enhance and cooperate in multiple sectors including trade, energy, education, science and technology, and

cultural exchanges with Uzbekistan. He apprised the Uzbek Ambassador about the potential investment avenues present in Pakistan.

In conclusion, the finance minister thanked the Ambassador and extended full support to enhance bilateral relations between both countries in various sectors.

What's On

UNHCR and Inspire Pakistan hold End of Year bazaar

UNHCR in collaboration with Inspire Pakistan will hold an End of Year Bazaar showcasing refugee-made products and Pakistani businesses supporting refugees on Sunday, 4 December 2022 at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad at 10:00 a.m. Diplomats from various Embassies, Heads of UN Agencies, and Government Officials will visit the Bazaar.

The tobacco industry is once again trying to mislead policy makers: PANAHA

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Heating tobacco products are as harmful to human health as other tobacco products. The tobacco industry is once again trying to mislead policy makers to legalize a new harmful product in Pakistan. More than 12 countries of the world including Australia, Brazil, Norway and Singapore have banned these products and Europe is also going to ban it. We have also written letters to the government officials in this regard to remove it from the agenda of the cabinet and initiate a detailed discussion on it involving all stakeholders as this matter is directly linked with human lives. Tobacco industry is playing with lives of people just for their profitability. This was said by the Secretary General of PANAHA Sanaullah Ghumman in an emergency press conference today.

He said that the tobacco industry is misleading the policy makers with new tactics. Sometimes they are marketing a product with the name of Velo and sometimes sheesha. PANAHA has been exposing these industry tactics earlier and will continue to do so to save our youth and the future of Pakistan. Due to the same tactics of the industry, 1200 new children



are starting smoking in Pakistan every day, which is having terrible consequences on health and economy of Pakistan. Now they want to legalize heating tobacco products in Pakistan saying that they are less harmful to health and emit less smoke. However, heating tobacco products have the same harmful effects on health as cigarettes and it contains some additional harmful chemicals. A detailed consultation shall be made by the government on these products by involving all relevant stakeholders. We strongly request the government not to compromise public health for the benefit of the industry.

Int'l day of disabled persons

KARACHI: Disables persons participant during awareness walk on the eve of International Day of Disabled Persons in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

International Day for Persons with Disabilities celebrated

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Directorate General of Special Education, Ministry of Human Rights celebrated today the International Day for Persons with Disabilities at National Library, Islamabad. Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

This event was glorified with the active participa-

tion of Persons/Children with Disabilities, teachers and therapists working for the disability, NGOs, Social Workers, Religious scholars, Civil Society and representatives of Ministry of Human Rights.

Federal Minister of Human Rights was delighted on celebrating this day by DGSE and appreciated the performance of PWDs. Mr. Pirzada talked about on the current year

theme of international day for PWDs. "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: The role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world". Due to the current technological advancements in the 21st century, every field of life has changed which has equally swap the life of PWDs.

Minister emphasized on the incorporation of technological advancement

in the field of disability to make a PWDs and CWDs inclusive and participative society.

He said that Persons with Disabilities, that make 10 to 15 percent of our total population, are the precious asset of this country, if they are provided with better opportunities of education and rehabilitation; they can prove themselves even better than the persons without disability.

Women lawyers play a very important role in justice and justice Sana Sarfaraz

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Women lawyers play a very important role in justice and justice. Women ask mail lawyers openly that they cannot discuss their problems. They can only tell one lawyer per mail.

It has often been seen that such incidents are seen at the workplace or in the college university, in which there is an element of harassment. Can also read saying

There must be such a forum for reforming the society so that there is no highlight and their problem is also solved so that Arfa Karim and Justice Ayesha Malik can play their role side by side in the development of our society. Women are strong and



secure in every sense as lawyers as far as their profession is concerned it is a good platform to convince yourself keep up your hard work and dedication with patience then success becomes your destiny as they say patience. The fruit is sweet

The purpose of being a lawyer for women is that they know their rights and if they have been wronged

by someone else, they can get their right by proceeding. Be yourself, no one can spoil anything, mail, lawyers, seniors, fathers, brothers, guide and protect like a good colic, good and bad people are everywhere. It is your own training and character. Saves and makes Gulshan

Women lawyers and mail-lawyers have the same rights. Al-Wakil is one of the divine names of Allah, the meaning of which is Kasaz.

In my opinion, if you have discipline in your life and manage your home and field, then there is no problem. You can give full time to the family. Most of the lawyers women leave their field after marriage. They say that a man can destroy but cannot defeat until he admits

defeat. It is not a good thing to achieve your goal and lose it. You should continue your practice even after marriage.

Our society also needs more intelligent women, equip them with the jewel of education, teach our daughters, keep their courage and courage. Becoming a lawyer was my dream and I thought from childhood, in which my family guided me. My mother's role is also very important in this. I am the only female lawyer in my family and I have become an example.

I request my parents to give concern and opportunity to their daughters, educate them, make them aware so that they can avoid poverty, stand on their own feet and play their role as active citizens of the society.

سوئی ناردرن گیس Sui Northern Gas Helpline: 1199

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لہذا! کھانا پکانے کے اوقات میں گیس فراہمی یقینی بنائی جائے گی

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دوپہر 12:00 سے 02:00

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Solar power generation to help steer Pakistan out of energy crises

Mansoor Sadiq

Experts have urged the authorities concerned to take advantage of the renewable energy potential of solar, wind and hydro to steer Pakistan out of the prevailing energy crises with a green and clean approach. They told WealthPK that Pakistan is facing energy crises despite having abundant resources and bounties of nature. A cohesive mechanism between small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and solar power entities is needed to fully explore the opportunities with the assistance of the government. SMEs are considered the backbone of the economy while cheap sources of energy are vital for the effective growth of these enterprises.

SMEs have great potential for the promotion of solar energy. As per reports of the Pakistan Council of Renewable Energy Technology, amidst increasing population and expanding industries infrastructure, the country's energy requirements are likely to raise eight times in 2030. To contain the growing energy demands of the country, solar energy is the least expen-

sive source of power generation as various parts of Pakistan have sufficient sunshine around the year. Abundant electricity can be generated through photovoltaic solar panels to meet domestic needs.

The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) gives a subsidy of Rs350 billion annually to consumers in the country. If only 30% of this annual subsidy is spent on the installation of solar panels, at least 70% of the country's population can be shifted to solar energy in the next few years. Demand for solar power for domestic and agricultural purposes in rural and urban areas is rising with each passing day.

Installation of solar panels needs the government's support. As per the data of the Alternate Energy Development Board (AEDB), the government is striving to add more electricity to the national transmission system through clean and green renewable energy sources with minimum dependence on coal and imported oil for electricity generation. Shiraz Anwar Khan, a senior official of AEDB, told WealthPK that the government was working on indigenous resources instead of imported

fuels. "No new coal and gas projects are being designed for the coming years and focus is being laid on hydropower projects and renewable energy projects," he added.

He said that although Pakistan has less contribution to carbon emissions, it is the most affected country in terms of the effects of climate change. Energy crises in Pakistan are becoming critical due to the rising population and growing industrialisation as the country is solely dependent on hydropower generation. The expert said that the current energy shortfall in Pakistan manifests the importance of renewable energy. "Being the least expensive, solar energy is being used in the modern world," he added. Statistics show that 27% of electricity in Pakistan is generated through water and 30% through gas while 7% is generated through nuclear sources.

The ratio of renewable energy from solar projects is 5 to 6%. AEDB reports regarding solar power generation show that the government is going to decrease electricity generation through coal power plants and coal technology from 30% to 17% in the coming years. The government has planned to increase the

generation of renewable energy by 61% in 2030. "Realising the gravity of situation, the government in August 2022 announced National

Solar Energy Initiative to add 9,000 megawatts of solar energy to the national grid," said AEDB Director Shiraz Anwar Khan.

He added that under the initiative, the government waived all respective import duties along with giving tax incentives to importers. The government also announced 14,000MW solar power projects following the rise of fuel costs in the global market. Pakistan has also vowed to produce 60% of electricity through renewable sources by 2030 with a major share of solar energy. "Renewable solar energy proves its importance for small and medium enterprises in Pakistan as rising electricity costs have burdened small business entities," Asghar Nasar, an office-bearer of the Small and Medium Enterprises Authority in Rawalpindi, told WealthPK.

He said that solar energy will prove highly beneficial for SMEs to grow and expand their scope. SMEs could also effectively participate in the value chain for manufacturing, installation and maintenance of solar panels.

Manufacturers of solar panels believe that the future of solar energy in Pakistan is bright.

Pakistan has huge potential for solar energy because of its proximity to the equator. The country receives 4,500 hours of electricity every year. Under

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), various energy projects have been initiated and others are in the pipeline in the renewable energy sector.

Quaid-i-Azam Solar Power Park in Bahawalpur has been made operational with Chinese assistance and expertise.

Six solar power projects with a capacity of 430 megawatts have achieved commercial operation date (COD) and are supplying electricity to the national grid including 400 megawatts Quaid-i-Azam Solar Power Park in Bahawalpur. Four projects with 250 megawatts of capacity will be completed in 2022 in Layyah and Sukkur while

31 megawatts projects will be completed in Pind Dadan Khan and Bahawalnagar. "A cohesive mechanism between the SMEs and solar power entities is needed to fully explore the solar power generation opportunities with the assistance of the government," Asghar Nasar told

Kashmir dispute adds more to list of PWDs

Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) Altaf Hussain Wani while stressing the need for early resolution of Kashmir dispute, has said that the unresolved dispute had not only increased the vulnerability of existing disabled persons and their families but it had added more to the list of people with disabilities (PWDs).

In a press statement issued on Saturday on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the KIIR chairman while referring to continued bloodshed and violence in the disputed territory, said that continued violence and unrest in the region had played a key role in growing number of people with disabilities, especially after the use of pellet guns by Indian forces.

Termining the use of 3rd degree torture as the main state tool to cause disability, Wani further said that inhuman torture techniques employed by Indian forces against detainees in custody and use of excessive force against peaceful protesters have left thousands of Kashmiris disabled for life.

He said that the use of so-called non-lethal weapons like pellet guns by the Indian forces have led to permanent disability of hundreds of Kashmiri boys and girls who lost their eyesight after being injured by pellet-firing shotguns. Apart from the pellet guns, he said Indian forces had been employing gruesome methods of torture such as crushing the leg muscles with a wooden roller, giving electric shocks and burning detainees' sensitive parts with heated objects during the interrogation.

"Since 1990, scores of naturally disabled persons have been killed by the trigger-happy Indian forces", he said, adding that between 2016-18, the vision of 1,253 people was impaired after being hit by pellets.

Referring to a report, Wani said, between 2015 and 2017, 31,085 people were certified as disabled in different districts of Kashmir marking 74 percent jump from 17,898 people in three preceding years.

About the impact of landmines on the lives of innocent Kashmiris, he said that cases of disabilities in Kashmir have increased manifold since India started to use deadly pellet guns in Kashmir. On the other hand, he said, use of landmines and booby traps by the Indian army had wreaked havoc on the lives of people living in the areas adjacent to the LoC.

The KIIR chairman urged the international community to take effective notice of the matter and hold the Indian government accountable for the crimes its forces have been inflicting upon Kashmiris.



The greatest threat to the human race is the human race itself

Hassan Bin Youssef Yassin

The history of our universe goes back 13.8 billion years to the occurrence of the Big Bang. Our relatively young planet Earth was formed "only" 4.5 billion years ago, with the first complex animals emerging 500 million years ago and homo sapiens appearing only 300,000 years ago.

It would be useful here to repeat an exercise some of us might remember from school: Were we to squeeze the entire history of Earth into 24 hours, humans would appear just a little before one minute to midnight.

Therefore the development of complex forms of life on Earth predates us humans by almost 500 million years, yet in just the past 50 years we have managed to eliminate almost 70 percent of wildlife, according to the Living Planet Report published in October by the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Zoological Society of London.

The destruction we have wrought on our planet goes far beyond this tragic statistic — it extends to the destruction of entire ecosystems, the pillaging of our planet's finite resources and the emission of so much toxic waste that we are killing ourselves and disrupting the Earth's climate with already-disastrous consequences.

Just a few weeks ago, we passed the milestone of 8 billion humans on Earth. A billion were added in the past 12 years alone. We have noted before that if all humans consumed resources at the same rate as Americans, we would already need more than five Earths to sustain humanity.

Inevitably, in our crazed race of overconsumption we have lost more than a third of arable land to erosion and pollution over the past 40 years. We have seen desertification expand to more than 25 percent of Earth's land mass and threaten the livelihoods of more than one billion people. Marine life has declined by 50 percent, with plastic soon set to outnumber marine life

by weight. And the poisons we release into the air we breathe kill more than 7 million people every year.

Eminent physicist Stephen Hawking was, it seems, not exaggerating in 2017 when he urged us to rapidly learn to colonize new planets because he gave Earth only 100 more years before its irreversible destruction.

As historian Yuval Noah Harari outlined in his landmark book "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind," we humans stand out through our remarkable brains, which arm us with an intelligence that has allowed us to achieve the unimaginable. The progress we have made over the past two centuries — the past two millennia, also — is simply remarkable.

Unfortunately, that progress has come at a terrible cost, highlighting the human mind's other great capacity: Its capacity for ignorance that allows us to set aside the rather uncomfortable details of the devastating side effects of our progress.

Although we try to forecast everything from the weather to every kind of market or even geopolitical realignments, we seem utterly unable to take in the minute-by-minute destruction we are wreaking on the sustainability of life on Earth. Humans have become the single largest threat to the very existence of other species, to our planet and, of course, to ourselves.

Nothing illustrates our willing ignorance of our ongoing daily destruction of the planet that sustains us more clearly than the forced global standstill during the COVID-19 pandemic. Confined mostly to our own homes, the usual traffic of cars, ships and airplanes was vastly reduced, as were the emissions from industry and general pollution.

Suddenly, we glimpsed animals wandering through our towns, we were able to see stars in our skies that we had not seen for years, and we breathed air in cities so fresh we had to do a double-take to check where we really were. Mother Earth sent us a clear message through

the coronavirus and we saw how our reduced activity was benefiting the planet, all while not stopping the Earth from turning.

Clearly, there was a strong silver lining to seeing most of humanity spend a little time in domestic prison. As soon as the gates reopened, however, we threw ourselves back into our previous lives and destructive habits, instantly brushing off any lessons we might have learned.

I view our fixation with "saving" specific animals in Africa in a similar way. How arrogant it is of us to first destroy the habitats and natural elements necessary for a certain species to survive, and then to rush in as potential saviors to rescue that which all our previous actions were knowingly destroying.

Most of all, I see in such behavior one more excuse for not coming to terms with the extent to which our daily lives — and, indeed, our entire way of life — are responsible for the inexcusable destruction of our planet and all the Earth's species, including ourselves.

This is not unlike our blind faith in technology to somehow save us all from the brink of destruction. These are tranquilizers for our conscience that we continue to deploy until we die, burying with us every opportunity to leave behind a world in which our children have any chance of surviving.

Indeed, for those of us who follow the Earth's daily ticker, there is not much good news to be found. We can no longer claim that we are in any way in control; we are simply sliding ever further into the darkness.

Humans have proven themselves in so many illustrious domains, yet humanity as a whole seems unable to recognize its own failings in a way that could precipitate the vast changes necessary to make life on this planet sustainable again.

I cannot leave you with any solutions, only a warning expressed by a prescient Albert Einstein: "The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil but because of the people who don't do anything about it."

Canada a huge potential market for Pak exports

Raza Khan

Pakistan's bilateral trade with Canada is far below the actual potential which can be improved by taking special measures, trade experts said. Malik Sohail Hussain, Secretary General (Pakistan Chapter) of Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA), told WealthPK that Canada is a huge potential market for Pakistani products.

"Pakistan needs to focus on exporting industrial products to Canada other than textiles," Hussain said, adding that agro-products are also in demand there. He was of the view that Pakistani exporters and importers find it difficult to obtain visa if they want to travel to Canada. "The Canadian government should relax visa regime for Pakistani traders," he said.

The PWCTA secretary general said that the annual bilateral trade should be around \$2 billion and even more. "The Ministry of Commerce should encourage exporters to boost trade with Canada," he added. Hussain said Canada is an import-oriented country and the business community of Pakistan has a good opportunity to tap this potential market for exports. "Pakistani private sector can set up a base in Canada and capture the North American market," he observed.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan's bilateral trade volume with Canada was recorded at \$765 million during the fiscal year 2021-22. Pakistan's exports to Canada were recorded at \$462 million, while imports were recorded at \$303 million. Azhar Husain, Trade and Investment Consular in Toronto, said that apparel and clothing, plastics, leather gloves, home textiles, rice, travel goods and iron and steel are Pakistan's top export commodities to Canada.

Pakistan's major imports from Canada are dried leguminous vegetables, ferrous waste and scrap, colza seeds, automatic data-processing machines, iron and steel, worn clothing, pharmaceuticals, machinery and mechanical appliances. According to Azhar Hussain, Canada was an import market of \$490 billion in 2021. Pakistan has significant potential to increase its market share in products such as apparels, home textile, articles of leather, medical equipment and agricultural products including rice and processed food.

According to Pakistan Business Council (PBC), the country's top 20 commodities with the highest export potential to Canada are valued at \$2.9 billion.

Twelve of these belong to the category of textiles and textile articles. Rice is currently imported by Canada in low quantities, but it holds immense potential, a value which could possibly exceed \$290 million, the PBC estimated.

Pakistan is one of the top suppliers of textiles and textile articles to Canada. Countries competing against Pakistan in this regard are the United States and Bangladesh, both of which have trade treaties that give them tariff advantages, the PBS said. However, the PBC suggested against the signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Canada. "With a current minor share in Canada's textile imports, Pakistan stands to lose more especially in the agriculture sector," it said.

The PBC recommended a limited Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in the first stage, which allows Pakistani manufacturers increased access to Canada's textile market. The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and PWCTA have recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly promote trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Canada.

IS 95th National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand celebrated

Pak-Thai bilateral ties moving in upward direction: Shazia Marri



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri on Friday said bilateral relations between Pakistan and Thailand were moving in upward trajectory.

Speaking as chief guest here at a function held in connection with the 95th National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, she said bilateral relations were marked with cooperation and convergence of perspectives on a multitude of regional and multilateral issues.

A 110% increase in bilateral trade between the two countries was a clear indication that they enjoyed good and cordial relationships, the minister, who is also Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson, added.

Highlighting the cultural and historical similarities between the two countries, she said like Thailand, Pakistan also supported and promoted multilateralism and regional cooperation.

She stressed upon the importance of people-to-people contact to further boost the bilateral relations between the two countries.

His Excellency Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan emphasised the importance of bilateral relations and continuously increasing trade volume between the two countries. It is not the beaches of Thailand or the majestic mountains of Pakistan that have tied this bond of friendship between the two countries but people to people relations played the most important role, said the ambassador very proudly. Due to the religious Buddha sites in Taxila, Pakistan is a second home as many Thai



citizens make their pilgrimage round the year. For Pakistanis, beaches of Thailand play an important role as tourist destination. The government of Thailand is also planning a big monument at Taxila very soon and it will be a great addition to the Buddhist site, he said.

Thai Embassy every year celebrating the National Day of Thailand with full of buffet manners. 71 years of Thailand-Pakistan diplomatic relations. Bright colours, rich ornamentation, multi-tiered roofs immediately connected the guest to the magnificent palaces of Thailand. The ambassador, along with his diplomatic

colleagues, greeted each and every guest clapping the hands together and saying "sawadee-kah."

61 years back when his Royal Highness visited Pakistan and planted a mango tree in Lahore. The current serving King of Thailand too had visited Pakistan three times as in the capacity of Crown Prince and it was the serving king who had laid the foundation of the Thai embassy in Islamabad in 2012 which not only is one of the largest but also the most beautiful Thai embassies located all over the world.

Photos by Ghulam Farid



IS CPEC's Defining Moment: Prospect and Challenges

CPEC has achieved fruitful results: says Ms. Pang Chunxue

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) organized a policy conclave here in Islamabad, titled "CPEC's Defining Moment: Prospect and Challenges". The eminent speakers included Prof. Dr. Azhar Ahmad; Prof. Dr. Tahir Awan; Dr. George I. H. Cooke; Mr. Shahid Raza; Mr. Hassan Daud; and Mr. Javed Iqbal.

Dr. Azhar Ahmad moderated the session. Chinese Deputy Head of Mission Ms. Pang Chunxue was the chief guest of the policy conclave.

In his opening remarks Dr. Azhar-Mahmood said that CPEC is an opportunity which was harnessed as a result of Pakistan's geo strategic location. Due to the same reason, it has vital importance in China's One Belt One Road Initiative because it is the enriched and shortest route of east west connectivity providing connectivity to not only region but civilization.

The First Speaker on the panel was Dr Tahir Awan who focused political aspects of CPEC. There are challenges and we must deal with them said Dr. Awan. Pakistan needs to take some ideas from its Chinese friends and that is what CPC is focused on "Modernization". Pakistan can also use and implement the idea in its own requirement, Pakistan needs modernization in order to carry on with the emerging world or else be obsolete. Adding further he said that there is a need to link industry and institute in order to solve the challenges, Pakistan needs to institutionalize the challenges to CPEC.

Joining from Sri-Lanka, Dr George-highlighted that every country is unique in its outlook and none should be looked as a replication of the other rather unique relationship it has with the international community. Adding further that no country is isolated today due to its dependency on trade and China is effectively working on



enhancing bilateral relations based on mutual trade. Asia has a major role in world due to huge population bulge it has. Dr. George further said that the coming century is Asian Century in which Asia would be economic centre of world and Beijing plays a significant role as it borders south Asia which is extremely significant for its international relations.

The next speaker on the panel was Mr. Dawood Butt. Mr. Dawood said that emerging world is talking about more politics than trade and in these times Pakistan should feel proud of CEPC rather being skeptical about it, we should introspect but not be skeptic about its productivity and benefit

for Pakistan because China is leading in GDP and Pakistan is no 1 recipient of China FDI. We need to remove bottlenecks for seamless functioning of CPEC. There is institutional consensus that CPEC is necessary to Pakistan. geography is important but history is equally important and Pakistan need to learn from Chinese history which is full of resilience.

Speaking next Mr. Shahid Raza said that threat and sanctions had not helped the world and will not in the future as well. After WW-I Germany was put under sanctions and it culminated into another world war. The problem is that we have learned from history that we never learn from history.

War, threats has always resulted in destruction and decimation. Adding further he said that Pakistan's biggest struggle is its internal political battles which halts national growth. CPEC will happen amid all the challenges it faces, it may take slightly longer but it will be accomplished said Mr. Raza. Furthermore, he said that China is inseparable part of south Asia. And Asian region despite land borders is the least connected region. We need to be connected and expand the horizons of BRI.

The last speaker on the panel was Mr. Javed Iqbal who highlighted the technological aspects of CPEC. Mr. Iqbal highlighted that the foremost



need of modern world is nowhere to be seen in CPEC project. Digital infrastructure is the next frontier and Pakistani government has paid little heed to the digital and technological prospects of the project. Contrary to this China has been proactively modernizing its infrastructure through employing technology.

The session was concluded by Ms. Pang Chunxue, Deputy Head of Mission, Chinese Embassy. In her concluding remarks, she expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the guests and organizers, for their efforts and contributions to promoting China-Pakistan relations and cooperation. She also said that During PM Shahbaz Sharif's meeting with President Xi, President Xi underscored that China will continue its fundamental policy of opening-up and provide new opportunities to Pakistan and the rest of the world through continuous development. She emphasized that China will further deepen synergy between its development strategies and those of Pakistan. The two sides will make full use of the Joint Cooperation Commit-

tee of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation said Ms. Pang. While highlighting the benefits of CPEC she said that the landmark project of the BRI, CPEC has achieved fruitful results, bringing in 25.4 billion USD in investment, helping to add 6040 MW of electricity, 886 km of core national transmission network and 510 km of highways. Under the promotion of CPEC, Pakistan's energy shortage has been greatly addressed, transport infrastructure has been improved, and local people have gained a large number of employment opportunities. Lastly, she said that China will always put Pakistan as its priority for cooperation and work in joint hands to address various risks and challenges at the regional and international levels, deepen the China-Pakistan all weather strategic cooperative partnership, and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era!

Photos by Ghulam Farid

OGDCL-sponsored students graduated from IBA Karachi



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Under the Oil & Gas Development Company's National Talent Hunt Program another batch of students have completed their graduate studies at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi. Studies of these students were sponsored by the Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL).

The batch which was consist of 15 students were awarded degrees in the disciplines of Business Administration, Accounting & Finance, Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, Economics, and Mathematics.

MD/CEO OGDCL Mr. Khalid Siraj Subhani along with Executive Director Services OGDCL met the OGDCL-sponsored graduating students ahead of the graduation ceremony and congratulated them for their hard work and success at IBA.

Several OGDCL-sponsored graduate students are currently serving at high positions at prominent public, private and social sector organizations such as Frontier Works Organisation (FWO), Philip Morris, Daraz, In-driver, and IRD Pakistan. Similarly, some of the graduated students are self-employed and earning a handsome livelihood for their families.

In 2016, OGDCL and IBA Karachi signed an agreement for the OGDCL Talent Hunt Program to offer an opportunity to needy and underprivileged students with rural backgrounds for three batches.

Since then, 205 students have attended orientation sessions under the supervision of highly qualified Faculty of IBA resulting in the admission of 27 students at IBA Karachi in four-year undergraduate programs.

Along with hundreds of other students, students graduated under OGDCL sponsored talent hunt program were also awarded degrees during the IBA Karachi convocation ceremony on Saturday.

Flour goes dearer by Rs5 per kg in Lahore

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Flour price in the Punjab capital surged to Rs125 per kilogramme after a local association announced Rs5 increase due to increase in wheat prices.

A leader of grinding mills association said the price of 40kg wheat had swelled to Rs4,000 in the open market. He said flour prices would be decreased if wheat prices go down in the country.

Meanwhile, 20kg bags of subsidised flour are unavailable in the open market, forcing inflation-hit people to buy the basic commodity at exorbitant prices.

50 companies get Fire Safety Awards 2022

Every building should adopt fire safety measures by its owner: Governor Sindh

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Adoption of fire safety measures at every building by its owner had become all the more important when the state was unable to fulfill its obligations regarding the protection of the lives and properties of people.

Governor Sindh M. Kamran Khan Tessori stated this while speaking as the chief guest at the "12th Fire Safety Awards-2022" jointly organized by the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) and Fire Protection Industry of Pakistan (FPIP).

He congratulated all the award-winning companies on this occasion & said that people should adopt fire safety measures irrespective of the high cost of such systems that often became unbearable due to high inflation.

On this occasion Engr. Nadeem Ashraf, project head of the event said that around 50 plus companies have been selected for awards on the occasion through a stringent evaluation criterion devised purely on a professional basis. The objective of Fire safety awards is to recognize companies for their best efforts, investment, training, awareness and use of modern technology to control fire accidents and save human lives in such incidents, he added.

President FPIP Imran Taj shed light on the methods and technologies being used the world over to secure residential, commercial, and industrial buildings so as to protect them against any fire incident.



President NFEH Muhammad Naeem Qureshi said that his association would continue to provide utmost support to the provincial government to adopt strict fire protection measures by the industries and commercial centers.

Companies, which have won 12th Fire Safety Awards include Agriauto Industries Limited, Archroma Pakistan Limited, Artistic Milliners (Pvt.) Limited, Beltexco Limited, Century Paper & Board Mills Limited, China Power Hub Generation Company (Pvt.) Limited, Colgate Palmolive Pakistan Limited, Coronet Foods (Pvt.) Limited, Dawlance Group Of Companies, Efu General Insurance Limited, English Biscuit Manufacturers (Pvt.)

Ltd, Envirograf, Fatima Fert Limited, Plant Site, Sheikhpura, Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited, Fauji Cement Company Limited, Fauji Fertilizer Bin Qasim Limited, Fauji Oil Terminal & Distribution Company Limited, Fauji Trans Terminal Limited, Harbin Electric International (O&M), Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Limited, Ici Pakistan Limited, Pharmaceuticals, Ici Pakistan Limited, Soda Ash Business, Liberty Mills Limited, Lucky One Mall, Lucky Textile Mills Limited, Meezan Bank Limited, Mulla Ebrahimji Karimbhoy (Pvt.) Limited Oil & Gas Development Company Limited, Pak Arab Refinery Limited, Pak Matiari Lahore Transmission Company (Pvt.) Limited, Pakarab Fertilizer

Limited, Pakistan Oilfields Limited, Paxar Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited, Pharmatec Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited, Pharmevo (Pvt.) Limited, Quid- E- Azam Thermal Power (Pvt.) Limited, Sage Tech International, Sapphire Finishing Mills Limited, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (Pvt.) Limited, Sino Sindh Resources (Pvt.) Limited, Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, Thal Engineering, Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company (Pvt.) Limited, The Aga Khan University Hospital, The Indus Hospital & Health Network, The Searle Company Limited, Tnb Remaco, 1223mw, Balloki Power Plant, Tri-Pack Films (Pvt.) Limited, Yunus Textile Mills Limited and Wilshire Laboratories (Pvt.) Limited.

Bananas attraction

KARACHI: A labourer displaying bananas attraction for customers for selling purpose at fruit and vegetable market in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Reckitt Benckiser Expects Infant Formula Shortage until spring

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The near year-long infant formula shortage in the United States that prompted the intervention of the White House is likely to "persist" until spring, according to Reckitt Benckiser, the maker of what is now the biggest brand in the market, Enfamil.

Panicked parents had earlier this year emptied the baby formula aisles at supermarkets after former top U.S. manufacturer Abbott Laboratories in February recalled dozens of types of its Similac, Alimentum and EleCare formulas.

The products, made at a plant in Michigan, were pulled after complaints of bacterial infections.

Supermarkets like Target and Walgreens Boots Alliance were forced to limit sales, putting pressure on the Biden administration to address the crisis.

The White House in May took steps to address the shortage, invoking the Defense Production Act to help manufacturers obtain the ingredients needed to ramp up supply.

Supplies are yet to return to normal since the peak of the crisis in May and June, despite the U.S. making progress in replenishing stocks, said Robert Cleveland, Reckitt senior vice president of North America and Europe Nutrition.

"I suspect that will persist to some degree until the spring resets," he said. The situation was improving, he said however. "There is much

more volume on shelves than a few months ago, and enough to feed America's babies."

Rival manufacturer Perrigo Company declined to comment, while Danone, maker of Aptamil, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Since the Abbott recall, Reckitt's share of the infant formula market has skyrocketed, making it the No.1 supplier in the United States.

The British company has yet to see its newfound popularity recede, with Cleveland saying its just over 50% market share has "remained relatively unchanged" since earlier this year.

Its position has been further boosted by the United States saying it will temporarily cover the cost of baby formula for low-income families dependent on government discounts in states contracted with the company.

Companies normally bid for state contracts to be the sole provider of baby formula for low-income families under the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programme. In their bids, they offer a "rebate" in the form of discounts to the states.

The government's intervention, aimed at incentivising firms to boost supplies, effectively covers that rebate.

Reckitt has said its formula factories are operating 24/7, and that it was feeding more than 40% of all low-income WIC infants.

"Certainly at some point in the future, we expect

ICCI holds Fateha Khawani, Dua for S.M. Muneer (Late)

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry held Fateha Khawani and Dua for the Esaal-E-Sawab of renowned business leader S.M. Muneer (Late). Khursheed Ahmed Qadri offered Dua-e-Maghfarat for the departed soul.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry paid rich tributes to S.M. Muneer (Late) for his invaluable services for the business community of the country. He said that S.M. Muneer (Late) was



a great mentor and patron to the young business leaders and always guided them on how to perform to promote the business and economic interests of Pakistan. He said

that S.M. Muneer (Late) had also rendered great services as Chairman, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and his death is a huge loss for his family and for the

business community of the country.

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum Khan, former Senator appreciated ICCI for holding Fateha Khawani for S.M. Muneer (Late). He said that S.M. Muneer was a great human being and a legendary business leader. He said that S.M. Muneer (Late) had made great contributions to noble causes including education, hospitals and charity works and his loss will not be filled for years to come.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI said that S.M. Muneer (Late) was a role model for the business class as he had dedicated his life to serve the business

community of the country. He said that a reference for S.M. Muneer (Late) would also be held inviting all business leaders from across the country to pay tribute to his services.

Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zikria A. Zia, President, Islamabad Industrial Association, Mian Shaukat Masud & Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, former Presidents ICCI, Ch. Waheed ud Din, Malik Sohail Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry and others also paid tribute to the services of S.M. Muneer (Late) and highlighted his services for the business community.

Ambassador of Ethiopia visits FPCCI Capital office

Efforts underway to establish institutional linkages between Ethiopia, Pakistan: Envoy

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Islamabad: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula on Friday said concerted efforts were underway to establish institutional linkages between Ethiopia and Pakistan which were crucial to boost the already flourishing ties and bilateral trade between the two brotherly countries.

Addressing the business community from across the country here at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry office, he said efforts were afoot to sign accords between the trading organizations of both countries to ensure bilateral trade under a legal system.

"Our government is strongly looking forward to building a strong relationship with Pakistan, which is located in a very important region and has major economies in its neighborhood," he remarked.

The bilateral trade between the two countries was minimal and amounted to 78 million US dollars, however, he said adding his target was to take it to 300 million US dollars by the

end of 2023.

"We have identified the products which will be exported to my country from Pakistan. Pakistani business community can contribute to Pakistan's economic development by exporting rice, pharmaceutical products, medical equipment, sports items and construction material to my country," he added.

Moreover, the Government of Pakistan, he said, could import agricultural products such as coffee, tea, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables from Ethiopia, which "will eventually help it meet the growing demand for edible items."

He said his mission was planning to organize a visit of Pakistani business delegation to his country by the beginning of the 2023. "This visit is solely dedicated to Pakistan to help its businesspersons explore, understand and connect with the business community of Ethiopia."

"I can assure Pakistan investors that their investment in Ethiopia will be protected by the government and will also have an international guarantee as my country is a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency," H.E. Jemal Beker said.

"The government of Ethiopia is taking multi-



ple steps to facilitate foreign investment in our country. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed chairs a meeting of the Board of Investment every two months to address the challenges faced by investors in our country," the envoy added.

He also announced that the Ethiopian Airlines would start its operation in Pakistan soon and it was likely that the first business delegation would fly to Ethiopia in its maiden flight to his country.

The ambassador said Ethiopia had undergone a lot of reforms under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister H.E. Dr Abiy Ali Ahmed who has been working tirelessly and selflessly to make Ethiopia a symbol and beacon of prosperity in Africa.

He said Ethiopia was all set to become manufacturing hub in Africa as 96.4 percent of energy was being produced from the cheapest source i.e. hydro energy. Ethiopia has already been exporting clean energy to Djibouti, Kenya and Sudan. Export of the cheapest energy to many other regional countries is underway advance interconnectivity through energy.

"Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is another major sector in which Ethiopia is making strides with the development of a technology transformation road map, innovation ecosystem and conducive technology center," he added.

On the other hand, the business communities from various Chambers under the auspices of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry expressed their commitment and readiness to explore and harness the availed opportunities in Ethiopia-Land of Origin.

Pakistan 499-7 as England keeps hopes alive for victory

RAWALPINDI: England kept their hopes alive to pull off a win against Pakistan in the first Test as some late wickets on day three put them in a commanding position at Pindi Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi on Saturday.

At stumps Pakistan were 499-7, still trailing by 158 in reply to England's mammoth total of 657 all out.

There were three centuries for Pakistan as captain Babar Azam (136), Imam-ul-Haq (121) and Abdullah Shafique (114) hammered tons. Abdullah and Imam scored their third Test centuries off 177 and 180 balls respectively, taking their overnight opening stand from 181 to 225.

Abdullah continued exhibiting his superb class as the right-hander now has scored three centuries and four fifties from eight matches, averaging 76.

Rawalpindi is also turning into a great venue for left-hander Imam as he has now scored each of his three Test hundreds to



date on this ground. The morning session belonged to England as they picked up three Pakistan wickets, including two openers and one-down batter Azhar Ali. England got the breakthrough just

under an hour into day three with Abdullah attempting to cut a wide ball from Jacks Leach away and edging it behind to wicketkeeper. Five overs later, Imam holed out off left-arm off-spinner Jacks Leach just to find Ollie Robinson taking

his catch at long-on.

Azhar was also pinned lbw by Leach at 27. Close to lunch, Pakistan were 290-3.

Babar, who was in excellent touch shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 123 with Saud Shakeel (37) as England endured a barren middle session. He then added 60 from 75 balls with Mohammad Rizwan, taking Pakistan away from the follow-on mark.

Around 40 minutes to stumps, Babar chopped Jacks to backward point. After that James Anderson had Rizwan snared by Stokes at midwicket, while Naseem Shah also handed over his catch at the same position as three wickets tumbled for 24 runs.

The match is the first Test in history where both opening partnerships shared double century stands (Abdullah and Imam for Pakistan, Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley for England), and four players scored tons. Agencies

Cameroon coach Song 'proud' after historic win over Brazil



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cameroon manager Rigobert Song said he was proud of his players after a historic 1-0 victory over Brazil in their World Cup Group G match. A stoppage-time header from Vincent Aboubakar gave the Indomitable Lions the first ever win by an African team over Brazil at the World Cup. But it wasn't enough to earn Cameroon a place in the knockout stage in Qatar as they finished third in their group, behind Brazil and Switzerland. "We have a feeling of regret because this match showed that we could have done better in the first two games," said Song, referring to a 3-3 draw with Serbia and a 1-0 loss to Switzerland. "But you have to look at the positive side. We're satisfied with tonight's performance."

I took over the team not that long ago and we're progressing. "I'm proud of my players. We're trying to get across the Lions' spirit. We've shown that we can be a good team and now we have to make sure that we keep improving." He admitted he wasn't initially aware of the magnitude of his team's achievement.

"I didn't even realize it was such a historic victory. My players should be congratulated and they've shown they could have done better (earlier in the tournament). It's a shame we have to go home now but we are going to keep working so that we improve."

Pakistan lost against Japan

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Japan hockey team beat Pakistan by 3-1 in FIH men's hockey cup which is playing in South Africa and got 5th position. From Japan Kan scored first goal in 27th minutes while 2nd goal scored by Kosi in 47th minutes in the very next minute from Pakistan Roman scored the goal while in the 54th minutes Kataro scored 3rd goal and got the victory. Pakistan got 8th position.

Pakistan women's football team to tour Saudi Arabia in January



LAHORE: Pakistan women's football team will travel to Saudi Arabia to partake in a quad-nation tournament, scheduled to take place in January next year.

According to the details, the Green Shirts will feature in the quad-nation tournament from January 11 to 19, the remaining three teams include hosts Saudi Arabia, Mauritius and Comoros.

To participate in the upcoming international fixture, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) will soon announce the schedule of the training camp.

It is pertinent to mention that this will be the second international engagement of the Pakistan Women's team after the charge of FIFA's nominated normalization committee took the charge of PFF.

Earlier, the green shirts participated in the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship after an eight-year hiatus.

After losing to India and Bangladesh, Pakistan thrashed Maldives 7-0 to conclude their first international tournament on a winning note. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan women's football team also marked their return to FIFA rankings after a six-year absence.

Following their reinstatement in the rankings table, the green shirts occupied the 160th rank with a total of 928.4 points. APP

Belgium coach Martinez to leave job after World Cup exit

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said he was leaving his job after his side were eliminated from the World Cup in Qatar following a 0-0 draw with Croatia. The 49-year-old had been in charge since 2016 and his contract was due to run out after the tournament. "That was my last game with the national team, I can't carry on," Martinez said at his post-match press conference. "It's the time for me to accept that this is the last game."

Martinez led Belgium to a third-place finish at the 2018 World Cup in Russia and to the Euro 2020 quarter-finals last year. But his ageing side could not replicate that form in Qatar, crashing out after scoring just one goal in three games. The Spaniard said he



was always planning to leave after the World Cup. "That was the end, whatever would happen, whether we were world champions, whether we went out in the group stage," he said. "It's got nothing to do with being eliminated in the group stage."

"Since 2018 I had many opportunities to leave, take jobs at club level, but I wanted to be loyal. I don't resign, it's the end of my contract." Belgium went into their final Group F game needing to win to be certain of reach-

ing the last 16 after a 1-0 win over Canada and a 2-0 loss to Morocco. They were left to rue a string of missed late chances by Romelu Lukaku. "Today, if we would've gone through I think we would've seen the real Belgium and we could've been very competitive in the next rounds," insisted Martinez. "The disappointment was against Morocco."

Today we were ourselves, we played a very good opposition... The first two games we weren't

ourselves." Martinez took over the Belgian national side months after being sacked by Premier League side Everton. He has still only won one major trophy in his managerial career — the 2013 FA Cup with unfancied Wigan Athletic. Croatian counterpart Zlatko Dalic believes Martinez will not struggle for offers of other jobs. "Martinez is my friend, it was a surprise to me," said Dalic, who took Croatia to the 2018 world cup final.

West Indies in rearguard battle after Labuschagne history in 1st Test



A Sports

ISLAMABAD: West Indies survived an Australian bowling blitz Saturday to reach tea without loss on day four of the first Test as they chase 498 to win after Marnus Labuschagne joined rare company in making a double and single century. The home side declared at lunch in Perth after reaching 182-2 to go with their first innings 598-4, having bowled out the Caribbean nation for 283. The in-form Labuschagne belted an unbeaten 104 to go with his first innings 204 — only the eighth player to achieve the 200-100 feat in the same Test, joining the likes of Sunil Gavaskar, Brian Lara and Kumar Sangakkara.

In reply, the West Indies battled through the session without loss, reaching 84-0 with dogged skipper Kraigg Brathwaite on 40 and impressive debutant Tagenarine Chanderpaul 35. In a blow for Australia, skipper and pace spearhead Pat Cummins did not take the field after experiencing thigh soreness with Steve Smith assuming the captaincy. With 154 overs and five sessions to survive for a draw, Brathwaite and Chanderpaul were cautious, taking few risks as they look to dig in for the long haul, cracking the occasional boundary with keeping wickets intact more important than runs.

Australia resumed at 29-1 with David Warner, who began on 17, the only wicket to fall, out for 48. Labuschagne confidently built on his overnight three to reach a ninth Test century with Smith, who hit an unbeaten 200 in the first innings, not out 20. In a setback for the West Indies, Kyle Mayers was unable to bowl with a right shoulder strain and Kemar Roach went off with a hamstring injury. Adding to their injury woes, top-order batter Nkrumah Bonner was substituted out on day three with concussion after being hit on the helmet by a rising Cameron Green delivery.

'ICC needs to think out of box' Ramiz on Pakistan-India stalemate

A Sports

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ramiz Raja has expressed his displeasure over 'political interference' on part of Indian authorities regarding the decision not to send their team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup 2023.

Ramiz called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and big boards to play their part in breaking the impasse between the two neighbouring countries. "There is no reason why India couldn't come to Pakistan and Pakistan go to India," Chairman PCB told BBC Test Match Special on Friday during the second day of the opening Test between Pakistan and England.

Pakistan are set to host the Asia Cup next year for the first time after 15 years but BCCI secretary Jay Shah has stated that he will not allow



the Indian team to travel to Pakistan for the event but rather insists that the tournament should be shifted to a neutral venue.

"Both boards need to come to terms with whether we want to play each other or not. Pakistan is willing, but they quote political interference. You can't work when there is political interference," said Ramiz.

"Why give [the Asia Cup] to us in the first place and then make all those state-

ments that India will not travel? India cannot come because the government will not allow them because that has been the stated position, but to take the Asia Cup away from us is just not right," he added.

The two arch-rivals have not played each other in any bilateral series since 2013, when Pakistan toured India for three ODIs and two T20Is, while around 15 years have passed since the two teams played their last

Test match.

PCB chief urged the ICC and two of its powerful members, Australia Cricket and England and Wales Cricket Board, to break their silence over the matter and mend fences between Pakistan and India.

"The neutral cricket boards that have held important positions, when they keep quiet it frustrates me completely," he said.

"The International Cricket Council has to think out of the box and work better."

With the England Test team currently on their historic tour of Pakistan after 17 years and playing their first Test of the three-game series in Rawalpindi, Ramiz believed that the country had dispelled the security concerns and was prepared to host India as well.

"We are geared security-wise and cricket-wise to host India," he insisted.

Illness strikes England team on eve of Test match with Pakistan

A Sports

ISLAMABAD: Former England Test captain Joe Root on Wednesday dismissed the possibility of his team teammates fall-

ing ill due to food poisoning ahead of the first Test match in Rawalpindi, saying "it is just I think one of those things that we, unfortunately, picked up as a group". "I don't think it's food poison-

ing or Covid or anything lenter link description hereike that," said Root as he responded to a query at a press talk in Rawalpindi. England's cricketers, including skipper Ben Stokes, have

fallen ill on the eve of the first Test, despite the touring party bringing their own chef.

"As far as I'm aware, a few guys are not feeling 100 per cent," Root told.

Netherlands thrash USA 3-1 to reach FIFA WC quarter-finals

A Sports

DOHA: Dominant Netherlands thrashed the United States of America (USA) 3-1 on Saturday to make it to the quarter-finals of the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2022.

Group A winners Netherlands displayed their domination over Group B runners-up USA as they handed the latter a thrashing 3-1 defeat that ended Gregg Berhalter's side's world cup dreams.

Memphis Depay opened the scoring for the Dutch just 10 minutes into the game when he received the ball from Denzel Dumfries at the edge of the USA box before burying it into the bottom-left corner.

Dumfries then again invaded the USA's defence, moments before the conclusion of the first half before



cutting the ball back to Daley Blind who slotted the ball into the bottom corner to double the Netherlands' lead before heading into the break.

The start of the second half followed the same procedure as the USA enjoyed more possession but to no avail as the Dutch defence spoiled

their chances most of the time.

Midway through the second half, Berhalter substituted Haji Wright for Weston McKennie, and the substitution sparked a comeback.

Pulisic's cutback from the byline looped up off for Wright and spun over Andries Noppert and into the net to cut the Netherlands' lead to 2-1.

The USA's comeback, however, was short-lived as a third Dutch attack threw the USA's defence off guard. Blind calmly passed to an unmarked Dumfries at the far post, who smoothly made it 3-1 for the Netherlands.

Following their triumph in the Round of 16, Louis van Gaal's side will either take on Lionel Messi's Argentina or Australia in the quarter-final on Saturday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Park Town D1 Sector Near M-14" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Fateh Jang Tehsil Fateh Jang District Attock. Public is hereby informed that Park Associates through Malik AbdulRaziq Bhatti son of Malik Abdul Khaliq Bhatti (CNIC#37405-0505771-9) Resident of House No.5, Mohallah Malik Mehboob Lane Fazal Abad Rawalpindi ,Office No.2, Mall Road Corporate Office Main Khour Road Tehsil Fateh Jang District Attock ,has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Hosing Scheme located in Mouza Fateh Jang Tehsil Fateh Jang District Attock. The detail of area is as under:-

Khasra No.	Area		
	K	M	Sft
1572, 1584, 1600, 5333/3655, 5334/3655, 3656, 3675, 3658, 3659, 3661, 3662, 3663, 3664, 3665, 3666, 3667, 3668, 3670, 3671, 3672, 3673, 3674, 3675, & 3676	288	19	40

ANY PERSON having objection against sanction of "Park Town D1 Sector Near M-14" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Fateh Jang Tehsil Fateh Jang District Attock or ownership documents/ title of land mentioned above may, within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PUNJAB HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING AGENCY
AIRPORT LINE ROAD NEAR WATER TANK
GULZAR-E-QUAID RAWALPINDI
PHONE NO.051-5191753