



Dar reiterates need for developing 'Charter of Economy'

Dar said, the rupee was allowed free fall to help enhance exports, which during the three years, increased only by \$800 million whereas the country was inflicted loss of Rs4000 billion in terms of debt increase. He said, the incentive packages of Rs180b and Rs67b provided to export-oriented industry in 2017-18 were based on the performance of industry in enhancing exports. (Report on Page 3)



"Nepal & Pakistan require to jointly work on mitigation the negative impacts of climate change"

Talking about mutual trades he said the bilateral trade relations are very limited between both countries but it is increasing gradually. Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal said. (Report on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Joint Communiqué

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon shake hands after signing the Joint Communiqué of the visit of Tajik President to Pakistan.



Photo: Online

No development in PTI govt sans renaming Nawaz Sharif's era projects: Marriyum

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said Imran Khan-led government had closed down several projects of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's previous government and even renamed some of them which were inaugurated by the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

"The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime changed the name of the PML-N's era Youth Programme with Kamyab Jawan Programme and shelved 80 per cent of its projects," she said while addressing a news conference flanked by Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

Nawaz Sharif, as the prime minister, had launched the Prime Minister's Youth

Programme in 2013 to provide employment opportunities to young people, she added.

"No ruler can achieve the objective of development by affixing their own nameplates on the existing projects," the minister said sarcastically. The projects became successful if the same were launched with a focus on people's welfare, she added.

Marriyum said the PTI government would not have sent its political opponents to death cells in jails by filing fake cases if it had anything to do with political norms and values.

She said the nation fully knew how the PTI government ruined the national economy during its four-year tenure. It would have been better for the country had Imran Khan invited the heads of international firms to the Prime Minister's House instead of (Daily Mail's) David Rose to hatch a conspiracy against PM Shehbaz Sharif.

President Dr Arif Alvi reaches Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence

News Desk

LAHORE: President Dr Arif Alvi has reached Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

After holding a meeting with the federal ministers, President Dr Arif Alvi reached Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence in Lahore.

The president will hold a meeting with Imran Khan over the current political situation.

Meeting with federal ministers

Prior to his meeting with the PTI chief, federal ministers Ayaz Sadiq and Azam Nazeer Tarar asked President Alvi to play the role to end the political turmoil.

Sources told ARY News that the federal ministers proposed Dr Alvi find solutions to the issues within the prevailing governance system instead of dissolving the assemblies announced by Imran Khan.

The president asked all political parties to exhibit political maturity, said sources, adding that the federal ministers apprised Dr Arif Alvi about the government's stance.

Dissolution of assemblies Imran Khan announces to unveil date on Dec 17

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has announced to unveil date for the dissolution of the assemblies on December 17 in a key gathering on Lahore's Liberty Chowk.

Imran Khan has taken a firm stand on the dissolution of provincial assemblies being ruled by his political party in December.

Imran Khan has ended the confusion regarding the PTI's stance on the dissolution of the assemblies. The PTI chief held an important session with the party's senior leaders. Sources added that the PTI senior leaders suggested dissolving the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) assemblies on the same date.

Imran Khan said that he has received opinions from all party leaders. He added that he will not announce his decision as the time of consultation has concluded. Imran Khan announced that the assemblies will be dissolved in December.

The session also discussed the legal aspects of the assemblies' dissolution. Dr Babar Awan briefed the constitutional and legal grounds of the upcoming move. Sources told ARY News that PTI is likely to announce the same date for dissolving the KP and Punjab



assemblies.

After chairing the session, Imran Khan made the announcement to unveil the date for dissolving the provincial assemblies in Punjab and KP on December 17. He said that PTI will organise a gathering at Lahore's Liberty Chowk on December 17 in which he will make the announcement.

Elaborating on the future strategy, Khan said that around 125 PTI lawmakers will appear in the National Assembly (NA) to announce their resignations.

He said that the move will pave way for the organisation of elections on 70 per cent of the seats.

In his address, Imran Khan said that concrete action is inevitable to avoid more losses. Slamming the acquittal of the top politicians in corruption cases, he said that cases against 'big dacoits' are being dissolved in a shameful manner.

He said that those nations see disastrous outcomes where the law discriminates against elites and poor people. "We are on the brink of disaster as our country is destroying with its sinking economy."

Pakistan wants establishment of energy, rail, road connectivity with CARs: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan wanted the establishment of energy, rail and road connectivity with the diverse energy resources rich Central Asian Republics (CARs) for the development and prosperity of the entire region.

During a joint press stake-out with President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, the prime minister said Pakistan desired early completion of the Central Asia-South Asia (CASA-1000) power project to meet its energy needs.

He said Pakistan had been the first country that established ties with Tajikistan some 30 years back. Since then both countries had been enjoying excellent cordial and friendly ties.

Pakistan wanted to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation and ties in all fields including energy, trade, joint ventures in

PM, Tajik president hold one-on-one meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon held a one-on-one here at the PM's House and discussed matters of bilateral interest.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed regional and international issues besides focusing on strengthening their ties in diverse fields.

Later, the two leaders led the delegation-level talks. APP



agriculture and food etc, he added.

Prime Minister Sharif further said Pakistan attached immense importance to its bilateral ties with Tajikistan as it was a gateway to the CARs.

He informed that they held very productive meetings to further strengthen the bilateral relations and promote trade, investment and culture between the people of two brotherly nations.

The prime minister expressed the hope that Tajik President Emomali Rahmon's visit to Pakistan 'would usher in new era of cooperation and development between the two countries.'

He also welcomed the Tajik president and his delegation and said that the people of Pakistan were overwhelmed with joy and pleasure over their visit.

President Tajikistan Emomali

Rahmon, reciprocating the warm feelings for the government and people of Pakistan, said that his country attached high priority to its ties with Pakistan.

He said both countries had been making joint efforts to further promote the friendly ties and expressed the optimism that the MoUs signed between the two countries would give new impetus to these relations.

He said during their delegation-level deliberations, they had discussed government-to-government level contacts, security, economic situation, global economic decay, energy and connectivity activities and linking of Gwadar port.

He said they also had useful exchange of views on CASA-1000, cooperation in agriculture, energy connectivity, joint ventures in food technology, trade, science and technology and cooperation between the business communi-

ties of the two countries.

President Rahmon further said that both countries shared commonalities which served to further strengthen these ties.

The two sides also expressed satisfaction over cooperation in security and reaffirmed to face contemporary challenges jointly like extremism, terrorism and radicalism, he added.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon sign Joint Communiqué of the visit of Tajik President to Pakistan

He said that they also acknowledged the significance of concerted global efforts for a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, adding Tajikistan and Pakistan were also closely cooperating at the global level including UN, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other multilateral foras. Agencies

Pakistan asks int'l community, UN to hold India accountable as 'terrorist State'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday called upon the international community and the United Nations to hold India accountable for perpetrating terrorism in Pakistan with "undeniable and indisputable" evidence available.

Minister of State (MoS) for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar at a press briefing on the dossier regarding India's involvement in terrorism in Pakistan said repeated terror incidents reflected India's persistent hostility and the use of terrorist proxies against Pakistan.

Khar was referring to the evidence of India's involvement in the Johar Town blast in Lahore last year, that killed three people and injured 24 others.

The MoS said no other country had used terrorism better than India that played the victim card despite being the "biggest perpetrator of terrorism".

She mentioned that Pakistan had submitted the Lahore blast-specific dossier with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and would soon be sharing with the UN Secretary



General, which she said was a "clear evidence of India's planned and perpetrated attack against civilians."

She said Pakistan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestation and added that India as the mastermind and facilitator of the incident remained at large.

"The more terrorism it [India] perpetrates, the more victim card it plays," she said.

She said may it be the Samjhota train incident or blatant support to Baloch militants, India's

objective was to undermine the peace and security of Pakistan.

She mentioned that 211 individuals of law enforcement agencies suffered the RAW-sponsored attacks including the attack on Chinese nationals, at PC hotel Gwadar, and Frontier Corps camp in Punjgur.

Contrary to India, she said, Pakistan always remained at the forefront of fighting terrorism.

To a question, she dismissed the step to be called as the 'dossier diplomacy' and said with hard facts available about agents being caught red-handed, "I would call it an evidence-based intelligence sharing".

Khar pointed out that India blatantly violated the human rights laws in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and continued to follow the rogue policies.

Asked if the Foreign Office continued previous policies of the government, she said the good steps were being pursued acknowledging that "some good work was done on Islamophobia". Agencies

Arshad Sharif Case: JIT seeks Kenyan visas for probe

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Special Joint Investigation Team (JIT) constituted to probe into the senior journalist Arshad Sharif's murder has sought Kenyan visas for probe, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

On December 8, the federal government shared the names of the members of a new special joint investigation team (JIT) formed to probe the murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif with the Supreme Court.

Senior journalist and former ARY News anchor was killed in Kenyan capital Nairobi on Oct 23 where he was living in self-exile.

Telehealth

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the 2nd Digital National Health Conference on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Telehealth key to provide low cost & quality health services to the masses: President Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday said that telehealth powered by digital and Artificial Intelligence-based technologies is key to provide counselling, advice and diagnosis to the masses in a most cost-effective and hassle-free manner.

He was addressing here at Pakistan's Second Digital Health National Conference, which was attended by health professionals, information technology experts, doctors, scholars and others.

President Alvi said that Pakistan was facing many challenges in the health sector, which included lack of medical professionals, poor infrastructure, high cost of health services, and lack of medical facilities in the rural areas, besides insufficient allocation of funds in the health and education sectors.

He said that these problems faced by the nation could be significantly handled by bringing in Artificial Intelligence driven telehealth and digital

health initiatives which would augment the health system.

This would be without incurring substantial cost by providing health services through virtual hospitals, clinics, diagnostics and promoting preventive mode of treatment which will substantially reduce the burden of diseases in the country, he added.

The president said that the incidence of Hepatitis in Pakistan was 9 percent of the total population, which made up around 20 million people

whereas in Egypt, the percentage of hepatitis prevalence was 12 to 13 percent of the total population and it spent 3 to 4 billion US dollars to counter this deadly disease. He said that Pakistan being a poor country could not completely provide curative treatment but should focus on preventive measures of treatment.

He said that Pakistan handled COVID-19 pandemic in a much better manner compared to many countries of the world by creating

awareness regarding preventive methods and persistently conveying messages through all media of communication.

This best practice, he said, should also be copied to counter Hepatitis in country by creating awareness about the use of sterilized equipment and syringes, destroying the used syringes and promoting healthy lifestyle in the masses.

Founding President Digital Health Association, Dr Azfar Malik said that Pakistan Digital health Associa-

Pak, Tajikistan agree to enhance bilateral ties towards strategic cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon on Wednesday expressed satisfaction on the steady growth and momentum of the bilateral relations and agreed to enhance these relations towards strategic cooperation for mutual benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

A joint communique on the official visit of Tajikistan President's visit to Pakistan, said the leaders of the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the existing fraternal ties between the two countries which were based on a shared history, culture, geographical contiguity and common faith.

The two leaders agreed that the Strategic Partnership Agreement, which will further enhance bilateral cooperation, should be finalized at the earliest and be signed during the visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to Dushanbe next year.

They also exchanged felicitations on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.



During the delegation-level talks, the two leaders exchanged views on a wide range of issues of bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The two countries enjoyed excellent bilateral cooperation at the multilateral forums including the UN, SCO, OIC, ECO and CICA. It was agreed to further boost multilateral cooperation for global and regional peace, stability

and sustainable development.

The prime minister of Pakistan supported nomination of the Republic of Tajikistan as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2028-2029 and appreciated Tajikistan's support for Pakistan's candidature to the same body for the term 2025-26.

He highly appreciated efforts of the president of Tajikistan as one of the

founders of the SCO and expressed support for his initiative to establish the SCO Anti-Drug Center in Dushanbe.

The prime minister underlined the importance of engagement with Tajikistan under Pakistan's "Vision Central Asia" policy which was based on the five pillars of bilateral cooperation i.e. political, trade & investment, energy & connectivity, security & defence and people-to-people contacts.

Both sides welcomed Pakistan's initiative to hold Regional Connectivity Summit early next year.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's support to Tajikistan for its membership in Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA).

Noting efforts of the Central Asian states aimed at establishing an atmosphere of good-neighbourliness, trust and friendship in the region, the prime minister welcomed holding of the fifth anniversary of the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia in the Republic of Tajikistan on September 14-15, 2023. APP

Malala acknowledges education-friendly steps of CM Parvez Elahi



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Noble Laureate Malala Yousafzai met with Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and former Federal Minister Moonis Elahi at CM office on Wednesday in which activities of Malala Fund in Pakistan, future strategy and other projects came under discussion.

The promotion of education in the province especially of girls education and STEAM programme was also discussed. Malala Yousafzai lauded CM Parvez Elahi's programme to introduce reforms in the education sector and paid rich tributes to the education-friendly steps of CM Parvez Elahi.

The Chief Minister while talking with Malala Yousafzai disclosed that 25 thousand teachers would be inducted on the vacant posts in the schools across Punjab. The CM announced to impose a ban on giving corporal punishment in schools and madaris on the request of Malala and added that awarding physical punishment to students in madaris and schools especially to female students

will not be acceptable at all.

CM Elahi lauded the activities of Malala Fund and extended an invitation to Malala Yousafzai, her father Zia ud Din Yousafzai, her husband Asar Malik and the allied delegation to visit the tourism of Lahore.

Malala also thanked the Chief Minister on according her a warm hospitality. To expeditiously promote steam programmes comprising (science technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) was agreed during the meeting.

Programme Director Malala Fund Pakistan Javed Ahmed Malik said that Malala Fund is focused to improve the vision of our education so as to have access to quality education along with enhancing the abilities of maximum number of females in order to empower them as well.

The Malala's father Ziauddin Yousafzai, her husband Asar Malik, country head Malala Fund Pakistan Javed Ahmed, Maria Qantenia, Nida Sultan, Shehna, Chief Secretary Abdullah Khan Sumbal, Secretary Schools Education and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

FM urges UNSC to implement resolutions on Kashmir issue



News Desk

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday stressed upon the United Nations Security Council to implement its resolutions over the Kashmir issue and deliver upon its commitment to peace in the region and 'prove that multilateralism can succeed'.

Speaking on "International peace and security" Reformed Multilateralism" in the Security Council, the foreign minister said that there was an agenda item left unaddressed by the UNSC, the issue of Kashmir.

"We believe it a multinational agenda, an agenda of this UNSC and if you want to see the success of the multilateral institution or multilateralism and the success of this very Council, surely you can aid in this process; allow the implementation of the resolutions of the UNSC, when it comes to the question of Kashmir, prove the multilateralism can succeed, prove that the UNSC can succeed and deliver peace in the region," he added.

FM urges UNSC to implement resolu-

tions on Kashmir issue

He said that Pakistan believed that further democratization of the UN and the UNSC and the General Assembly would empower this institution and provide it a moral authority to act. "It would serve the institution to further democratize and to allow the sovereign quality of all and not the superiority of some."

"It does not serve the purposes of the UN to add more members to its elitist club and to expand the tyrannical power of veto," he said.

The foreign minister said the world's attention must also turn away from pursuing narrow national ambitions to addressing the several global threats and challenges we confront: climate change; the nuclear threat; terrorism; refugees and migration; famine and hunger; the misuse of the metaverse.

"Simultaneously, we must confront the rise of the ideologies of hate, xenophobia, populist extremism and racial and religious intolerance, including Islamophobia, which imposes discrimination and violence, and even threats of genocide, against vulnerable minorities in certain countries," he added.

Foreign Minister Bilawal said multilateralism must be based on universal and consistent adherence to the fundamental principles of the UN Charter - self-determination of peoples, non-use or threat of force, non-acquisition of territory by the use of force, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Naval Chief to visit Morocco from 18-21 Dec

Raja Furqan Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi would undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco from 18-21 December 2022.

During the visit, the Chief of Naval Staff shall undertake visits to various naval installations at Tangier and Casablanca in addition to holding talks with his counterpart at the Royal Moroccan Naval Headquarters in Rabat.

It may be recalled that Defence cooperation between Pakistan and Morocco has improved significantly since the opening of a Defence Wing at the Pakistan Embassy in Rabat in 2019. In the last two years, the Chief of Army Staff as well as the Chairman Joint Chiefs Staff Commit-

tee undertook visits to the Kingdom of Morocco. A delegation from Morocco also attended the IDEAS defence exhibition in Pakistan in 2022, and men and officers of various ranks are undergoing training in each other's facilities.

In 2019 two Pakistani Navy warships had visited Morocco on a goodwill visit and had also taken part in a sea exercise with Moroccan Navy vessels.

There is a regular exchange of working-level visits and efforts are underway for collaboration in Defence Equipment supplies. During the trip to Morocco of Pakistan Navy Chief, he shall also travel by Africa's pioneering high-speed train "Al-Burak" which touches 320 km on its journey between Casablanca and Tangier.

Education Minister appreciates HEC's performance, ensures support to overcome challenges

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain visited Higher Education Commission (HEC) Secretariat here on Wednesday. Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed briefed the Minister on Commission's performance during the last 20 years, different challenges faced by country's higher education sector as well as steps being taken to improve the quality of higher education. The meeting was attended by HEC's senior management.

The briefing included an overview of HEC's performance since its establishment in 2002, especially in the areas of academia-industry linkages, improving the quality of education and research, enhancing access to higher education, encouraging diverse population to pursue higher studies, increasing female enrolment in higher learning institutions across all disciplines as well as financial challenges that have hampered the proper growth of higher education sector as per international



standards.

The Minister acknowledged the fiscal pressure that HEC is facing and appreciated its performance despite all kinds of challenges. "We are here to support you. Education is one of our top priorities and I will make sure that the higher education sector does not suffer because of financial constraints."

The Minister, however, emphasized introducing more stringent steps to ensure quality at all levels of higher education. He said that the institutions of higher learn-

ing should be regularly monitored and any institution that violates the quality parameters should be strictly advised to fulfill all basic requirements.

The Chairman informed the Minister that "since its inception, HEC has not only helped increase the number of higher education institutions to 249 but has also put in serious effort to ensure quality of education being imparted and increase volume and quality of research in Pakistan. Our universities are now technologically equipped as per the modern standards and Pakistan is

emerging as a rising star in Asia".

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed also elaborated scholarships projects HEC has been offering to make education accessible for students, particularly those from far-flung and less privileged areas. He also highlighted the international scholarship opportunities provided by HEC that enable Pakistani students to pursue higher studies in best universities of the world.

"Over 40% of the government's total investment in higher education sector has been on human resource development and we have maintained the most transparent and cautious approach for selection of students. We have allocated funds for need-based scholarships in recurring budget for universities so no student who has made it to a university on merit has to discontinue studies due to financial constraints. As a result of all these initiatives, one of country's recent achievements is that Pakistan won the greatest number of Erasmus+ Scholarships while India remained on the second number," the Chairman added.

IS 8rd Pakistan Mountains Youth Forum

Mountain youth urge help for startups in native towns

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the 8th Pakistan Mountain Youth Forum, the youth representatives from the mountain areas urged the authorities for an integrated socioeconomic development of the youth within their native areas. Lack of economic opportunities is causing rapid migration from mountain areas to main urban areas downstream. The education system itself in the mountain areas is not equal to the one available downstream.

The mountain youth forum was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) at the SZABIST Islamabad campus in connection with 12th Pakistan Mountain Festival.

Dr. Khuro Pervaiz, Head of Campus, was the chief guest. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and Founder Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed and PPAF Manager Institutional Development and Integration Shahid Hussain were the guests of honour. The main speakers included Irum Ali Adnan and Anushah Nadir (Chitral), Anmol Heera and Samreen (Hunza), Sabahat Mirza (AJK), and Anita Ikram from Baltistan.



Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Khuro Pervaiz said that the SZABIST was engaging youth in conservation action advocacy interventions with communities. Our own faculty members and students have fully turned the SZABIST Islamabad campus on solar energy. The students are consistently engaged in community education on climate adaptation and tree-plantation.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and Founder Pakistan Mountain Festival Munir Ahmed urged the youth to focus more on the conservation of natural resources in their native areas after completing their education. Instead of searching jobs, the educated should launch their own business engaging the

local youth and women. It would help strengthen the socioeconomic profile of the local areas and markets. Across the world, societies depend more on women, yet have less access to resources they need for their socioeconomic development. It is our responsibility to provide them with the required facilities.

Sabahat Mirza said Kashmir is no less than heaven and it is surrounded by the beautiful mountains, orchards and lakes. In recent years, the timber mafia was very active and chopped down many of the lush green valleys. Land sliding and water shortage has emerged as the two major challenges for the AJK.

The other main issue, she said, was

the segregated families living in AJK and the Indian occupied Kashmir. Firing from the Indian side is another cause of frustration. We are still living in doldrums seven decades after the independence of Pakistan.

Anita Karim said Greta Thunberg is one example for today's youth making their move to fight against climate change. She was only 15 years old when she started her fight against climate change. She was speaking on climate change, but her real fight was against the people in power not doing anything serious to solve climate issues. The Siachen Glacier in Gilgit Baltistan, which is the world's second-largest glacier after Antarctica, is under huge threat due to climate change.

At the beginning of this year, she said, we saw two major floods in the Hunza district due to the sudden advancement of the Shishper glacier making the Shishper Lake burst and causing destructive flooding of the downstream valley. This flood cut the link of major tourist areas of Hunza from the rest of Pakistan causing huge losses to every business related to both local and international. In addition to that, District Ghizer also came under major floods this year in its various parts.

Dangerous

RAWALPINDI: Motorists facing difficulties due to open manhole at Mareer Chowk Murree Road which may cause any incident at any time and needs the attention for concerned authorities.



Photo: Online

Legalizing Heated Tobacco Products has put Pakistani Children in Grave Danger

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a dialogue arranged by Society for the Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC), health activists raised concerns that federal cabinet has approved SRO to regularize heated tobacco products. According to tobacco control activists and health experts this decision will put Pakistani children in grave danger.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, stated that this decision will play as a gateway to legalize other tobacco prod-

ucts such as e-cigarettes and nicotine pouches. This decision will also encourage more females and children between the ages of 13-15 to initiate tobacco use because of easy availability, in result it will cause more diseases and deaths. About 170,000 people die annually because of tobacco-induced diseases in Pakistan. Tobacco use has become a pandemic in Pakistan with over 31 million people consuming tobacco in some form. More Pakistani children will be exposed to tobacco and be hooked on if no steps are taken against this industry which is trying to destroy

the future of our children.

Dr. Zia Uddin Islam country lead, Vital Strategies, expressed that modern forms of nicotine based products launched by tobacco industry are addictive and can cause long-term health hazards to young users. These products attract the attention of children because of their vast online presence and promotion. He mentioned that health burden has increased because of tobacco induced non-communicable diseases and allowing modern products will only jack up national healthcare cost which

is devastating for the economy.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager (SPARC), said that securing the health and future of Pakistani children should be the top priority for government at times like these when our economy and health system is struggling. Pakistan can learn from the example of New Zealand which has become the first country to implement annually rising legal age of smoking. This long-term planning is required ensure that our future generations remain protected from the harms of tobacco.

Koi Menu Na Rokay – Pasoori breaks the record for the most streamed Pakistani song on Spotify

News Desk

KARACHI: has been the year of "Pasoori", the infamous track of Ali Sethi and Shae Gill from Coke Studio Season 14 that listeners still can't get enough of, making it the most streamed Pakistani song on Spotify for 2022. "Pasoori" with its catchy lyrics, groovy beat and hip vibe has been a viral sensation since its release and was cited as the most streamed Pakistani song of the year, as per Spotify's Wrapped insights, both locally and globally.

Ali Sethi, the magical vocalist of the track, has shared the achievement on his social media platforms abundantly. "Pasoori has surpassed expectations, overcome prejudices, and broken so many records. I am so proud of Pasoori for achieving these milestones while fully embodying its message of inclusion," Ali commented while expressing his excitement over the love that the song has received the world over.

At the same time, Shae Gill, who is EQUAL Pakistan's Ambassador for the month of December has been loving the universality of her song both conceptually and musically. She admired the extent of how many people the track has managed to touch around the world. "A huge achievement for Pakistan and something that we all can be proud of," she exclaimed.

Pasoori's virality has known no bounds inspiring numerous renditions and performances, keeping its position strong amongst listeners who just can't stop obsessing over it.



Adnan Khan returned from Kathmandu Nepal

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE :Pakistan completes its first MTB Commissaire from UCI Mr. Adnan Ahsan Khan President of Punjab Cycling Association has returned from Kathmandu Nepal after completing UCI MTB commissaire course. Khan was recommended by the Pakistan Cycling Federation for this competitive course and thus became the first Pakistani to achieve the said qualification. Mtb has a huge scope in the cycling world while Pakistan is blessed with unlimited scenic trails for different classifications. On this occasion, President PCF Syed Azhar Ali Shah said that Adnan Ahsan Khan's expertise should be utilized to bring sports tourism to Pakistan, which will help the economy and cycling sports in the region. General Secretary Pakistan Cycling Federation Moazzam Khan Klair congratulating Adnan Ahsan Khan, he said that after completing this course, there are commissaire of three levels of cycling, road, track and MTB in Pakistan, which is an important milestone in the history of Pakistan cycling and he has made all the cycling community proud after the completion of the above said course.



CECOS University Holds Convocation 2022

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR : ECOS University of IT and emerging sciences, Peshawar, KP's pioneer university with a legacy of nearly four decades held its convocation 2022 on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. Mr. Najeeb Haroon, Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council honored the ceremony as chief guest.



More than five hundred graduates and their parents participated in the ceremony along with the faculty of CECOS University. 14 students were awarded with gold medal distinction on the basis of outstanding performance during their academic career.

Chairman PEC, Mr. Najeeb Haroon shared his views for the inspiration of graduates. He evoked the concept of entrepreneurship to the newly graduated students and reminded the graduates that they are the future of Pakistan. Mr. Najeeb concluded with well wishes and congratulations to Engr. Tanveer Javed, President CECOS University and his team on achievement of numerous milestones.

"It is the toughest of times in terms of worldwide economic conditions, but it is these conditions that need new ideas and new approach to bring the change that is needed, be that change and be that new idea that inspires the world" said Engr. Tanveer Javed, President CECOS University during his note of thanks.

CECOS University started its journey in 1986 as a pioneer institution of technology in Peshawar, now nearly four decades down the lane, it has become an educational hub that is rooted to the fields of Management, Integrative Bio Sciences, Medicine, Life Sciences, Basic Sciences & Humanities along with exponential growth in numerous Engineering & Computer related fields.

University of Education, UVAS and Friesland Campina announce research results

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: University of Education (UoE), University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) and FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan (FCEPL) announced research results of their collaborative project of School Milk Program (SMP) at a ceremony in Lahore. Attendees included Food Minister Sardar Hasnain Bahadur, Dr Yasmin Rashid, Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Minister, Raja Humayun Sarfaraz, Minister for Higher Education Punjab, VC UoE, Talat Pasha, VC UVAS, Nasim Ahmad, DG PFA Mudassar Riaz Malik, World Food Program Ms Amara Khan, govt officials, academia, development & UN agencies, and media.

Launched jointly by UoE, UVAS and FCEPL in 2021, SMP aimed to generate research-based evidence on the benefits of daily milk consumption for children and highlight the need to develop a policy for providing milk in

schools at a national level.

"The SMP results successfully reflect the importance of inclusivity and sustainability in the nourishment process. The act of providing milk in the daily diets of school going children and how it needs to be expanded to all of Pakistan for a healthy, nourished and well-educated Pakistan. The consumption of packaged, high-quality, safe milk should become part of legislative development through endorsement of the School Milk Program." Said Sardar Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak, Minister for Food, Government of Punjab. "I appreciate the dedication and commitment of University of Education, UVAS and FrieslandCampina for working cohesively towards making this program a success."

Dr Yasmin Rashid, Specialised Healthcare Minister said "No policy framework can be effective unless backed by research. Scientific research plays an integral role in establishing and impacting policy develop-

ment and legislation. 40% of the children in Punjab are malnourished. I am very happy to see that the School Milk Program has been initiated. The results reflect that children's heights and weights have increased after the Program, and will definitely help in initiating dialogue with the relevant government departments"

Punjab Minister for Higher Education Raja Yasir Humayun Sarfraz stated: "Research is the forte of universities and we should using this as a foundational resource for optimum policy frameworks – so that it stays relevant for the future."

SMP reiterates that milk as an essential food is integral to a complete and healthy meal. The Program evaluated the status of children in selected schools of Attock and Sheikhpura and the impact that milk provision (full cream milk & flavoured) had on their growth, nutritional deficiencies, and body composition – results of which were announced at the event.

"By providing milk, the health indicators have objectively improved in all children who received it." Said Prof Dr Nasim Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences.

University of Education, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha commended the Govt of Punjab and said "The pilot project was implemented along scientific lines with purely professional methods. Not only the participating children, but their parents were also taken into confidence and made aware of the objectives of the SMP. The results were amazing."

The SMP also addressed issues of rampant truancy and lack of children's education in the country. Currently, Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children with an estimated 22.8 million (44%) children aged between 5-16 not attending school at all. In the 5-9 age group, 5 million children are not enrolled in schools and after primary-school



age, the number doubles. 11.4 million adolescents between the ages of 10-14 are not receiving formal education. Nearly 10.7 million boys and 8.6 million girls are enrolled at the primary level and their numbers drop significantly (to 3.6 million boys and 2.8 million girls) by the time they reach the lower secondary level.

Ali Ahmed Khan, Managing Director, FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Ltd said "At FrieslandCampina, our vision is Nourishing by Nature, now and for generations to come. The

School Milk Program is an extension of that. With these learnings, we will further partner with the Government and Development agencies to expand this program throughout Pakistan and provide lasting nutrition to our children. Doing so will ensure better attendance in schools as well."

The successful completion and results of the School Milk Program are reflective of high impact, collaborative partnerships between the private and public sector in pursuit of the health and well-being of the nation.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:35 am
Zohr 12:02 pm
Asr 3:23 pm
Maghrib 5:01 pm
Isha 6:30 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Enquiry 117
Railway Inquiry 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883

Winter vacations announced for Punjab schools

News Desk

LAHORE: The provincial authorities have announced winter vacations for the private and government schools of Punjab, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

A notification was issued by the Punjab School Education Department regarding the vacations that will be observed from December 24 to 31.

The schools will be reopened on January 2 across Punjab.

On December 8, the Sindh government announced winter vacations across the province.

As per details, Sindh Education and Literacy Department announced that all public and private education institutions in the province will remain closed on account of winter vacations from December 21, 2022 to January 1, 2023.

The notification for vacations was issued after the approval of Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah said the educational institutes across Sindh will reopen on Jan 2, 2023.

Dar reiterates need for developing 'Charter of Economy'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Wednesday reiterated the idea of developing 'Charter of Economy' to keep the economy out of politics on sustainable growth path and lead the country towards progress.

"Politics must be detached from the economy" the finance minister said at the Second Pakistan Prosperity Forum on 'Sustained Economic Growth: Roadmap and Roadblocks,' organized by Prime Institute and Business Recorder.

Instead of launching negative campaigns, the political parties should force the incumbent government to move the country back on the path where it was in 2017.

Mohammed A. Rajpar, Chairman Board of Trustees PRIME presenting souvenir to Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar at "Second Pakistan Prosperity Forum". APP

He lamented that the Pakistan was going to be part of G20 in a few

years owing to the policies of Pakistan Muslim League government, however instead of making collective efforts to reduce this timeline, negative campaigns put the country away from the target. However, he was optimistic that it was not late to enable the country become part of G20 with collective efforts of all.

He said if conference are held abroad and people are told that Pakistan was debt trapped country, or corrupt country, who would choose it for investment.

Talking about the debt issue, the minister said it was below Rs25000 billion when the Pakistan Muslim League (N) left in 2018 and if debt liabilities are added, it was calculated at Rs30,000 billion. However, it reached to Rs44500 billion within a few months after PML(N) left and stands at Rs45000 billion currently.

"This is an unbearable increase in the debt" the minister remarked adding that the debt piled up due to two main reason including skyrocketing of fiscal deficit and fall in rupee value. He said, Rs4000

billion were added to public debt on external side due to rupee depreciation.

He said, the rupee was allowed free fall to help enhance exports, which during the three years, increased only by \$800 million whereas the country was inflicted loss of Rs4000 billion in terms of debt increase

He said, the incentive packages of Rs180 billion and Rs67 billion provided to export-oriented industry in 2017-18 were based on the performance of industry in enhancing exports. Had the upcoming government followed the model instead of mismanaging subsidies, the condition would have been different now.

Dar said, that his government had self-imposed the debt limitation and fiscal responsibility and had fixed debt to GDP ratio at 60 percent.

He said, currently the debt to GDP ratio of United States was 110 percent, United Kingdom 101 percent and in Japan 257 percent. He lamented that debt to GDP ratio



has been a hot topic in Pakistan but politicians in US, UK, Japan never make it an issue.

On exchange rate issues, the federal minister said in any system there are certain speculators, gamblers, hundawalas, who take country's currency as hostage. So, if the state did not come in play, "then what will happen, is what has

happened now."

He said, Bank of England, Bangladesh and India do intervene, so the governments had to make sure that the abusive practices are checked. He said, Pakistan had constraints of foreign reserves, so it can not afford these malpractices.

He said, dollars and urea were being smuggled to neighbouring

country adding Pakistan Customs caught smuggler with 100,000 dollars.

He said urea fertilizer, which Pakistan imports for local consumption and had to give subsidy on domestic production, was being smuggled to neighboring country, which he said was causing loss to the national exchequer.

Launch

Karachi: Imtiaz Shaikh Sindh Energy Minister, Mirza Umer Country Head of Gold Wind, Mohammad Naeem Qureshi Managing Editor Energy Update, Salim Shaikh CEO STDC, Erum Khan And others posing a group photo on the occasion of launch of a solution factory by Leading wind energy company Goldwind at Marriott Hotel.



All stakeholders play their role to end political polarization: RCCI

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq urged that all stakeholders should play their role and work for the end of political polarization. "We have to bring seriousness and maturity in our attitudes. Fake news, distorting information for some likes on social media, sensationalism in talk shows, defamatory remarks, and such actions should be discouraged.

Addressing the second tax awards ceremony at Awan e Sadr Islamabad he said that all stakeholders have to work together in the larger interest of the country.

Saqib Rafiq said that RCCI was making efforts to promote business activities in the coun-



try, enhancing exports, and developing linkages with foreign trading partners in different sectors, particularly the IT sector. He further

stressed upon continuation of policies for promotion of industrialization in the country, besides attracting foreign investors to invest in Pakistan.

He also mentioned the role of RCCI in promoting entrepreneurship and highlighted RCCI's efforts for Women Empowerment.



Khushhali Microfinance Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Ufone (PTML). According to this agreement, Khushhali Bank will outsource its collection call center to Ufone. Ahmad Kamal, Group Chief Customer Care Officer (Ufone) and Ghalib Nishtar, President & CEO (Khushhali Microfinance Bank) were present at the Signing Ceremony along with other senior officials. The ceremony was held at Khushhali Microfinance Bank Corporate Office, Islamabad.

Punjab uplifts major sectors by approving various development schemes in its 34th PDWP forum

LAHORE: The Punjab Provincial Development Working Party approved four development schemes of various sectors with an estimated cost of Rs. 2,459,205 million. These schemes were approved in the 34th meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) of current fiscal year 2022-23 presided over the Chairman Planning & Development Board Abdullah Khan Sumbal.

The approved development schemes included Provision of Lodging Facility to 1000 Female Students at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad at the cost of Rs. 919,853 million, Construction of Residences for Judicial Officers at Faisalabad Headquarters (Revised) at the cost of Rs. 1,189,039 million, Feasibility Study & Detailed Design of Latee Dam Site (District Talagang), (PC-II) at the cost of Rs. 49,255 million, Feasibility Study for Exploring Water Potential of Soan River and District Rawalpindi (PC-II) at the cost of Rs. 301,058 million.

Provincial Secretary P&D Board Dr. Muhammad Sohail Anwar Chaudhary, all Members of the Planning & Development Board, Provincial Secretaries of concerned departments, and other senior representatives of the relevant Provincial Departments also attended the meeting.

Senator Zarqa Suhrawardy calls on AJK President; discusses deteriorating human rights situation in IIOJK

MIRPUR: Senator Dr. Zarqa Suhrawardy called on Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, at Kashmir House on Wednesday, and discussed in detail the issues of mutual concern including the worsening situation of human rights situation in IIOJK.

Both the leaders reiterated to continue raising the Kashmir dispute at every forum within and outside the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the President AJK asked the senator to raise the issue of Kashmir in the Senate of Pakistan and also play her role regarding the formation of a caucus committee in the American Congress so that the voice of Kashmiris could be raised effectively in the United States. President AJK assured Senator Dr. Zarqa Suhrawardy of his full cooperation in this regard. APP

Noor Mukadam murder case: IHC seeks CCTV footage

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed authorities to produce complete CCTV footage before the court in the Noor Mukadam murder case.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan and Justice Aamir Farooq resumed hearing the appeals of convicts against the verdict. After watching the CCTV, the lawyer Kamran Murtaza argued that the CCTV footage is fabricated to benefit Zahir Jaffer, The High Court adjourned the hearing of the case till tomorrow.

In other details, Zahir Jaffer, convicted of murdering Noor, has filed an appeal, while his work staff Iftikhar and Jan Mohammad have also filed appeals against their sentences.

It is pertinent to mention here that on February 2022, a district and sessions court in Islamabad sentenced the prime accused, Zahir Jaffer, to death in the high-profile Noor Mukadam murder case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Atta Rabbani announced the verdict. Besides Zahir, the court handed ten-year imprisonment to two of his employees — Jamil and Jan Mohammad — while acquitted Tahir Zahoor, the owner of a counseling and psychotherapy service named Therapy Works, and his five employees. The judge also acquitted the prime accused's parents — Zakir Jaffer and Asmat Adamjee — in the case.

A 27-year-old woman, Noor Mukadam, was murdered on July 20 within the jurisdiction of the Kohsar police station in Islamabad's F-7 area. She was the daughter of Pakistan's former ambassador to South Korea and Kazakhstan Shaukat Mukadam.

PNCA holds cultural programmes to mark Quaid's birth anniversary

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) here Wednesday arranged colorful cultural programs to mark the upcoming birth anniversary of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on December 25.

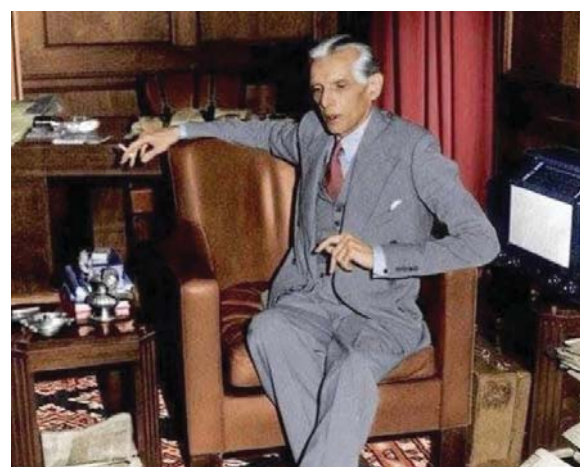
The programs included speeches, mili naghma performances and painting activities with the participation of students from various educational institutions of twin cities while National Puppet Theater presented a puppet show for the children and youth.

Puppeteers dressed up their puppets in green and white costumes following the colors of the national flag to express the joyous moments of the

Independence movement and highlight the sacrifices of the freedom fighters. Colourful puppets portrayed the history of the Pakistan Movement in the form of stories and performing art to grab the attention of the children and educate them about their history.

Mili Naghma show was presented by students with a performance of national songs and melodies to highlight the theme of freedom movement and national heroes while the youth shared their ideas to recall the historical moments that led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Subcontinent in the speech competition.

Celebrating the national days with art and cultural programmes is a regular



feature of PNCA's activities that not only celebrate the occasion but also involve young talent to create awareness among the masses about the importance of historical days.

Involvement of students in highlighting the contributions of national heroes and the significance of national days through artistic programs gives them the opportunity to

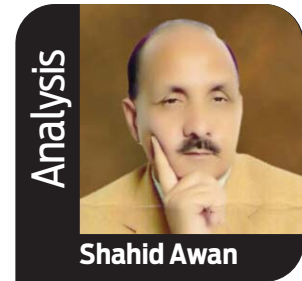
understand the history and ideologies of such events in their true perspective, said Director General PNCA, Ayub Jamali while talking to APP.

The show is an attempt to pay rich tributes to the father of the nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his valuable contribution towards the creation of Pakistan. "Our younger generation needs to work hard by following the footsteps of Quaid. Our youth has great potential, they can make Pakistan prosperous by adopting the teachings of Quaid", he said.

Besides depicting the culture and traditions of the country, such shows also educate the youth regarding the struggle for freedom fighters through soft expressions of art, he added.

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Centenary History of Air Marshal Noor Khan



Analysis

Shahid Awan

On February 23, 1923, a child was born in the house of Captain Maher Khan in the village of Taman in Talagang, who was named Noor Khan. Such names were part of the culture of that area. Noor Khan joined the Indian Air Force and eventually retired as an Air Marshal. He played a great role in bringing cricket and hockey to the top. He entered in politics for a few years but left it after a short period of time due to his principles. During this short time, he set up primary schools in his tehsil and when he became Governor of Punjab for a short period, then issued pension for teachers. It was an honor to travel in a national airline, when he was made the Chairman of PIA. He left the world on December 15, 2011. In this way, it will be 100 years since he came into the world in the coming year 2023. To pay trib-

ute to him, some bright aspects of his life should be brought out so that the younger generation can get aware of great achievements of this National Hero.

PIA, which was the symbol of Pakistan's prestige during the era of Air Marshal Noor Khan has become a laughing stock in the whole world today. All departments and branches of air travel, including the media, need not to be told that after Air Marshal Noor Khan, the graph of PIA gradually fell down and then fell so that it could never be recovered. If not today, then tomorrow, time will tell how the airline, which once held its unique position in the world, reached this state of disrepair. Noor Khan was the shining star of the nation who held any position in Air Force, PIA, Hockey, Cricket, Squash field and took the name and position of Pakistan to the top. Tourists from major developed countries, travelers preferred PIA over domestic airlines. Noor Khan's love for his country and passion can be understood from an incident that on January 20, 1978, when a PIA plane was hijacked. The hijacker ordered the pilot to leave the plane from India.

Chairman PIA Air Marshal Noor Khan went into the plane alone to negotiate with the armed hijacker, although his security staff forbade him and

the law did not allow it. Noor Khan engaged the hijacker in conversation and suddenly pounced on him. The hijacker had a pistol in his hand which went off while the bullet hit him in the leg. However, he controlled the hijacker and the lives of hundreds of passengers of the plane were lost. Today the situation of PIA is such that in some countries restrictions have been imposed on our national airline, while those airlines which were taught to walk by PIA are now taking over the business of PIA in these countries.

There was no compromise in Noor Khan's life. A young man named Mahfooz Mustafa Bhutto was the nephew of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He was a Sales Promotion Officer in PIA. His office was near the Karachi Gymkhana Club and he was called as "Tiko". Mumtaz Bhutto was the Chief Minister of Sindh at that time, therefore all the activities of Mahfooz would be limited to moving from the CM House to various government offices including the Secretariat and signing various files instead of the PIA. When this news came to Noor Khan, he took strict notice and issued him a show cause notice and warned that if he wants to get a job in PIA, he has to work. Meanwhile, after an official meeting in Larkana,

Prime Minister Bhutto asked to take care of the said young man, Noor Khan did not give any answer and left after smiling. Perhaps many people do not know why Air Marshal Noor Khan retired from PIA, then later this reason became the reason for his retirement.

People like Noor Khan are the salt of the earth. Noor Khan is a great benefactor of Pakistan Sports, PIA's coalitions scheme, thanks to his selfless and far-reaching efforts, Pakistan made its mark in the world of hockey, cricket and squash. In 1996, the renowned sports commentator Muhammad Toufiq got the honor of his long interview for PTV's program Sport Roundup, the idea was that he would build bridges of long introduction and praises regarding his services. According to Mohammad Toufiq, he shrugged and ended the conversation in a short sentence

"Well it was my duty; that's all".

People like Air Marshal Noor Khan are not born every day, they are the pride of Talagang and will continue to be. Now that Talagang has become a district, in his memory Pakistan Air Force has installed a fighter plane at Siddique Chowk. There are piles of garbage of dirt keep piling up, Deputy Commissioner Musawar

Ahmad Khan and ADCR Talagang Adnan Anjum Raja to design a beautiful square in recognition of his services. Besides a cadet college and a modern hospital should be built in his native village Taman as promised by the Air Force Chief, and the road from Talagang to Injara should be named after him.

A late friend of ours, Malik Mohammad Ayub who was a well-known banker, went on a visit to India Former PM India Indira Gandhi's house was given the status of a museum by the government. He says that when our delegation was taken to see the museum, his chest swelled with joy when a portrait of Air Marshal Noor Khan was displayed alongside Indira Gandhi. He was a person who is remembered not only by the people of his own country, but the stories of his bravery are also told with respect in the neighboring enemy country. Special programs should be organized on December 15 so that the young generation can be proud of him. His grandson Dr. Shah Roz Khan is serving in the Government Hospital of Taman while his nephew Sardar Asif Khan Taman is serving the country as Federal Secretary. May Allah raise the ranks of the deceased.

Writer is senior analyst

Federal Ombudsman vows all-out effort for providing relief to public

Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, on Wednesday, said that most of the complaints filed by public were against power and natural gas distribution companies.

He was addressing a press conference after chairing a meeting with representatives of different federal government departments and service provider companies here at Federal Ombudsman Regional Office. Senior Adviser and In-charge of Regional Office Syed Anwar Haider was also present on the occasion.

The federal ombudsman said that power distribution companies and natural gas providing companies had a vast clientele consisting of millions of people due to which the number of complaints against them was also higher. Same was the case with other government entities which dealt with public, he argued and added that there was a significant number of complaints against BISP, EOBI, State Life and Postal Life insurance was also high.

Ejaz Qureshi said that efforts were underway to make the federal ombudsman secretariat (FOS) more active and effective for ensuring resolution of public issues at the earliest, and provision of relief to masses. He informed that the secretariat had received and taken action on 110,000 complaints in year 2021, while the number of complaints received in the current year 2022 is expected to reach 160,000.

The FOS disposed off a complaint within 60 days, while implementation on the decision was also ensured within a month or two, Qureshi said adding that compliance ratio in decided cases was over 90 percent, and implementation in the remaining cases faced delays due to filing of appeal to the president, or taking the matter to courts.

The report – containing issues like physical, psychological and sexual abuse being faced by street children and recommendation to address the issues – was shared with all the relevant departments so that appropriate measures could be taken to elevate their status, he mentioned, adding that the secretariat would ensure follow up of the report and on successful implementation of the recommendations in the federal capital, the scope of the initiative would be extended to provincial level as well.

The ombudsman lauded role of media in sensitizing the public regarding their rights and stressed the media organisations to highlight the positive developments and good performance of organisations.

Responding to a question, he said that the FOS was eager to establish its offices at district level, but hefty financial requirements were the major constraint in it. Despite that, the FOS was reaching out to people through its regional offices, khuli katchehries, helpline and online apps, he said adding that it was receiving online complaints and was taking swift action on them.

Earlier, the federal ombudsman chaired a meeting with heads of different agencies, including Amir Zia, Chief Distribution Officer K-Electric, Lt Col (Retd) Muhammad Anees Khan, DG NADRA, Imran Munir, MD SSGC, Capt. (Retd) Asim Khan, Director (Operations) FIA, and officers of State Bank, State Life Insurance, EOBI and other departments.

Anwar Haider briefed the meeting about overall performance of the regional office and informed that the agencies were extending cooperation regarding disposal and resolving of public complaints. He apprised the Wafaqi Mohtasib that there had been some issues regarding implementation and reporting of the cases previously, "but now most of the reports are being received on the first hearing of cases".



Role of Azerbaijan in Promoting Intercultural Dialogue

Asif Tanveer Awan

In the present era when different parts of world are facing extremism and multidimensional cultural differences, intercultural dialogue and peace promoting activities are the need of hour. Such initiatives bring harmony and unity among the people of different religions and cultures. There are certain public figures, organizations and institutions that are currently working on raising the quality of arguments, favouring intercultural harmony and achieving the same purpose. In this regard, efforts of Azerbaijan are also worth mentioning. In recent days, State Committee for Religious Affairs of Azerbaijan, in its official capacity, held an international conference to promote religious and intercultural dialogue titled "International Conference on Promoting Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue for a Safer World" which took place in Brussels. It fostered cooperation by allowing participants to share their ideas on interreligious dialogue and exchange experiences.

The "Baku Process," started by the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, continued during the conference by promoting the growth of interfaith communication. Global issues like the rise in intolerance today represent a severe threat to social cohesion, security, and peace. In order to promote cultural diversity, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding



and intercultural dialogue is an important approach to countering and breaking down prejudices. It also recognizes the importance of eliminating all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion and belief and promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the global level, which is reflected in relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. Azerbaijan's position in favour of multiculturalism makes great efforts to actively promote these values. Multiculturalism has been the Azerbaijani way of life for centuries and is an important part of national politics.

This aforementioned conference is not only seen as a hallmark of bridging the gaps of difference, but also is seen as a great step towards making this world a better place to live in. A world where differences will not be despised rather will be appreciated.

A world where tolerance and understanding others perspectives will be prime virtues. Not only Azerbaijan should pace its robust efforts, but also the observer states should bring new initiatives to play their role in this sincere direction.

Many international events such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum, World Religious Leaders Summit, World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue, and Baku International Humanitarian Forum are held in Baku to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Azerbaijan.

Writer is senior Advocate of Islamabad High Court

The Kashmir Issue

Muhammad Raza

In any sane world, Pakistan and India ought to be super-close economic partners. Both countries have a common border of about 1,600 km (excluding the Line of Control). Both have developed nuclear weapons, and both have similar cultures because they originated from the Indian Sub-Continent. However, Pakistan is a Muslim-majority nation whereas India is a Hindu-majority nation. Religious differences between the Muslims and the Hindus led to the creation of two separate countries from the Sub-Continent. Pakistan had to face many problems immediately after its birth. One among these is the Kashmir issue.

The Kashmir issue remains a bone of contention between Pakistan and India since their independence and will continue to pose political, civil, and military problems between both countries if it remains unresolved. Pakistan has always tried to end disputes in a civilized, political, and peaceful manner. Similarly, Pakistan wants to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully. Pakistan does not wish ill will on the Indians. It merely asks for a referendum in Kashmir so that the people will be able to choose the country of their own choice. This was initially the plan to partition Kashmir, had India not interfered. As Kashmir originally had an eighty per cent Muslim population, they definitely would have voted for Kashmir to be annexed with Pakistan. However, India acted before any formal voting sessions could be held in Kashmir and forcefully occupied it. Despite the ceasefire, both Pakistan and India regularly exchange fire across the contested border in Kashmir, which is known as the Line of Control. This is one of the reasons why the Pakistan-India border is one of the most hostile

places on the planet. Needless to say, the root cause of the two countries' dispute is the Kashmir issue. If it were resolved, Pakistan and India could actually develop friendly relations with each other.

India claims that it considers Kashmir to be an integral part of itself. The very implication of this statement is that the people of Kashmir wish to be integrated with India. However, is that really the case? The presence of a large amount of military presence in Kashmir poses a question mark on the very essence of India's claim. Moreover, India has



always prevented the conduction of a plebiscite/referendum in Kashmir.

Unfortunately, the United Nations has done very little for Kashmir. Even though the UN agrees that the events happening in Kashmir are a clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), it hasn't extended any physical support toward Kashmir.

Despite the injustices against the people of Kashmir, Pakistan still wants to solve the dispute peacefully, because Pakistan acknowledges the fact that war between two nuclear powers will have far-reaching negative effects and will eventually lead to complete annihilation. However, Pakistan will absolutely not stand any further violence in Kashmir.

62-Year of Diplomatic Relationship & Counting

Nepal, Pakistan mutual ties weaved in trust & cooperation

Amjad Mehmood

The relationship between Nepal and Pakistan has always been cordial and friendly. The establishment of diplomatic relations in 1960 further enriched the bilateral engagements and understandings. Both the countries enjoy the excellent bilateral relations based on goodwill, mutual trust and cooperation. Nepal and Pakistan celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2019. Both countries have similar views on many issues of common interests at various regional and international forums. Nepal had opened its Embassy in 1962 in Karachi which was later shifted to Islamabad. Similarly, Pakistan has its Embassy in Kathmandu since 1963. This was stated by His Excellency, Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan while sharing his thoughts with media persons about Nepal and Pakistan diplomatic relationships.

He added that Nepal and Pakistan relations further strengthened by the high-level interactions and people-to-people



contacts. Bilateral trade, similar cultural and social values based on agrarian economy, tourism and mountaineering, cooperation in education sectors, among others, have further enriched the bilateral cooperation. Both countries are founders of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and have been working to promote regional cooperation.

Both Nepal and Pakistan have fragile eco-system. Hindukush-Himalayan region is very prone to natural disaster. The region is a water tower of Asia which provides water to 3 billion people. Climate change has impacted to the ecology of these region. Melting glaciers,

changing agriculture patterns, migration has impacted the livelihood of people and recent flood in Pakistan is a living testimony of climate change in our region. Therefore, Nepal and Pakistan needs to work together to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change.

"Nepal & Pakistan require to jointly work on mitigation the negative impacts of climate change"

Talking about mutual trades he said the bilateral trade relations are very limited between both countries but it is increasing gradually. We are optimistic on recent positive trends after the COVID-19 pandemic on bilateral economic engagements and hope it will surpass Pre-COVID level very soon. In 2020, Nepal exported goods of 100 million Nrs from Pakistan. The Embassy is committed to work with business community in Pakistan towards further enhancing the bilateral trade relations between our countries.

Tourism is a niche product of Nepal and it is a hub of adventure tourism. Many Pakistani friends visit Nepal as tourists and Nepali and Pakistani mountaineers are working together in



various mountaineering expeditions in Nepal or in Pakistan. Unavailability of direct air link has hampered large flow of tourists and once we could be able to re-connection of air services, there is high possibility of tourists' flow between Nepal and Pakistan.

He further added that Nepali and Pakistani mountaineers are working together in vari-

ous expeditions sharing skills, knowledge and techniques of mountaineering and expanding mountaineering in our countries. He expressed hopes and said "I believe continued cooperation between Nepali and Pakistani mountaineers will make a difference to both countries, making it the center of mountain and adventure tourism". Pakistan with 220 million populations is

a big market of tourism. Every year a large number of people visits different countries from Pakistan. Being in the neighborhood, simple visa regime, friendly environment, hospitable people, I believe Pakistani people will enjoy their visit in Nepal. "Pakistan has a rich culture & splendidly preserved to Buddhist heritage" Talking about the culture

and heritage of Pakistan he said that "Pakistan has rich cultural and religious heritage". It is the place where great religions and philosophy like Hinduism, Buddhism Sikhism and Sufism were established or flourished. There are Buddhists artifacts scattered across Taxila valley, Takhta-i-Bahi and in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other part of Pakistan. Taxila used to be a center of learning and propagating Buddhism in different parts of the world. It shows that Buddhism had deeply rooted in these areas. Buddhism is the fourth largest religion by number of followers in the world and there are many Buddhist countries or countries influenced by the philosophy of Buddhism. Pakistan can tap these resources to promote friendship, brotherhood and tourism as well as can generate employment and revenue inviting Buddhist tourists.

At the end, he said "I am happy to see the preservation of the Buddhist heritage in Pakistan despite being an Islamic country and I believe this is something the people of the world should know about it". He wished for further augmentation of mutual ties between both countries in future.

Pakistan Research Center receives excellence award in Beijing

News Desk

BEIJING: Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future was given the excellence award in Beijing, China, as an international research center that promotes the scholarly share future ideology between the two countries.

A forum titled "Building a Community with Shared Future - International Think Tank Forum (2022)", organized by the Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF) of the Communication University of China (CUC), awarded outstanding research center award, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. Khalid Taimur Akram,



Executive Director of Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, was given the Outstanding Individual Award.

Akram delivered a speech on the theme of "Building an Inclusive Development

Module under the Concept of a Community of Shared Future" and thanked CUC for giving him and his organization these outstanding awards.

"The world is undergoing unprecedented changes in a century. The COVID-19

pandemic, climate change, food problems, energy crisis, war, and conflict have brought many challenges to the world," Akram said.

Akram emphasized that the concept of a human community with a shared future brings new solutions to the above-mentioned problems faced by the world, and plans a common future development path for mankind from a holistic perspective, which he said will help the world cope with the common crisis and challenges.

The forum is part of the annual series of international top academic activities initiated by ICSF. About 80 participants around the world attended the online forum.

Meta launches digital program in Palestine to protect students online

Spokesman Report

WEST BANK, PALESTINE: Meta on Wednesday announced the launch of its online literacy flagship program, My Digital World, in Palestine.

The program will be implemented in partnership with the Center for Continuing Education at Birzeit University and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.

My Digital World provides youth with the skills to navigate digital spaces safely and responsibly, while benefiting from the resources offered by an increasingly digital world.

Mohammad Salameh, deputy chief of the UNRWA education program, said that students will be taught to maintain their digital security on one hand and develop competencies that "help them interact with their surroundings positively" on the other.

Meta's partnership with the Birzeit University Center for Continuing Education builds on the center's expertise in introducing interactive learning approaches to schools across the West Bank.

The company will train up to 100 UNRWA and private school teachers, and reach up to 15,000 students in seventh, eighth and the ninth grades across private and UNRWA schools.

"A generation of digitally savvy youth is defining the future of the MENA region," said Joelle Awwad, head of policy programs at Meta.

"At Meta, we believe that online safety is fundamental to that progress. My Digital World is our commitment to achieve this."

She said that Meta is committed to "the creation of an ecosystem where everyone, especially the younger generation, is capable of protecting themselves from potential risks."

UN urges de-escalation of tensions following border clashes between Indian, Chinese troops

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Tuesday called for easing of tensions along the Sino-Indian disputed Himalayan border, after India claimed its troops clashed with Chinese troops last week.

"We call for de-escalation to ensure that the tensions along the border in that area do not grow," the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing in New York.

According to the Indian army, the clash took in the Tawang sector of the disputed border last Friday, and a few soldiers on both sides suffered minor injuries.

KSrelief signs a joint cooperation agreement to provide shelter aid in Afghanistan



News Desk

RIYADH: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) and a civil society organization signed a joint cooperation agreement yesterday to help flood-affected families in Afghanistan with providing a shelter.

The agreement was signed in Riyadh by KSrelief Assistant Supervisor General for Operations and Programs Eng. Ahmad bin Ali Al-Baiz. As many as 32,000 people are expected to benefit from the agreement, which aims to secure and distribute 3,200 shelter bags to individuals affected by the floods in the capital city of Kabul as well as the states of Logar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Laghman, Kumar, Nuristan, Parwan, Wardak, Ghazni, Khost, and Kapisa.

This is a result of the center's efforts to urgently assist the afflicted people and nations in the numerous crises and disasters they are now experiencing.

Saudi Film Commission hosts Cinema in 2022 workshop

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: The Saudi Film Commission hosted a Cinema in 2022 workshop on Tuesday, Saudi Press Agency reported.

The workshop was led by Saudi film critic Ahmed Ayyad, who was joined by a number of critics, directors and media students from Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh.

Its first session, "The Arab Film Industry in 2022," examined the economic conditions of the industry and the local, regional and international film projects that were postponed as a result.

The second session of the workshop, "Arab Film Production 2022," focused on critics' assessments of Saudi cinematic production, the challenges that the national film industry faces as well as the need to boost the cinema scene



on online platforms.

The workshop also pointed to the positive elements of those challenges, such as the diverse tastes of audiences, regional competition, and disparities between quantity and quality in

production.

Attendees at the workshop stressed the need to focus on the effective marketing of films, the need to export content and the expansion of cinematic ideas.

Sri Lanka expects up to \$8bn more in loans, asset restructuring



News Desk

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka is expecting as much as \$5 billion in loans next year from multilateral agencies besides an IMF deal, while the government is aiming to raise up to \$3 billion via restructuring of state assets, its foreign minister told Reuters on Wednesday.

The island nation's worst economic crisis in more than seven decades has resulted in widespread unrest due to shortages of food and fuel. Its then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ousted in July.

Additional funds are critical for the country that is already saddled with a public external

debt of \$40.6 billion, of which it owes 22% to Chinese creditors.

In September, the country of 22 million reached an agreement with the IMF for a loan of \$2.9 billion, which could be approved for disbursement next year.

"Apart from what we get from the IMF, we are looking at all others, the multilaterals put together another \$4-\$5 billion ...," Ali Sabry said in an interview. Global investors fly blind into China's messy post-COVID transition

"The president is interested in restructuring some of the (state) institutions, so through that if we can raise \$2-\$3 billion, our treasury and reserves become strengthened."

Sri Lanka was expecting to seek IMF board approval for the loan in December but that has likely been pushed to January, the minister said, as the government works to lock in financing assurances from countries including China, Japan and India, as well as private creditors. Sabry said Sri Lanka was still waiting for "letters of assurance" for debt restructuring from its largest bilateral creditor China, as well as India.

The two countries have backed the restructuring efforts and Sri Lanka has shared documents and data with them, he said.

"We have made it very clear to the IMF, to our multilateral partners and to our bilateral friends

that patience is running out and it is urgent for the sake of Sri Lankans and the good health of the world economy," Sabry said.

Overall, Sri Lanka's economy has improved with essential imports such as fuel and food becoming regular, Sabry said.

Inflation, which edged above 70% earlier this year, eased to 61% at the end of November but the economy is expected to contract by about 8.7% this year.

"Some stability is taking place. Then growth can return," Sabry said. "So that should start in the next quarter of next year with the IMF loan coming in, other multilateral agencies coming in. But for growth to take place, it is going to be 2024."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

| Current | Prev. Close |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 41,737.62 | 41,714.30 |
| Day's High | Day's Low: |
| 41,873.91 | 41,542.32 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 2,826,901,486 | +23.32 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.06% | 14 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm |

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

| Index Value | Change |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 7,486.06 | -16.83 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.23% | 14 Dec, 3:50 pm GMT |

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

| Index Value | Change |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 34,300.73 | +192.09 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.56% | 14 Dec, 10:50 am GMT-5 |

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

| Index Value | Change |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 28,156.21 | +201.36 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.72% | 14 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

Open Market Forex Rates

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 151.49 | 152.74 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 597.77 | 602.27 |
| Canadian Dollar | 164.62 | 165.97 |
| China Yuan | 32.22 | 32.47 |
| Danish Krone | 31.87 | 32.22 |
| Euro | 254.5 | 256 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 28.91 | 29.26 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.72 | 2.8 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.06 | 2.11 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 731.56 | 736.56 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 50.95 | 51.4 |
| New Zealand \$ | 143.33 | 144.53 |
| Norwegians Krone | 22.43 | 22.73 |
| Omani Riyal | 583.84 | 588.34 |
| Qatari Riyal | 61.75 | 62.25 |
| Saudi Riyal | 63.8 | 64.4 |
| Singapore Dollar | 165.9 | 167.2 |
| Swedish Korona | 21.78 | 22.08 |
| Swiss Franc | 240.24 | 241.99 |
| Thai Bhat | 6.45 | 6.55 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 66.4 | 67 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 295 | 297.5 |
| US Dollar | 231.8 | 234.1 |

Govt making all-out efforts to revive economic condition: Senator Talha

Stable economy also guarantees free foreign policy

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Senator Talha Mehmood said a strong economy was imperative for the country's free foreign policy, so the government was taking all possible measures for it. He addressed the business community as a chief guest at the Second Invest in Pakistan Business Conference at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

The event was organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry and attended by the Ambassador of Brazil Olyntho Vieira, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugio, High Commissioner of Mauritius, Rashid Ali Subedar and Ambassador of Vietnam, Nguyen Tien Phong, Industrialists, businesspersons, especially those related to the tourism industry, real estate developers & builders, foreign diplomats, and relevant government officials.

The minister said that the "Government of Pakistan is laying the foundations of a strong country by efficiently handling difficult economic conditions". He said that the government was striving to encourage both local and foreign investors to put their money in Pakistan's differ-



ent sectors by offering various lucrative schemes with the promise of security. The minister said that the real estate and construction sectors in the country were growing rapidly. He assured

the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry of the government's full support and cooperation for holding business and investment exhibitions in the future.

Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry (PAEI) Founder & Chairman, Khurshid Barlas said that PAEI is the country's leading trade organization, which represented and protected the interests of the exhibition & business events industry and looks after the affairs to provide a conducive environment for emerging businesses. He said that the association was facilitating foreign investment in the country, especially in the construction and real estate sectors. Mr. Barlas said he was hopeful that event would contribute to the efforts for boosting the national economy to create business and investment opportunities.

Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan urged the federal government to take tangible steps to promote foreign investment in the country. He said that the real estate and construction sectors had the potential to uplift the economy and put the country on the right path of sustainable economic growth. He said that over 70 industries are associated with the construction sector and a boom in construction activities would boost the businesses of allied industries by creating plenty of employment opportunities.

Christmas preparation

KARACHI: Vendors display Christmas celebration decorating items outside their shops at Bohri Bazaar in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

NCC reviews projects worth \$5.6 billion

ISLAMABAD: The National Coordination Committee on Foreign-Funded Projects (NCC-FFP) on Wednesday reviewed 12 ongoing projects of road and transport sector amounting to \$5.6 billion.

The projects are funded by the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), Japan and South Korea, according to a Ministry of Economic Affairs news release.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq chaired the meeting, attended by the Federal Minister for Planning and Minister of State for Finance, Secretary of Economic Affairs Division, provincial additional chief secretaries, representatives

of the Prime Minister Office, Finance Division, Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority (NHA), and provincial P&D and line departments and boards of revenues.

The NCC-FFP, in the follow-up meeting, reviewed the compliance status of its decisions made in its previous meetings held on the transport and communication sector.

Minister Ayaz Sadiq lauded the efforts of line ministries and departments for the smooth implementation of foreign-funded projects in the sector, which, he said, were significant for improving regional connectivity and facilitating trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia. APP

Economic managers always created a fake impression of growth: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said the threat of default is causing great damage to the economy.

Thousands of containers are awaiting clearance at ports but are stuck due to the non-availability of foreign exchange and importers have to pay millions daily in demurrage and detention charges, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country is engulfed in a fire that cannot be extinguished by comforting statements as practical steps are needed to restore the confidence of local and foreign investors, which is not possible without revitalizing the IMF program.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that with the elections around the corner, the government is not taking tough decisions, which is making the situation worse.

He said that the country is currently suffering from an economic and financial crisis, most of which is being blamed on the situ-



ation arising from the war between Russia and Ukraine.

The fundamentals of the economy have become so weak that it cannot bear the burden of average economic activity.

The focus of economic managers is not on the development of the country, but on creating an impression of development, in which they get some success, but soon it results in a crisis, after which loans at high-interest rates are used to save the country.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due atten-

tion has not been given to the country's agriculture, due to which the country has to import agricultural products worth 17 billion dollars annually.

Last year four billion dollars worth of vehicles were imported and \$80 billion worth of imports brought the GDP to six percent and soon this development turned into a terrible economic crisis.

The business leader said that several times in the history of the country, huge crises have occurred as a result of fake development, but the policymakers never bothered to learn any lesson from it.

In the present scenario, the value of the dollar needs to be liberalized rather than controlled. As a result of dollar appreciation, the country's exports, remittances, and FBR revenue will increase which Pakistan badly needs.

To deal with inflation, a direct subsidy of Rs.10,000 per month can be given to low-income people. Moreover, ten thousand megawatts of electricity per month can be generated from solar energy within six months, which will reduce the import of ten billion dollars but our policymakers are unable to adopt new thinking, he said.

Government will soon overcome all economic problems, Tariq Pasha



Zubair Tufail, President UBG & Former Presidents FPCCI, Abdul Rauf Alam, Former President FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh Former Vice President FPCCI and Malik Sohail Hussain, Secretary General US-Pakistan International Chamber of Called on Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Revenue/ Minister of State, Tariq Mahmood Pasha.

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Revenue, Minister of State Tariq Mehmood Pasha has said that Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif is aware of the problems of the business community, all resources are being used to improve the country's economic condition and the government will soon provide all the economic resources will overcome the problems. He expressed these views in a meeting with the United Business Group

(UBG) delegation. According to Gulzar Feroze, the main spokesperson of UBG, the delegation included President UBG and former President FPCCI Zubair Tufail. Former President FPCCI Abdul Rauf Alam, Former Vice President Atif Ikram Sheikh and Secretary General US Pakistan International Chamber Malik Sohail Hussain were present. Tariq Mehmood Pasha said that the tax laws are being strictly implemented and any negligence by the officials of the revenue department will not be tolerated.

Zong 4G & Hands Pakistan Partner with Parks & Horticulture Authority to Develop an Urban Forest in Multan

News Desk

MULTAN : With the environment being one of the most critical challenges faced by Pakistan; the significance of planting trees and preserving the environment is greater than ever. In-line with Zong's commitment to a clean and green Pakistan, Zong 4G and Hands have partnered with the Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA), Multan to develop an urban forest in the Aam Khas Bagh.

This initiative is yet another

addition to the company's list of accomplishments in their efforts to address environmental concerns, which are crucial for Pakistan to counter the devastation of climate change affecting the country. The Zong 4G team, along with Hands, successfully planted over 700 trees in the city to develop an urban forest. After coordination with PHA, a diverse selection of trees including Tabeubia Yellow, Sukkchain, Terminalia, Amaltas, Guava, and Lemon, along with eight other types of trees, were planted.

The event was also graced by the presence of PHA Chairman, Mr. Ejaz Hussain Janjua and an esteemed representative from the disabled community, Mr. Nadir Ali Khan, District Project Manager, along with Zong 4G volunteers.

"It is imperative that major stakeholders recognize the issues that our country is currently facing and make an active effort to play their role in addressing them. I'm proud to say that Zong 4G is one of the few organizations that does their absolute best to give back

tosociety," noted the official spokesperson for Zong 4G.

"As a company that realizes the importance of preserving the environment and making it better for our future generations, Zong will continue on its agenda of countering the negative impacts of climate change facing Pakistan."

Commenting on the plantation drive, Ms. Raima Mehmood, Manager Natural Resource Management Department, HANDS, shared, "This activity has been initiated as the part of the HANDS Natu-



ral Resource Management Department's plans to promote tree plantations in urban settlements to reduce environmen-

tal stress, and our afforestation drive will contribute to making Multan more resilient to climate change.

Application of Kaizen in Micro Hydropower Turbine Manufacturing



December 14, 2022 Speakers pose for a photograph during a day-long conference on sharing best practices of the project" application of Kaizen in micro hydropower turbine manufacturing" organized by National Productivity Organization (NPO) Ministry of Industries and Production Islamabad in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo Japan here at local hotel.

News Desk

PESHAWAR: National Productivity Organization, (NPO) Pakistan in collaboration with APO Japan developed demonstration companies on "Application of Kaizen in Micro Hydropower Turbine Manufacturing. APO's role in the development of Asia-Pacific region is critical. This was highlighted during a dissemination conference held in Peshawar.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ejaz Afridi, Vice president Sarhad chamber of Commerce and Industry added that working together with NPO Pakistan we will be able to find solutions to long-standing problems of the industry.

The demonstration companies project is part of APO initiatives to raise awareness and promote the application of productivity concepts, tools, and techniques including kaizen in micro hydropower turbine manufacturing. It is also aligned with the APO's Green Productivity (GP) initiatives. GP is a strategy for simultaneously enhancing productivity and environmental performance for overall socio-economic development. Through dissemination activities in this project, multiplier effects are expected to support sustainable development and productivity improvement in Pakistan.

Babar Azam to lead Peshawar Zalmi in PSL-8

ISLAMABAD: Babar Azam, one of the leading batsmen of world and captain of Pakistan cricket team, has been handed over the reins of Peshawar Zalmi for the eighth edition of Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Babar Azam, who joined Peshawar Zalmi last month, said in a statement that the leadership of Peshawar Zalmi was an honour for him and he was excit-



ed about the new challenge. "Peshawar Zalmi is one of the best teams of PSL and has performed consistently", he added.

Chairman of Peshawar Zalmi Javed Afridi said that Babar Azam was currently the best batsman in the world in all three formats of the game and the pride of Pakistan cricket. "Peshawar Zalmi will perform brilliantly in the PSL 8, under his captaincy", he said.

He said that Babar's world-class batting and captaincy experience would help Peshawar Zalmi.

Peshawar Zalmi's management also thanked former captain and the most successful bowler of PSL history Wahab Riaz, expressing the hope that Wahab would continue to give match-winning performances in the PSL 8 as he did in the past. Agencies

Messi, Alvarez power Argentina cruise past Croatia and into FIFA WC Final

A Sports -

LUSAIL: Star player Lionel Messi struck on penalty before Julian Alvarez struck twice to power Argentina to seal a dominating 3-0 victory over Croatia and qualified for the final of the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Following their emphatic victory, the two-time champions Argentina seized a final berth after a hiatus of eight years when they last took on Germany in the 2014 edition.

Messi, who is keen to cap off his amazing career by winning his first World Cup, helped his team to victory with a superbly struck first-half penalty and sealed the victory by expertly producing the third goal. Dominik Livakovic accurately predicted Messi's intention to go to his left, but his dive went in vain as the Argentine's brilliantly executed shot sailed high into the net to put his team up 1-0 in the 34th minute.

Argentina doubled their lead five minutes later when, following a break from a corner, Alvarez scooped up the ball within his own half and began a long dribble towards the goal.

With the Croatian defence retreating, Alvarez rode weak tackles from Josip Juranovic and Borna Sosa before slipping the ball past Livakovic to give Argentina complete control in the first half.



Messi then produced a scintillating assist in the second half, tormenting Josko Gvardial down the right before leaving the 20-year-old defender behind and pulling

the ball back to Alvarez who calmly slotted home to guarantee a dominating victory.

Argentina will now either take on spirited Morocco or holders France in the

final on Sunday and will be heavily battling themselves to lift their third title as they are peaking at the right time in the ongoing World Cup.

Sindh will participate in Prime Minister Talent Hunt Youth Sports Wrestling League



Karachi: Training camp of Sindh wrestling team to participate in Prime Minister Talent Hunt Youth Sports League is underway at Sindh Agricultural University, Tandojam.

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Training camp of Sindh wrestling team consisting of 24 wrestlers to participate in Prime Minister Talent Hunt Youth Sports League has started at Sindh Agricultural University, Tandojam.

Muhammad Hussain appointed camp commandant and head coach of the training camp, wrestlers from Larkana, Sukkur, Benazirabad, Hyderabad and Karachi are included in the training camp. In the National League, 24 wrestlers from Sindh will participate in ten different categories, among the players are Muhammad Waseem, Shayan Mehdi 57 kg weight category, Ziaullah, Abdul Sami 61 kg, Shoaib Khan, Aamir Ali, 65 kg, Muhammad Hamza Abdul Sami, 70 kg, Muhammad Sami, Hasan Raza 74 kg, Umar Farooq, Gul Azam 79 kg, Sajawal Khan, Muhammad Ishaq 86 kg, Muhaiur Rahman, Talha Daniyal 92 kg, Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Muhammad Asjad Wasim 97 kg.

And Mohammad Musa, Zafar Ali will represent Sindh in 125 plus kg weight categories, four wrestlers have been kept in stand-bys, they include Mumtaz Ali, Sohail Abbas Aqeel Sarwar and Faisal Shabbir.

While the management includes Anwar Hussain Khanzada Manager, Muhammad Rafiq Assistant Manager, Muhammad Hussain Head Coach, Muhammad Iqbal Coach, Sher Zaman, Ashiq Hussain Assistant Coaches.

The selected team will leave for Lahore to participate in the National Wrestling League.

The league will start from December 16 under the auspices of Nari University and with the support of Higher Education Commission (HEC).

According to Sindh team manager Anwar Khanzada, teams from all five provinces and Islamabad will participate in the National League, this is the biggest event in the history of wrestling in Pakistan.

Tennis Championship

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Abid returns a shot against Nikar during men double tennis match during Shaheed Benazir Bhutto National Tennis Championship in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Australian Labuschagne equals Kohli with career-high rating

ISLAMABAD: In-form Australia star and newly-crowned No.1 Test batter in the world Marnus Labuschagne has added to his bulging resume by drawing level with India great Virat Kohli on the all-time list and bringing up a new career-high rating on the latest ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

Labuschagne, 28-year-old has moved further ahead at the top of the list for Test batters following an outstanding series against the West Indies.

The right-hander amassed a whopping 502 runs for the two-match series with his magnificent knock of 163 during the first innings of the second Test in Adelaide helping him to join Kohli on a career-high rating of 937 points.

That sees Labuschagne now hold the equal 11th best Test rating of all time and just three Australian players - Donald Bradman (961), Steve Smith (947) and Ricky Ponting (942) - have held better ratings.

Labuschagne has four former great players just one rating point ahead of him on 938 rating points, with West Indies trio Gary Sobers, Clyde Walcott and Viv Richards and Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara well within his sights.

Labuschagne isn't the only Austral-



ian player holding on to a career-high rating following the series against the West Indies, with left-hander Travis Head improving seven places on the Test batter rankings to sixth overall and a personal best 774 rating points.

Head earns the rise on the back of his own century against the West Indies in Adelaide and the 28-year-old could jump even higher during the upcoming Test series against South Africa.

England's series triumph over Pakistan also saw a host of their players improve up the rankings this week, with young gun Harry Brook moving up 15 places on the Test batter rankings to 55th overall after his century in the second innings and Player of the Match performance in Multan.

Their pacers were also rewarded, with evergreen veteran James Anderson jumping one place to second overall on the Test bowler rankings and fellow

quicks Ollie Robinson and Mark Wood also making ground on No.1 ranked Australian Pat Cummins.

Robinson improves two places to sixth overall, while Wood moves up eight spots to equal 34th following his six-wickets for the match in Multan.

There was also plenty of movement on the latest ODI rankings, with a group of India and Bangladesh players moving up the charts after the recent completion of their series.

Kohli is now the highest-ranked India batter following his two-spot rise to eighth overall, while record-breaking teammate Ishan Kishan moves from outside the top 100 to 37th courtesy of his brilliant double century in the third and final game of the series in Chattogram.

It was Bangladesh that won that three-game series 2-1 and a trio of their players made eye-catching moves on the latest ODI rankings.

Experienced left-armers Shakib Al Hasan (eighth) and Mustafizur Rahman (ninth) both improve one spot inside the top 10 on the latest ODI bowler rankings, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz jumps three places to third on the list for all-rounders following strong efforts with bat and ball during the series. APP

National Challenge Cup 2023 kicks off in January next year

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The National Challenge Cup 2023 by Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) will roll into action from January 2023. Pakistan's premier competition, the National Challenge Cup, will feature the highest "32" departmental teams across the country vying for the prestigious title, which will be defended by 2020 champions WAPDA.

These teams are divided into eight "(08)" Groups and each group contains four "(04)" teams. Stage one will start on January 1 and last till February 11 and will be played at Zonal and Centralized "(eight 08)"



cities (Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta, Chaman, Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Bahawalpur) while the venue for the final stage will be announced later.

Each team of every group will play six "(06)" matches, three "(03)" will be home-based and the rest of the three are away. The top two "(02)" teams from each group will

make it to the 'round of 16', which will be followed by the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final. The winner of the tournament will get 1 million while the runners-up and 3rd position will bag 500,000 and 250,000 respectively.

Sharing his views, Chairman of FIFA-appointed PFF Normalisation Committee Haroon Malik accompa-

nied by NC member Shahid Niaz Khokhar and Manager Competition PFF Qamar Ali Qureshi, said: "The National Challenge Cup is back now and brings the best departmental teams and players in the country and hopefully, it will give a major boost to the domestic structure. We were striving for this for a long time and I am glad that our efforts started yielding fruit in the shape of success, he added.

On the occasion, NC member Shahid Niaz Khokhar highlighted the efforts and contribution of the departments, which is the main motive behind the restoration of this premier event of the country.

First ever ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup launched

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council launched the inaugural ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup in Benoni, east of Johannesburg on Wednesday as excitement continues to build with one month to go until the first ball is bowled.

The event which is a first of its kind in world cricket will take place from 14 to 29 January 2023 and will see the future stars of the women's game compete in 41 matches played across four venues in Benoni and Potchefstroom in 16 days of competitive cricket.

At the competition launch, former Proteas women's cricketer and South African Olympic javelin silver medalist, Sunette Viljoen, was unveiled as the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Ambassador. She was joined by Member of the Executive Council of Gauteng Sports, Arts & Culture, Mr Morakane Mosupye, who gave the Keynote address, while other notable guests included Cricket South Africa Board Member and LOC Chair, Ms. Muditambi Ravele, CSA CEO, Mr Pholetsi Moseki, UNICEF South Africa Chief of Communications & Partnerships, Toby Fricker and South Africa women's team players, Sinalo Jafta and Raisibe Ntozakhe.

The 16 teams in the fray include Indonesia and Rwanda, who will

feature in an ICC World Cup for the first time ever.

Eleven full member nations gained automatic entry in this historic edition: Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Scotland, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States of America (USA) join Indonesia and Rwanda to take the remaining five slots, representing each of the ICC's five regions giving fans the opportunity to watch tomorrow's superstars today.

The teams will be divided into groups of four as follows:

Group A: Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the USA

Group B: England, Pakistan, Rwanda and Zimbabwe

Group C: Indonesia, Ireland, New Zealand and the West Indies

Group D: India, Scotland, South Africa and the UAE

Entry to all the fixtures will be free of charge. The semi-finals and final will take place at JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom on 29 January, followed by the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Cape Town, Paarl and Gqeberha which begins on 10 February 2022. The two events will play an important role in leaving a lasting legacy to grow girls and women participation in South

Africa.

Tournament Director Sivuyile Mqungwana said: "This is a watershed moment for women's cricket in South Africa and for the game in our country. To host one ICC event in a year is cause for great celebration, but to claim two in such quick succession is beyond our wildest dreams.

"We are excited to promote the women's game in our region and look forward to hosting yet another world-class event on our shores. Today's launch just added to the festive mood and excitement that has been growing in our organisation as we count down to the first match of this historic occasion on 14 January."

ICC Head of Events, Chris Tetley said: "We are delighted to launch the first ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa. The women's game is a strategic priority for the ICC, and we look forward to the showcasing of our sport's future stars in the region of Africa, where cricket continues to grow in popularity.

"With the ICC Women's T20 World Cup following quickly on the heels of this historic tournament, we eagerly anticipate the delivery of two key events that will play a vital role in the promotion of women's cricket around the world, in this important time in the growth of our game around the world."