

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
اسلامت ابي بكر رضی اللہ عنہما سے خبر دی کہ وہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے ہاں آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ (مال کو) قبضی میں ہنر کر کے نہ رکھنا اور نہ اللہ پاک بھی تمہارے لیے اپنے خزانے میں ہنر نہ رکھے گا۔ جہاں تک ہو سکے لوگوں میں خیر خیرات تقسیم کرتی رہ۔ (بخاری، حدیث نمبر 434)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

President summons Senate session on Monday

President Dr Arif Alvi has summoned a session of the Senate on Monday (Dec 12) under Article 54 of the Constitution of Pakistan. The session is summoned at 1500HRS in the upper house of the parliament, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.



Won't let anyone divide Sindh: Murad Ali Shah

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday said the Sindh government would not let anyone create division in the province. Speaking in Thatta, the CM said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had decided Jan 15 for local government elections in Sindh adding the Singh admin would direct ECP to ensure peace during the elections.

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Future battlefield challenges

QUETTA: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Command and Staff College Quetta and School of Infantry and Tactics and interacted with young officers and instructors and advised them to focus on professional excellence to meet future battlefield challenges.



Sanaullah's acquittal proves 'worst' political victimization by previous govt: PM

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said the acquittal of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah in the narcotics case proved that the previous government had carried out the "worst" political victimization.

The prime minister thanked to Allah Almighty over "innocent" Rana Sanaullah's acquittal by a special court in Lahore and those who used to swear on Allah and his Holy Prophet (PBUH) should seek forgiveness from Allah.

"The frivolous case of narcotics against Rana Sanaullah is the worst example of political victimization. Despite facing political victimization, Rana Sanaullah never uttered a word of complaint," the prime minister said.



He said the time had drawn a clear line between truth and falsehood, genuine and forged, and innocent and sinful.

He paid homage to the party leaders including Rana Sanaullah and leaders of other political parties for boldly facing the "worst" political victimization. "The frivolous narcotics case

against Rana Sanaullah and his acquittal is also an example to make the people know lies told by the previous government and the committed baseless incrimination.

Separately on his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that of all PML-N leaders targeted by Niaz's regime, Rana Sanaullah's case was worst exam-

Societies with foundations built on human rights prosper faster: PM

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the societies whose foundations were built on human rights prosper faster than others.

The prime minister, on International Human Rights Day,

wrote on Twitter that the present global tumult was explained by the denial of fundamental rights to the oppressed people such as Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Palestinians. "The world needs to renew its political will on Human Rights Day today," he urged.

ple of political persecution with the most dangerous repercussions.

"He braved these heinous

charges & repression with patience & remained steadfast. He is an inspiration for all political workers," he posted in a tweet.

Salman Shehbaz to land at Islamabad Airport tonight

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's son Salman Shehbaz will land at Islamabad International Airport at 1:20 am late Saturday night, citing sources, ARY News reported.

Salman Shehbaz will return to Pakistan tonight via Saudi Airlines flight number SV-726. On December 8, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) stopped Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) from arresting Salman Shehbaz, son of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival from London.

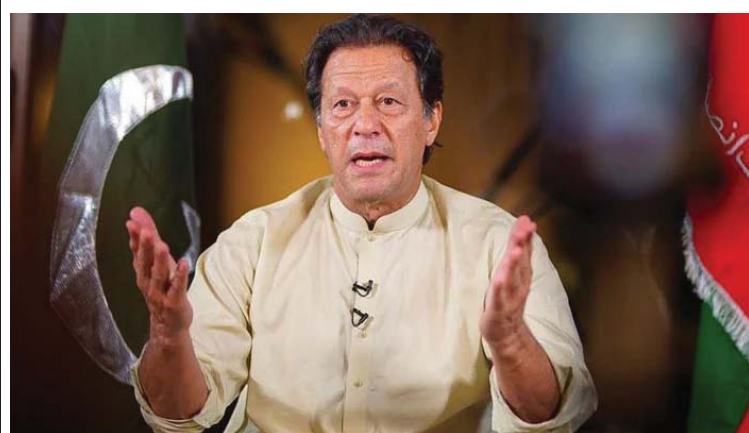
Read more: Salman Shehbaz decides to return Pakistan, seeks protective bail
The IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan passed the orders while hearing Salman Shehbaz's plea, seeking protective bail. At the outset of the hearing, Salman Shehbaz's counsel said his client will return to Pakistan on December 11 via Saudi Airlines and pleaded the court to grant protective bail.

Later, the court barred FIA from arresting Salman Shehbaz upon his arrival at the Islamabad airport and directed him to surrender himself before the IHC by December 13.

In another development today, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to intensify political activities in Punjab, with the resolve to provide relief to the people before the general elections.

According to details, the PML-N decided to intensify political activities in Punjab, while the Punjab leaders expressed their concerns with party leadership in case of early elections. The PML-N leaders were of the view that the government should provide relief to the people by reducing prices of electricity, petrol and necessary commodities before the general elections.

PTI, PML-Q agree over assemblies' dissolution in Dec: Imran Khan



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Adamant to dissolve assemblies this month, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Saturday said his party and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) agreed over the dissolution of provincial assemblies.

Speaking to a delegation of the Insaaf Students Federation (ISF), Mr Khan said the PTI would send the summary for dissolution of Punjab assembly to Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi this month adding his party will work together with its ally PML-Q in the future too.

The ISF delegation apprised the PTI chairman that Punjab Minister for Higher Education Raja Yasir Humayun was not allowing the ISF to run a membership campaign in educational institutes to which Imran Khan responded by directing the minister to report tomorrow at his [Mr Khan] residence in Zaman Park.

In an interview to a private channel, the former PM said, "I would have taken revenge from the three people, had I been doing politics for myself but I am not doing politics for myself, but for the country." He said the country would unite when the powerful brought under the law.

Commodore Muhammad Hussain Sial promoted to rank of Rear Admiral

News Desk

KARACHI: Commodore Muhammad Hussain Sial of Pakistan Navy has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with immediate effect.

Rear Admiral Muhammad Hussain Sial got commissioned in Pakistan Navy in 1991, said a news release on Saturday.

The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore and National Defence University Islamabad and holds a Master of Science degree in Sound and Vibration from the United Kingdom.

The Admiral has an illustrious service career having vast experience in Command and Staff appointments. His Command appointment includes Commandant PNS KARSAZ.

Imran led 'propaganda group' used Daily Mail to hamper Pakistan's foreign aid



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said the PTI was not a political party but a "propaganda group" which was led by a "foreign funded Fitna agent Imran Khan" who used the Daily Mail to hamper Pakistan's foreign aid.

Addressing a press conference here, she said that Imran Khan's announcement of dissolution of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assemblies was only a bluff.

She dared him to make public the resignations of his party's members of the two assemblies.

The minister alleged that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) ran dirty trends on social media through the foreign funding received by its leader for fulfilling his anti-Pakistan agenda.

Imran Khan had been accusing others of gulping the money received in the name of natural disasters, but he himself utilized the charitable donations for his personal and political gains.

Kashmir, Palestine issues; still a reminder of UN's unfinished agenda, says FM Bilawal



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said that the issues of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Palestine had been the unfinished agenda of the United Nations and stressed upon the international community to work together to resolve them peacefully in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.

Addressing a joint presser

with Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hissein Brahim Taha, the foreign minister said that they were grateful to the GS OIC for undertaking his first bilateral visit to Pakistan.

He expressed the hope that his visit to Azad Kashmir would send a message to the entire world that the entire Ummah stood united with the people of IIOJK.

It would be a stark remind-

Nawaz Sharif to lead PML-N in upcoming electoral campaign: Rana Sanaullah

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Saturday that the party had requested Mian Nawaz Sharif to extend his support in the upcoming electoral campaign, either in the general election or the elections in case of dissolution of any assembly.

Talking to the media here, he said the party had also requested Nawaz Sharif to decide on award of the party tickets and announce its manifesto which, he added, Mian Nawaz Sharif had accepted.

He said that soon Nawaz Sharif would come back and

lead the party.
To a question, the interior minister said, "Pakistan Army is a well organised institution and follows its own policy."

To another question, he said that Azam Swati and Shahbaz Gill were not facing any political victimisation.

The interior minister asserted that it was the right of his party to get all false cases quashed and prosecution of such cases should also be withdrawn.

He questioned that why Imran Khan did not talk about Toshakhana, corruption case of Farah Gogi, Al-Qadir Trust, etc.

Ascend Athletics Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi addressing the launching ceremony of Ascend Athletics Pakistan, a program to train girls in mountaineering and rock climbing on Saturday.



Photo: Online

First Lady wants programmes for improving women's health

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi on Saturday underlined the need to initiate programmes for women which have positive impacts on their physical and mental health.

She said that women constituted almost 50% of the country's population, therefore, it was imperative that they were provided with quality health-care services in a timely and cost-effective manner.

She observed that ensuring women's health was not only pivotal for Pakistan's development, but was also vital for ensuring the health and prosperity of a family.

The first lady made these remarks while addressing the

launching ceremony of Ascend Athletics Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Ascend Athletics is going to launch a leadership development programme based on sports and civic engagement in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan.

Under the program 60 girls would be trained in Gilgit-Baltistan in mountaineering and climbing, leadership, mental health, public service, and physical fitness in general.

The event was attended by the Minister of Tourism of Gilgit-Baltistan, Raja Nasir Ali Khan Maqpoon, US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Bloom, Air Chief Marshal (retd) Sohail Aman, CEO & Founder of Ascend, Marina LeGree, renowned mountaineers and climbers of Pakistan, and members of the general public.

Addressing the ceremony, the first lady expressed the hope that the programme would have a positive impact on women's health, besides enabling girls to become useful and active citizens of the society.

Begum Alvi also emphasized the need of taking effective steps to overcome the issue of stunting and malnutrition in women, adding that due to devastating floods in Pakistan, the problem of malnutrition and stunting in women and children in flood-affected areas had become even more severe. She called for taking strong measures to fulfil the needs of

women in flood affected areas. Begum Samina Alvi also highlighted that the breast cancer awareness campaign was yielding results as the number of breast cancer cases being detected in early stages was on the rise.

GB minister for tourism, on the occasion, said that the youth of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) possessed immense talent which could be harnessed by developing collaborations and strengthening institutions. He informed that projects in mountaineering and rock climbing would be initiated in GB to promote adventure sports.

Air Chief Marshal (retd) Sohail Aman said that sports played a pivotal role in the development of leadership

qualities, team work, skills and stamina.

Pakistani women were already performing well in different sectors of life and possessed immense talent, that required polishing, he added.

CEO Ascend said that human security and prosperity of a society increased with improved women's participation.

She said that Ascend would train girls every year in Pakistan to climb mountains, both literally and figuratively, by focusing on the development of leadership skills, promoting physical fitness, public service and public speaking, mental health, and imparting mountaineering and climbing skills in girls of Pakistan in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Secretary General OIC arrives in Islamabad



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha arrives in Islamabad for his first country visit to Pakistan. He was received by Pakistan's Permanent representative to

OIC Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh and Director General OIC Mr. Farrukh Iqbal Khan. During his 3-day visit, he will be holding meeting with Prime Minister and hold talks with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. He will also visit Asad Jammu and Kashmir

Govt taking measures to revive economy: NA speaker

Bureau Report

LAHORE: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said on Saturday that the coalition government was taking practical measures to revive the economy, as the country was passing through hard times due to devastating floods.

Talking to the media after visiting Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior member and worker Begum Shamim Niazi's residence here, he said that the under-pressure economy was always dealt with collective decisions, promising that the situation would improve soon. "Pakistan does not face any default risk," he added.

The speaker maintained that economic stability could only come from political stability, saying that country's development was possible only by following the Constitution and law, as no country could develop or progress in the presence of uncertainty. The politics of false allegations must end, he said adding that instead

of accusing each other, all political parties should sit together and find solution to the challenges facing the country.

Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said that being a democratic country, all political parties should strive to strengthen democracy and respect the parliament, adding that inflation and unemployment had become major issues worldwide after COVID-19, and these difficulties could be overcome through stabilising the economy.

To a question about tenure of the incumbent government, he said it would complete its constitutional term. He termed the meeting of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar with President Dr Arif Alvi a good omen, saying that doors on talks among political parties should never be closed in politics.

Party leaders Syed Hassan Murtaza, Aslam Gill, Jameel Munj, Haji Azizul Rehman Chan, Faisal Mir, Asif Nagra, Atif Rafiq, Amjad Jatt, Raja Shabbir and others were also present.

Chairman NDMA meets with Executive Director of ADPC Bangkok

Spokesman Report

BANGKOK: Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, the Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan met with Mr. Hans Guttman the Executive Director of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) in Bangkok. A three-member delegation of Pakistan led by the Chairman NDMA visited ADPC Headquarters in Bangkok on the invitation of Mr. Hans Guttman and participated in a session.

Both discussed the prospects for enhanced future co-operation in various fields between the two organizations for strengthening the disaster management system in Pakistan. Chairman NDMA appreciated the support ADPC has been providing to Pakistan throughout the difficult



times and asked for expansion of the scopes in each portfolios to make it more

accessible and usable for vulnerable communities. While highlighting areas of

future cooperation with Pakistan's planned new National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), he stressed upon the need on developing mutual intellectual and academic fora as a collective approach towards disaster mitigation and disaster risk reduction, which were agreed to be included in potential projects. ADPC presented account of their ongoing and planned projects and initiatives in the field of disaster risk reduction within Pakistan and across the region. Mr. Hans Guttman assured to provide full support through ADPC to strengthen disaster preparedness and response mechanism of NDMA through training human resource and knowledge exchange and technological assistance.

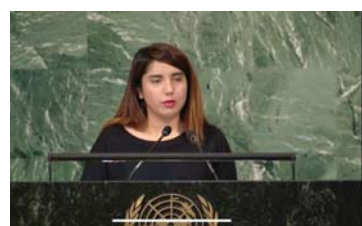
Pakistan calls for 'urgent action' to improve governance of oceans

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: As the world faces a global emergency of the oceans, Pakistan has called for urgent action to improve the governance of the oceans as their "sustenance and sustainability" was inextricably linked with the achievement of all the 17 SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

"We need to take urgent action. Improving the governance of the oceans and strengthening legal frameworks are essential to preserve international peace and security, interconnectivity, the blue economy, and the timely achievement of the SDGs," said Pakistani delegate Second Secretary Rabia Ijaz in her statement at UN General Assembly's meeting on the Agenda Item 72 (a) Oceans and the Law of the Sea held on Friday.

Pakistan also emphasised the strengthening of legal frameworks to preserve international peace and security, interconnectivity, the blue econ-



my, and the timely achievement of the SDGs.

The delegate told the meeting that the world currently faced a global emergency of the Oceans which were under relentless threat from human activities.

"Sea levels are rising, coastal erosion is worsening, marine pollution is increasing, marine biodiversity is rapidly declining, and the Ocean is warmer and more acidic," she said.

The Pakistani delegate also underlined the need for addressing the question of the possible hazardous impact on marine ecosystems which necessitated continuous negotiations in "good faith" in light of the best available science.

ensuring the harmonious and judicious use of ocean resources for all mankind.

"Pakistan also attaches great importance to the work of the three bodies established under UNCLOS – the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA)," Rabia Ijaz remarked.

She said it was essential to balance the need for resource extraction with the preservation of the marine environment and stressed the need for developing a robust and comprehensive regime for exploitation before the commencement of the mining anywhere in the "Area".

The Pakistani delegate also underlined the need for addressing the question of the possible hazardous impact on marine ecosystems which necessitated continuous negotiations in "good faith" in light of the best available science.

US launch \$4m initiative for 'Improving Girls' Education Activity' in KPK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The government of the United States (US) on Saturday launched a \$4 million initiative for 'Improving Girls' Education Activity' which aims to provide quality education to girls in remote areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The US Ambassador Donald Blome and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Shahram Khan Tarakai inaugurated the U.S. government-funded \$4 million initiative for 'Improving Girls' Education Activity', said a news release of US embassy in Pakistan on Saturday.

"The U.S. government supports Pakistan's goal of ensuring a prosperous future for all its citizens—particularly girls," said Ambassador Blome.

Yusuf Naqash reminds World community of Kashmiris' plight on Human Rights Day

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senior Hurriyat Conference leader and Head of the Islamic Political Party, Muhammad Yusuf Naqash reminded the World community of its obligations on the occasion of Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10th, to play its due role to stop India from committing gross human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The UDHR proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being — regardless of race, colour, religion, gender, language, political, national, or social origin, property, birth, and status.

"It is the responsibility of influential countries and the United Nations, to bring India to justice for killings

innocent people, fake encounters, curtailing the freedom of expression and seizing assets of Kashmiris under draconian laws," Naqash said in a statement received here Saturday.

He reminded the world that there has been an area on the earth called Jammu and Kashmir, which has been suffering from Indian oppression and brutality for decades.

He said the Modi regime was making efforts to prevent Kashmiris from achieving their legitimate rights. He said, India was trying its best to intimidate Kashmiris and had also planned their massacre, citing the arming of the Sangh Parivar as clear proof of this.

He said that the bloody game that Modi's fascist government was going to play all across India, especially in Kashmir, would destroy peace in South Asia.

He said it was very unfortunate that India has continuously been violating international commitments and has trampled United Nations resolutions on Kashmir.

Khurram Dastgir lays the foundation stone of two mega grid stations worth Rs 24 billion

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan has laid the foundation stone of 500 kV grid station Lahore North and 220 kV grid station Quaid-e-Azam Business Park and allied transmission lines in district Sheikhpura with a cost of around Rs.24 billion in total. He also inaugurated the associated transmission of QABP grid station, i.e., 04 km long Transmission Line IN / OUT from Bandala-Kala Shah Kaku Circuit -I & II.

While addressing the ground-breaking ceremonies, the Minister for Power appreciated the National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) for launching two mega projects of new grid stations and 113 km long Balloki Converter Station-500kV Lahore North - 500kV Nokhar grid station



transmission line. He said that the 500 kV grid station Lahore North will play an important role to reduce system and line losses and improve the voltage profile of associated LESCO and GEPCO network, which will result in the reduction of cost of electricity too. He said that the government is focusing on the production of cheap electricity from indigenous resources like Thar coal, wind, solar and hydel. He said that 2000 MW of cheap power from Thar coal alone will be added to the national grid before the end of June-2023.

Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan also addressed the ground-breaking ceremony and said that the Lahore North grid station project will be constructed utilizing the loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB). The project will be completed with a cost of Rs 20.7 billion in March-2024 (630 days completion period). The project will further improve the reliability of the NTDC, LESCO and GEPCO system networks, besides providing an additional source of power supply to meet the growing

demand for LESCO.

Engr. Khurram Dastgir also broke the ground for 220 kV Quaid-e-Azam Business Park grid station. During the ground-breaking ceremony, the Minister for Power said that the main objective of the project is to meet the load demand of QABP Special Economic Zone being developed by Punjab Industrial Estate Development Management Company (PIEDMC). The project will be completed at the cost of Rs 3 billion. MD NTDC also addressed the ground-breaking ceremony and said that this project will help to boost the industry being set up in the Special Economic Zone. The project will be completed in the 4th quarter of 2023.

The GM/ country head CET, Mr. Wang Bo, MD Transmark, Mr. Mansoor H. Nasir and local politicians also addressed the ground-breaking ceremonies.

Speakers of a seminar in Brussels call for end of human rights violations in IIOJK



Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Speakers of a seminar in Brussels, the European headquarters called that violations of human rights in Occupied Kashmir should be ended immediately.

The seminar was organized by Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) on the international day of human rights. The senior leader of KC-EU Ch. Khalid Joshi presided over the seminar participated by Kashmiri and Pakistani and European intellectuals and experts. Among the speakers were Ch. Khalid Joshi, Sardar Mehmood, Endre Bares, Sardar Siddique, Shiraz Raj, Hafiz Unib Rashid and Shazia Aslam. Iftikhar Ahmed, Raza Chaudhry, Mir Shah Jahan, Aslam Shah, Mahar Nadeem and Raja Abdul Qayum were among other participants.

The speakers asked the international community, especially the European Union's leaders to play their role in ending human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir.

They appealed for the immediate release of Kashmiri human rights leaders Khurram Parvez, Ahsan Unto and Kashmiri political leaders including Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah and other Kashmiri prisoners.

The speakers of the seminar expressed deep concern over the ongoing Indian atrocities in the Indian illegally Occupied Kashmir and demanded to end these atrocities and give Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

They said that for a fair solution to the Kashmir issue, it is necessary to stop atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, release all political prisoners, end India's state terrorism and take steps to withdraw Indian forces from Occupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Ali Raza Syed, who is on a visit to Pakistan, in a statement on the day of human rights asked the international community special European Union's authorities to put pressure on India to immediately end crimes of Indian security forces against people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and grant them right to self determination according to the UN's resolutions on Kashmir.

He said, since 1947, people of occupied Kashmir are facing endless hardships as their miseries are being increased day by day. It is duty of international community including Europe Union to take immediate steps in order to end the atrocities against the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. So that situation of that disputed land should be normalized and people of Jammu and Kashmir should be provided a peaceful atmosphere where they can use their right to self determination in accordance with their wishes and according to United Nations resolutions.

The efforts of expatriate to highlight and promote Pakistan's film industry



Arif Choudhary

ROCHDALE: The famous business, social and community personality of Portugal and Great Britain, Syed Khalid Abbas Shah, in honor of the pro-Pakistani film producer and director Khalid Qudwai who came from the United States, hosted an evening meal at a local restaurant in Rochdale. Deputy Leader of Rochdale Council, Councillor Adalat Ali, of Slack Asian. Chief Executive Majid Nazir. Close friends and prominent personality Majid Shah participated. On this occasion, Deputy Leader Adalat Ali said that it was a great pleasure to participate in the dinner.

Producer Khalid Qadwai who has made a film for the young generation of Pakistani immigrants is commendable. Film producer Khalid Qudwai thanked the host and said that Syed Khalid Abbas Shah has helped in the promotion of the film. The future of dialogue is bright for effective recognition of Pakistan's culture, trade and film industry at the international level.

A discussion was held in Ishaya to promote the business of Pakistan and especially to promote the Pakistani film industry. Syed Majid Shah said that the film "Khumli Life Thodi Zindagi" made to make the young generation aware of Pakistan's culture and civilization played an important role. What has been paid? The host Syed Khalid Abbas Shah expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the participants in the dinner and said that Khalid Qadwai's film about making the young generation aware of Pakistani culture is a good effort to bring such films to the screen in the future. Time is needed.

Solidarity with Kashmiri

LAHORE: Activists of Youth Forum for Kashmir hold a protest rally showing solidarity with the Kashmiri people on the eve of Human Rights Day, outside press club in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

The 19th annual function of 'WAWA' was held at Gomal Medical College Dera

Adam Khan Wazir

DI KHAN: The 19th annual function of Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) was held at Gomal Medical College DI Khan, in which students received scholarships and awards.

The honor of "Shamla War of the Year" was won by Mohammad Waqas, a student of Ahsan Abdal Cadet College from Wana.

Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division Amir Afaq was the chief guest of the ceremony.

RPO Dera Ismail Khan Saleem Marwat, IGP Gilgit-Baltistan Mohammad Saeed Wazir and Deputy Customs Collector Shams Ur Rehman Wazir, President WAWA Rahmat Ullah and General Secretary Jalal Wazir were present at the ceremony.

In addition, scholars/Ullamas tribal elders, students and many more People attended.

Annual function of Wana Welfare Association was held at Gomal Medical College Dera Ismail Khan, in which students were given scholarships and awards.

The honor of "Shamla War of the Year" was bagged by Mohammad Waqas, a bright and brilliant student of Ahsan Abdal Cadet College, who secured 1085 marks out of 1100 in FSC from the Federal Board.

Wana Welfare Association (WAWA) President Rahmatullah Wazir welcomed the guests in his opening remarks.

On this occasion RPO Dera Ismail Khan Saleem



Marwat said, that

Today I came to know about the achievements of "WAWA" who have continuously worked hard to secure the future of the children of their area, I am proud to be involved in such a program.

WAWA's spirited IGP Gilgit-Baltistan Muhammad Saeed Wazir said that education is the greatest strength if you people want to move forward, you have to get quality education

Without knowledge and education, life is incomplete and very complicated. In order to keep up with

the nations, it is necessary to ensure the acquisition of knowledge and education Dreaming of development without education is a crude illusion.

"WAWA" distributed scholarships and awards to 100 students, including medical, engineering, and BS students.

Scholarships and awards were distributed among the students by Commissioner Dera Amir Afaq, RPO Dera Ismail Khan Saleem Marwat, Chairman of Wana Tehsil Muhammad Saleh Wazir belonging to JUI, and Deputy Customs Collector Shams Ur Rehman Wazir.

University Partnerships Grants Program (UPGP) 2020-2023

ISLAMABAD: Funded by the U.S. Mission in Pakistan and administered by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan, University Partnerships Grants Program 2020-2023 (UPGP) is envisaged to foster bilateral relationships through academic and professional partnerships between Pakistani and American universities. This program follows the success of the original University Partnerships Program (2012-2015) in which American universities in 20 partnerships with Pakistani universities received grants to establish three-year bilateral relationships. The aim was to enhance peer-to-peer relationships between U.S. and Pakistani universities

in the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

QAU-BSU 2012-2015 Partnership was one of these collaborations that focused on strengthening the American Studies program at Area Study Centre for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-i-Azam University through faculty and student exchange, curriculum development, and research training. In late 2021 Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) and Ball State University (BSU) received a follow-up grant to extend the best practices of the previous program to other universities in Pakistan. In this partnership, the two universities collaborated with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar; Women

University Swabi, and University of Swat to strengthen their humanities and social sciences programs. In 2022, QAU and BSU received a second grant to further expand the program as part of which they started collaborated with 7 more universities from the Federal Capital, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan: International Islamic University, Islamabad; University of Swabi; FATA University; Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan; BUTEMIS; University of Turbat, and National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad.

Together in both programs, QAU and BSU have organized about 52 virtual lectures and seminars; 40 virtual work-

shops; and over 300 hours of virtual mentoring in research and pedagogy. As part of the second grant, a five-day in-person training event was organized in Islamabad in which all 7 universities participated. Three of the BSU faculty travelled to Pakistan to participate in the program alongside QAU resource persons while the rest participated virtually. This workshop was followed by virtual mentoring to ensure that the participants used the knowledge and skills gained during the training to produce research papers and syllabi in collaboration with their mentors. This work was then showcased at a virtual Symposium that took place in November 2022. Among the achievements of both

grants are two special issues of Pakistan Journal of American Studies that will publish research papers coauthored by QAU, BSU, and partner universities' faculty; development of new syllabi including An Introduction to American Studies syllabus by partner universities; and the establishment of Pakistan Association for American Studies.

The concluding ceremony of both the program was held on December 8, 2022, at Roomy Signature Hotel F-6. The ceremony was attended by Catherine Fischer, Deputy Cultural Attaché, US Embassy Islamabad, Shahram Niazi, Program Officer, UPGP, United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, Profes-

sor, Quaid-i-Azam University & Former Vice Chancellor, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan, Vice Chancellor, FATA University, Prof. Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak, Vice Chancellor, University of Swabi, and team members from Ball State University, Quaid-i-Azam University, and ten partner universities. UPGP Project Director from Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr. Ayesha Siddiqua, emphasized the contribution that such academic collaborations make to the Knowledge Economy in a globalized world.

She thanked the U.S. Mission in Pakistan and the United States Educational Founda-

tion for their commitment to the promotion of education in Pakistan. Project Co-Director from Ball State University, Prof. Dr. Lawrence Gerstein, appreciated the commitment of the project team and thanked the participants for their motivation, participation, and engagement. UPGP Program Officer (USEFP), Shahram Niazi, congratulated Dr. Ayesha Siddiqua and Prof. Dr. Lawrence Gerstein for the successful implementation of both the grants. Catherine Fischer appreciated the work that the project team has accomplished and emphasized the need for continuing such programs into the future. The ceremony ended with the distribution of shields and certificates.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:32 am
Zohr	12:00 noon
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Maghrib	5:00 pm
Isha	6:28 pm

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Participants of 3rd Rector Conference appeal govt to not amend HEC law

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: During the 1st day of 3rd Rectors' Conference, the participants contemplated the proposed draft of a bill seeking amendments in the Higher Education Commission Ordinance 2002 and considered the amendments detrimental to the promotion of higher education and research and development in the country. The drafters of the HEC Ordinance, 2002 envisioned the institution as a vibrant organization that may work for setting the knowledge base of the nation's economy, they noted.

They said the formative years and two decades of its establishment saw huge growth in the higher education sector where wider consultation and participative approach played a key role. "The current amendments not only limit the autonomous role of the institution but also negate the basic principles of the federation."

The Rectors' Conference noted that there were many flaws in the amendments which could be injurious to nation-building, therefore, it passed a unanimous resolution as under:



"This Forum recognizes the very essence of formation of Higher Education Commission in 2002 and demands that its original spirit, purpose, and objectives be maintained and no law be passed without consulting the stakeholders which include provincial governments, HEIs of public and private sector, HEC and its employees. Moreover, this forum demands that present bill must be stopped for process in the best interest of the country."

Wecamp Festival

ISLAMABAD: A woman vendor is displaying Gilgiti traditional caps on her stall during Wecamp Festival December 2022 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

PML-N decides to intensify political activities in Punjab

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to intensify political activities in Punjab, with the resolve to provide relief to the people before general elections, ARY News reported.

According to details, the PML-N decided to intensify political activities in Punjab, while the Punjab leaders expressed their concerns with party leadership in case of early elections.

The PML-N leaders were of the view that the government should provide relief to the people by reducing prices of electricity, petrol and necessary commodities before the general elections.

Sources while quoting Punjab members claimed that they would face problems in the constituencies due to rising inflation as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had conducted a full election campaign during the long march.

The provincial members noted that Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi has released development funds to PTI and PML-Q MPs, urging the Muslim League leadership to release funds.

NCSW, PNCA hold collaborative show

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) held an exhibition and prize distribution for the poster competition on the theme of ending femicide, to commemorate 16 Days of Activism here Saturday.

As many as 50 students from twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi participated in the competition and received certificates for their submissions. The top three submissions, Syeda Fatima Hashmi 1st prize, Shehwar 2nd prize and 3rd prize Fatima Salahuddin received certificates and cash awards as well. A consolidation prize was also announced for Syeda Danya Zubair Beaconhouse and a special prize for Hifza Afzal from OPF college. Jury members were also awarded a certificate for their jury.



Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar highlighted the meaning for 'he for she' concept in light of Ambassador Shaukat Mukaddam, and the support he provided for Noor Mukaddam. She mentioned that today was World Human Rights Day and the last day for the 16 Days Of Activism, a universal celebrated campaign. Noor's mother spoke about

Noor, and mentioned she was an artist. She said Noor loved doing calligraphy and expressed herself through her art. She spoke of her family trip to Hajj, and how hard Noor worked to understand the quran and islam."

The Chief Guest, Noor Mukaddam (late) father Shaukat Ali Mukaddam thanked NCSW and the PNCA

for organizing this event. He said that he was very impressed and delighted to see NCSW working so hard to empower the women of this country. He said that the messages on these posters here today are very important and pertinent. Women make almost half of the population of Pakistan and have actively worked in every field."

Chairman FBR directed CCIRS to effectively pursue pending revenue cases

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad on Saturday directed all the Chief Commissioners Inland Revenue (CCIRs) to effectively pursue the pending revenue cases in courts to safeguard the revenue, beside resolving the pending issues of taxpayers.

He held a meeting at the Large Taxpayers Office (LTO) and reviewed the performance of all Chief Commissioners vis-à-vis targets assigned for December 2022, said a press release.

Detailed presentations, outlining the projection and strategy for achieving the budgetary target for the current month were given by all CCIRs.

The CCIRs also presented workable strategies for achieving the target set for December 2022 as well as for the 2nd quarter of the Financial Year 2022-23.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman FBR directed all CCIRs to effectively safeguard the revenue and meet the budgetary targets fixed both for the current month and the 2nd quarter ending 31st December 2022.

The Chairman FBR reiterated that the facilitation of taxpayers would ensure the successful implementation of the policies of FBR, adding that pending issues of the taxpayers must be resolved on priority. Later on, Chairman FBR chaired a meeting of Chief Collectors and Director Generals of Customs at Customs House Karachi.

The Chairman stressed upon the Customs field formations to devise a comprehensive strategy to achieve the overall revenue targets set for the month of December so that the first half of the current financial year ends on a high note.

Chief Collectors informed that in the last five months the Customs field formations have strived hard to achieve the revenue targets despite import compression on account of multiple regulations introduced by the Government to address the current account deficit issue.

Chairman FBR was also informed about the efforts being made to curb the mis-invoicing/under-invoicing phenomenon by revolutionizing the valuation methods and assessment approach. In this regard, multiple valuation rulings have been revised besides the issuance of several new valuation rulings.

The anti-smuggling policy also came under discussion and the august forum was apprised that zero-tolerance policy has been adopted to curb the menace of smuggling as well as to safeguard the border areas from this phenomenon.

Youtuber Azlan Shah gifted baby donkey to his bride



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: YouTuber and animal lover, Azlan Shah broke the internet with a rather interesting wedding gift for his bride, a baby donkey.

In yet another episode of crazy wedding gift ideas, a groom from Karachi, Pakistan has left netizens speechless with his choice of present for his bride, as the YouTuber Azlan Shah decided to give his now-wife and a fellow animal lover, a baby Donkey.

Shah, who tied the knot with a dentist cum social media influencer, Dr Warisha, earlier this week, wrapped the finale of 'AzlanKiWish' with his gift and brought the pet animal along with him to the venue of their reception ceremony.

Shah revealed the thought behind this amusing gift idea and mentioned that it was because of his wife's love for animals, specifically donkeys. "Another reason was that donkeys are the most hard-working and loving animals," he noted further.

Moreover, Shah said that he doesn't care about what people will think or say of his gift, all that matters to him is that Warisha liked the gift. Speaking of the couple, they earlier revealed that the two first met for an appointment at Warisha's clinic.

To note, the animal-loving bride and groom also met the female elephant, Malka, for their Mehendi shoot earlier and fed her with food.

Hazara Express Way to remain closed on Sunday: NHMP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hazara Expressway E-35 will remain closed on Sunday for all kinds of traffic from Hattar Interchange to Haripur Interchange due to maintenance of the high transmission line.

According to the National High and Motorway Police (NHMP), the Hazara Expressway will be closed at 7:00 a.m. in the morning and will remain closed till 3:00 p.m.

The motorists travelling from Peshawar, Islamabad to Abbottabad and Manshera have been advised to use the Hattar link road to avoid any inconvenience.

National seminar to commemorate Human Rights Day held at IIUI

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Human Rights Day themed as Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for all was marked with a National Seminar at the female campus of the International Islamic University (IIUI) that was held in collaboration with Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR).

The Chief Guest of this event was Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Senior Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan. Mr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court, Muhammad Talha Mehmood Federal Minister for SAFRON, Ms. Kashmala Khan and Federal Ombudsman FOSPA were the Guest of Honour.

The other dignitaries included Dr. Raheem Awan, DG legal Aid and Justice Authority, Mr. Farhatullah Babar, Former Senator, Dr. Farkhan-

da Zia, Vice President Female Campus IIUI, and Dr. Sameena Malik, Vice President IIUI participated in the event.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Muhammad Shafique Chaudhry, Executive Director Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights said that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights remains as relevant today as it was on the day in 1948 that was proclaimed and adopted by the UN.

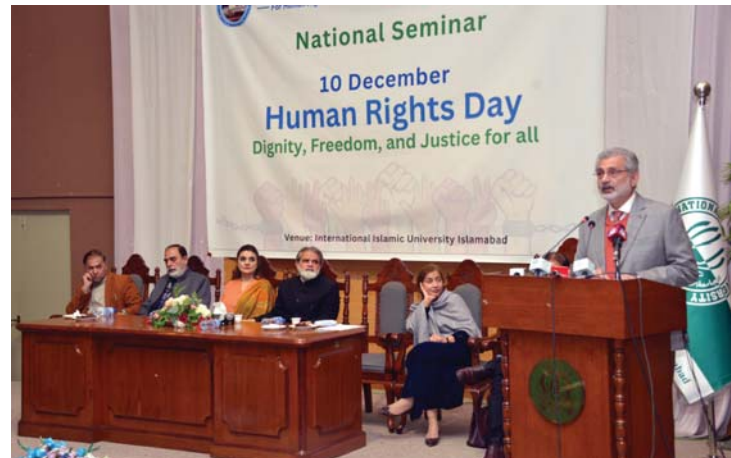
Mr. Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Chief Guest of this event, during his speech identified that human rights are recognized as the fundamental rights in the constitution of Pakistan. Despite the fact that Article 25 gives the right of education to both boys and girls, over 1000 attacks over educational institutions of Pakistan were committed in three years.

Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, Chief

Justice Federal Shariat Court urged that the universal declaration of human rights is a comprehensive draft having 30 articles is recognized by the constitution of Pakistan as well. We have to be objective; we have to discuss the shortcomings along with the achievements as a nation.

Senator Talha Mehmood, mentioned that safety of females should be ensured in the country. We see Muslims all around us but the Islam and its preaching should be adopted by all of us in its true sense. Islam is the religion of peace and prosperity which gives female freedom and dignity; they had participated in wars, bear the burden of economic activities as well. Education is the most important source to bring change in a positive manner.

Ms. Kashmala Khan, Federal Ombudsman stated that people should



have the awareness regarding their rights and laws given by the constitution of Pakistan. FOSPA is giving justice to the vulnerable people of society, especially females. The laws came in 2010 regarding workplace harassment and later on the law related to property rights was introduced.

Dr. Rahim Awan, DG Legal Aid and Justice Authority said that 1500 years old declaration of human rights in the form of Khutba-Hajatul-Wida, and the western community adopted the same traits in the form of International Declaration of Human Rights

Dr. Samina Malik, Vice President, Female Campus, IIUI, in her address on the occasion, briefed that students from forty different countries are acquiring quality education. He said that the university is on the path of development under the newly prepared strategic plan.

Dr. Farkhanda Zia, DG Shariah Academy, IIUI while delivering her speech mentioned that every human being should respect the other human being. International law, international declaration of human rights, and Islam all insists on dignity of human beings.

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Vocational education: a silver bullet for labor market

Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali

Technical and vocational education in different fields has been seen as a silver bullet for developing countries to resolve their unemployment and import issues by preparing more and more technical hands for vibrant contribution to the national economy.

In countries like Pakistan where school dropouts number continues to rise in higher standards, capitalizing this potential by imparting technical and vocational education can mitigate the unemployment ratio as well as paving way for the students to produce a number of items indigenously.

Since we are a youth dominant society with majority of the young generation in rural areas lagging behind in quality education, therefore this bulge may become a demographic disaster if effective and urgent policies are not formulated to turn it into a bonus.

According to Youth Program data, the enrollment rates of primary versus middle schools are eye-opening with roughly 22.5 million children enrolling at primary schools drop to seven million at the middle-school level.

Similarly, Pakistan Labor Force Survey 2020-2021 reveals that out of 4.51 million unemployed people of working age, around 76 percent fall within the 15 to 35 years age bracket with 64 percent youth population under the age of 30 years. And if the present population growth rate continues, the country's

population is estimated to reach approximately to 280 million with 100 million youth exclusively.

Although recent youth initiatives have succeeded in creating new jobs, this number is too low to accommodate 1.5 million workforces entering the market every year.

"We need to harness this potential on a priority basis through effective policymaking and urgent measures to turn things around," said Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCCI), Senior Vice President, Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood.

"We also need to identify specific groups among youth; guide them to technical and vocational education and ensure specific resources allocation with a clear definition of its utilization mechanism only for skills development," he stated.

He said as remote areas are poverty-stricken, expanding the scope of entrepreneurship to these areas may also help create more jobs for the poor people. "If they are already equipped with technical and vocational expertise, they can be beneficial both for themselves and the national economy."

Given the prevailing situation, there is a dire need for providing sufficient budgetary allocation, well-trained teachers, and better internet connectivity to help youth learn modern digital skills and benefit from virtual work opportunities.

Punjab Government spokesperson Musarrat Jamshed Cheema said that cognizant of the prevailing situation, the provincial government is focusing on modern technology education and digital work opportunities for youth by ensur-

ing internet connectivity in rural areas.

"The government is also working on various entrepreneurship projects to create more jobs as well as help youth to become self-employed," she remarked.

Although the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority are in place to harness the technical potential of youth and has launched its largest free-of-cost E-Learning Phase-I under "The Hunarmand Nojawan Programme," for 16,200 students, broadening its scope and making it more vibrant is direly needed.

"TEVTA has designed various technical courses to create jobs opportunities through entrepreneurship at local and international market," said Aman Khawaja, Public Relation Officer at TEVTA. "We have designed auto parts, stitching, plastic manufacturing and bakers' courses to meet local and international market demand."

TEVTA has also started a joint technical education program in collaboration with TANG (a Chinese International Education Group) and Zalmi foundation in Diploma of Associate Engineering (DAE) discipline.

"This collaboration will help develop a technical force for absorption in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and international exposure for students to demand-driven major technologies," Aman Khawaja said. "Under this program, we have started three years Dual-Diploma wherein students will study two years at TEVTA colleges and one year at China's technical or vocational college."

He said, at present, students are studying construction and IT skills at the

Advanced Construction Technology discipline at the Guangdong Institute of Architecture and Construction Engineering (China) and Shenzhen Institute of Information Technology.

As the government moves forward with its agenda of imparting technical education to as much students, the education experts underline well-planned initiatives and proper funding for the sector.

"We need a more focused and result-oriented approach for the technology sector to produce skilled workforce as per international requirements," said Muhammad Zubair Khan, Principal, Govt. College of Technology Railway Road.

"Information Technology (IT) and short certificate courses should be made mandatory at all institutions and technical colleges and other related forums should organize 'Job-Fairs' for skilled people across the country," he suggested.

He recommended to amend the technical education curriculum as per the national qualification framework and international needs. "We need a proactive approach to strengthen linkages between industry and academia to produce world quality workforce."

Also advocating technical courses and job opportunities for special children who form 10 percent of the child population, Muhammad Zubair proposed to raise a squad of well-trained teachers to train all kinds of students.

"Congenial teaching modes, interesting syllabi, extensive scholarships and financial aid programs can also help attract more students to study at vocational institutes," he pleaded.

International Human Rights Day

Ministry of Human Rights primarily focuses on the protection and promotion of human rights in compliance with the principles of fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Human Rights Conventions ratified by Pakistan. The national and international commitments guarantee justice, equality, and fair play to all citizens. Ministry of Human Rights is committed to taking all necessary measures for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the protection of the rights of all citizens with a special focus on vulnerable segments i.e. children, women, minorities, senior citizens, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities.

Safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential and integral part of all democratic and progressive societies. As a party to the core international human rights conventions, Pakistan has undertaken commitments to uphold universal human rights standards and to implement them at the national level. Article 8-28 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan lay down the primary legal obligation of the state to protect & preserve the fundamental rights of every citizen of Pakistan. Article 8 of the Constitution provides that "Any law, or any custom or usage having the force of law, in so far as it is inconsistent with the rights conferred by this Chapter [Fundamental Rights], shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be void".

Recent initiatives by the Ministry of Human Rights, including the promulgation of the Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020, proscribing of child domestic labour through an amendment to the Employment of Children Act 1991, The Protection Against Harassment Of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022, The Protection Of Journalists And Media Professionals Act, 2021, ICT Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2020, Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Act 2020, Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022 and the introduction of other important bills in the Parliament such as Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) bill communicate the commitment of the government of Pakistan towards the protection of rights of all citizens.

Mindful of this fact, Ministry is working to translate these principles into legislation and institutional development and for raising awareness. However, despite all these provisions, there is still a long way to go towards achieving the universal goals of protecting the rights of citizens and ending any kind of social discrimination. Ministry of Human Rights is the focal point for ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights, besides our institutions such as the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), and Regional Human Rights Directorates in all four provinces and Provincial Human Rights Departments.

There are profound challenges on the ground along with numerous opportunities and the potential to improve the human rights situation in the country. In this context, the Government of Pakistan attaches high priority to the promotion and protection of human rights by using all available resources. On this occasion of International Human Rights Day, the Pakistani nation stands by Kashmiris and will continue to support them on all fora for their legitimate right of self-determination. We strongly condemned the Indian atrocities and human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The world community should immediately stop the genocide and HR violations in IIOJK by the Indian occupant forces. UN should implement the UN Security Council resolution on Kashmir and give Kashmiris the right to self-determination as it is their fundamental human right.



IT Parks to expand Pakistan's digital landscape

Zahoor Ahmed

With digital growth going through a rapid revolution, the country is inching towards establishing a vibrant network of Information Technology (IT) parks to expand its digital landscape.

As the modern-day electronic gadgets have influenced the entire lifestyle, these IT parks would provide young professionals a launching pad to execute their innovative ideas and contribute to economy more efficiently.

The world nations including Pakistan felt the vitality of information technology more than all times during the COVID-19 epidemic with the people keeping in touch across the globe even when restricted to homes.

People often, if not always, rely on IT tools in different walks of life from economy to banking, education to political campaigns, governance to healthcare and shopping to routine communication.

"We need to be compatible to rest of the world in communication skills. Therefore, we especially our young generation needs to be well equipped with latest communication techniques," said Minister for Information Technology and Communication Syed Amin-ul-Hasnat.

This is an eleven-storey self-contained building with covered area of 106,449 square meters having capacity to provide office space to approximately 225 start-ups and small to medium enterprises besides ancillary facilities like testing laboratories, classrooms, industry-academia linkage centers and auditoriums.

The government has invited private sector to actively participate and play a frontline role

to make IT parks and other related projects "a big success story."

"We are ensuring to equip these IT parks with latest infrastructure, technology and telecommunication tools for developing knowledge-based enterprises," said an official of the IT ministry.

He said the range of services offered by the parks would not be limited to enterprises and tenants of the parks but also for companies outside the parks. "These parks would boost knowledge-based economy and entrepreneurship with the use of advanced technologies."

The foundation stone of IT Park in Islamabad was laid in Chak Shahzad during May this year by the Minister for IT and Telecommunication under "Digital Pakistan Vision," to be completed in 30 months at a cost of Rs 13.72 billion.

The park would help meet infrastructure requirement for IT sector and facilitate technology transfer through industry and academia linkages, support technology commercialization, links tertiary education and production and promote research and development besides enhancing IT exports and industry competitiveness.

The IT Park Islamabad would consist of a twelve-storey self-contained building having a covered area of 66,893 square meters. It would initially provide office space to around 120 startups and small to medium enterprises and other ancillary facilities same like the Karachi park.

Currently, there are 15 software technology parks (STPs) in the country including three in Islamabad, two in Rawalpindi, eight in Lahore and one each in Karachi and Gilgit.

"We want to establish software technology parks across the country," the official said and mentioned to initiative of IT Ministry's

attached department Pakistan Software Export Board for establishing software technology parks in Quetta, Gwadar, Faisalabad, Bannu, Swat, Mardan, Sukkur and Hyderabad.

"The IT Park project for University of Balochistan costing Rs one billion and provision of fiber optic cable for Tehsil Wadh of District Khuzdar had recently been discussed," he added.

Mentioning to ICT and connectivity projects, he said, the MOITT through Universal Service Fund (USF) had launched 70 projects of OFC and broadband in four provinces at a cost of Rs 65 billion.

In Sindh province, 20 projects of NGBSD and OFC worth Rs 16.30 billion have been started in Tharparkar, Nawabshah, Khairpur, Larkana, Badin, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Mirpurkhas, Dadu and other districts.

"The government has also for the first time issued smartphone manufacturing licenses and 29 companies are now manufacturing smartphones and digital devices in Pakistan," the official informed. "National Incubation Centers were established in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta besides two recent initiatives in Faisalabad and Hyderabad." He said 30 STPs were also established across the country under public-private partnership with investment for Pakistani startups sector reaching to US\$ 818 million in four years and IT exports touching the US\$ 2.62 billion.

Although the government took multiple initiatives in this sector, yet country's IT exports are nominal as compared to other Asian nations. Therefore, it is direly needed to fully focus this sector for producing skilled workforce and earn more and more foreign exchange.

Afghan academic rebuilds life in Italy, dreams of returning

Spokesman Research

Batool Haidari used to be a prominent professor of sexology at a Kabul university before the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. She taught mixed classes of male and female students, and helped patients struggling with gender identity issues.

Her husband owned a carpet factory, and together they did their best to provide a good education for their 18-year-old son and two daughters aged 13 and eight.

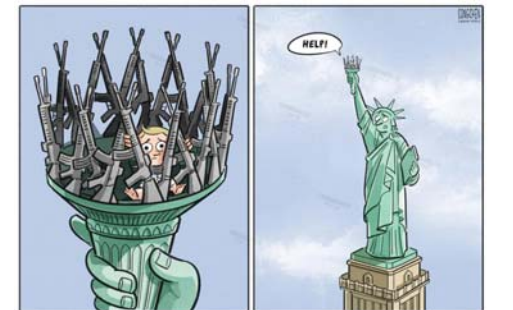
That comfortable life came to an abrupt halt on Aug. 15, 2021, when the former insurgents who adhere to a strict interpretation of Islam swept back into power following a costly two-decade U.S.-led campaign to remake the country.

Haidari, 37, was among the many women who fled the Taliban, fearing a return to the practices of their previous rule in the late 1990s, including largely barring girls and women from education and work. She reached Rome at the end of 2021, after a daring escape through Pakistan aided by Italian volunteers who arranged for her and her family to be hosted in the Italian capital's suburbs.

She is among thousands of Afghani women seeking to maintain an active social role in the countries that have taken them in. Haidari and her husband are studying Italian while being financially supported by various associations. She keeps in touch with feminist organizations back home and tries to maintain contact with some of her patients via the internet.

Haidari received death threats for her research on sensitive issues in Afghan society, and in December 2021 decided to leave. She crossed to Pakistan with her family, and an Italian journalist, Maria Grazia Mazzola, helped her get on a plane from Pakistan to Italy.

"We heard that Taliban were shooting and search-



ing houses very close to their hiding place," Mazzola said. "We were frantically in touch with the Italian embassy in Pakistan, with confidential contacts in Afghanistan, and we decided together that they had to change their hiding place every three days."

The Italian government evacuated more than 5,000 Afghans on military planes right after the Taliban takeover. Later, a network of Italian feminists, Catholic and Evangelical Churches and volunteers like Mazzola kept organizing humanitarian corridors and set up hospitality in Italy throughout the following year.

Mazzola, who works for Italian public RAI TV and is an expert on Islamic fundamentalism, created a network of associations to host 70 Afghans, mostly Hazara women activists and their families.

Now that the refugees are in Italy and gradually getting asylum, Mazzola said, the priority is to secure for them official recognition of their university degrees or other qualifications that will help them find dignified employment.

"A woman like Batool (Haidari) cannot work as a cleaner in a school. It would be a waste for our society too. She is a psychologist and deserves to continue working as such," Mazzola said.

Haidari agreed. While she said she misses the streets and alleys of Kabul, and the easy life she used to have, "most of all I miss the fact that in Afghanistan I was a much more useful person." Courtesy AP

Human Rights Day 2022

India ride on Hindutva tide to stifle, persecute, dehumanize Muslims, minorities

Spokesman Research

International Human Rights Day is being commemorated on December 10 across the globe with a commitment to uphold the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) adopted Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), ensuring basic human rights to all people.

But India, despite being on the radar of global human rights bodies, for its systematic and gruesome policies against minorities especially Muslims and Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), is blatantly violating the human norms and international declarations.

Human Rights Watch in its latest report said that the India government adopted laws and policies that discriminated against religious minorities, especially Muslims.

With horrendous HRs record, India ride on Hindutva tide to stifle, persecute, dehumanize Muslims, minorities. "This, coupled with vilification of Muslims by some BJP leaders and police failure to take action against BJP supporters who commit violence, emboldened Hindu nationalist groups to attack Muslims and government critics with impunity," it said.

The critics of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in India including activists, journalists, peaceful protesters, and even poets, actors, and businesses are increasingly risked politically motivated harassment, prosecutions, and tax raids.

Indian authorities shut down rights groups using foreign funding regulations or allegations of financial irregularities.

The Indian security forces have turned IIOJK into an open-air prison while the Indian minorities are facing saffron-junta-led terrorism and extremism with full backing of BJP leadership.

These human rights abuses in IIOJK range from mass killings, enforced disappearances, torture, rape and sexual abuse to political repression and suppression of freedom of speech.

With horrendous HRs record, India ride on Hindutva tide to stifle, persecute, dehumanize Muslims, minorities

Human Rights Watch in its report further said that five UN experts have raised concerns about "the repressive measures and broader pattern of systematic infringements of fundamental rights used against the local population, as well as of intimidations, searches and confiscations committed by national security agents."

The Muslims in India are increasingly becoming victims of Hindutva terrorism as they have been portrayed as "children of invaders" whose ancestors exploited Hindus for centuries. On this pretext, their fundamental human rights, including life, liberty and freedom of expression, are denied and they're regularly targeted for their beliefs.

In December 2019, Modi government introduced discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) which excluded Muslims and allowed Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsi immigrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan to get Indian nationality.

During Modi's first term as prime minister, the cow vigilantes are also active as part of India's violent polity. Since then, from 2014 onwards and during the seven years of his first and now in the second term, violence over the ownership and eating of cows has become such a norm that it is barely reported anymore.

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Journalists in IIOJK faced increased harassment by the authorities, including raids and arrests on terrorism charges. In June, the UN special rapporteur on freedom of expression and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention expressed concerns over "alleged arbitrary detention and intimidation of journalists covering the situation in Jammu and Kashmir."

Allegations of torture and extrajudicial killings in India persisted with the National Human Rights Commission registering 143 deaths in police custody and 104 alleged extrajudicial killings in the first nine months in 2021.

By September, the police had reportedly killed 27 people in alleged extrajudicial killings and injured 40 others in Assam. In a video shared on social media, police were seen beating the man after he was shot and a photographer hired by the local authorities stomping on the body of the injured man. The victims were Bengali-speaking Muslims, a community the BJP government has frequently vilified as "illegal Bangladeshis."

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The authorities continued to use section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which required government



approval to prosecute police officials, to block accountability even in cases of serious abuses.

In March, the Gujarat state government refused to give permission to prosecute three police officials accused in the 2004 extrajudicial killing of a Muslim woman, Ishrat Jahan.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which remained in effect in IIOJK and several other Indian states, provided effective immunity from prosecution to security forces, even for serious human rights abuses.

The Border Security Force frequently used excessive force against irregular immigrants and cattle traders from Bangladesh.

Hindu mobs beat up Muslims, often working-class men, with impunity while pro-BJP supporters filed baseless complaints against critics, especially religious minorities.

Muslims are not the only victim of Hindutva terrorism, right-wing Hindu nationalist attacks against Christians are becoming increasingly frequent and are emboldened by a lack of accountability.

The Christians are blamed for converting Hindus and the pattern of Christians' persecution is often the same by stoking fears that these conversions were forceful, aimed at changing the character of India and the illegality of their places of worship.

According to a report by human rights group, more than 300 attacks on Christians took place in the first nine months of this year, including at least 32 in Karnataka.

With horrendous HRs record, India ride on Hindutva tide to stifle, persecute, dehumanize Muslims, minorities

The report found that of the total 305 incidents of anti-Christian violence, four north Indian states registered as many as 169 of them: 66 in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, 47 in Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh, 30 in tribal-dominated Jharkhand, and 30 in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh.

At least nine Indian states have planned anti-conversion laws, including Chhattisgarh, which, activists say, has emerged as a "new laboratory" for anti-Christian hatred in India.

In October, over 200 men and women allegedly belonging to the BJP youth wing and affiliated Hindu nationalist groups Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal attacked a church in Uttarakhand state, vandalizing property and injuring several churchgoers.

The attack came soon after the VHP allegedly threatened to demolish churches in Madhya Pradesh state's Jhabua district, claiming they were doing illegal religious conversions.

ed laws ostensibly to prevent forced religious conversions, but these laws have been largely used to target minority communities, particularly Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and Adivasis.

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Amnesty International, India in its finding demanded of the Indian authorities to take urgent steps for the protection of the people of IIOJK, and said that for decades, people of IIOJK had suffered from gross human rights violations and abuses.

"The sheer impunity with which the human rights of the people of Jammu & Kashmir have been systematically disregarded by Indian authorities must end if we are to fulfil the rights of victims and help ensure that such abuses against civilians are not repeated."

At least 21 countries urged India to improve its protection of freedom of religion and rights of religious minorities, with several raising concerns over increasing violence and hate speech and the government's adoption of discriminatory policies such as "anti-conversion" laws.

," said Aakar Patel, chair of Amnesty International India Board.

The Hindu majority has been at odds with the Sikh minority since the British colonial era. Under operation Blue Star in 1984, Golden Temple was attacked which led to the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

The assassination was a turning point in Indian history, as it led to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, which were conveniently labeled "riots" to take accountability away from the government's involvement in inciting anti-Sikh rhetoric.

India's anti-Sikh policies and religious bias had inculcated in the Sikh minority to strive for their separate homeland, Khalistan. Recently, an overwhelming majority of Indian Sikh diaspora in the UK voted in favor of Khalistan in the wake of the referendum. The Khalistan referendum has sent a strong message to India to end discrimination against Sikhs and give them their birthright of freedom.

With horrendous HRs record, India ride on Hindutva tide to stifle, persecute, dehumanize Muslims, minorities

Dharam, also faced persecution at the hands of "superior" Hindus. They are denied access to education, health, inter-marriage and often pushed to seek low-grade jobs.

Six international human rights groups said the Indian government should promptly adopt and act on the recommendations that United Nations member states made at the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review process on November 10, 2022.

The groups are the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), CSW, International Dalit Solidarity Network, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch.

"The recommendations cover a range of key concerns including the protection of minority communities and vulnerable groups, tackling gender-based violence, upholding civil society freedoms, protecting human rights defenders, and ending torture in custody," it was added.

All UN member states participate in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, which examines their human rights record and proposes action to improve the human rights situations in their countries.

During the periodic review, India's fourth, 130 member states made 339 recommendations highlighting some of the most urgent human rights concerns in the country.

Since its last review in 2017, India has undergone a serious regression in human rights under the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

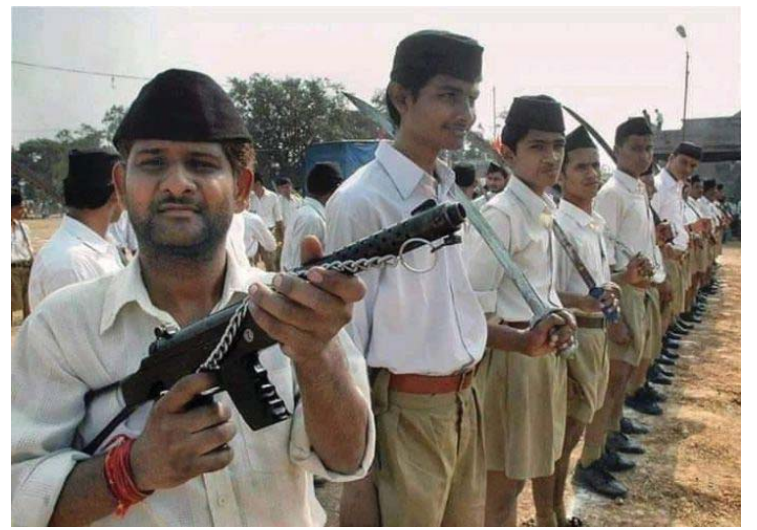
At least 21 countries urged India to improve its protection of freedom of religion and rights of religious minorities, with several raising concerns over increasing violence and hate speech and the government's adoption of discriminatory policies such as "anti-conversion" laws.

Since Modi's BJP came to power in 2014, it has taken various legislative and other actions that have made it lawful to discriminate against religious minorities, particularly Muslims, and enabled violent Hindu majoritarianism, the groups said.

Twenty countries said that India should improve protection of freedom of expression and assembly, and create an enabling environment for civil society groups, human rights defenders, and media to do their work.

Some of these countries expressed concerns over the use of the counter-terrorism law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), against activists, journalists, and members of religious minority communities.

Nineteen countries said that India should ratify the UN Convention against Torture, a treaty it signed in



1997 but never ratified. India said in both 2012 and 2017 UPR cycles that it remained committed to ratifying the treaty. But it hasn't taken steps to fulfill its commitment even as torture and other ill-treatment continue to be used routinely by police and other security forces to gather information or coerce confessions.

"Islamophobia is no longer a fringe sentiment in India. It has become a state-manufactured ideology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has made Islamophobia central to its program for harassing India's 192 million Muslims and depriving them

of their rights as Indian citizens," the report said. Modi rose to power by inciting Hindus with his time-tested politics of communal polarization. Beginning in 2014, Modi spent his first term as Prime Minister dehumanizing Muslims by passing laws preventing cow slaughter, restricting Muslim immigration, and purportedly countering Islamist terrorism. According to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) annual report on India, there were over ninety religion-based hate crimes that resulted in thirty deaths in 2019 alone.

IoBM Celebrates 25th Annual Convocation; 1374 Degrees Awarded



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi, held its 25th Convocation at its Korangi Creek Campus on Saturday, December 10, 2022. 1,374 graduates from numerous departments were conferred educational degrees at the ceremony this year which marks the Silver Jubilee convocation of IoBM.

The Chief Guest, Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori graced the event with his presence. He was accompanied by Guest of Honor, Muhammad Aurangzeb, President and CEO, Habib Bank Limited and Keynote Speaker Mr. Abid Vazir, Director and COO, Cherat Packaging Limited.

In his welcome address, IoBM President, Talib S. Karim congratulated the graduates on their success while aspiring them for the future ahead. He quoted the vision of late founding President of IoBM, Mr. Shahjehan S. Karim, who envisioned to establish a business school imparting quality education.

The chief guest Mr. Kamran Tessori in his speech stated that the youth are the foundation that this great nation is built upon. He emphasized: "In the form of IoBM, Shahjehan S. Karim has given this country a great educational institution which has become a pride for Pakistan. Today, as you graduate from this auspicious university, it is crucial to embrace and portray the positive side of Pakistan as you step into the corporate world. The nation today needs good human beings who are educated and intellectual. It is crucial that as future leaders, you don't get divided by ethnicity but take charge as Quaid e Azam had envisioned."

Addressing the gathering, Chancellor IoBM, Mr. Bashir Jan Muhammad expressed his sentiments stating: "I see before me the generation of the future. The founder of the nation stated that the job of building the nation lies upon your shoulders. It is time to control your destiny, dream higher and reach for impressive milestones in your career."

The Keynote Speaker, Mr. Abid Vazir lauded the graduates, noting: "You are graduating from an institution that has prepared you well for the challenges that lie ahead. You are entering a new chapter in your life in an exciting world that is full of challenges and opportunities amplified by social media and the connection revolution."

The students who were part of the graduating batch this year received their degrees in business administration as well as other relevant disciplines. 18 gold medals were also awarded to the highest achievers within their respective programs. 38 students were awarded merit certifications at the occasion as well.

Gold hits new high of Rs167,100 per tola on safe-haven buying

KARACHI: Local gold Friday blasted off to new historic highs mainly owing to safe-haven buying amid an anaemic rupee and an elusive dollar.

According to precious metals' rates issued by the All Sindh Saraf Jewellers Association (ASSJA) gold (24 carat) jumped by Rs700 to Rs167,100 per tola. The bullion increased by Rs600 to Rs143,261 per 10 grams.

According to the association, despite hitting an all-time high in Pakistan, gold is still less pricey compared to its per-tola price in Dubai.

The latest price for local markets was determined to keep in view the prices at which trades took place among buyers and sellers.

Azam Nazeer Tarar for regulation of housing sector to curb unplanned growth of housing societies

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has stressed the need of proper regulation of the housing sector to curb the unplanned growth of housing societies. He said that despite multiple laws, unorganized growth of housing societies is on the rise, which is not a good trend and added that instead of helping in regulation, multiple laws are creating confusion. He emphasized that regulated activity in the housing sector is important to meet the growing housing needs of people. He said that the Federal Capital should be developed into a model city for the future generations. He assured to fully cooperate with ICCI in amending the building byelaws for commercial and industrial buildings to cater to the needs of current business requirements. He lauded the initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Works and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry for organizing the 1st International Housing EXPO to bring all stakeholders to one platform. He expressed these views during his visit to the 1st International Housing EXPO at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad. He visited the stalls of the EXPO and appreciated the products and projects displayed at



the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the building byelaws of CDA were made many years ago and are not helping in construction of

commercial and industrial buildings as per need of the current times. He stressed that the government should cooperate in amending and upgrading these byelaws to meet the needs of current businesses. He also invited the Federal Minister for Law & Justice to ICCI,

which was accepted by Azam Nazeer Tarar.

Itikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Works said that the agricultural land is being converted into housing societies, which should be a cause of concern. He stressed that this trend should be discouraged and vertical constructions should be encouraged through policy measures for optimum use of land.

H.E. M. Madikiza, High Commissioner of South Africa, Senator Seeme Ezdi, Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan Inspector General Police Islamabad, Hanif Abbasi former SAPM, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan CEO Centaurus Mall also visited the EXPO and lauded the efforts of Exhibitors for putting up high quality products and high-profile projects.

On the third day various sessions were held on the sidelines of the Expo including "Sustainable Post Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction" in collaboration with UN Habitat Pakistan, "Urban Planning and Hydrology" in collaboration with NED University of Engineering & Technology Karachi and "Smart Growth and Vertical Development, Challenges and Way forward in collaboration with PHA Foundation.

For attraction of customers

Traders displaying seasonal fruit (orange) to attract the customer at fruit market.



FTO orders 'one-time' clearance to vessels carrying soybean shipments

ISLAMABAD: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) has ordered the Customs intelligence to give one-time clearance to the vessels carrying soybean shipments at the country's ports.

The FTO took an important decision regarding the soybean-carrying vessels at different ports by Customs, increasing risks of an acute shortage of soybean used for poultry feed across the country.

The federal ombudsman [Wafaqi Mohtasib] gave one-time permission for the clearance of the vessels carrying soybean shipments stuck at ports. The Customs intelligence has been directed to immediately release the vessels.

FTO's Advisor Customs Dr Arslan Subuctageen announced in a press conference today that the case was lodged on the complaint of the Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA).

The case was resolved under Clause 20 of the Pakistan Biosafety Rules which allows licensed imports. Dr Arsalan said



that the nine vessels, under the rules, were licenced imports.

He further said that the decision of the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) could not be challenged in court nor any institution could raise an objection to its verdict.

The FTO's adviser said that the Customs officials were bound to clear the vessels loaded with soybean containers within a week.

It is pertinent to mention here that nine vessels carrying soybean shipments anchored at the ports had been stopped by the Customs authorities.

Earlier, it was learnt that the country is expected to see a sharp surge in the prices of chicken and egg following the soybean meal shortage.

The prices of chicken would be soared up to Rs1,000 per kilogram and eggs per dozen up to Rs500 due to soybean meal scarcity due to non-clearance of soybean and canola seed shipments at the port.

The soybean and canola seed shipments had been facing a delay in clearance at the port due to the negligence of the federal government, affecting the poultry farms and other industries.

The PPA chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf said if the issue is not addressed, the country will have to import eggs and chickens.

PPA and All Pakistan Solvent Extractors' Association (APSEA) had demanded the federal government to immediately resolve the issue besides issuing a notification for the crushing of soybean and canola meals.

Ankara has declined to scrap a new insurance inspection rule

ISTANBUL: Turkiye emerged as a critical stumbling block to a complex international plan to deprive Russia of wartime oil revenues as the number of tankers waiting to exit the Black Sea through Turkish straits continued to rise on Friday.

Ankara has declined to scrap a new insurance inspection rule it implemented at the beginning of the month despite days of pressure from Western officials.

A total of 28 oil tankers are in a queue seeking to leave the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, the Tribeca shipping agency said on Friday.

77 wealthy countries, the European Union and Australia agreed to bar providers of shipping services, such as insurers, from helping export Russian oil unless it is sold at an enforced low price, or cap, aimed at depriving Moscow of wartime revenue.

Turkiye's maritime authority said it would

continue to keep out of its waters oil tankers that lacked appropriate insurance letters.

Western insurers said they could not provide the documents required by Turkiye as it might expose them to sanctions if it emerged that the oil cargoes they covered were sold at prices that exceeded the cap.

The Turkish authority said that in the event of an accident involving a vessel in breach of sanctions it was possible the damage would not be covered by an international oil-spill fund.

"(It) is out of the question for us to take the risk that the insurance company will not meet its indemnification responsibility," it said, adding that Turkiye was continuing talks with other countries and insurance companies.

It added the vast majority of vessels waiting near the straits were EU vessels, with a large part of the oil destined for EU ports—a factor frustrating Ankara's Western allies.

Govt expected to remove SECP Chairman Aamir Khan: sources

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: the federal government is likely to remove the chairman of the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Aamir Khan, citing sources, ARY News reported.

Sources told ARY News that the government is mulling over appointing Akif Saeed as the new SECP chairman. It was learnt that the incumbent chairman

Aamir Khan will be retained as an SECP commissioner.

It is pertinent to mention here that interviews for three vacant slots for SECP commissioners were conducted and the government is expected to make appointments soon.

The federal cabinet has already given approval to the names of Akif Saeed, Abdul Rehman Warraich and Mujtaba Lodhi for the positions, sources added.

Hydrogen pipeline between Spain and France to be ready 'by 2030'

ALICANTE, SPAIN: An ambitious underwater pipeline to bring hydrogen from the Iberian Peninsula to the rest of Europe will be completed by 2030 and cost some 2.5 billion euros, the leaders of France, Spain and Portugal said Friday.

The H2Med project comes as Europe is scrambling to reduce its dependence on Russian energy following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

It is also seen as helping Europe transition away from fossil fuels to cleaner energy.

The pipeline between Barcelona and Marseille — also known as the "BarMar" project — will carry two million tonnes of hydrogen per year, or 10 percent of expected European consumption, once it goes online, said Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

"It is going to be the first major hydrogen corridor in the European Union," Sanchez said.

The project will cost around 2.5 billion euros (\$2.6 billion), he said at a joint press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron and Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa.

The three leaders formally signed off on the plans in the presence of EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of a regional EU summit.

Following the talks, they released a roadmap and timeline for completing H2Med which they hope will be partially covered by European funds.

If approved by Brussels, European funding could cover about half the cost, 1.2 billion euros, French sources said. The remainder could be borne by future consumers in a process that is still to be set out.

The pipeline under the Mediterranean Sea will carry green hydrogen, which is made from water via electrolysis in a process using renewable energy.

But French officials said they had not ruled out that it could also carry hydrogen produced from nuclear power.

The roadmap detailed three options for the route of the pipeline, with the preferred one stretching 455 kilometres (282 miles) at a maximum depth of almost 2,600 metres.

Construction would begin in 2025 and last four years and eight months, it said.

H2Med aims to boost the decarbonisation of European industry, giving it large-scale access to clean energy from Spain and Portugal, which are hoping to become world leaders in green hydrogen thanks to their numerous wind and solar power farms.

"The focus of H2 demand is on sectors that are difficult to decarbonise, such as industry and transport," the roadmap said.

"The cost of H2 transmission by pipeline over long distances is 2 to 4



times lower than transmitting electricity over high-voltage lines," it said.

The utility stores administration has increased the prices of many brand-

ed items and issued a notification to the effect. According to the notification, the price of branded ghee at utility stores has been increased by Rs 71 per kg from Rs397 to Rs 468. Similarly, the price of 800 grams of dry milk for children has increased by Rs120 and the new price is Rs1,810 up from Rs1,690. The price of one kilogramme branded desi ghee has been increased by Rs220. It is now available at Rs1,420 as against the earlier price of Rs1,200.

The price of 200 grams of milk cream has increased by Rs 21 — Rs153 to 174, the price of a pack of four noodles has gone up from Rs207 to 227. The price of 800 grams of tomato ketchup has increased to Rs318 from Rs288. The rate of 800 grams of salt has increased by Rs 20 and of 440 grams of apple and mango jam by Rs29. The prices of biscuits, spices, toilet soaps and other such items have gone up too.

Pakistan's batting line falls

News Desk

MULTAN: Pakistani batting lineup collapsed against some accurate England bowling that wrapped them up in the first session well short of 281 posted by the visitors, on the second day of the second test in Multan on Saturday.

Pakistan entered the day two proceedings with 107/2 on board aiming to cross the modest 281 first innings runs of the visiting team, but they fell flat losing all eight remaining wickets adding just 95 to finish 202, thanks to spin magic by leach and fiery attack by Mark Wood.

Pakistan started the day at 107/2 with sipper Babar Azam on strike at 61 and Saud Shakeel at 32. Batting collapse set in when Ollie Robinson dismissed Babar on the second ball of the 6th over of the session at an individual score of 75 when the total was 142.

Saud Shakeel was later dismissed at 63 after 16 more were added to the total. England bowlers kept pulling up pressure on Pakistan batters with another dismissal of Muhammad Rizwan at 165, Muhammad Nawaz at 169, Salman Ali Agha at 169, Muhammad Ali at 169, Zahid Mahmood at 179, and the claimed final dismissal at 202.

The battling line returned to the pavilion after facing only 30 overs in the first session



on the second day of the second test match.

England resumed the second innings with an advantage of 79 run lead with

ambitions to give the host a formidable target.

From England, Jack Leach took four

wickets, Mark Wood took two, Joy Root two and Anderson and Robinson took one wicket each.

England strengthening grip on match

Sports Reporter

MULTAN: England's cricket team strengthened its grip on the match after destroying Pakistan's batting line before the first session on the second day game, leading the target with 281 with five wickets in hands before the start of the third day.

The England bowlers destroyed Pakistan's batting line and proved them a wall of sand by dismissing all eight wickets of the Pakistan team before the first session of the second day of the second test match being played at Multan Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Pakistan entered the day two proceedings with 107/2 on board aiming to cross the modest 281 first innings total of visitors but they fell

flat losing all eight remaining wickets and adding just 95 to finish 202, thanks to spin magic by leach and fiery attack by Mark Wood.

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From England Jack Leach took four wickets, Mark Wood took two, Joy Root two and Anderson and Robinson took one wicket each.

Kabaddi

FAISALABAD: Players are in action during 2nd Annual Martyred Kashmiri All Pakistan Open Kabaddi match at a ground in the city.



Photo: Online

Morocco fans ready for quarter final with backing from Africa and Arab world

News Desk

RABAT: Moroccan football fans were gathering with friends and family on Saturday to watch their team's World Cup quarter final against Portugal, holding the torch as the last African or Arab country left in the tournament.

Ranked 22nd in the world by FIFA, Morocco has already beaten high-ranking Belgium and Spain in a tournament marked by upsets, causing wild celebrations by its fans.

Najlaa El Kouni was rushing through the Rabat rain to join her friends to watch the game together at their house, but plans to head into the city centre afterwards no matter the result. "We will join the crowds," she said.

Hundreds of Moroccan fans have flown into Doha for the match after Royal Air Maroc laid on seven extra flights, joining a large contingent already present in Qatar, where many Moroccans live and work. Fans were queuing for stadium access hours before the game.

With the Qatar World Cup the first to be held in an Arab country, Morocco has backed by fans from Iraq to Algeria who cheered its progress into the knockout stages.

It is also the last African team in the tournament and would become the first from the continent to reach a World Cup semi-final if it can get past Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

"As an African it's a great joy to see them march forward despite

the turbulent waters," said Angabu Noel Umeikai, 31, a social media analyst in the Cameroonian capital Yaounde. "I strongly believe Morocco will outclass Portugal today," he added.

In Abidjan, the capital of Ivory Coast, Basile Djehi was drinking with friends and planned to watch the game with them later. "We all support Morocco. This is Africa's only hope," said the 2-year old pastry chef.

On the streets of Rabat, many young people were defying the cool, wet weather to wear Morocco's red team shirt instead of raincoats, with some looking for spots in cafes or restaurants where they could watch the game.

Most prime viewing spots seemed to have been taken hours

before kickoff, with many cafes removing tables to make more space for chairs where people could sit and watch and outside cars swept past with Moroccan flags.

In Marrakech tens of thousands of people are expected to watch at the fan zone in the historic Jmaa al-Fnaa square—a UNESCO world heritage site—and in Casablanca many fans will watch on a big screen at a stadium.

"Today we are watching the game as a big family as my parents and brothers will join us," said Hicham Laasri, a driver who lives in Sala Al Jadida, 15km from Rabat, adding that they planned to enjoy tea and cake together as they watched.



COMBAXX 1st CNS All Pakistan Squash Championship 2022



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Nasir Iqbal of Wapda beat Waqar Mehboob of KP by 11-5, 11-1, 11-5 in a one-sided encounter that lasted for 20 minutes during the Finals of COMBAXX 1st CNS All Pakistan Squash Championship 2022 organized by Pak Navy and Pakistan Squash Federation here at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Fleet Club, Saddar Karachi.

The winner was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 200,000/-, while the runners-up received a cash prize of Rs. 140,000/-

In the Women's Finals, Zainab Khan (Army) beat Noor Ul Ain (SNGPL) 11-5, 11-4, 10-12, and 11-3. The contest lasted for 27 minutes.

The Winner of the Women's Final received Rs. 100,000/- while the runners-up were awarded Rs. 70,000/- cash prize.

Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi NI (M) S Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff, who was the Chief Guest of the prize distribution ceremony, gave away trophies and cash prizes among the athletes.

Speaking on the occasion, The Chief of the Naval Staff lauded the holding of such a grand event in which an overwhelming number of young players participated.

The Naval chief also congratulated the players on their good show and advised them to follow the example of legends like Jahangir Khan to become unbeatable at the international level and regain past glories for the countries in Squash. He also lauded the sponsors specially Combaxx Sports and others for sponsoring sports which is a great contribution to the national cause as sportsmen are the country's representatives in world sports.

Squash Legend Jahangir Khan, Rear Admiral Mian Zakir-ullah Jan HI (M), Commander Karachi, Mr Omar Saeed, CEO COMBAXX Sports, Commodore Tauqir Ahmed Khawaja TI (M) Commandant PNS Jauhar & Tournament Director were also present on the occasion.

5th PGA Ladies Amateur Golf Championship



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The three rounds 5th PGA Ladies Amateur Golf Championship endorsed and backed by the The Springs Apartment Homes and Punjab Golf Association (PGA) enters the final phase at the alluring and golfingly engaging par 72 Royal Palm Golf Course after the completion of two animatedly played golf rounds by the ladies whose handicap falls in the bracket zero to 14. During the competitive activity on Saturday, the early morning tee off was through a shot gun start and participating ladies reaped the benefit of congenial weather, relishing their accurate tee shots as well as shot making from the fairways. In intimidating form was Parkha Ejaz of Defence Raya who plays to a handicap of one. Excellence oozed out of every shot that she hit and one noticed composure and equilibrium in her putting, an aspect that is so very essential for producing good scores. Parkha ended the second round with an admirable card of par 72 and that added to her first rounds gross 76 gives her an aggregate of 148 for two rounds. A leader she certainly is after two rounds but enjoys an advantage of just one stroke over her formidable rival, Hamna Amjad of Rumanza Golf Course, a zero handicapper who also played exceptionally well to achieve a score of gross 75 in the second round and an aggregate of 149 over the two rounds. A few other prominent ones in line for positions other than the first are Rimsha Ijaz (Defence Raya) placed at a score of 157, Aania Farooq from Airmen Golf Club, Karachi at 158, Bushra Fatima of Lahore Garrison at 161, Ghazala Yasmin at 162 and Suneya Osama at 165.

In the race for honors in handicap category 15-24 the contest is over two rounds and 36 holes. The notable one in this handicap category is Shabana Waheed (Garrison) at a score of net 72, with Momina Tarrar (Royal Palm) at 75 and Fauzia Umer (Gymkhana) at net 76.

Handicap category 25-36 aspirants found Shazia Imran (Royal Palm) in enormous form and her score of net 64 looks commanding. The next best in this category is Minaa Zainab and her score for 18 holes is net 72 followed by Meerab Rizwan and Sobia Waseem at net 76.

Seniors Category ladies concluded their competitive race. The winner gross was Mrs Shahzadi Gulfaan and Winner Net was Mrs Ayesha Hamid. Prize Winners in Girls age group 11-14 years were Aleema Almas Rashid, first, Natalia Nadeem Khan, second and Areej Atif, third. Winning girls in age category 10 and below were Aminah Ali Khan, first, Syeda Noor Zahra, second and Noor Bano Chaudry, third.

AAA Associates brings another sports star to represent Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Arooba Ali, who is being sponsored by the Pakistani real estate brand AAA Associates will be representing Pakistan at the 22nd Sarawak Junior International Golf Championship, Malaysia. Her golfing career includes various golf championships. Arooba Ali is set to bring glory and pride to the country.

Just like many other sports stars, Arooba Ali was spotted by AAA Associates at the beginning of her career. It was obvious that she would be a promising sports star in future. Upholding its tradition of supporting rising sports talent, the real estate brand decided upon Arooba Ali as the representative of the brand. However, this was not a random choice, as Arooba had an impressive profile.

Arooba Ali began her career as a golf player in 2015 at the young age of 14. But only in a short span of one year, she won her first golf tournament in 2016. She ranked among the top players in the tournaments that followed. In an interview she said that "This was not an easy journey as I won and lost many times during this time." Finally, her national success came in 2018 as she became the best lady golfer of the country.

Replying to another question she said that "My father was the person who stood by me throughout this journey, and he supported me. My family's help and support transformed my weaknesses into strengths." Lastly, she said that "It was my teachers as well who supported me all along as I would not have been able to achieve anything without the support and guidance of my teachers."

Arooba Ali has come a long way from playing national level championships during the early days of her career, to