فرمانرسول برچھا(ڈنڈاجس کے نیچاوہے کا پھل لگا ہواہو) آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے آگ

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'Ungrateful Khan' keeps on changing colour like chameleon: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum on Monday dubbed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan an "ungrateful person", who would change "his colour like a chameleon" once his motives were achieved. Her remarks came in the backdrop of the current political situation that evolved after Imran Khan's announcement for the dissolution of assemblies in both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

Fawad terms no trust motion an escape' from elections

nd said "In the past few days Rana Sanaullah and Ahsan Iqbal

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Devising strategy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to devise a strategy on reduction of circular debt in Energy Sector on Monday.



PM directs reduction in energy sector circular debt

effective planning.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister chairing a high-level meeting chairs a meeting to devise a strategy on reduction of circular debt in Energy sector (19

December 2022) ISLAMABAD, Dec 19 (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday directed officials concerned to reduce the circu-

lar debt in the energy sector. The prime minister was tenure of 2013-2018.

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here regarding the energy sector.

During the meeting, the participants considered adoption of a comprehensive strategy to control the present circular debt in the sectors of oil and gas.

The PM said the government of Pakistan Muslim League(N) practically completely eradicated the circular debt during its with continuous efforts and and electricity consumers.

He directed that reforms in the energy sector should be undertaken in a way that the circular debt could be elimi-

The distribution companies of Sui gas should improve the

system of recovery of bills, he

The PM resolved to bring the ordered adding no additional were also invited to the cabinet problem of debt under control burden should be put on the gas

> He said the system for payment of bills of gas and electricity should also be made

The meeting also reviewed the energy-saving plan, which would be presented before the

federal cabinet on Tuesday. Chief Ministers of provinces

The prime minister instructed that all possible steps should be taken for ensuring an increase in revenue of the energy sector.

He said the energy transmission system should be improved and the losses and theft of electricity and gas should be stopped. Agencies

LHC seeks details of allrecipients of Toshakhana

News Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday sought details of all recipients, who have retained gifts from the Toshakhana from 1947 till date, ARY News reported.

Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Asim Hafeez issued the order while hearing a petition filed by a citizen named Munir Ahmed through his counsel Advocate Azhar Siddique.

The petitioner argued that the details of the gifts obtained by the officials from Toshakhana should be made

The federal government's lawyer while opposing the plea said in his statement that said the details about the gifts could not be provided since they are confidential. The court ordered the federal government to submit the details by January 16, adding that it would be decided then if the details are confidential or not.

What is Toshakhana: Established in 1974, Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats and officials.

Role of space technology inevitable for country's socio-economic development: Ahsan Iqbal

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that the role of Space Technology for a country's socio-economic development was inevitable while Pakistan had to achieve a lot to compete with

He made these remarks while addressing a Seminar titled, "Role of Space Technologies for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Pakistan", jointly organized by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives today.

The seminar was attended by the secretary of the Planning Commission, the chief economist, the chairman SUPARCO, and officials from the ministries and divisions.

"Space Technology has become a centerpiece as every sector whether education, agriculture, health and climate change is linked with it," said the minister, while addressing the participants of the seminar.

The minister further said that huge transformation changes were going on in various fields, particularly in robotics and biotechnology, however, space technology played a key role and Pakistan needed to expedite its effort to compete with the world.

The minister also underlined several development projects in which Space technology played a nology helped the government in



vital role in the saving of cost of the projects.

Due to political instability in the country, Pakistan could not achieve such targets which other countries had achieved due to their continuity of policies, said the minister, while stressing the ministries and divisions to get benefit from the information being shared by the SUPARCO.

Meanwhile, Secretary Ministry of Planning Commission Syed Zafar Ali Shah in his remarks held that Space Technology had a key role in nology. the country's development and it had been placed in SDGs to get the able information through satellite desired results.

"The ministry always takes the initiatives to bring advanced technology and Geo-Spatial Technology Cell was one of the eh example which was recently established at Planning

Ministry," he added. He also highlighted that this tech-

recent floods, particularly, in Post-Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA).

Space technology played a vital role in confronting countless challenges in the fields of climate change, resource monitoring, disaster management, and mitigation of health and education, he said.

Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning Commission Nadeem Javed gave a detailed presentation while highlighting PSDP projects which had a positive impact on space tech-

"The provision of timely and reliwould help in better decision making, he remarked.

Chairman SUPARCO Maj Gen Amer Nadeem, in his address, highlighted key initiatives related to agricultural monitoring, disaster management, forest estimation and monitoring, environment and GIS-based governance planning.

Rashid wants President Alvi to use constitutional powers as govt avoiding elections

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI :Awami Muslim League (AMP) head Sheikh Rashid Ahmed urged President Arif Alvi to use his constitutional powers as the coalition government is running away from holding fresh elections in the country

The 72-year-old politician, who served as the interior minister during the PTI government in Centre. is fully supporting Imran Khan's demand for elections in the country. Taking to Twitter, he said the PTI chief had kept his word by announcing the date for the dissolution of assemblies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Apart from it, its a fact that public was fed up with political uncertainty, he said.

People shied away from investing in the country as 'dacoits" were ruling, he said, adding: "The country is in grip of inflation and terrorism and they [government] are running away from elec-

Meanwhile, the AMP chairman also called on President Alvi on Monday and the discussed political situation in the country.

Opposition throws down no-confidence gauntlet to CM Elahi



Bureau Report

LAHORE: In an extraordinary move, a delegation of PPP and PML-N lawmakers submitted a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister Parvez Elahi, Speaker Sibtain Khan, and deputy speaker Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi in the Punjab Assembly.

Following their arrival at the Punjab Assembly Secretariat, opposition MPs such as PPP Parliamentary Leader Hassan Murtaza, PML-Khawaja Imran Nazir, and PML-N Chief Whip Tahir Khalil Sind- no-confidence motion".

hu tabled no-confidence motion.

The PML-N and PPP members signed a motion of no confidence, which was accepted by Secretary Punjab Assembly Inayatullah.

The resolution stated, "Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi should seek another vote of confidence from the Punjab Assembly because he has lost the support of the House. Governor Balighur Rehman Chaudhary will ask Parvez Elahi to take a vote of confidence following the

PTI, PML-Q to contest elections jointly notwithstanding differences: Imran Khan

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE : Former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday reacted to Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi's statement in favour of ex-COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa and said the PTI and the PML-Q would contest elections together apart from

differences. Sources said the deposed premier told the PTI stalwarts not to change their narrative, and not to get confused with CM Elahi's statement. The PTI chief added that both parties would contest elections together apart from differences, sources added.

'Gen Bajwa solely responsible for ousting me'

Earlier, Imran Khan reiterated that former army chief Bajwa was solely responsible for ousting his government he added.

and creating economic and political crises in the count

Mr Khan said he wanted an inquiry into American cypher as he was not certain of its involvement in overhrowing him but the PTI held Bajwa solely responsible.

Speaking to international media, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were two independent parties as the PML-Q had its distinctive policy towards Bajwa and it [had the right] to negotiate with the PML-N.

He said NAB was controlled by Bajwa who gave everyone an NRO without his (Imrans) consent. "Parvez Elahi has sent me the written advice calling for assembly dissolution and I shall send the advice to the Punjab governor on Friday",

Usman Buzdar counters CM Parvez Elahi over 'ruining' Punjab

News Desk

LAHORE :Former Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar, while countering Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi over his statements against his (Buzdar's) performance, said on Monday criticising him was equivalent to criticising the narrative of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Speaking to media outside the accountability court, he said he was confident of his performance during his tenure as the chief minister. "I have many secrets but this isn't the time to reveal any such thing," he added.

Earlier, the chief minister, in a TV interview, had hit out at Mr Buzdar for "ruining" Guirat [Mr Parvez's stronghold during his tenure. In an unexpected move, Mr Elahi openly supported former army chief retired Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, saying he and his party would counter any propaganda against the general.



In a statement on Sunday, he claimed that retired Gen Faiz Hameed had started targeting them [PML-Q] and later, he [Faiz] revealed to the former army chief that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was behind

"Gen Bajwa is our benefactor so we shouldn't criticise him. To me, Bajwa has countless blessings on them [PTI]," he further said. Taking a jibe at the PTI chief,

the PML-Q leader said Imran Khan used to ignore his son Moonis Elahi during meetings. Despite that the PML-Q always sided with the PTI. He said the PML-Q endorsed Imran Khan's decision to dissolve the Punjab Assembly but "we can t stab our benefactors in the

Saudi -Pak relations

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Nawabzada Shazian Bugti in a group photo with Saudi delegation led by H.E. Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Qarni, Director General of Directorate of Narcotics Control of the Kingdom of



President for further cementing Pak-Italy ties

Arif Alvi on Monday stressed bilateral relationship with Italy in the fields of defence, agriculture, animal husbandry and information technol-

The president made these remarks while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Italy, Ali Javed, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr

During the meeting, the President appreciated the ed a skilled workforce for idea of establishing manu- industrial, agricultural and facturing units by Pakistani manufacturing development. diasporas in the indusmanufacturing and export-

He said the avenues for exports of human intellect, knowledge and skills online to Italy by our IT professionals and related fields needed to be explored.

This way, he said, the human resource would be retained in Pakistan whereas their skills and knowledge could be shared.

The president said that the ancillary staff in Italy should products in Italy and rest of ing the issues and problems support, and counselling existing trade of around US\$



poras in Italy and provide ing Pakistani goods and focus their energy on resolv- them with the necessary

trial-free zone of Italy for Ambassador and the entire faced by the Pakistani dias- services online and at their doorsteps.

He further said that the

1.3 billion did not represent the true potential on both sides and there was a need to make concerted efforts to increase the volume.

The president said that a fairly large number of Pakistanis (approximately 200,000) were living in Italy and contributing towards the socio-economic development of the country and urged that the welfare of these Pakistan-

is should be the most priority. Apart from working on traditional economic diplomacy, the ambassador-designate should also look for new avenues of cooperation, especially start-ups, he said.

20m flood victims need urgent humanitarian assistance: Sherry Rehman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "Disaster amnesia is not uncommon in a world driven by competing goals and the human tragedy wrought by Pakistan's catastrophic flooding has been forgotten by many where 20 million flood affectees still needed urgent humanitarian assistance," said Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman.

"But the climate-induced crisis in Pakistan has longterm implications for recovery and resilience in a context defined by systemic deficits in climate financing with 20 million people still currently dependent on humanitarian the humanitarian gap by the created by climate events, it tion needs are at least US\$16.3 food assistance from Decem-

Gold price in Pakistan hits

all-time high

News Desk



United Nations have received is not easy to plan for resilonly 30% of the US\$816 million," the minister said in a news release.

The Minister said, "When a country has people living on relief and multilateral assistance on the shores of vulner-

ient recovery, because building back for complex climate polycrises implies transforma-

tional re-sets. These floods caused Loss and Damage worth US\$30 billion, so just the rehabilitaaid, while flash appeals just for ability, with new lakes being tion and disaster-reconstruc-

include investments required to support Pakistan's adaptation to climate change and overall resilience of the country to future climate shocks.

The Minister said, "The UN has warned that 8.4 to 9.1 million people will be pushed below the poverty line. Winter will be harsh on the forgotten arc of climate misery here. The numbers are too huge; 33 million impacted literally meant we were reinventing the lives of populations covering the size of three medium sized European countries at the same time.

Today, after months of humanitarian operations, 14.6 million is the number of people who still need emergency

billion. This amount does not ber 2022 to March 2023. We should not forget that almost 3.9 million people in Sindh and 1.6 million in Balochistan are facing severe food insecurity, with 5.5 million people no longer having access to safe

and clean drinking water. The UN's ongoing assistance is facing a looming risk of ending prematurely as they are running out of funds to continue the needed support. World Food Programme (WFP) has said that they will run out of funds by mid-January for Pakistan, putting an additional 1.1 million people at extreme risk of food insecuritv. Funds are being taken from every sector of the Pakistan government to meet survival needs, but the size of the need

Saaghir Siddiqui, Perveen Shakir asset to Urdu literature, Baligh-ur-Rehman He said both the countries have close relationship of love

Spokesman Report

of Monthly journal 'Mah-e-

in a better understanding of the

under the auspices of Directo-

rate of Electronic Media and

Publications (DEMP), Minis-

try of Information and Broad-

casting in collaboration with

Department of Urdu, Govern-

ment College University (GCU),

The ceremony was held

poets for the readers.

KARACHI: Gold price has maintained an LAHORE: Governor Punjab upward trend in Paki-Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman has said that poets Saaghir stan as one-tola rates hit an all-time high of Siddiqui and Perveen Shakir are asset to Urdu literature and Rs175,500 after adding Rs3,000. According their works have left indelible to details, the price of imprints on literature. precious commodity Speaking at the launch

tola to settle at Rs175,500. Nau' - Saaghir Siddiqui and Meanwhile, All Sindh Perveen Shakir Number, at Saraf Jewellers Associthe Govenor's House here on ation (ASSJA) reported Monday, he said the services of that the gold was trading the great literary figures need at \$1.800 per ounce in the to be recognized for posterity, international markets. adding these journals will help

jumped by Rs3,00 per

Moreover, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold rose by Rs1,886, touching distance of another psychological mark -Rs150,000. The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold was Rs149,948.

On the other hand, Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) lost ground shed



marked launching of 'Translation of Book on Nizami Ganjavi - the great Azerbaijan poet' by Dr. Almas Khanam.

Azerbaijan Ambassador Khazar Farhadov, Director General (DG) DEMP Imrana Wazir, Vice Chancellor GCU Dr. Asghar Zaidi, President, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Isa Habibbayli, writers, poets, critics and countries are tied through relilarge number of literature lovers attended the ceremony.

Hailing the services of DEMP for promotion of Urdu literature, he said Saaghir Lahore. The ceremony also Siddiqui and Perveen Shakir wishes them fast progress.

had contributed significantly to Urdu poetry and 'Mah-e-Nau'-Saghir Siddiqui and Perveen Shakir Numbers - is the just tribute to the two great poets who had influenced the literary scene a great deal.

The Governor Punjab said Pakistan and Azerbaijan have fraternal and friendly relations, adding that both the gious, cultural and social ties. He said that both the nations have common heritage. He said Pakistan has always stood by its brethren in Azarbaijan and and brotherhood, adding nothing could derail these ties. He said the Azerbaijan people have great love for Pakistanis and he had witnessed the love during his visit to the brotherlv country

He said Dr Almas Khanam translated book on Ganjavi has been authored by Dr. Isa Habibbayli who introduced the poet to the audiences, adding that Nizami Ganjavi was revered as a national poet in Azaerbaijan like poet of the East Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. He talked of close religious and cultural ties between the people.

Dr. Isa Habibbayli presented the works of Nizami Ganjavi to Govenror Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman besides a

Later, the Governor Punjab presented the Mah-e-Nau Numbers to the visiting guests from Azerbaijan.

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Naek lauds Bilawal for taking up Kashmir issue, exposing India's true face at UNSC

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has done remarkably well in not only bringing Kashmir issue in the global limelight but also rightly exposing to the world the true fascist face of India, said Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senator Farooq H. Naek.

According to a press release, he said Bilawal has effectively highlighted the hitherto unresolved issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by mincing no words in loudly recalling Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as 'The Butcher of Gujrat' at the UNSC.

He said he fully endorsed the foreign minister's statement wherein he stated that, "He (Narendra Modi) was banned from entering this country (the United States). These are the prime minister and the foreign minister of RSS, which draws inspiration from Hitler's SS." The former Senate Chairman also commended exercise their right to self-determinathe foreign minister on very pertinently reminding the United Nations
UN Security Council resolutions and Security Council (UNSC) to fulfil its as per their own wishes.



that had been left unaddressed - the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

Senator Naek said Bilawal Bhutto, while speaking on open debate 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security - Reformed Multilateralism' in the UNSC, had dexterously used the forum to urge the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to implement its resolutions on the Kashmir issue and deliver its commitment to peace in the region and "prove that multilateralism can succeed".

He also called upon the international community to help Kashmiris tion as espoused under the relevant

Soldier among two civilians embrace martyrdom in Miran Shah Suicide blast

№ News Desk

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army among two civilians embraced martyrdom on Monday in a suicide blast occurred in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan ian was also injured in the incident.

District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the martyred soldier was identified as Naik Abid (age 33 years. resident of Mansehra) while a civil-

New UN report warns against 'dehumanizing' migrants

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: No one should have to surrender their human right to migrate in order to find a living wage, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said in a new report, highlighting the importance of temporary migratory labour programmes.

The report, 'We wanted workers, but human beings came,' coincided with International Migrants Day on Sunday, zeroes-in on schemes in operation across the Asia-Pacific region the largest single migrant-producing region in the world.

"Migrant workers are often dehumanized", said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, reminding that "they are human beings entitled to human rights and full protection of their human dignity".

Every year, millions leave their migration programmes that prom- Turk emphasized.

ise economic benefits for destination countries and development dividends to countries of origin.

cases temporary work schemes impose a range of unacceptable human rights restrictions. It highlights how migrant workers are often forced to live in over-

The report details how in many

crowded and unsanitary housing, unable to afford nutritious food, denied adequate healthcare, and face prolonged and sometimes mandatory eparation from their families.

Moreover, policies that exclude them from government support in some countries put migrants at a disproportionate risk of COVID-19 infection, the report says.

"They should not be expected to give up their rights in return for being able to migrate for work, however crucial it is for them and their families, and for the economies of their countries under temporary labour countries of origin and destination",

Thai king's hospitalised daughter stable 'at a certain level'

News Desk

BANGKOK :- The eldest child of Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn is in a stable condition "at a certain level", with doctors using medication and equipment to support her lung, heart and kidney functions after she suffered a heart problem, the palace said on Monday.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha, 44, a potential heir to the Thai throne, showed no signs of a heart abnormality in a coronary angiography and her condition was being closely monitored, the royal palace said in its first statement since Thursday when it confirmed her hospitalisation.

The princess was taken ill and lost consciousness on Wednesday while preparing her dogs for a competition in northeastern Nakhon Ratchasima province, the palace said. She was treated locally before being taken by helicopter to Bangkok for further

Princess Bajrakitiyabha is one of

three children of King Vajiralongkorn who have formal titles, making her eligible for the throne under a palace succession law and the country's constitution. The king has yet to formally desig-

nate an heir and there has been no official discussion on the prospect of the princess taking the throne. In its statement, the palace said her "condition is stable at a certain

level" and her heartbeat was being controlled by medicine, but her heart contraction was still weak. "Doctors administered medicine

and the heart, lungs and kidney are being supported by machine," it said. While the 1924 palace succession

law stipulates the heir to the throne should be male, an amendment to the constitution in 1974 allowed for a daughter of the royal line to ascend the throne if a successor had not been

The princess was born on Dec. 7, 1978 as the daughter of the king and his first wife, Princess Soamsawali.

At least eight killed, 18 injured in Rajanpur bus collision

RAJANPUR :At least eight people were killed and 18 others were injured early on Monday morning, when two buses collided on the highway near Rajanpur in Punjab.

Police said that the two buses were heading in opposite directions but collided with each other due to the dense fog on the highway. As a result of the crash, eight passengers were killed on spot while 18 others sustained inju-

The injured and bodies of the dead



were pulled out and rushed to a near- of the buses was travelling to Karachi by local hospital. The process of iden- from Peshawar and the other one was tifying the dead is being carried out. coming back to Rajanpur from Quet-According to the rescue team, one ta. The accident happened at Shahwa-

li due to intense fog in the area. The rescue team reached the spot as the accident was reported.

The bodies and the injured were shifted to a nearby state hospital. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi while taking notice of the incident sought a report.

He expressed his grievance and extended condolences to the bereaved

Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman also expressed sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

Phavur Studios Released song 'Sahiban'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Phavur Studios just released their song production "Sahiban". Against the backdrop of three melodious voice of Amanat Ali, the gorgeous UrwaHocane and handsome Hassan Khan tell the Punjabi folklore, Mirza Sahiban.

The infamous Mirza Sahiba story is retold by two dynamo women, Hira Yousafzai (Director), Hirra Farooqi (Producer), and pushed forward by the multi-talented Zayan Agha (On-set Producer). The story is retold using a modern language and a female empowering twist.

The song sings to the younger generation who want to hear of strong individuals unwaveeringn in their aspirations. For the first time ever, we see the female lead, UrwaHocane, as Sahiba basks in the essence of love for Mirza (Hassan Khan) AND more importantly, herself.

Phavur Studios is an up and coming production house based in Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Toronto, and now investing in content in Pakistan and under-privileged communities around the world to bring untold stories to life. Spearheaded by a strong team of independent filmmakers, Phavur is launching their first project with the power of music through folkwarestory-telling.

The music video is the first of its kind where we see that old traditional story-telling is being met with empowering values. When two empowering women are the driving force of a story, you can see that reflected on screen and that is definitely the case with Mirza Sahiban. There is no doubt that this catchy song will be a hit, especially since romance is in the air with the wedding season in full swing.

Pakistan is home to many inspiring romantic folk stories that tell the tale of pure love. Punjab is one of the regions within Pakistan that is home to the folk stories of Mirza-Sahiban, Sassi Punnu, Sohni-Mahiwal and more. We're so excited to see that international platforms like Phavur are focusing on ancient, traditional, and cultural storytelling to capture the essence of story-telling in Pakistan.

The video opens with the beautiful song that plays for the duration as we see glimpses of the blooming of love but by the end, we see why it is important for women to be in full control of their own fate and their

are better outcomes for women outside of the 'damsel in distress' trope. The song is sure to be the song of the season and the go-to song for all the romantic souls!

COMSTECH seeks applications for COMSTECH Áwards 2023

Example 2 City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH bestows biennial awards to distinguished researchers of OIC member states for their important scien-

The COMSTECH life time achievement awards in basic sciences are given in the fields of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. This year's nominations are sought for the awards in the fields of Physics and Mathematics. In this category each award consists of a certificate, shield of honor, and cash prize of US\$8000.

The COMSTECH Awards for Excellence in Science & Technology are classified in four categories: COMSTECH Young Researcher Award (under 40 years), Best Scientific Book (Authorship)-published by an international publisher during the last two years (2021 & 2022), Patent-the patent must have been registered during the past five years (2018-2022). Each of the above three awards carries a certificate, shield of honor, and cash prize of US\$4000.

The Best Research Paper awards are given for the best paper published in an impact factor international journal during the last two years (2021 & 2022) in the fields of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. The best research paper award in each disci-

pline carries a certificate, shield of honor, and cash prize of US\$2500. The deadline for application submission is 31st March 2023, citizens of all 57 OIC states are eligible to apply for the COMSTECH

A successful operation by the security forces in the Azam Warsak

👺 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Security forces conducted a successful operation in Azam Warsak area of Birmal Tehsil of South Waziristan Lower Sub Division Wana yesterday. As a result, one terrorist was killed and two were injured.

According to the sources, there was no loss of life of the security forces. Officials say that they are not giving a chance to miscreants in the area to disturb the peace and order situation.

Therefore, do not believe in the fabricated and baseless propaganda of terrorists.

Efforts of security forces, civil administration and police are ongoing to maintain peace and order in the area In this regard, local tribal elders and local residents are standing side by side with the government for peace and security.

Wahdat-e-Ummat conference

ISLAMABAD: Head of Tehreek Badrai Ummat-e-Mustafa Allama Syed Jawad Naqvi addressing during the Wahdat-e-Ummat conference, in Federal Capital.



PM visits Kashmir Colony Lahore

跨 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan visited Lakodir Kashmir Colony Lahore along with the members of the assembly elected from the refugee constit-

During his visit the Prime Minister while expressing his concern over the plight of refugee families living in the colony said that it was heartbreaking to see the plight of Kashmiri refugees. The previous governments, he said, did not focus on resettlement and increase in monthly subsistence allowance of the refugees.

While reiterating his government's pledge to solve the problems faced by the migrant community the Prime Minister announced to build houses for the poorest 5 refugee families with his own expenses.

Regarding the settlement of homeresettlement of 300 refugee families a comprehensive strategy would be devised soon in consultation with the ministry of finance, ministers and legislators who contest elections on migrant



Meanwhile, Legislative Assembly Azad Kashmir from LA 41 Kashmir Valley 2 Mr. Ghulam Mohiuddin Dewan hosted dinner in honour of less refugees, he said that for the the AJK premier Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan here on Sunday.

> On the occasion Central Vice President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, Minister Mahmood-ul-Rashid and other central

leaders of Tehreek-e-Insaf were also

The Prime Minister was warmly welcomed on his arrival at the dinner ceremony. He was accompanied by Deputy Speaker Assembly Chaudhry Riaz Gujjar, Minister for Rehabilitation and SDMA Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Forest Minister Chaudhry Akmal Sargala and others.

Indus Motor temporarily shutsdown production plant in Pakistan

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading car assembler, Indus Motor Compa-Monday announced a 10-day plant shutdown — the third time in the outgoing calendar year — due to "hurdles in import and clearance of consign-

The company, in a notice sent to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), revealed that the production plant will be completely shut down from December 20 to December 30 (both days inclu-

The IMC management mentioned that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) introduced in May a mechanism, via a circular, for obtaining prior approval for the import of completely knocked down (CKD) kits and components of Passenger cars (HS Code 8703 category) for the auto sector.

Habib Oil Mills & Shahid Afridi Foundation join hands to empower girls' education in Pakistan

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Habib Oil Mills (HOM) have joined forces with Shahid Afridi Foundation (SAF) to empower girls' education in the country by establishing a school, Shahina Perveen Campus, in the under-resourced locality of Ibrahim Haidery in Karachi. While the true motif of the school is to encourage girls' education, about 25% boys from the district have also where they will be provided quality education. A total of 22.5 million children are estimated to be out of school in Pakistan, the majority of whom are girls.

21% boys are still not in the country's increased schools and it gets worse demand for girls' educafor girls because only 13% make it to the ninth grade. to education because of the Our youth can only thrive gendered social norms and in this constantly changing poverty. At HOM, we believe world if they have access to that women are economic



the children build a better tomorrow for themselves. Commenting on the partnership, Managing Director Habib Oil Mills, Mr. Moidul A total of 32% girls and Hassan said, "Despite tion, girls still face barriers

gap in education and help to make them economically dependent, education is

The number of girls not in schools is alarming and we are hoping to make a difference in collaboration with SAF." Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Shahid Afridi, Chairman SAF stated, "Education shouldn't only focus on prominent academic disciplines of Commerce, Science, and the corporate, education and education. This initiative contributors rather than Arts but should also aim media spheres in Pakistan.

to foster critical thinking, life skills, value education, analytical skills, and decision-making skills in students. SAF Education is a community-based learning program that promotes 'twenty-first-century skills,' like vocational skills, capacity development, and digital literacy. It benefits students through various academic and skills-based programs to cope with rapidly changing socio-economic scenar-The partnership with

H.O.M is a step further in uplifting the underserved community of 'Arkanabad' and creating new opportunities for them and their children. We will further expand this partnership to ensure Hope Not Out for all!" The ceremony was attended by the board of directors of HOM and SAF along with dignitaries from

Reaching poorest of the poor in remote areas is top priority of BISP: Faisal Karim Kundi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said reaching out the poorest segments in remote locations, like, erstwhile FATA, GB and other such areas is top most priority areas for BISP cash assistance Kafalat programme. During a briefing to Parliamentarians from Ex-FATA at Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety he said that Parliamentarian's role in mobilising and identifying the most deserving beneficiaries is of critical importance and they should actively participate in this important cause of social uplift of the under privileged families.

Parliamentarians of erstwhile FATA districts which included Sajid Khan Toori, Mohsin Dawar, Moulana Abdul Shakoor and Maulana Muhammad Jamal Uddin attended the briefing. Secretary BISP, Yusuf Khan was also present in the meet-

Director General NSER Naveed Akbar and DG Cash Transfer Noor Rehman briefed the MNAs on the



BISP in Ex -FATA districts. 776684 Households have been surveyed through local teachers of those areas and 387000 beneficiaries are eligible for cash assistance under Benazir Kafalat Programme.

The delegates were 27 active registration centre in the merged FATA districts and 24 more centres are being established in near future. The ex-FATMNAs were informed

surveyed can get themselves registered so that they can be included in the quarterly cash assistance of Rs 7000/-

The delegation was also briefed on Nashunama and Undergraduate Scholarship initiatives of the BISP.

The ex-FATA parliamentary delegation vowed to fully support BISP initiatives in their relevant districts constituencies.





SERVICES

| Namaz T | imings |
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| Fajr | 5:38 am |
| Zohr | 12:05 pm |
| Asr | 3:24 pm |
| Maghrib | 5:02 pm |
| Isha | 6:32 pm |

EMERGENCY

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| PIA Flight Info | 114 |
| PIA Cargo | 9280979 |
| Railway Inquiry | 117 |
| Railway Exchange | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi | 5555489 |
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HOSPITALS

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| Cantt Hospital | 9270907- |
| DHQ | 5556311- |
| RGH | 9290301 |
| Holy Family | 9290322 |
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Water Resources ministry directed to formulate report featuring measures to deal sedimentation issue at Tarbela dam

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources while discussing sedimentation at Tarbela dam on Monday, directed the Ministry to formulate a detailed report featuring long and short term measures to deal with the issue.

The Committee which met with Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah in the Chair, also discussed plot allocation to the affectees of Tarbela dam and encroachment on it.

Discussing sedimentation and the measures taken to address it, the members of the Committee were of the view that measures must be taken to allow sediment flow to a certain degree, since this ensures land fertility.

The Committee stressed the need for moving closer towards nature and adopting alternative energy solutions crucial for the survival and growth.

The Ministry was also asked a detailed briefing on Diamer Basha Dam in next meeting of the Committee. Reviewing details of plot allocation to the affectees of Tarbela Dam, the Committee was informed that the 1744 affectees have been compensated. Some 450 affectees filed writ petitions before Peshawar High Court Abbotabad Bench for allotment of alternate agricultural land and enhancement of compensation against WAPDA, Federal Government. Governments of Punjab and Sindh.

Sugary drinks are killing our young generation

Government of Pakistan must increase taxes on sugary drinks to save our youth

ISLAMABAD: Sugary drinks are major contributors to obesity, diabetes, cancer, heart, kidney and many other Non-communicable diseases. We need to aware youth on health harms of SSBs and engage them in a campaign to make future of Pakistan healthier by reducing the consumption of these unhealthy

This was said by Heads of departments of Universities, health, economic and policy experts while addressing to the media workshop organized by Pakistan National Heart Association at local hotel in Islamabad.

The workshop was attended by the Professors, civil society representatives, and health, economy and policy experts. The workshop was hosted by PANAH's General Secretary Sanaullah Ghumman.

University, Dr. Bhutta from National every segment of society and with poli-University of Modern Languages, Ms. Nazia from Punjab group of colleges, Dr. Rashed from RIPAH University, Sajida Feroz, Girl Guides, Mr. Shahid from boys scouts, Dr. Asif from ARID University, Mr. Mubashar from Lasani School, Mr. Munawar Hussain, consultant at global health advocacy incubator, health and economic experts.

While addressing to workshop, Dr. Bhutta said that sugary drinks are among the major causes of diabetes, obesity, heart, kidney and many other diseases. We must aware our youth to reduce the consumption of sugary

Mr. Ullah Ghumman said that beverage industry is misguiding policy makers at every step and creating barriers to the policy process. PANAH is working since last 4 decades to save the lives of people The guests included Professor Dr. specially youth from non-communicable

cy makers to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy drinks. Increasing taxes on sugary drinks has double benefits. On the one hand it will reduce the diseases in Pakistan and on the other hand government will have more revenue to spend on health care activities.

Mr. Munawar Hussain said that high consumption of sugary drinks is an increasing threat to health and economy of the country. Pakistan has ranked 3rd in the diabetes worldwide with over 33 million people living with diabetes. 10 million more people are pre-diabetic in Pakistan.

He said that PIDE estimated Rs. 428 billion as cost of obesity in 2015. Similarly, as per International Diabetes Federation, the annual cost of managing diabetes in Pakistan has been increased to USD 2640 million in 2021.

Abdul Basit, Mr. Naeem from Capital diseases. We are raising our voice with evident bases policy action to reduce -24 budget to reduce the consumption to manage diabetes.



Public sector finance profession grapples with multiple challenges

PAKISTAN: ACCA's Public Sector Conference looks at the chal-

lenges facing the public sector and suggests ways forward to trans-

to create a safe, sustainable, and prosperous future that works for all.

as they work towards transforming the public sector. Such a task

would be a challenge at any time but it is made significantly hard-

er by a combination of war, high rates of inflation and a pressing

Accountancy is at the centre of public sector transformation.

Finance professionals need the rightskills to improve financial

management and drive policy and spending decisions. New thinking in the public sector has never been more important and the

conference heard about ACCA's recently published guides on profes-

sionalising the public sector, launched with IFAC on 18 Novem-

ber 2022, and green budgeting. Both strong examples of the new

finance leaders in the public sector. In the opening keynote Public Purse Prioritisation -public finance during a cost of living crisis-

VladyslawRashkovan, alternate executive director at the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund and former deputy governor of the National

Bank of Ukraine, illustrated how tough spending choices were in a war zone, with tradeoffs between funding weapons or protecting

citizens. He said: 'Many hard choices exist over budget allocation. While slogans like build back better are great, winter is coming, and

people cannot live on the streets. So, for donors and government

the hard reality may bring unpleasant tradeoffs between the speed

finance specialists to help rebuild Ukraine in multiple sectors. In the

conference session, he set out 12 points that finance professionals

Sustainability reporting and assurance are evolving rapidly and will play an increasingly prominent role in the public sector. The

conference looked at the International Public Sector Accounting

Standards Board's recent consultation aimed at developing overar-

ching guidance on sustainability, with a fruitful discussion between

Auditors General on how to provide effective assurance on future

ACCA president Joseph Owolabi said: 'ACCA's 24,000 public

sector members make an extraordinary difference to the lives of so

should be addressing in war and post-war situations.

Vladyslav added that there is a high and increasing demand for

and quality of reconstructing of places where people are housed.'

The conference also heard about the unenviable choices facing

The public sector needs to respond to multiple global challenges

ACCA's virtual public sector conference explored the challenges and the solutions that face public sector financial professionals

the consumption of SSBs. More than of sugary drinks. Professor Dr. 50 countries in the world have reduced the consumption of SSBs by increasing tax on them. We demand government of Pakistan to increase Federal Excise Duty Tax is the first and most effective on SSBs by minimum of 30 % in 2023

👺 Spokesman Report

climate challenge.

thinking required.

Abdul Basit said that Pakistan is number 1 country with fastest growth of diabetes worldwide. Every segment of society must play his role in decreasing the consumption of Sugary drinks

National Day of Bahrain

ISLAMABAD: Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ambassador of Bahrain to Pakistan Mohamed Ebrahim Mohamed Aldulager cutting the cake, during National Day of Bahrain ceremony at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

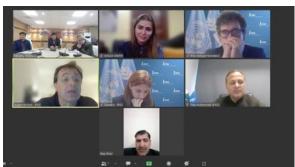


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Ms Shazia held a farewell meeting via zoom with Mr. Hubert Boirard

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security held a farewell meeting via zoom with Mr. Hubert Boirard, outing Country Director International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The opportunity was also utilized to welcome newly arrived country director to Pakistan Dr. Arnoud Hameleers here on Monday.

While appreciating the contribution of Mr. Huber Boirad, the outgoing country director of IFAD, Ms. Marri said that recent floods in Pakistan affecting 33 million people further necessitate the need for



enhanced cooperation between protection sector, particular-IFAD and Government of Pakistan. She hoped that IFAD uation Programme (NPGP). under the stewardship of newly She emphasised the need of arrived country director would enhanced cooperation with continue support the social the IFAD, particularly in the

ly the National Poverty Grad-

field of strengthening resilience against the climate related calamities.

On his part incoming IFAD country director Dr. Arnoud Hameleers expressed his desire to continue IFAD's support to Pakistan, and extended his gratitude to the Federal Minister for her goodwill gesture of reaching out to him. IFAD has also indicated additional

financing of US\$ 54 million. The Minister of State, Faisal Karim Kundi, Joint Secretary, PASS Ministry, Programme Director NPGP and Team Lead Social Protection Delivery Unit (SPDU) were also present in the meeting.

many, playing a key role in the delivery of public services and setting the regulatory environment to meet societies' global challenges. Karandaaz Partners with GrowTech to Digitize

Agricultural Value Chain

sustainability reporting in the public sector.

№ City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Karandaaz Pakistan has partnered with GrowTech Services to facilitate digitalized data driven scientific based agriculture practices in Pakistan and facilitate financial inclusion in the agricultural value chain.

Under its "Pilot to Scale" program, Karandaaz has committed a grant to GrowTech Services, testing the impact of digitization of traditional agricultural value chain, on two different crops. The project will foretake the development of an E-Commerce portal, connecting farmers and bulk buyers, and integrates the Grow-Tech app and e-commerce platform with various payment gateways. This partnership aims to increase the penetration of this App among farmers and promote usage of digital payments through the

When speaking about the importance of digitizing agricultural value chains, CEO Karandaaz Waqas ul Hasan said, "Pakistan seriously lags behind its peers in farm productivity. We need to approach complex agricultural value chains from all possible intervention points. Farmers, in general, are hesitant in adopting digital payments and technology due to the often-complicated procedures involved. As a result, their productivity and income has remained low. Digitizing payments will bring previously unbanked farmers within the formal financial sphere. The data collected from their spending patterns can then be used to create additional interventions."

Mr. Shahnawaz Mahmood, Co-Founder GrowTech Services said: "Our focus is to enhance productivity and decrease input-costs for farmers with the objective to improve per acre yield which is important in an agrarian economy like Pakistan. For this purpose, we remain engaged with farmers throughout the crop cycle. We are excited to partner with Karandaaz to make agricultural commerce more efficient with better price discovery and promote digital payments in this sector while providing trainings to farmers. In future this will be useful to develop innovative credit scoring models based on new data points."

This project, through its solutions, aims to resolve a multitude of problems that exist due to traditional agriculture value chains. The focus will remain on removing the gaps and inefficiencies while digitizing the agricultural value chains resulting in a higher economic activity for all actors of the value chain while also increasing financial inclusion of value chain actors and their use of digital payments.

HSHM hosts its First World Tourism Day International Conference.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM) hosted its first international conference to celebrate the World Tourism Day at Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi on 13th December 2022. The event revolved around this year's theme, "Rethinking Tourism".

The keynote speakers at the occasion were Dr. Syed Habib Ali Bokhari, VC, Kohsar University Murree, Dr. Ali Sajid, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz & Director Lahore School of Management and AVM Ejaz Mahmood Malik, Tourism Development Consultant. The speakers from Hashoo Group included Mr. Haseeb A. Gardezi, COO, Brig. (R) Dr. Fiaz Mahmood Qamer, Head of Group Security & Vigilance, and Maj. (R) Faisal Naeem Khan, Director Education,

The event was attended by several senior executives from CTTI Islamabad, Hashoo Group, faculty members and students from HSHM Islamabad as well as Peshawar Campus. Mr. Simon Cleaver from CTH UK, Dr.



a photography competition followed

On the occasion, Mr. Haseeb A. Gardezi said, "The pandemic high-

lighted the critical need for transformation of tourism industry as a tool for global development and cultural enlightenment, along with its impact on our society." Addressing the HSHM students, he further added "You have chosen a prestigious profession with a bright future. Study well and gain hands-on experience at Hashoo Hotels to polish your skill sets. This will help

you excel and become future leaders in the hospitality and tourism industry."

The closing session of the conference included distribution of participation certificates and prizes for the winners of photography and art competition.

This conference served as the global observance day, fostering awareness towards sustainable tourism development in Pakistan.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com Syed Afraz Ali Nazish Bureau Chief Lahore: (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz. Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

'India No.1 country in the world likely to witness a genocide'

ith the multiple video footages of Muslims being publicly flogged by Hindu fanatics surfacing on the internet, analysts believe that India was fast heading toward the much-feared stage of genocide.

Recently an upsurge in lynching and mistreating of Muslim youngsters has been observed in India, especially during the religious festival of Garba. In multiple incidents, the right-wing Hindu extremist mob maltreated Muslims around the said religious festival.

"India has all of the preparatory stages for more genocidal massacres," according to Dr Gregory Stanton, the founder of Genocide Watch.

Dr. Stanton had predicted a genocide in Rwanda years before it took place in 1994. Now he has warned of an impending genocide of Muslims in India, comparing the situation of the country under the Narendra Modi government to events in Myanmar and Rwanda. In the State of Gujarat, nine Muslim men were publicly flogged by Hindu extremists while the crowd chanted nationalist slogans and the state machinery including police reportedly supervised and supported the torture. The incident happened when a mob of Hindus teased and chanted anti-Islam slogans in the Muslim community area.

In a separate incident in Jharkand, 22 years old Ejaz Ansari was beaten to death by RSS mob with axes and batons.

In Mandsaur city of Madhya Pradesh, 19 Muslim youth were arrested on fake charges of disturbing the Garba festival. The houses of three youths were also bulldozed by the administration.

The International Human Rights Foundation took notice of the incident and asked the Government of India to take notice of

Yet another video of a prominent Hindu supremacist singer calling on Hindus to buy weapons and to prepare themselves for a war to turn India into a Hindu nation. The world can no more ignore what's happening in India. Muslims are at the cusp of genocide," the Indian American Muslim Council wrote on Twitter.

The analysts believe that India was becoming a Hindu Rashtra where Muslims will be forced to live as second-class citizens and will be persecuted and murdered.

In Narendra Modi's India, the Hindutva hateful ideology is being propagated and supported by Indian media and state machinery. The Muslims are being demeaned and accused of bogus charges with their houses being demolished.

The saner elements in India have urged international human rights organizations to take notice of the human rights abuses and rising Islamophobia in India.

Ironically, the Indian police and justice system remains complicit with the right-wing Hindu nationalist in their agenda of marginalizing and lynching Muslims.

The backing of the Indian state machinery of the human rights violators is evident from the fact that 11 Hindu men convicted of gang rape of Bilkis Bano were released by the court. They were given a heroic welcome and garlanded after their release.

"A Hindu religious leader asking thousands of his supporters to carry arms to support Modi's plan to make India a Hindu country. This is why India is the No.1 country in the world that is likely to witness a genocide," said Ashok Swain, Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at a Swedish university commenting on a video on Twitter.

US Muslims being let down

Dalia Al-Aqidi

o you remember American actor and singer Jussie Smollett? In January 2019, Smollett became known worldwide as the victim of a racist and homophobic hate crime. He reported to the Chicago police that two men had punched him in the face, poured an unknown chemical substance on him and wrapped a rope around his neck. He described his attackers as MAGA (Make America Great Again) supporters, a slogan former President Donald Trump used.

As a result, he immediately received support from celebrities in political and cultural circles and his claims were met with outrage about how the country was divided between the white oppressor and the oppressed minorities.

With tears in his eyes, Smollett suggested to "Good Morning America" that his attackers were white. "If I had said he was a Muslim, or a Mexican, or someone Black, I feel like the doubters would have supported me much more. A lot more,"

It did not take the Chicago police long to solve this heinous crime and reveal the shocking truth. The "Empire" actor came up with the plan, staged the attack and paid two Nigerian men, who worked as extras on the show, to pretend to be the racist, homophobic attackers. The police added that Smollett "took advantage of the pain and anger of racism to promote his career."

In March 2022, Smollett was



found guilty on five of six counts of disorderly conduct for making false reports to the Chicago Police Department.

This story should have been a good lesson for those who try to incite hatred and racism for their own personal gain. But some do not want to learn or perhaps think they are more intelligent than the

In San Diego, California, a local imam who was well known for publicly debating with people about Islam claimed in March that he was attacked by a man who called him a terrorist, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. In a viral video, Uthman ibn Faroog claimed that a man motivated by Islamophobia stabbed him while he was in downtown San Diego providing information about Islam. "I punched him, and he was too cowardly to fight like a man: he took a knife and tried to cut me." he said, adding that he went to an urgent sentenced to 150 days in jail after being care clinic for treatment on a wound to also wished Uthman a speedy recovery.

his abdomen.

There was no reason to doubt Uthman's claim, especially with him being a religious leader — except that no records support his claims.

The Islamists' narrative and the victimhood card have become known to many in the Western world, regardless of the support they provide each other to give themselves credibility.

The questionable Council on American-Islamic Relations hastened to stand by the founder of the One Message Foundation, condemning the "bias-motivated attack." Its statement added: "Hate rhetoric can quickly turn into a hate crime, causing harm to life and property. We call on members of the public to offer any information they have about this attack and for city officials to take immediate action to ensure public safety for all minority communities." The council

Recovery from what?

The police denied any knowledge of an attack. No crime was reported, no charges were brought and nobody was tried or sent to jail, as Uthman claimed in September.

Freelance journalist Ahnaf Kalam was forcibly removed from a mosque in Colorado for asking Uthman to provide the name of the jailed attacker. Kalam was led out of the building by Karim Abu Zaid, imam of the Colorado Muslims Community Center.

Why would Uthman lie? Why wouldn't he answer a simple question? Hasn't he heard of Smollett?

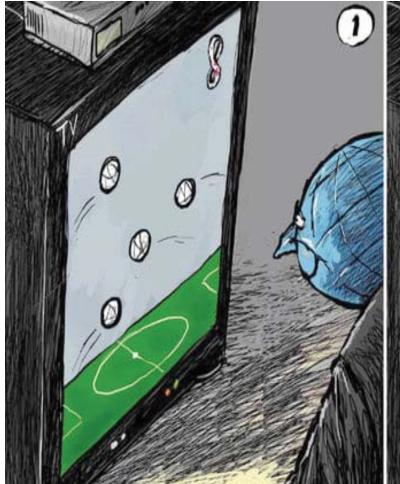
According to its website, the One Message Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in 2014, aims to educate people to bring about better understanding of Islam. However, Islamists continue to portray the US as an enemy of all Muslims; this incident was just one example.

Moderate Muslims who want to live in harmony with the rest of their society should confront this dangerous agenda and refuse to be used and represented by radical ideology-driven so-called religious leaders.

Uthman needs to come clean and apologize for tainting the reputation of American Muslims. He must be held accountable for spewing racism and hatred under the pretext of fighting Islamophobia.

Islamists should have no place in West-

Dalia Al-Aqidi is a senior fellow at the Center for Security Policy. Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect newspaper point of view





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

Financial Crunch Deepens

Asrar Raouf

he ongoing financial crisis in Pakistan is almost unprecedented in its nature and content and is exacerbating by the day. At the centre of crisis is the financial crunch owing to the extreme paucity of foreign exchange that has witnessed the entire economic cycle coming to a grinding halt.

Resultantly, the overall business confidence in Pakistan fell to minus four percent that most observers consider as not surprising keeping in view the highly challenging political and economic situation.

Since after the induction of the coalition government in April 2022 the country is in the grip of intense political turmoil and has been devoid of political stability and has suffered heavily owing to the never-ending political agitation.

The current financial scenario apparently looks untenable and may rattle the overall economic position of the country that is widely forecast to be on the edge of financial default.

Pakistan financial crisis:Though the official circles are vehemently denying the possibility of a default, vet the conditions are ripe for bringing in such an eventuality.

The reputation of the financial czar of the coalition government has been badly besmirched in the process and it is now widely believed that he lacks the wherewithal to counter the mounting difficulties.

One of the most disastrous conse-

that it has ushered in economic instability with macroeconomic indicators of the economy's health continuing to deteriorate.

This is a nerve-wracking situation and is cyclically affecting all segments of the national economy with policy makers finding themselves in an unenviable fix and feeling encircled in an almost impossible hopeless situation unless something radical is attempted and subsequently achieved.

This situation has arisen due to the fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves of the country. It is pointed out at the end of March 2022, the SBP's reserves stood at \$11.425 billion but they gradually tanked to an almost four-year low of \$6.715 billion in December. A massive decline of \$4.71 billion or more than 41 percent in a little over eight months — mainly due to external debt payments — has compelled the SBP to restrict all foreign exchange

outflows that could be delayed. The fall in foreign exchange reserves to below \$7 billion level has happened for the first time since January 2019. The current reserves stand at around \$6.7 billion, which is almost equal to \$6.6 billion on January 18, 2019. The \$6.7 billion reserves are not enough to service the \$8.8 billion principal and interest payments during the January-March period of the current fiscal year.

To make situation further complicated is the fact that external financing gaps are getting wider as non-debt-creating foreign exchange

quences of political uncertainty is inflows remain low and between July and November exports were down by 3.5 per cent year-on-year basis to \$11.932 billion. Although imports shrank 20 per

cent year-on-year during this period, still the import bill totaled \$26.338 billion pushing the trade deficit to \$14.406 billion that is rated to be large. It is mentioned that home remittances alone cannot adequately compensate as they cannot be expected to exceed \$12.4 billion. During July-October 2022, remittances totaled \$9.9 billion registering 8.6 per cent year-on-year

It is therefore not surprising that the financial managers of the coalition government as well as the State Bank of Pakistan are in a state of fix and are running from pillar to post to remedy the situation.

To begin with, they have requested Saudi Arabia for providing cash support of \$3 billion at their earliest to be deposited with the SBP to help the country meet external financing requirements in the next quarter. In this context the finance minister requested the kingdom for doing this favour and it was also reported that the new army chief on his expected visit to Saudi Arabia may also try to add his weight to the proposition.

Finance Minister made the request during a meeting with the Saudi ambassador and his meeting took place in a string of meetings for two consecutive days when he asked foreign diplomats to seek their financial support and also influreleasing its \$1.2 billion tranche to the country.

The financial managers are also hectically working to arrange an additional \$1.2 billion from Saudi Arabia as oil import facility to tide over the tremendous expense required for importing fuel in Paki-

It must be kept in view that Saudi Arabia has recently rolled over a \$3 billion deposit previously placed with the SBP and Pakistani authorities are quite hopeful that Saudi Arabia would come to their assistance although the kingdom is unusually slack in responding to Pakistani request implying that it may not be favourably disposed

towards this request. Feeling their backs to the wall, Pakistan has sought even larger debt rollovers from China and the finance managers expect that Beijing will not do their bidding. In the first week of November Pakistan received assurances of a \$13 billion financial package from China and Saudi Arabia, including \$5.7 billion in fresh loans including \$4.2 billion from Saudi Arabia and \$8.8 billion from China.

However, no progress could be made during the past one month and instead the country paid back two commercial loans of China totaling \$1.2 billion.

It is pointed out that the \$13 billion package is equal to 38% of the estimated gross external financing requirements of the country for

the fiscal year 2022-23. ence the IMF to soften its stance on remove the threat of default in wake

of the fact that the IMF has not come up with a major financial package despite imposing numerous harsh conditions. Pakistan is again looking towards the friendly countries as it has been unable to revive the \$6.5 billion IMF bailout package that has been derailed for the fourth time in

The IMF has not yet finalised the dates for the staff-level talks that are much needed to acquire the next loan tranche of \$1.2 billion. Pakistan and the IMF teams held discussions about the practicality of the official estimates of \$32 billion foreign inflows during the current fiscal year.

The discussions mainly focused on the \$26 billion inflows estimates by the Pakistani side and the estimates included budgetary loans of \$23 billion and grants of \$1.5 billion. Pakistan has estimated that it would receive \$6.2 billion in foreign commercial loans, down from the previous estimate of \$7.5 billion but this money was not received during the first quarter. Of the estimated foreign commercial loans of \$6.2 billion, \$3.5 billion will come from

The remaining \$2.7billion will be provided by the non-Chinese foreign commercial banks having shorter maturity periods. In the meanwhile, the exact time lag between now and the release of the next IMF tranche would determine how long negative perceptions about Pakistan's economy may persist, how long, even necessary imports may If it materializes then it can remain hampered and how much more value the rupee will shed.

Is the Taliban-led govt in Afghanistan becoming a threat to peace in Pakistan?

Sofia Fazal

etween July and August 2021, when US soldiers started to leave Afghanistan, the Taliban started to take hold. They now have complete power over the nation and have installed an interim government. Ever since the Afghan-Taliban came into power, conflicts have increased alarmingly along the problematic border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The regularity of these clashes has only risen since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in August 2021. The most recent border conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan took place on December 15, 2022, Thursday. According to Pakistani officials, one person was killed and 15 others were injured in a new round of "indiscriminate" cross-border artillery bombardment by Afghan Taliban fighters on civilian locations. The victims also included women and children. Although the strike provoked a brief exchange of gunfire close to the Chaman border crossing, no information of Afghan side casualties was immediately available. Due to similar clashes last month, Pakistan closed the Chaman-Spin Boldak crossing for more than a week, stranding hundreds of vehicle convoys carrying Afghan commercial cargo on both sides. According to speculation, incidences of militant attacks on Pakistani security personnel have also increased after Gen. Asim Munir, the country's new army leader, took over for Qamar Javed Bajwa on November 29. There was a great deal of celebration in Pakistan following the fall of the Ghani administration in Kabul last year. The security establishment as well as conservative sections of the populace welcomed the withdrawal of Western troops from Afghanistan, However, recent events have shown the unfavourable side effects of a Taliban-led government. Islamabad's shaky relationship with the Afghan Taliban makes the situation extremely dangerous for Pakistan, which is already dealing with multiple crises at home, including a severe economic downturn, political unrest over the confrontation between the powerful army and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, and the ongoing effects of significant flooding earlier this year.

Indonesia keen to strengthen economic, trade relations with Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Adam M. Tugio here on Monday emphasized on strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations with Pakistan.

During a call on meeting with Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, the ambassador appreciated Pakistan government for supporting joint venture projects between the two countries.

The minister and Ambassador discussed measures to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. They agreed to extend full support to enhance bilateral relations between both the countries.

On the occasion, the finance minis-



ter Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar highlighted profound historical and brotherly relations between the two countries.

He shared that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Indonesia and expressed satisfaction over the magnitude of economic and trade and investment cooperation and showed desire his government to further deepen the trade and economic partnership between the two coun-

Dar extended sympathy over loss of lives in recent earthquake disasters in Indonesia, the statement added.

He also appreciated the flood relief support of Indonesian government to flood affectees in Pakistan and said that the humanitarian support reflected the spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation.

UNHCR receives €1 million from L'Oréal Group to support flood affected

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, today welcomed the announcement of €1,000,000 [One Million Euro donation by the L'Oréal Group, the world's leading beauty company, to provide emergency support for flood affected communities in Pakistanis well as help rebuild community infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and shelters.

The donation, which comes as the people of Pakistan continue to grapple with the devastating effects of the 2022 floods, will contribute to UNHCR's response for approximately 8.5 million people in the worst affected provinces of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Kev activities include the handover of emergency core relief items including blankets, emergency shelter, hygiene items, mosquito nets and solar-powered lanterns.

UNHCR, in its leadership of protection activities is also working alongside child protection risks, to ensure timely



are identified and addressed through prevention, risk mitigation and other services by specialised actors. The grant will strengthen measures to address gender-based violence and

partners to ensure that critical needs aid for the most vulnerable and delivered in a safe and dignified manner.

The funding will also assist in the early recovery process, including building up the resilience of refugees and their host communities and rehabilitating damaged public servic-

es such as schools, health, and water

The L'Oréal Group's contribution demonstrates a firm commitment towards solidarity and responsibility sharing with Pakistan, which is among the world's largest host of refugees, said UNHCR Representative to Pakistan, Noriko Yoshida. "This contribution will support vulnerable families affected by flooding and help them to rebuild their homes, their lives and their communities."

Alexandra Palt, L'Oréal Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer and CEO Foundation L'Oréal said; "As the flood waters recede, every passing day is bringing more challenges for the communities as people continue to be displaced by the catastrophic floods and the scale of the destruction remains huge. The funding awarded to UNHCR by L'Oréal will be directed towards rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance in Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

Pakistan benefited numerous from BRI: SA to PM



Correspondent

GWADAR: "The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have significant international influence and can effectively help developing countries promote infrastructure construction and economic development.

Pakistan is the biggest beneficiary of BRI," said Zafaruddin Mahmood, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, according to Gwadar PRO on Monday

Zafaruddin Mahmood gave remarks at the high-end academic forum on Sino-Pakistan ties. The forum was hosted online and offline by Jiangxi University of Science and Technology (JXUST).

The forum focused on CPEC, China-Pakistan language, culture, and education cooperation, China-Pakistan nonferrous metals cooperation, China-Pakistan economy and trade, and Pakistan hot issues.

The special assistant has studied in China for many years and claims himself a "China-made student". He stated at the forum's opening ceremony that BRI, the Global Development Initiative, and the Global Security Initiative are all very important and have the potential to make the world a better place in the next 100 years.

He specifically affirmed the "2+2" talent training model jointly established by JXUST and the University of Punjab, and expressed his expectation that future exchanges and cooperation between the two parties would be strengthened.

In his welcome remarks, Wen Herui, President of JXUST, expressed his optimism for the forum as an opportunity to build on the momentum and make new and greater contributions to the high-quality development of Sino-Pakistan ties. Luo Lin, Director of Secretariat of International and Regional Studies of the Ministry of Education of China, highlighted that "China and Pakistan have supported and forged ahead with each other in the face of changes and chaos in the world, which demonstrates our unwavering friendship."

He expressed support to the Pakistan Studies Center of JXUST for its efforts to strengthen liaison with various parties and build a distinctive think tank platform by combining the university's superior disciplines.

Tu Anbo, Vice President of the Jiangxi People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, explained that in recent years, Jiangxi has continuously expanded cooperation and exchanges with Pakistan in the implementation of the BRI, and achieved fruitful results in the areas of CPEC construction, the fight against the epidemic, economy and trade, education and culture.

He said the association is willing to work with other parties to expand Sino-Pak cooperation mechanisms and platforms, promote the of establishment Sino-Pak sister cities, schools and hospitals, and add new impetus to the building of an even closer Sino-Pak community with a shared future in the new era.

In his closing remarks, Liu Chengsheng, Secretary of the CPC Committee of School of Foreign Languages at JXUST, proposed to hold similar forums on a regular basis in the future and looked forward to smooth communication channels between the governments, universities and researchers of the two countries to continuously promote exchanges

Zulfigar Ali, Director of the Board of Investment, Prime Minister's Office of Pakistan, Luo Jianxue, President of the Lahore Overseas Chinese Association, Mahboob Hussain, Chairman of Department of history and Pakistan studies, Ma Zhiwei, Deputy Director of the Liaoyuan South Asia Institute, other scholars and over 200 faculty and students also attended the forum.

Grand opening of Pakistani restaurant chain Royal Nawab in East London

Diplomat Correspondent

LONDON: Royal Nawab's opening in East London is a matter of honor for Pakistan. Overseas Pakistanis play an important role in the country's economy and development: M. Akram Farid.

Bangladeshi restaurant in the UK or Western Europe offers such a varied buffet to its customers: Malik Mehboob

Vice-Chairman of Pakistan el to West London to eat Paki-Hotels Association Mian Akram Farid while addressing the opening ceremony of Royal Nawab Restaurant in Ilford (UK) Akram Farid Said that Royal Nawab for Pakistan, Overseas Pakistanis are our precious capital.

pride of the country and they

with making the name of Pakistan known around the world. Pakistanis living abroad are the backbone of the country's economy, just like the Pakistanis living abroad are working in England. With the opening of the Royal No other Indian, Pakistani or Nawab Hotel in Elfield, the Pakistani and Asian communities will now be able to enjoy delicious Pakistani cuisine in East London - where Pakistanis and (Staff Reporter) Senior Asians living here had to trav-

He further said that due to the hard work and dedication of Malik Mahboob, the owner of Royal Nawab Restaurant, today Restaurants is a matter of honor Royal Nawab Restaurant is a name in the world. And this is an honor for Pakistan. No other Overseas Pakistanis are the Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi restaurant in the UK or Western in the UK or Western Europe are playing an important role Europe offers such a varied buffet offers such a varied buffet to its that the number of visitors to the is in thousands. He said that no of dishes we offer and no other

in the country's economy along to its customers. The variety of buffet at Royal Nawab is almost endless and customers can eat as much and as much as they want for a fixed price and it is left up to them to decide when to stop. "Our aim is to eat as much as possible and we try to satisfy the consumer's appetite with both quality and quantity," he said. In the last 10 years, Royal Nawab has introduced more than 100 dishes whereas earlier the range consisted of common popular dishes. Malik Mehboob, the owner of Royal Nawab Restaurant, said that he buys all the spices, rice and ingredients from

> For 40 years we have used the same buyers and retailers. Today we employ hundreds of people. No other Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi restaurant



customers. He further informed three places of Nawab every week other restaurant offers the range

restaurant has so many people who enjoy authentic Pakistani

The largest Pakistani specialty restaurant with more Pakistani dishes from all parts of Pakistan than any restaurant outside or at least in the UK and Europe. Customers from all backgrounds come to us especially to enjoy Pakistani cuisine. Even British and Europeans come to us every week just to enjoy Pakistani food, he added, adding that every evening there are huge queues outside the restaurant.

Families, groups and couples come to eat at the restaurant. Speaking at the inauguration, Alfredo Leader of the redbridge London Borough Council Jes Athwal said that we are very happy, with the Royal Nawab's opening here, we will enjoy Pakistani food here, for which we had to travel far before.

New Uzbekistan is a reliable partner in a changing and interconnected world

跨 Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: A round table organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan was held today in the Amirsov mountain resort in Tashkent region.

The event was attended by the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, heads of diplomatic missions of foreign countries and representative offices of international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan, ambassadors of our country in foreign

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov, in his speech during the round table on the topic "New Uzbekistan-a reliable partner in a changing and interconnected world", specifwhich is a priority of our country's foreign policy.

It was noted that, having sive cooperation, strengthening embarked on the path of full-



transformations, Uzbekistan, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, initiated a new course in foreign policy. It is based on commitment to the ically focused on Central Asia, principles of international law and the desire for peace, good neighborliness, comprehen-

the national interests of Uzbek-

"The Republic of Uzbekistan is committed to a constructive dialogue and the development of multilateral cooperation based on taking into account and respecting the interests of each state," V. Norov said. An examregional stability and interna- ple of this is the interaction of develop transport and energy

Uzbekistan in Central Asia. In recent years, the relations of our country with all the states of the region have been brought to a high strategic level.

Regular Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia have become an important mechanism for achieving such a high level of mutual trust and cooperation. They contribute to the development of common positions on issues of regional trade, economic, transport, environmental interconnectedness, as well as on solving the most pressing intra-regional issues.

Today, through joint efforts, an absolutely new, positive atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation has been formed in Central Asia. Over the past five years, the volume of regional trade has doubled. Work is underway to implement joint industrial cooperation projects, create efficient value chains, and



infrastructure. The countries of the region jointly confront new challenges and risks.

"We are jointly building a new future for Central Asia as a ic relations," the Uzbek Foreign Minister stressed.

Heads of the Embassies of

prosperous region, dynamically ny, India, Oman, the Republic integrated into world econom- of Korea, Romania, Tajikistan, Japan, as well as the heads of the UN and UNICEF missions in our country also made pressingle, consolidated, stable and Azerbaijan, Algeria, Germa- entations during the round table.

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

| Index Fluctuation | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | | | | |
| Current | Prev. Close | | | |
| 40,970.82 | 41,301.48 | | | |
| Day's High | Day's Low: | | | |
| 41,393.37 | 40,814.95 | | | |
| Index Value | Change | | | |
| 3,217,328,076 | -330.66 | | | |
| Percentage | Time | | | |
| -0.8% | 19 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm | | | |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | | | | |
| Index Value | Change | | | |
| 7,369.74 | +38.54 | | | |
| Percentage | Time | | | |
| 0.53% | 19 Dec, 4:10 pm GMT | | | |
| USA: Dow Jones I | ndustrial Average | | | |
| Index Value | Change | | | |
| 32,875.26 | -45.20 | | | |
| Percentage | Time | | | |
| | 19 Dec. 11:15 am | | | |

Open Market Forex Rates

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

GMT-5

Change

Time

19 Dec. 3:15 pm

GMT+9

-289.48

-0.14%

Index Value

27,237.64

Percentage

-1.05%

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 153.1 | 154.35 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 597.63 | 602.13 |
| Canadian Dollar | 164.68 | 166.03 |
| China Yuan | 32.23 | 32.48 |
| Danish Krone | 32.14 | 32.49 |
| Euro | 256 | 258.5 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 28.91 | 29.26 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.72 | 2.8 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.17 | 2.21 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 731.99 | 736.99 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 50.95 | 51.4 |
| NewZealand \$ | 143.33 | 144.53 |
| Norwegians Krone | 22.43 | 22.73 |
| Omani Riyal | 584.2 | 588.7 |
| Qatari Riyal | 61.75 | 62.25 |
| Saudi Riyal | 64.2 | 64.8 |
| Singapore Dollar | 165.24 | 166.54 |
| Swedish Korona | 21.78 | 22.08 |
| Swiss Franc | 241.9 | 243.65 |
| Thai Bhat | 6.4 | 6.5 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 67.3 | 67.9 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 294 | 297 |
| US Dollar | 231.7 | 234 |

Shan Foods achieves grade AA BRC rating for 3rdconsecutive year

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Maintaining its excellence in quality & food safety, Shan Foods has achieved the 'AA' grade rating for the third year in a row in the Brand Reputation Compliances Global Standard (BRCGS) re-certification audit, becoming the first spice company in Pakistan to achieve 'AA' rating consecutively 3rd time.

Apart of being certified on BRC Food Standard, Shan Foods holds certifications which are recognized globally such as FSSC, QMS, EMS, OHSMS and Halaal certifications i.e. PS 3733 OIC SMIIC 1 and JAKIM

Commenting on the achievement, Mushkbar Zehra, Director Quality Assurance, HSE & Compliance at Shan Foods, remarked, "This is just one of the chapters in Shan Foods' success story, and we intend to keep expanding and bringing our customers' happiness and high-quality food."

Kyrgyzstan wants enhanced trade relations with Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Ulanbek Totuiaev, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan said that his country wants enhanced trade relations with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to do trade in many items. He said that Kyrgyzstan exported 3000 ton coal this year to Pakistan and being a rich country in natural resources, can supply more items to Pakistan. He said that Pakistan can export many products to Kyrgyzstan including pharmaceuticals, textiles, agricultural products. He said that Pakistani mangoes and citrus have also great potential in Kyrgyzstan. He said that Kyrgyzstan is importing marble from India and Pakistani marble exporters have a good opportunity to capture the market in Kyrgyzstan. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

The Kyrgyz Envoy said that a Kyrgyzstan House would be opened in Lahore next



consumers. He said that a China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project would be extended to Peshawar through Afghanistan in future that would help in boosting trade relations. He said that an investment summit would be held in Kyrgyzstan in January or February

should participate in it to explore business and investment opportunities in his country. He said that ICCI should form a delegation for Kyrgyzstan and assured that his embassy would provide cooperation in facilitating its visit.

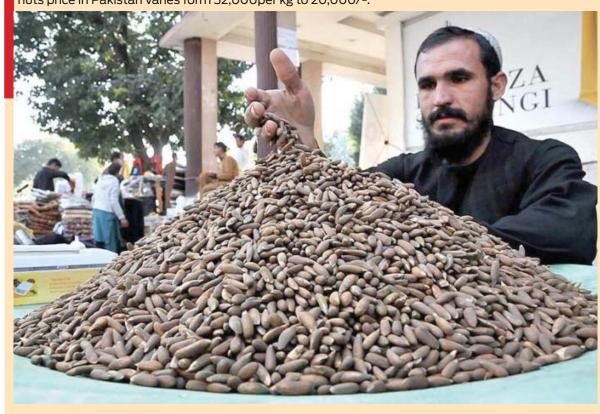
Speaking at the occasion, Engr. Muhammad to display the Kyrgyz products for Pakistani next year and stressed that Pakistani investors Zafar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President, Islamabad

Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan are enjoying cordial relations, but their bilateral trade of around US\$ 8-9 million is much below the actual potential of both countries. He said that both countries are doing trade in limited items and they should focus on diversification of trade to achieve better results. He said that Pakistan can provide easy access to Kyrgyzstan through its port to many world markets. He said that the Kyrgyzstan embassy should share a list of potential areas for business and investment for Pakistan in Kyrgyzstan so that ICCI can form a delegation for Kyrgyzstan to take advantage of them.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, Muhammad Ahmed, Amir Hamza, Javed Iqbal, Hamayun Kabir, Maqsood Tabish, Khalid Chaudhry, Syed Adil Anis, Ch. Ashraf Farzand and others also spoke at the occasion and shared useful ideas to further improve bilateral business and investment relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. They stressed for direct road, railway and air links between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan to improve trade relations.

Too costly to buy

ISLAMABAD: A Vendor displaying Pine nuts (Jalghoza) to attract the customers. (Good quality pine nuts price in Pakistan varies form 32,000per kg to 20,000/-.



Revenue shortfall of Rs800b will be unbearable: Mian Zahid Hussain

55 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 Monday said some failed politicians are only concerned about power and least interested in the economic recovery.

The political chaos is causing great damage to the country's economy which should be brought to an end in the national interest, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the production, exports, investment, and remittances are continuously falling and due to an unannounced ban on imports and some other factors, the revenue shortfall will be at least Rs800 billion which may cross the mark of Rs1100 billion.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if the prices of oil in the global market are further reduced, instead of reducing their prices in the local market, the revenue shortfall should be met by increasing the

An aggressive marketing policy should be made to increase exports. Subsidies should be stopped and this money should be spent where it is needed, he said.



Mian Zahid Hussain said that if the government convinces the IMF to lower the tax target, the revenue shortfall can also be reduced, but this will be a temporary measure.

He stressed that in order to maintain the current setup and win the next election, the current government has no option but to improve the economy.

If the economy cannot be improved, people will not vote for him. The current ground situation is that industrial and agricultural production, exports, investment, and remittances are continuous-

Production of major industries has decreased by almost 8% while in the

month of October the textile sector has decreased by 24.6% compared to the same month last year.

Hundreds of factories have been closed and millions of people have become unem-

There are 4,000 containers of imported goods at the port which are not being cleared due to a shortage of foreign exchange and the effects of the shortage of many essential commodities in the coun-

try are beginning to be felt, he informed. Due to the difference of twenty-five rupees between the official and market rate of the dollar, handi traders have found a new opportunity, and Pakistanis living in other countries are also preferring illegal means to send the foreign exchange to Pakistan.

In this situation it would be better to liberalize the dollar, the appreciation of the dollar would increase exports, remittances, and revenue collection, which would also provide resources for direct subsidies to the low-income class to combat

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the interest rates are increasing in developed countries due to which investors are preferring Western countries for investment instead of developing countries therefore policymakers plan to deal with these situations.

Hyundai Nishat Motor and Shell Pakistan join hands to launch co-branded lubricant products



Commerce Reporter

LAHORE: Hyundai Nishat Motor (Private) Limited (HNMPL) has collaborated with Shell, the leading global supplier of finished lubricants for 16 years, to launch co-branded lubricant products exclusively designed for Hyundai vehicles.

The collaboration will create the fully synthetic, next-generation co-branded lubricant 5W-30 AH, specially formulated and built to keep the Hyundai vehicle's engine running at full perfor-

in the high-quality lubricants long run.

and fueling products marketed by Shell all over the world. This collaboration reflects the inspiration of both companies for innovation and greater reliability in automobiles which is based on extensive research and development."

The Chief Executive & Managing Director of Shell Pakistan Limited, Mr. Waqar Siddiqui, expressed his commitment to introducing a fully synthetic lubricant, "We are pleased to work in cohesion with a world-class automobile producer, like Hyundai. This exclusively designed new lubricant formula for The Chief Executive Officer unmatched cleansing of the of Hyundai Nishat Motor, Mr. Hyundai vehicle engines, Hasan Mansha said, "Hyun- mile after mile, to ensure dai Motor has complete trust—peak performance in the

Dawlance Dealers' Convention 2022 features revolutionary new products

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Dawlance is the leading manufacturer of highly innovative home appliances in Pakistan, with 4 decades of experience in creating unmatched convenience for consumers. While it has established a nationwide network of 1800+ dealers all over Pakistan.

This grand event in Islamabad was also enriched by the introduction of Dawlance's newly launched Television, Air-conditioner, Washing-Machine and other high-performance product categories. This ceremony was a winning stroke, as it highlighted the extensive research and award-winning technologies of Dawlance that conserve up to 55% energy, for greater environmental sustainability.

Dawlance, being the whol-



ly-owned subsidiary of Arçelik - the 2nd largest manufacturer in Europe, always strives for excellence. Being a global company, based in Turkey-Arcelik has always maintained the highest standards of performance, safety and service.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dawlance - Umar Ahsan Khan stated: We are grateful to all our dealers and distributors for inspiring a highly responsive customer-care culture, to ensure customers' satisfaction, while we are offering better comforts and health for the consumers.

CCP takes action against PESCO for abusing its dominant position

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has in its Order dated 13 December 2022, found Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) acting in violation of Section 3 of the Act, i.e., abusing its dominant position.

PESCO was dominant in the market for "Right of Way (ROW) through electric poles availed by different types of cable service providers in the geographic boundary of Peshawar," as it solely owned/managed the poles and there were no other substitutes. For the same ROW being provided to all cable operators, the Complainants (i.e., Nayatel Pvt. Ltd and Cyber Internet Services (Pvt.) Ltd.) were charged an enhanced fee from PKR 10 per pole to PKR 100 per pole as compared to basic TV cable operators without any legitimate objective justifications. The terms have been held as discrimina-

Act. PESCO had abused its superior bargain- only sent to the Complainants. In this connecing position and imposed further unfair trading conditions in contravention of Section 3(3)(a) of the Act on the Complainants, i.e., that they must provide 10-minute advertisements and free internet connection facilities to all PESCO

PESCO had annulled its pole renting policy after initiation of the show-cause proceedings, mainly on the pretext of safety grounds. However, as the same inter alia related to an essential public utility/ROW and there were no other substitutable means available for the Complainants to provide cable, internet, and telephony services to end consumers, thus, negatively impacting consumers and other stakeholders alike, PESCO was found to have abused its dominant position in contravention of Section 3 of the Act.

PESCO/Respondent's conduct was also discriminatory as admittedly decommissiontory in contravention of Section 3(3)(b) of the ing notices related to removal of cables were

tion, the Bench found support from the applicable telecommunication regulatory regime, particularly, in terms of Section 27A of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996 and the 2020 Public and Private Right of Way Policy Directive, which provides that the licensees can use the poles of government and privately owned electricity distribution and supply companies (DISCOs) for aerial installation of optical fibre cables. Moreover, it broadly states that the fee imposed by a public authority for a public right of way shall be on a no profit no loss basis, should not be a means of commercial benefit and there shall be no discrimination against any licensee in terms of the fee charged.

As for the safety grounds raised by PESCO, it could not satisfy the Bench in this regard. In the Order it is observed that, as per the Enquiry findings, the accidents/incidents had decreased from the year 2017-2018 till the year 2020-2021. No further evidence was provided to



substantiate these assertions. Moreover, since other DISCOs are already providing ROW on similar rates to fibre optic cable operators and, as such, no denial on safety grounds has been reported or witnessed, the contentions were not acceded to.

Owing to the peculiarity of the case, to ensure compliance and to encourage corrective behaviour, the Commission has directed

the Respondent to restore access to the ROW and/or provide the ROW to Nayatel and Cybernet, on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms no later than twenty-one (21) days from the date of receipt of the Order. Failing which, the Respondent shall be liable to pay a fixed penalty of PKR 75 million and an additional penalty of PKR 0.5 million for every day after the first of such violations or the subject abuse had occurred.

The Commission emphasized that access to broadband technology has significant beneficial economic and social impacts and is in line with the objectives of the Government of Pakistan to promote digital inclusion. The Commission has also recommended that all private and government stakeholders, including the Respondent, create a uniform policy for the deployment of broadband technology and ROW that may address any/all space/safety issues, including considering any shared infrastructure possibilities to fulfill the overall public policy objectives.

Ahmed's record haul sets England on course for clean sweep in Pakistan

News Desk

 $KARACHI: England \, leg \, spinner \, Rehan$ Ahmed picked five wickets on his test debut to put the team on course for a comfortable victory in the third and final test against Pakistan in Karachi on Monday.TV South Today Reported

With two days of play remaining, England need 55 runs to win the test and become the first test team to complete a 3-0 whitewash in Pakistan, having won the first two tests in Rawalpindi and

Ahmed s spin bowling proved to be the game-changer for Ben Stokes team as wickets tumbled in clusters at the National Stadium.

The 18-year-old became the youngest debutant in men s test history to take a five-for, beating the record held by Australias Pat Cummins.

After scoring 304 in the first innings, Pakistan were bowled out for 216 in the second, setting England a target of 167. The visitors struck 354 in their first



innings.

Zak Crawley (41) and Ben Duckett (50 not out) made a flying start for England in their chase and the visitors will begin day four at 112-2, with Stokes (10) also

Earlier, spinner Jack Leach took three top-order wickets in six balls in the morning session before Babar Azam and Saud Ali was out for a duck in his final test among the wicket-takers.

Shakeel struck a 110-run partnership to keep Pakistan in the contest.

But Stokes then introduced Ahmed in the afternoon session and the youngster ripped apart Pakistan s middle order.

Resuming on an overnight score of 21-0, trailing by 29 runs, Pakistan lost opener Shan Masood for 24 while Azhar

Leach then trapped Abdullah Shafique (26) lbw for his third wicket as the hosts, playing for pride in front of their home

crowd, looked desperate for a turnaround. Half-centuries by Babar and Saud added some life to Pakistan s fight but Ahmed derailed their revival with three vital wickets.

The 18-year-old got his biggest scalp when Babar was caught by Ollie Pope in mid-wicket and Ahmed later removed Mohammad Rizwan with a perfect leg-break delivery.

Saud was Ahmed s third victim before Mohammad Wasim was added to the list as the youngster was cheered on by his father, who was beaming with joy in the stands.

Ahmed completed his five-wicket haul by removing Agha Salman, leading the England team off the field as he tossed the ball up and down in his hands in cele-

Joe Root and Mark Wood were also

Begum Kulsum Saifullah Khan Tennis Tournament 2022 kicks off

Sports Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The 8th Boys/Girls Begum Kulsum Saifullah Khan National Ranking Doubles. Tennis Tournament 2022 commenced at the Pakistan visited PTF Complex and Tennis Federation Complex on Monday.

The prestigious event is held annually in the memory of late Begum Kulsum nament. Saifullah Khan, mother of President PTF Senator Salim Saifullah Khan.

A large number of players, including all the top-notch players - Aisamul-Haq Qureshi, Aqeel Khan, Muhammad Shoaib, Muzammil Murtaza, Muhammad Abid, Barkatullah, Shahzad Khan, Yousaf Khalil, Heera Ashiq and Sarah Ibrahim Khan are

participating in the event. The PTF Complex is giving a festive look due to

their parents and coaches.

Girls 14&under Singles, 12&under Singles and Seniors 45+

Salim Saifullah Khan witnessed some of the matches. He interacted with the players and wished them good luck for the tour-

Meanwhile, on Monday competitions were held in Men's Singles Qualifying 1st Round, Men's Singles Qualifying 2nd Round, Men's Singles Qualifying Final Round, Boys 18&Under Singles Qualifying1st Round and Boys 18&Under Singles Qualifying Final Round. Results:

Men's Singles Qualifying-1st Round: Noor Mustafa bt Syed Nofil Kaleem the presence of the players, Asad Zaman 6-0; M. Huzai-

Rehmat Haseeb Inayat Raja 6-1; Farman Shakell bt Aqil Khan 6-1; M. Salar Khan bt Danish Ramzan 6-2;Jibran ul Haq bt Yahya Musa Luni 6-0;Farhan Wahid bt Sameer Ahmed 6-1; Ibrahim Saqib bt Asif Mehmood 6-3; Kashan ul Haq bt Ikramullah 7-5; Danish Raza bt Jahenzaib Inam 7-5; Mujahid Khan bt Sikendar Amin 6-3; Syed Murtaza

bt Abdullah Karim 6-0; M.

Khan 6-1; Farman Shakeel

Zarvab Khan bt Faisl Khalil 6-1;Bakir Ali bt Muhammad Khan 6-0;Abdullah Shafaqat bt Hasan Ali 6-3 Men's Singles Qualifying 2nd Round: Noor Mustafa bt Daisuke 6-3; Shahid Afridi bt Azeem Khan 6-1: M. Huzaifa Khan bt Abdullah 6-0; Nameer Shamsi bt M. Pervaiz 6-1; Hasam Khan bt Inam Qadir 6-1;

6-3; Azeem Khan bt Abdul Rafay 6-1;Shahid Afridi bt Hamza Roman bt Kamran fa Khan bt Tahirullah Khan bt Hamza Rehmat 6-2; According to a PTF 6-0; Nameer Shamsi bt Ibra- Abdullah Adnan bt Raia spokesman, around 270 him Yousaf 6-3; Hasam Ali 6-0; Salar Khan bt M. entries have been received Khan bt Saifullah Khan Abdullah 7-6(2); Jibran ul Zaman 6-3 in nine different catego- 6-2:Inam Qadir bt Mustan- Hag bt Farhan Wahid 6-1: ries – Men's, Singles, Men's sir Ali Khan 6-3; Hamza Kashan ul Haq bt Ibrahim will start on Tuesday where-Doubles, Ladies Singles, Roman bt Shawal Azeem Saqib 6-4; Mujahid Khan bt in the top-ranked players

14&under Singles/Doubles, Rashid Khan 6-2;Hamza bt Murtaza 6-3; Bakir Lai bt Zaryab Khan 6-3; Abdullah Shafaqat bt Hasan Aziz 6-2

Men's Singles Qualifying Final Round: Shahid Afridi bt Noor Mustafa 6-0; M. Huzaifa Khan bt Nameer Shamsi 7-5: Hasam Khan bt Hamza Roman 6-2; Farman Shakeel bt Abdul Rasheed 6-2; Abdullah Adnan bt Salar Khan 6-0; Jibran ul Haq bt Kashan ul Haq 6-0; M. Hamza bt Mujahid Khan 6-0; Bakir Ali bt Abdullah Shafagat 6-1

Boys 18&Under Singles Qualifying1st Taimoor Ansari bt Sameer Kayani 6-1; Sameer Zaman bt Syed Hamza Hussain 7-5; Ali Zain bt Muhammad Uzair 7-6(5); Abdul Razak bt Faisal Khalil 5-5(Retd)

Boys 18&Under Singles Qualifying Final Round: Bilal Ikram bt M. Sohan 6-4; Hamza Rehmat bt Muzammil 6-4; Yahya Musa Luni bt Ihtisham Khan 6-2; Nabeel Ali Qayum bt Taimoor Khan 6-4; M. Haziq Asim Sameer

Boys 18&under Singles, Boys 6-0; Kamran Khan bt Adnan Danish Raza 6-2; M. Hamza will be seen in action.

Babar Azam completes *1,000 runs* in a year



News Desk

KARACHI: Babar Azam became the first Pakistani in six years to score 1,000 Test runs in a calendar year and the fourth batter to reach the milestone in 2022 during the third Test against England in Karachi.

He is the sixth Pakistani batter to reach 1,000 in a year, crossing the total when he reached 45 during an innings that ended

Despite Babar s solid form, Pakistan are staring at a first-ever 3-0 series whitewash

Babar will have one more game in which to add to his 1,009 in 8 Tests when Pakistan take on New Zealand next week.

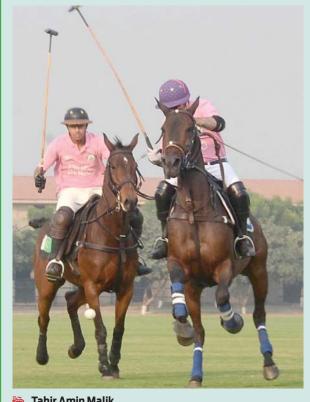
England's Joe Root — playing for the visitors in Karachi — tops the table for most runs in 2022, having scored 1,098

Australian Usman Khawaja (1,079 in 10 Tests) and England's Jonny Bairstow (1,061 in 10) are the other batters to have achieved the feat in Test cricket this year. For Pakistan, Younis Khan achieved the

feat twice, scoring 1,179 runs in 2006 and 1,064 in 2014. Others to score 1,000 or more runs in a year are Mohammad Yousuf (1.788 in 2006), Inzamam-ul-Haq (1,090 in

2000), Azhar Ali (1,198 in 2016) and Mohsin Khan (1,029 in 1982). Yousuf's aggregate is the most by any batter in a calendar year.

Lahore Open Polo: Master Paints Black, Remington Pharma record victories



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Master Paints Black and Remington Pharma recorded contrasting victories in Coca-Cola Lahore Open Polo Championship here at the Lahore Polo Club on Monday.

The first match of the day saw majestic Manuel Carranza cracking a double hat-trick to guide Master Paints Black to a sparkling 10-6 success over Barry's/DS Polo in the first match of the day.

Besides a superb six-goal contribution from the hero of the day Carranza, phenomenal Syed Aun Mohammed Rizvi also played a key role in his team's triumph as he thrashed in two tremendous goals while Sufi Muhammad Haroon and Sufi Muhammad Amir converted one goal apiece from the winning side. On the other hand, Rulo Trotz played well for the losing team and contributed with an impressive hat-trick while Nafees Barry and Daniyal Sheikh slammed in two and one goal respectively. Jhon Fisher and Amirreza Behboudi officiated the match as

Hamza Mawaz Khan's heroics helped Remington Pharma edge out Platinum Homes by 8-7 in the thrilling second match of the day. The enthralling encounter was tied 7-7 at the end of fourth round, so it was decided in the sudden death chukker, where Ahmed Bilal Riaz smashed in the match-winning goal for Remington Pharma.

High-flying Hamza was in sublime form, and he played excellent polo and fired in with fabulous five goals while Ahmed Zubair Butt thrashed in two tremendous goals and Ahmed Bilal Riaz scored one goal for Remington Pharma.

Amirreza Behboudi of Iran was also in great form and displayed outstanding pony and mallet work.

He skillfully converted superb six goals for Platinum Homes while Bilal Noon slammed in the remaining one but their efforts couldn't bear the fruits for their side, which lost the crucial match by a margin of just one goal in the sudden death chukker.

Jhon Fisher and Nicolas Ruiz Ghuinazu supervised the match as field umpires.

Christian community sports event organized



Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Ehsan Bhutta said all possible facilities will be provided for the holding of sports events across the province on the eve of Christmas; he said this while addressing the large gathering of Christian community's sports events organized at NPSC Gymnasium Hall.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Tariq Khanzada, DSO Lahore Tanveer Shah, Administrator NPSC Gymnasium Hall Mustfa Shah, Advisor to CM M Zulfiqar Pappan, Chairman Complaint Cell District Lahore Sohail Sarfraz Cheema, Padri Javed Gill, Padri Samuel B Messi, Pervaiz Michael, Ilyas A Khan and a large number of Christian community members were also pres-

Christian community's basketball and badminton events were held under the auspices of Sports Board Punjab and St Michael Sports Federation. Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Ehsan Bhutta and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi also distributed prizes on this occasion.

Sports Department Punjab is organizing awareness workshops

LAHORE: Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan has said that talented youth has been a valuable asset of the country and Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab is organising awareness workshops, on the directions of Secretary to protect the young girls and boys from the menace of activity. drugs and electronic devices. an awareness programme Affairs Syed Umair Hassan of Youth Affairs and Sports said that this campaign is Department Punjab against a nice initiative of Youth the 'Addiction of Drugs Affairs and Sports Departand Electronic Gadgets' ment Punjab for protection Monday.

Syed Umair Hassan, Assis- organize such programmes tant Director Youth Affairs on a regular basis so that this Nazish Noor, Project Devel- evil can be eradicated and opment Specialist Qasim the youth can be inclined Affairs Nazish Noor and Zia, Research Officer Sadia towards healthy activities. Pervaiz, officers of the Youth We are planning to hold Affairs and Sports Depart- more such awareness workment, a large number of shops in other colleges and sion. They said that the province.



Addressing boys and girls. "All educa-Director Youth Affairs tional institutions should

Project Development Specialist Qasim Zia on this occasion said that it is the He said this while addressing programme, Director Youth right time for our youth to show solid determination the province. to get rid of fatal drugs and excessive use of electron- on this occasion appreciatic devices. "We are quite upbeat that we will be able at University of Lahore on and betterment of young to show the right direction to our thousands of young boys and girls through our awareness workshops," he

> Assistant Director Youth Research Officer Sadia Pervaiz also addressed the of thousands of young male participants on this occa- and female students of the

Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab is organizing much needed awareness workshops to save the future of thousands of young male and female students of

The university officials ed the efforts of Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs for the betterment of the youth and the establishment of a good society. They expressed gratitude to Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Ehsan Bhutta for organizing much needed awareness workshops to save the future

New Zealand announce ODI squad for Pakistan, India series New Zealand have announced split in Karachi (January 10, 12, 14), along Chapman and Otago Volts pace-bowl-

of India and Pakistan in January to Jurgensen, to prepare for the England manage player and staff workloads, as home Test series in mid-February. all-rounder Henry Shipley gets a maid-

NZ will play three ODIs each in Pakistan and India. NZ ODI and Test captains Kane

return home after the Pakistan ODIs

ODI squads for their upcoming tours with coaches Gary Stead and Shane

For the three ODIs (January 18, 21, 24) and T20I (January 27, 29, February 1) series against India, Luke Ronchi will take over as head coach who will be assisted by NZC network coaches Bob Williamson and Tim Southee will Carter and Paul Wiseman.

Auckland Aces left-hander Mark

er Jacob Duffy will replace Williamson and Southee, while Tom Latham will captain the ODI series against India.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi (37 ODIs) and batter Henry Nicholls (58 ODIs) have been recalled for both series.

However, the squad for the T20I series against India will be announced after the opening rounds of the Dream11 Super Smash in NZ.

Bowled

KARACHI: Pakistan's Shan Masood is bowled out by England's Jack Leach during the third day of third test cricket match between England and Pakistan at Karachi National Stadium in Provincial Capital.

