



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ثامنه بیان کیا اور ان سے اس رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ ابو بکر رضی اللہ عنہ نے انہیں فرض رکوع میں وہی بات کہی تھی جو رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے مقرر فرمائی تھی اس میں یہ بھی لکھا جاتا تھا کہ جب دو شریک ہوں تو وہ اپنا حساب برابر کر لیں۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 1451)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Ishaq Dar expresses satisfaction over FBR's performance

Federal Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, here on Wednesday, expressed satisfaction over the performance of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and appreciated its team's efforts in meeting the set targets. Chairing a meeting on the revenue performance of FBR, the minister extended his full support to FBR in the performance of their duties for revenue collection. (Report on Page 8)



Speaker adjourned the session of Punjab Assembly till Friday

Yesterday, following the submission of a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi, the session of the Punjab Assembly was adjourned till December 23 (Friday) without any proceedings amid a ruckus by the opposition. According to details, PA Speaker Sibtain Khan adjourned the session of Punjab Assembly till Friday without any proceedings amid a ruckus by the opposition.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 27, Thursday, December 22, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 258 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Briefing

KOT DIJI, KHAIRPUR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on the damages caused by the floods in District Khairpur and relief activities in this regard on Wednesday



Photo: PID

Centre to fully support Sindh for post-flood rehabilitation: PM

News Desk

KHAIRPUR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the Federal Government would not leave the flood-affected people of Sindh in distress and would continue to take measures to mitigate their sufferings.

The prime minister, during his visit to PirGuddu and KotDiji towns of the flood-affected Khairpur district, inspected the post-flood rehabilitation work.

PM Shehbaz, in his address to the flood victims, said the people of Sindh suffered from loss of life and property as the floods had wreaked havoc in the province. The Federal Government, he added, provided the utmost resources to the provincial government to overcome the massive problem.

Under the Benazir Income Support Programme, the Federal Government disbursed Rs 70 billion to the flood victims, he



added. Serving the masses and their welfare was the priority of the government, the prime minister said.

Shehbaz Sharif said the rehabilitation and reconstruction work had been completed to a large extent, however, stressed that the de-watering of the inundated areas of Dadu required immediate attention.

He said in the wake of floods, some 20 million people, includ-

ing nine million children, were in dire need of assistance from the government, and it required billions of rupees to address the challenges of food and medicine.

PM Shehbaz mentioned that Pakistan was facing the brunt of climate change despite minimal contribution to the global carbon emissions.

He lauded the overseas Pakistanis for contributing Rs 2.75 billion donations to the Prime

Minister's Flood Relief Fund, which, he said, would be spent transparently for the welfare of flood-hit people.

He assured the flood-struck people that the government would construct houses for their proper accommodation. He also announced the establishment of a campus of COMSATS University in Khairpur.

The prime minister also met the flood-affected people at makeshift camps and inquired about the availability of facilities being provided to them by the government.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori said the coordination between federal and provincial governments was important in providing facilities to the flood-affected people who were facing the challenges of food security and accommodation.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah mentioned the need for the availability of funds for redefining and clear-

ing the natural water courses so as to minimize the chances of floods. He also sought the Federal Government's assistance to help the province rectify its drainage system.

Prime Minister Shehbaz was given a briefing on the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction projects being carried out in the flood-affected areas. It was highlighted that the areas be restored in line with the feasibility study following a rainfall of 2011-12 that outlined the natural water courses.

It was emphasized that most of the flood-hit areas had been de-watered, with electricity fully restored.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, National Disaster Management Authority Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik and senior officials of the provincial government were present.

COAS Asim Munir meets soldiers injured in Bannu operation

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Wednesday visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Rawalpindi and met officers and soldiers who got injured during Bannu operation.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), COAS Asim Munir remained with them for some time and inquired about their well-being.

The army chief appreciated their high spirits and morale and lauded their professionalism during the said operation against the terrorists.

A day earlier, Pakistan Armed Forces spokesperson Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has reaffirmed the military's resolve to continue fight against terrorism, saying that it would not tolerate cross-border terrorism under any circumstances. ARY News reported.

Speaking to ARY News exclusively, Pakistan Armed Forces spokesperson provided details of the operation and the background of the Bannu operation.

He noted that almost 35 terrorists were under arrest at the CTD compound and one of them had managed to overpower an employee after hitting him in the head with a brick.

"Later, two CTD officials were martyred in firing by one of the terrorists," Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said, adding that the



security forces reached the spot after hearing shots.

The spokesman added, "Initially, two terrorists were gunned down in exchange of fire while three who wanted to escape were arrested and two security personnel were injured as well."

"Our forces surrounded the entire area and failed any attempt by the terrorists to escape. In the last 48 hours, there was a complete attempt for an unconditional surrender from the terrorists who were demanding safe passage to go to Afghanistan."

He said this demand was "completely rejected" and shut down. Gen Sharif added that security forces started an operation on the CTD complex today during which there was heavy exchange of fire and rooms were cleared out.

He said three security officers were martyred in the operation while 10 were injured. "This operation is proof of the Pakistan Army's bravery and mission against terrorism," Gen Sharif added.

Punjab Governor likely to denotify CM Pervaiz Elahi, signs order

News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman has decided to denotify Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi after he did not seek the vote of confidence from the provincial assembly today, citing sources.

The notification for removing CM Pervaiz Elahi was prepared and signed by Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman, sources within the Governor's House told ARY News.

The governor completed consultations and the notification will be issued any time. Sources said that the notification might be issued at 12:00 midnight after the date changes, ending the deadline



to the CM Pervaiz Elahi to get the vote of confidence.

Sources added that the federal government chose to wait for the end of the day to close all constitutional passages for the Punjab chief minister (CM) and PA speaker.

Federal Govt decides to deploy Rangers, FC in Punjab

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to deploy Rangers and Frontier Corps (FC) in Punjab province, citing sources, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

Sources told ARY News that the federal government decided to deploy Rangers and FC personnel in Punjab to perform law and order duties.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah issued directives to the provincial chief secretary and inspector general (IG) to maintain law and order, said sources, adding that the interior minister directed the relevant authorities to protect the life and property of the people.

He also ordered the government officers to not become part of any unconstitutional process.

Fawad Chaudhry warns Punjab Governor of Article 6 trial



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-President Fawad Chaudhry has warned Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman of facing a trial under Article 6 of the Constitution, which deals with treason, ahead of the no-trust vote.

Fawad Chaudhry, while addressing a press conference with PTI leaders in Lahore, asked Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman to refrain from crossing the limits, otherwise, he would face Article 6 trial.

He said that the Punjab Assembly's speaker declared the governor's move unconstitutional, whereas, the Lahore High Court (LHC) had already ruled that the governor will give 10 days to the chief minister for getting the vote of confidence.

Chaudhry claimed that the no-trust motion against Punjab CM Pervaiz Elahi, speaker and deputy

PTI to hold public gathering outside Punjab governor house today

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced to hold a public gathering outside Punjab Governor House tomorrow (Thursday), which would be addressed by former premier and party chairman Imran Khan.

Speaking to journalists in Lahore, former federal minister and PTI leader Hamid Azhar said that the party has decided to hold a public gathering outside Punjab Governor House tomorrow (Thursday), wherein Imran Khan will announce a new plan of

action. He also levelled allegations against Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari of 'horse trading', saying that PTI Members of Punjab Assembly (MPAs) were getting telephone calls and Zardari's money was being used for games in Punjab.

However, he said, the public would not stay quiet this time. "The people will not become silent spectators this time," he said, adding that his party decided to thwart any move that the Pakistan Democratic Movement throws its way.

ruling in the court. He warned the governor of the Article 6 trial if he exceeds the limits.

Fawad Chaudhry blamed Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari for continuing horse-trading ahead of the no-trust vote. He alleged that Zardari contacted lawmakers for asking them to sell their consciences by offering Rs50 million each. He praised the PTI lawmakers for rejecting Zardari's offer.

Cabinet's energy conservation to provide relief to common man, says PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the energy conservation plan of the federal cabinet would provide relief to the common man and save precious foreign exchange.

The prime minister in a tweet said the coalition government was diversifying the energy mix by pivoting to renewables, which he termed as key to energy security.

"The idea is to gradually but surely increase our dependence on indigenous resources," he said.

He mentioned that the federal cabinet had given serious consideration to an energy conservation plan. The plan will be approved after taking provinces on board, he added.

"Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures," he said. "Its effective implementation will save precious resources and help address energy crisis".

CM Punjab cannot be given another chance to seek the vote of confidence: Rana Sanaullah



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah asserted that Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi cannot be given another chance to seek the vote of confidence from the provincial assembly.

Speaking exclusively to the ARY News, the Interior Minister warned that if Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi failed to seek the vote of confidence today, he would be removed from position of Punjab Chief Minister

(CM). Rana Sanaullah noted that Punjab Governor Baligh ur Rehman can direct CM Pervaiz Elahi to seek the vote of confidence under Article 130(7) of the Constitution.

"If the Chief Minister refuses to come to the assembly session, then he could be removed from the position," he said, adding that the Governor would take relevant action as per the Constitution.

He warned that Pervaiz Elahi would be de-notified if he refuses to implement the orders. "If CM Elahi does not come to the session, the Governor will issue a notification, removing him from the post. The notification would mean the House does not have confidence in the Chief Minister," he added.

Dr Iqbal called on Dr. Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator-General of Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (COMSTEC), Professor Dr. Iqbal Choudhary called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

FM, USAID official discuss post-flood assistance

WASHINGTON :Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Samantha Power has discussed the long-term cooperation for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Pakistan's flood-affected areas.

"Had a productive meeting with USAID Administrator. Thanked for her leadership in galvanizing support for flood relief," he said in a tweet following the meeting.

The foreign minister appreciated the United Nations Secretary-General's humanitarian assistance of \$97 million.

Samantha Power in a tweet said she discussed with FM Bilawal how communities impacted by Pakistan's recent floods were faring and the impact of U.S. assistance in the immediate aftermath.

She also mentioned that the discussion also focused on working together to build resilience in preparing for future crises. APP/PID



ECC approves supplementary grants of Rs1022 million

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Wednesday approved technical supplementary grants of Rs1022.750 million for Baluchistan fishermen and Ghurki Trust teaching Hospital (GTTH), Lahore.

According to press statement issued by finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting.

Considering the summary of Ministry of Mari-

time Affairs, the committee approved TSG in aid of Rs. 822.750 million enabling Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) to disburse the amount of Rs. 250,000/- per head to 3291 fishermen registered with Baluchistan Fisheries Department for the purchase of boat engines.

The ECC also approved TSG in aid of Rs. 200 million in favour of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination for Ghurki Trust teaching Hospital (GTTH), Lahore.

Ghurki Trust teaching Hospital (GTTH) is a tertiary

care non-profit organization providing "State of the Art" health facilities to the needy & poor patients.

The committee considered a summary of Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) on assignment of working interest in exploration licenses/blocks and approved transfer of 30% working interest of M/s MoL to M/s MPCL in Margala Block.

It was apprised that Margala Block is governed by Pakistan Petroleum Exploration and Production Rules 2001. The acquiring company M/s MPCL is operating in Pakistan

since 1954 and has working interests in 23 exploration licenses and 15 development & production leases.

The ECC was further informed that M/s MOL has cleared all its financial obligations, the statement added.

The ECC deferred a summary submitted by Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) for foreign exchange coverage to PSO and directed the Ministry of Energy to resubmit the summary after reviewing the numbers.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Commerce,

Syed Naveed Qamar; Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel; MNA/Ex-PM, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha; SAPM on Finance, Tariq Bajwa; SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha; SAPM on Government Effectiveness, Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan; Coordinator to PM on Commerce & Industry, Rana Ihsan Afzal; Coordinator to PM on Economy, Bilal Azhar Kiyani; federal Secretaries and senior officers.

Pakistan urges Afghan authorities to revisit ban on university girls

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan on Wednesday urged the Afghan authorities to revisit the decision to suspend university and higher education for girl students in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan is disappointed to learn about the suspension of the university and higher education for female students in Afghanistan," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The FO said Pakistan's position on this issue had been clear and consistent.

"We strongly believe that every man and woman has the inherent right to education in accordance with the injunctions of Islam," it said. "We strongly urge the Afghan authorities to revisit this decision."

The Afghan Taliban authorities on Tuesday ordered an indefinite ban on university education for girls, the ministry of higher education said in a letter issued to all government and private universities.

China to provide more convenience for cross-border travel: Mao Ning

News Desk

BEIJING : China will provide maximum convenience for cross-border personnel exchanges as needed to maintain the stability of global industry supply chain, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said on Wednesday.

"Since COVID began nearly three years ago by taking a coordinated response approach and engaging in, win-win cooperation, China has been one of the first countries to achieve economic reopening, and has actively pursued high-level opening-up, she said in her routine briefing.

The spokesperson said that China has made travel easier by establishing fast-



tracks refining visa policy, increasing the number of international flights in an orderly way and streamlining pre-departure containment measures.

"By doing so, we have made an important contribution to the stability of global industrial and supply chains. We will take further steps to facilitate cross-border

travel in light of the evolving circumstance, she added.

On December 19, China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during his virtual meeting with French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna that with the COVID epidemic entering a new phase, China will take further steps to facilitate cross-border travel.

To a question about the US offer to share vaccines with China in order to fight the rise of Covid-19 infections, she said that over the past nearly three years, by putting people and their lives first, the Chinese government has formulated its COVID policy in light of China's national circumstances to serve the interests of the vast majority of the Chinese people.

Sanjrani congratulates security forces on successful Bannu operation

News Desk

ISLAMABAD : Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Wednesday congratulated the security forces for successfully carrying out the operation against the terrorists at Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) compound, Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, he said a successful operation was a reflection of the professional-

ism of the security forces and the valuable service of the security forces a matter of pride.

Commending the operation against terrorists, the chairman vowed dealing against miscreants with iron hands.

The chairman said that the Pakistan Army was determined to root out the scourge of terrorism and that the sacrifices of martyrs against terrorism for national defense and security would always be

remembered.

The entire Pakistani nation stood side by side with its armed forces in the war against terrorism.

"The nefarious attempt to spread unrest in the country through terrorism will be thwarted in any case," he said.

"Pakistan Army has always demonstrated professional and technical capabilities and thwarted the nefarious designs of the enemies," he added.

Ishaq Dar expresses satisfaction over FBR's performance



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, here on Wednesday, expressed satisfaction over the performance of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and appreciated its team's efforts in meeting the set targets.

Chairing a meeting on the revenue performance of FBR, the minister extended his full support to FBR in the performance of their duties for revenue collection.

He also stressed the FBR team to position themselves according to changes in the economic outlook and advised the FBR rank and file to increase their efforts to achieve the

true tax potential in the country.

Earlier, Chairman FBR Asim Ahmed gave a detailed presentation on revenue targets and performance of FBR for the months of November and December 2022.

He apprised the minister that the FBR had surpassed the revenue collection targets till November and expressed hope to successfully meet its targets in the remaining months of financial year 2022-23.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq Bajwa and SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, chairman FBR, Members of the Board (FBR), and other senior officers from the finance division also attended the meeting.

CTD attack condemned; KP govt taking measures to improve capacity of police, CTD: Bangash



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR :Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Kamran Bangash on Wednesday reiterated the provincial government's resolve to eliminate terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations and said that the government was taking pragmatic steps to improve capacity of police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD).

Addressing a joint press conference here along with Minister for Finance Taimur Salim Jhagra and Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Tribal Affairs Babar Swati on Bannu terrorists' attack, he expressed solidarity with bereaved families of martyred soldiers.

Bangash said that KP suffered huge losses in terms of human lives and property in war against terror-

ism, but KP people and police always remained determined to fight out the menace.

Referring to terrorists' attack on CTD compound in Bannu, he added that police and security forces had already shared information about possible terrorist attacks. He said political statements over the incident should be avoided as it would be tantamount to hurting the sentiments of the bereaved families and discouraging the nation to fight out terrorism.

The Minister said there was no match of security situation of KP with rest of the country, adding that funds were required for the tribal districts to elevate police force as per the security challenges and despite repeated requests the funds were not provided.

Finance Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra said that KP province was facing economic and security challenges in the wake of flood devastations and the provincial government had made several requests to the federal government to provide funds in this regard.

He said that since funds were not released to the province, therefore the challenges had further aggravated.

Unknown men trespass anchorperson Shiffa Yousafzai's house, threaten staff

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD : Senior anchorperson Shiffa Yousafzai said unknown men trespassed on her house and threatened the staff and questioned them about her whereabouts.

In a video message released on Tuesday night, Ms Yousafzai said she was out with her family at the time of the incident.

The Islamabad police said in a statement that Ms Yousafzai was safe and police had arranged adequate

security for her. "Police will thoroughly investigate the incident to get to the bottom of it," the statement said. An FIR has also been lodged at the Kohsar police station. No robbery has been reported.

Prominent journalists and political leaders condemned the break-in and demanded the arrest of the suspects.

Besides condemning the incident, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sought a report from Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan.

NDMA held national post-monsoon 2022

ISLAMABAD: NDMA hosted National Post-Monsoon 2022 Review Conference. Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik presided the meeting and delivered the opening remarks.

The Conference reviewed the lessons learnt during Floods 2022 and deliberated upon way-forward to address the key shortcomings for better flood management in next monsoon. Representatives of PDMA/SDMA/GBDMA, Provincial chapters of Rescue 1122, PMD, FFC, WAPDA, SUPARCO, NHA, Armed Forces, PTA, and Emergency Response Agencies attended the conference and briefed the forum about their respective fields during

and after Floods 2022.

They also put forward their recommendations for immediate and long-term interventions for improvement of relief and disaster management system in view of extreme climate change vulnerabilities in the country. Chairman NDMA lauded the efforts of all relevant Federal & Provincial departments and Armed Forces during Floods 2022.

He underscored the need of collaborated and synergized response towards disasters while addressing the existing capacity gaps and structural challenges through active involvement of NGOs and Donor organizations.

Ahsan Bakhtawari nominated Honorary Business Coordinator FTO to address grievances of taxpayers

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has been nominated as the Honorary Business Coordinator by the Federal Tax Ombudsman Secretariat, Islamabad to work in coordination with FTO for addressing the grievances of taxpayers and facilitate them in tax matters. Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, Federal Tax Ombudsman presented the letter of nomination to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI during a ceremony held at FTO Secretariat Islamabad.



Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, Federal Tax Ombudsman said that the purpose of nominating Honorary Business Coordinators from the private sector is to give confidence to the taxpayers so that they could share their tax grievances, problems, issues, conflicts and concerns with them with ease and FTO would act proactively to address them. He said that ICCI should organize more awareness sessions on FTO so that maximum members of the business community could take benefit of its services for redress of their tax complaints. He said that this year, FTO dealt with around

6500 tax grievances. He said that FTO's decision can only be challenged before the President of Pakistan and 90% decisions made by FTO were complied with by the FBR to provide relief to the taxpayers. He said that former President ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir had developed close liaison with FTO as Honorary Business Coordinator and

hoped that Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari would further strengthen his coordination with FTO to address the tax grievances of the business community.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry thanked Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah for nominating him as Honorary Business Coordinator for FTO Secretariat Islamabad and assured that he would play a role to address the tax problems of the business community that would help them in better promotion of business activities. He said that Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah was taking landmark decisions for the facilitation of taxpayers, which was laudable. He further assured that ICCI would organize more awareness programs on the role of FTO so that the business community could take full benefits of its services to redress their tax issues.



Kharian :Chaudhry Muhammad Anwar Chauhan , Correspondent of Daily Spokesman's granddaughter Emaan Javed, first year student of DPS Inter College Joharabad Khushab, participated in Chenab College Jhang's annual speech competition. In which talented students from all over Pakistan participate every year, these speech competitions are held in Urdu and English language. Emaan Javed won the second position in the English Elocution Competition all over Pakistan. The speech topic was Evil triumphs when the good do nothing.

Ismail Industries Extends Relationship with SAP for Digital Transformation



Bureau Report

KARACHI : Ismail Industries Limited, one of the major Pakistani confectionery and snack food manufacturers, has signed up a roadmap contract with SAP for the digitization of business functions across all its operations. SAP has successfully provided a holistic solution to one of the largest manufacturers in Pakistan to improve its core system and move to the cloud.

Ismail industries is a family-run business and required a massive investment to meet the challenges of complete digitization.

Although Ismail Industries is an existing customer of SAP ERP Central Component (ECC), this new agreement intends to assist Ismail Industries in their expansion plans to reach global markets in the UAE and Europe. The transformation will provide ease in terms of data gathering and real-time reporting in six diverse businesses that Ismail Industries operates.

SAP has provided various solutions, enabling the manufacturer to move to strategic procurement and improve its supply chain and human capital management. These solutions include RISE with SAP for core operations, SAP Ariba, Digital Board Room Solutions, SAP Analytics Cloud, Success Factors and Integrated Business Planning.

"This digital transformation initiative will take Ismail Industries to new heights. As leaders in our industry, we have been relying on the SAP software for quite some time, and now we look forward to adopting SAP's latest technologies to be able to take the quality products, that our customers have come to love and trust, to other international markets" said Hamid Ismail, Director Ismail Industries Ltd, CEO Biscotti, SnackCity, and Ismail Global Trading LLC.

Elaborating on the same, Saquib Ahmad, Country Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, said, "We are proud to be selected as the digital transformation partner for Ismail Industries in order to help them with their strategic vision, daily operations as well as their expansion plans. This builds on over a decade of us being providers of their enterprise resource planning software"

Protest

MUZAFFRABAD: Dismiss employees of M.N.C.H shouting slogans during sit-in protest (Dharna) in front of Chattr Chowk in the city.



Photo: Online

More than 1200 MNCH employees will be shifted on normal budget sooner AJK Minister tells Assembly

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Senior Most Minister of the Independent State of Jammu and Kashmir Khawaja Farooq Ahmed has said that the issue of MNCH employees is of an important nature which they are trying their best to resolve and in this regard the matter will be resolved in consultation with the Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan will do He expressed these views yesterday while expressing his views on the attention notice of MNCH employees by Member of Assembly Sard-

ar Javed Ayub in the meeting of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

While presenting the attention notice in the meeting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sardar Javed Ayub, a member of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, said that the MNCH Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Program was started in Azad Kashmir in 2006 with the support of the federal government. And with regard to child health, ideal health facilities are provided. In Azad Kashmir, the staff consisting of more than 1218 people,

who are performing 24-hour duty, have not even received their salary for the last four months.

From 2021 MNCHP staff is working on normal budget in all provinces of Pakistan. Sardar Javed Ayub said that the MNCHP staff in Azad Kashmir is working on a temporary basis on a salary of Rs. On this, the MNCHP workers staged a dharna at the Azad Kashmir Assembly Gate, which continued for about nine days. Then the health minister of the government came to the sit-in and promised the MNCHP staff to end the sit-in and make

you permanent and also pay the salary. But till now neither the promise of regularization to the employees has been fulfilled nor the outstanding salary has been paid for four months.

Therefore, the employees of MNCHP who are performing duty at various public health hospitals/centers in Azad Kashmir; these employees have been asked by Govt. Azad Kashmir should pay the outstanding salary for four months and these employees should be made permanent. On this occasion, People's Party President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that the government

should solve this important issue as soon as possible. Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi in the meeting of the Legislative Assembly, while presenting the attention notice, said that the Forest Department has acquired 70 kanals of land on the Kundan Airport Road under the Order No. 4136-37 dated 11-11-2022 and per kanal the annual price is 6 lakh 65 thousand is being paid as rent. But till that time there is no supply of wood. Therefore, in view of the need of the people of Muzaffarabad, the supply of wood to UT Muzaffarabad should be ensured immediately.

President FCCI visited the main campus of the Tanzeem-al-Lissan

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Underutilized or ignored government resources reserved for the betterment of the special persons may be diverted to the NGOs working for the welfare of the physically challenged students, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

He visited the main campus of the Tanzeem-al-Lissan which is exclusively working for the education of the deaf and dumb children. Quoting statistics, he said that about ten percent of our population suffer from different types of disabilities and the public and private sectors both are trying their optimum best to mitigate their sufferings in addition to making them a productive part of this society. He said that government institutions are working for the education of the special persons but the private sector was also sharing their load by establishing institutions for the children with different disabilities. He pointed out that the government has



reserved sufficient funds for the welfare of the special children but most of it is lying underutilized. He said that FCCI would pinpoint the funds which could be better utilized to materialize the objective of mainstreaming of special children. "It would not only lessen burden on the philanthropists and private sector but also help in diverting their charity towards the elimination of poverty, illiteracy and diseases from the

country", he added. Dr. Khurram Tariq expressed satisfaction that the government of Japan has played a key role in the construction of this campus which is also bearing its annual repair and maintenance expenses. He assured to provide services for the redesigning of existing class rooms and construction of additional blocks.

Earlier Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad President Tanzeem-al-Lissan briefed him about

the performance of this institution and said that it was established in 1996. Right now 1300 children have been enrolled. Five hundred students are in the main campus and the remaining are admitted in the fifteen rural centers around the city area.

He said that customized education facilities are being offered to the deaf and dumb children while PhD and M.Phil teachers have been hired in addition to psychologists to create much needed confidence in these children to face the emerging challenges. He said that special courses have also been arranged for the teachers and parents handling children with various disabilities.

Later Dr. Khurram Tariq planted a sapling in the main campus of the Tanzeem-al-Lissan. Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad President Rotary Club Faisalabad City, Secretary Atif Munir Sheikh, Rotarian Sajid Rahim, Ghulam Mustafa, Muhammad Irfan, Ms. Shehla Sharif and Club Assistant Ali Haider were also present during this event.

Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Complaint Collection Center inaugurated



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Regional Office Dera Ismail Khan Inaugurated Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Complaint Collection Centre, in Wana Apart from this, a "Khuli Kachehri" was held at Musa Nika Public School and College wana.

The office was inaugurated by Federal Ombudsman Dera Ismail Khan Division In-charge/Regional Head Sangi Marjan Mehsud and Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi,

The regional head and officers of the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office, Dera Ismail Khan, arrived in Tehsil Wana, District South Waziristan, and inaugurated the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Complaint Collection Center office in Tehsil Compound Wana.

On this occasion, heads of federal departments, tribal elders and common people were present in large numbers.

Later, they also organized an "Khuli Kachehri" at Musa Nika Public School and College, Wana,

Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Dera Ismail Khan Incharge/Regional Head Retired Chief Secretary Mr. Sangi Marjan Khan Mehsud, Imran Khan Mehsud Senior Investigation Officer and Shafaqat Ali Assistant Registrar visited Tehsil Wana on the instructions of Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, sangi Marjan said that Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi is inaugurating the first office of the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat in tribal district. Besides conducting open court in remote areas, they are also inspecting the offices of the relevant departments.

He along with officers of federal and provincial departments held an open court on Wednesday, December 21 at 11 am.

In which people piled complaints against federal departments, especially TESCO, BISP, NADRA, Passport Office and PTCL. On which the regional head and the officers of the federal ombudsman issued orders to the officers of the relevant departments and provided relief on the spot.

Apart from this, awareness of the IRD program and public about the institution and timely redressal of people's grievances is our top priority.

He further said that the main purpose of today's open court was to enable the citizens to have access to the government officials so that the problems of all the people could be solved at their doorsteps.

In this regard, he directed the officers of the relevant departments and said that in the future, no negligence and laziness will be tolerated on the problems of the poor people.

The public appreciated the initiative of the independent ombudsman to hold "Khuli Kachehri".

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:39 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	3:25 pm
Maghrib	5:03 pm
Isha	6:32 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7

CG COMSTECH calls on the President of Pakistan

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General COMSTECH, H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary called on the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday afternoon at the President Secretariat, Islamabad.

The President of Pakistan who is the Chairman of COMSTECH, appreciated COMSTECH programs and mentioned that today COMSTECH is one of the most active institutions in OIC system. Dr. Alvi appreciated COMSTECH Health Program for Africa and suggested to enhance it further to address the health issues being faced by the African and other OIC member states in crises.

Dr. Alvi advised the Coordinator General, Prof. Choudhary to start digital skills program for OIC member states, so that the benefits from the emerging employments in the fields of ICT can be harnessed as early as possible. He said that digital skills can help reduce unemployment rate in OIC states by providing income generation opportunities to youth.

Prof. Choudhary briefed the President on the COMSTECH Africa Program, recent visit of the Secretary General of OIC to COMSTECH headquarters, implementation of the decisions of the 31st executive committee meeting, holding of the 16th general assembly meeting of COMSTECH, announcement of the 20 fellowships for Kazakhstan, and holding of the first rectors' conference of African alliance.

The President of Pakistan advised to continue these excellent initiatives and offered his full support to the COMSTECH programs focused towards the socio-economic uplift of the Ummah.

Closing Ceremony IMS - 22

Gwadar is a commercial port and its security is vital for economic dividends

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), Islamabad organised two-day International Maritime Symposium (IMS), on the topic "Geo-economic Dimensions of Indian Ocean Region (IOR)-Opportunities for Region and Beyond" on 20 and 21 December 2022. Experts from home and abroad presented their views about the geo-economic importance of IOR.

The focus of second day proceeding was on maritime security in the context of regional connectivity. Air Marshal Zahid Mahmood, vice chief of Air Staff was the chief guest. Whereas Vice Admiral Abdul Aleem (Retd) moderated the session discussion. Vice Admiral (Retd) Iftikhar Rao spoke about the Maritime Threats & Challenges in Regional Perspective. He talked about the Malacca strait choke point and its importance to the world, especially to China. He also emphasized that Gwadar is a commercial

port and its security is vital for economic dividends.

Dr. Christian Beuger, of University of Copenhagen, talked about the Security of Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) and emphasized collaborative strategy in IOR to meet the non-conventional threats, particularly to SLOCs. He opined that Pakistan is in a position to take the lead in this regard. While delivering talk, Prof. Dr. Azhar Ahmed, of Bahria University, was of the view that Geo-Economics is an instrument to achieve objectives of Geo-Politics. He underscored that without political stability no country can progress.

Air Marshal Zahid Mahmood highlighted the importance of maritime security and its linkage with national security. He emphasized on the need of developing operational strategies to meet the maritime security threats. Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, of Bahria University, spoke about the need of regional connectivity, both on land and over sea.



Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, key note speaker, while deliberating on the current global security scenario, opined that it is the most dangerous decade after World War II. World is witnessing historic changes; economic and global powers are emerging from East. He was of the view

that next war is expected to be at sea and not on land, therefore, Pakistan needs to ensure fool proof maritime security.

The message of Prime Minister of Pakistan was also read out during the session. While emphasizing the Maritime Security of Pakistan, PM opined that Pakistan

is heavily dependent on its sea lines of communications because over 90% of Pakistan's trade and almost 100% energy imports are through sea. Therefore, any disruption in maritime trade has serious repercussions for the national security. The government is well aware of this imperative and is providing all out support to maritime security apparatus especially to Pakistan Navy.

Vice Admiral Faisal Rasool Lodhi, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff was the chief guest of the closing session. He emphasized that effective security is essential to protect the expanding maritime economic activities in Pakistan, region and beyond. Pakistan, therefore, needs proactive diplomacy, well considered economic policies and risk management as important ingredients to harness and sustain the pace of development and potential growth.

The symposium was well attended by maritime professionals, security experts, academia, think tanks and media personnel.

Qiyam-e-Amn aur Aqwam-e-Alam

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Toaha Bashir Qureshi, Member of the Order of the British Empire, along with his delegation presenting his book "Qiyam-e-Amn aur Aqwam-e-Alam", to President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.



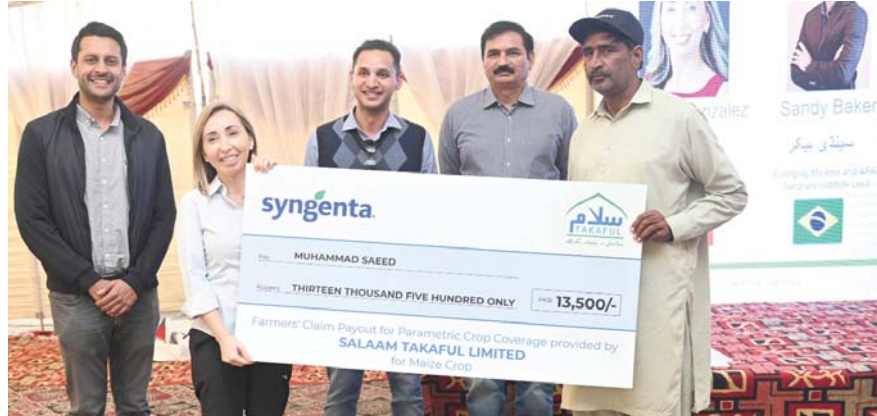
Photo: PID

Syngenta Pakistan successfully pilots revolutionary crop insurance program

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Syngenta Pakistan Limited, a leading agriculture innovation and technology company—providing crop protection, biologicals, seeds, crop-enhancement products and digital services to millions of Pakistani farmers, has successfully piloted a weather and parametric index-based crop insurance program in partnership with Salaam Takaful Limited. As part of the pilot, farmers of autumn crop from the Arifvala & Vehari regions in Punjab were provided with payout cheques at a recently held ceremony with an average payout amount of Rs. 8,500 per farmer.

The program has been highly appreciated by the local farmers who were of the view that this intervention will transform the farmer-community's quality of life and catalyze the progress on making Pakistan's agriculture sector more robust and climate resilient.



This crop insurance program aims to safeguard farmers against the impacts of climate change by employing digital technologies and is in line with Syngenta Pakistan's farmer-centric vision of "One Team, One Dream, Farmers' Future" to empower the farmers by creating an ecosystem that addresses all of their key pain points.

Addressing the ceremony, Zeeshan Hasib Baig - General

Manager Syngenta Pakistan - said: "Agriculture is one of the most adversely affected sectors due to climate change. This year excessive heat and rainfalls have contributed to low yields of Wheat, Corn and Mango. Amidst this challenge being faced by farmers, Syngenta Pakistan is standing alongside its farmers by providing them Weather Index Based Parametric Crop Insurance."

On one side, Syngenta is providing top quality Crop

Protection products to farmers and on the other providing protection to their crops through its crop insurance partner. Syngenta Pakistan's corn crop insurance pilot project this year resulted in 50% payouts to the growers due to unusual rains owing to climate change. This initiative is part of Syngenta's farmer-centric vision through which we are trying to address farmer's needs and solving problems they are facing."

Punjab Group of Colleges Partnered with Microsoft to provide Work-related technical training

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD:-Punjab Group of Colleges (PGC) in partnership with Microsoft has launched the Digital Skills Initiative in Pakistan bringing their educators and students onboard to Future Ready Skills and Learn Platform.



The initiative aims to reimagine the education landscape, empower the next generation of students and bridge the gap between knowledge and employability.

Punjab group of Colleges is in an academic alliance with Microsoft to enable the next generation of computer science / IT experts leveraging state-of-the-art technologies including but not limited to, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber security, Business Applications, Office Automation / Productivity tools etc. Over 25,000 students and educators of Punjab Group of Colleges across Pakistan will have access to all the learning resources and tools through platforms like Microsoft Learn for Educators, Microsoft Showcase Schools Program, Microsoft Learn for Students with free Fundamental Skills Certifications.

PGC is aiming to upskill its educators and students community to be at par with peers across the globe to ensure that they are recognized internationally and are globally competitive and ready for the future.

Mudassar Farooq, Group Chief Technology Officer Punjab Group of Colleges expressed his views "Today just acquiring a degree is not enough. 80 percent of employers believe that graduates do not arrive fully equipped with work-ready skills. We at Punjab Group of Colleges understand that to remain relevant and in demand, we must innovate to keep pace with an ever changing world and provide the right curriculum and skills building resources to ensure students are prepared now for the future"

Modi regime committing genocide of Muslims of India, IIOJK: Mushaal

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation Mushaal Hussein Mullaik raised the alarm that the fascist Narendra Modi government was involved in committing genocide of Muslims of India and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), as brutal soldiers were not only given killing license but assassination of Kashmiri people was incentivized as well.

She said that brutal Indian forces were given complete immunity and murderous soldiers got promotion and rewards in the occupied valley for ruthlessly killing innocent Kashmiris.

Mushaal, wife of incarcerated Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik, in a statement on Thursday lamented that when International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime was being observed across the world, Muslims in India and IIOJK were on the brink of genocide, as Hindutva leaders were openly calling for mass killing of Muslims.

She stated that India under Modi has become dangerous country for Muslims, as frequency of hate crimes against Muslims witnessed alarming upsurge since he seized the power.

Mushaal went on to say that international experts have warned of impending danger of Muslim genocide in India and IIOJK, as the US based Genocide Watch warned India was preparing for genocide of Muslims.

14th Pak Pharma & Healthcare Expo kick-starts on a high note

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The two-day 14th Pak Pharma and Healthcare Expo began today at the Pak-China Friendship Centre. An international conference on "Pharma Export Way Forward - Opportunities and Challenges" was also organized.

The two-day Pak Pharma and Healthcare Exhibition and Conference organized by Prime Event Management was inaugurated by the Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated while the Chief Executive Officer, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan Asim Rauf inaugurated the exhibition.

On this occasion, the organizing director Prime Event Kamran Abbasi said that 50 exhibitors are participating in the exhibition, including foreign companies from China, Taiwan, Turkey, Germany.

Other guests at the inauguration ceremony included Syed Farooq Bukhari - Chairman Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) and Chief Executive Mediflo Pharmaceuticals, Arshad Mehmood - Chairman PPMA North and Qaiser Waheed - President MediSaver Lab Pakistan and former Chairman. PPMA was included while Session Speakers include Hamid Raza - CEO Nutro Pharma and former Chairman PPMA, Arshad Mehmood, Usman Shaikat - Director Bio Labs, Mr. M. Amanullah Shaikh - CEO Davis Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Faisal Q. Khokhar - Executive Director Remington Pharmaceuticals, Industries and Dr. Uzair Nagra - CEO MediSearch Pharma.

Kamran Abbasi further said that the exhibition includes manufacturers of pharmaceutical equipment, chemicals, laboratory equipment, packaging materials, analytical equipment, environmental control, pharmaceutical consultants, hospital and health equipment, ambulance and rescue vehicle manufacturers, surgical equipment, fire alarm and Instruments, Hospital Consumables and other accessories.

Addressing the conference, Federal



Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that a successful system has the ability to use and benefit from knowledge, global competition is taking place on the basis of economy.

He said that to secure the future of

Pakistan, there has to be rapid development in the economic field. He mentioned that peace, stability and continuity of policies are the guarantors of the country's development.

He said that to secure the future of

the foundation of sustainable development to the future generation. The youth will have to be a part of the Pakistan Banao movement for the reconstruction of Pakistan.

He said that it is the Prime Minister's wish to remove obstacles from the way of the private sector. There are immense export opportunities in the Middle East regarding Halal food. He said that we had installed 11000 megawatt power projects in our previous tenure.

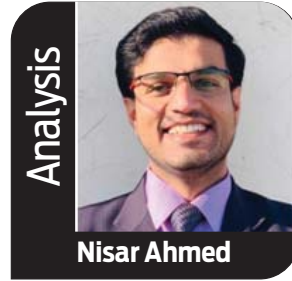
He added that the incumbent government has created Vision 2025 to include Pakistan in the list of top 25 economically strong countries. Ahsan Iqbal said that now they are struggling to restore the journey of development of Pakistan.

CEO Drap Asim Rauf said that the government is trying to solve the problems of the pharmaceutical industry, but there will be no compromise on the quality of medicines.

CEOs of various pharmaceutical companies are participating in the exhibition, but there will be no compromise on the quality of medicines.

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‘The Unsettled Dust’



Nisar Ahmed

Analysis

Mercury is down but not for angry Khan, troubled Sharifs, accused generals and trembling trade community. History is repeating itself and this time not without a twist. Political scuffle in the federal capital took a dangerous turn after the former premierships holder Imran Khan was shot in an assassination attempt during his long march from Lahore to Islamabad.

Party holding the bridle of Punjab government typically holds sway in federation but this time in an upsetting surprise, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) with its footholds in both KP and Punjab is sitting on the opposition benches in the federal caucus and opened a new chapter of regime change.

Regime change conspiracy, a mantra of the former supremo since his removal from

prime minister's office, was once again resuscitated after Mr. Khan gained sympathies among his partisans following attacks on party leadership. That rekindled momentum was not enough to hold scores against the sitting government in holding snap polls and the mantra momentum proved to be dead-cat bounce, pushing Imran to improvise his earlier plans of sit-ins.

The most significant military appointment is ultimately made amidst all the mayhem as General Asim Muneer, the new commander, took over for Ex-General Qamar Bajwa. Imran, earlier not happy with the Sharifs' huddle in London before this decision was taken, lately expressed his intention to rejuvenate the civil-military ties by succumbing to the decision taken at the PM's office.

Recently, Imran having shown some flexibility agreed to come to the negotiation table with an ultimatum to hold elections before the start of Ramadan or else he sees the dissolution of two provincial houses, a trump card for all his problems! Is he in a position to define the terms despite his allegations over "Bajwa-Doctrine"? His post Bajwa-Doctrine narrative hints at a distrust with the top military commander and raises many questions over his earlier silence.

It will take longer than expected before the dust is finally settled on the political-economic fronts with the disputes rising beyond borders. Neutralizing the ongoing tension among the political parties and burying the mantra of regime change, a tough row to hoe for the newly appointed commander-in-chief, lies at the top of the list towards

achieving inhouse stability. Another challenge is the resurging terrorist activity in Pakistan after the Taliban led government took over Afghanistan. In late November, after Pakistani Taliban called-off month-long ceasefire, attacks on the Pakistan embassy in Kabul and other districts of KP and Balochistan warrant a revised national defence policy, for the region cannot afford a new war.

In the backdrop of national drive on amassing dollars, Pakistan's increasing interest in the trade markets of Moscow is also undesirable to its old friend in the west. Pakistan entered into a contract for import 450,000 tonnes of wheat and talks are making headway for the import of POL products. The above plans are in doldrums as the local banks have already refused to facilitate the transactions over fears of financial castigation by the US authorities. Previously, Habib Bank Limited and National Bank Pakistan were fined \$225 million & \$55 million respectively over regulatory violations and this is sufficient to spur a fear of further fines.

What lies ahead? On the political fronts, defiance of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to hold early elections is not an assuring sign for Mr. Khan. However, Imran will not be able to play his trump card of dissolving assemblies of KP and Punjab as the sources reveal that not all members of parliaments would tender their resignations in support of PTI. Apparently, he is only using this threat as a tool for gaining public support and growing his vote bank; the ulterior motive is to let the PDM dig its own grave by the poor public perception of their performance amid an economic meltdown.

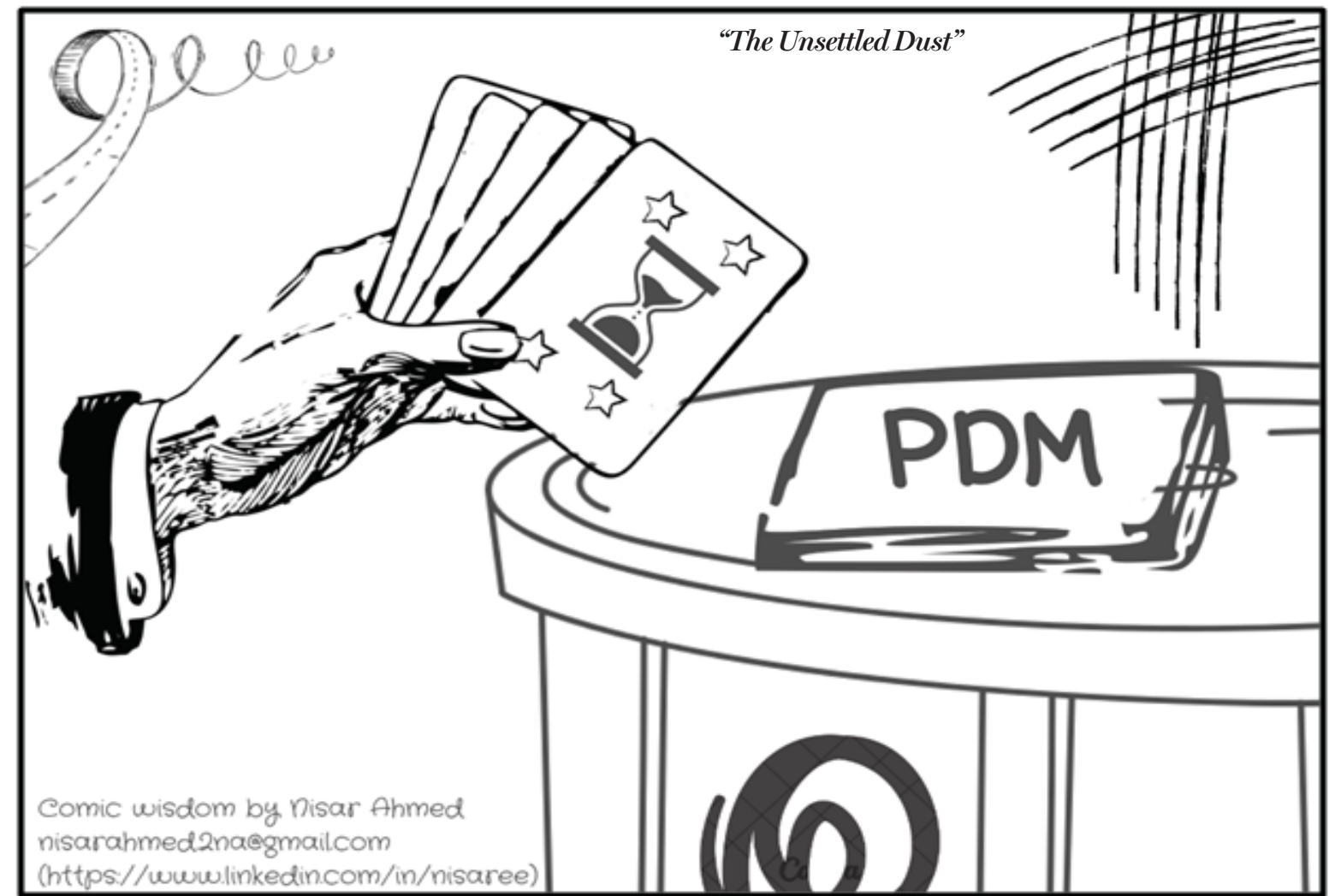
In the wake of resurg-

ing terror activities, continued involvement of US in its peace-keeping efforts is expected in the coming weeks. Ned Price, an official from US Department of State, expressed his intent to confront the emerging terrorism from the landlocked neighbor of Pakistan. The above announcement is expected to agitate the insurgent groups operating in Pakistan.

Whereas on one side, US is making moves to ward off new wave of terror for Pakistan; at the same time, Pakistan, developing a taste in Russian products is expected to irk US authorities that might result in delay in release of relief tranches and might attract penalties. In extreme rarity, the US may impose sanctions over Pakistan which is already facing a liquidity crunch with its reserves falling below \$7 billion in early December.

If Pakistan-US tension continues to escalate, this is hinting at pushing the sovereign into the ICU. All odds of foreign, defense and political-economic policy require a unified manifesto of civil-military leadership which is expected after the recent shuffling in commands.

The writer contributes to the national press occasionally & is accessible at: nisarahmed.2na@gmail.com, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nisaree>



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Bannu Operation: how did one TTP man expose the security of CTD in Pakistan?

For three consecutive days, the Bannu's Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) incident remained in the limelight throughout the world.

The TTP's hostage of the CTD center along with the personnel of the CTD created a stir to such an extent that a spokesperson for the United States Ned Price held a special media briefing in Washington and offered the US support to Pakistan to overcome TTP's attacks.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres also urged the Taliban on Dec 20 to stop attacks on Pakistan.

If you look at the details of the incident, you will be shocked to know that just one militant of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), who was in the custody of the CTD officials and detained at the center, created so much trouble for Pakistan, exposing many loopholes in the security apparatus, especially the CTD.

According to the newly-appointed director general of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major-General Ahmed Sharif, a TTP terrorist, detained at the CTD center, snatched a weapon from a constable, killed him (cop) on the spot, injured another one and then he liberated his TTP fellows from lock-ups of the center.

After getting out of their cells, the TTP militants picked up/seized weapons from the CTD center, took hostage the entire CTD staff present there at that time, and took full control of the center.

After doing this, the TTP men, who were detained in the center for interrogation, demanded of the government to give them safe passage to Afghanistan.

However, when the administration and the government turned down the TTP men's demand of giving them safe passage to Afghanistan, they (TTP militants), then sought safe passage to Waziristan and that demand too was rejected.

It is because the security officials have decided by that time to confront the TTP men holed up in the CTD center.

Consequently, 25 terrorists were killed in face-to-face gun-battle on Tuesday while three commandos of the Special Services Group (SSG) of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while some other SSG commandos and others who participated in the Bannu operation sustained injuries.

On Tuesday, the security forces killed all the TTP terrorists holed up in the CTD center, rescued the hostages safely, and got cleared the center.

The incident, nonetheless, has left many questions on our national security apparatus. Being a security writer/analyst, I have observed the following drawbacks in the CTD's security apparatus.

How just one TTP man snatched a weapon from the constable, killed him, injured another, and released all the detained militants.

Where was the monitoring system of the CTD center?

Why was it so easy for just one TTP militant to snatch a weapon and liberate all the detained militants, who took control of the center?

How did the CTD staff present at the center?

Why did the CTD officials not monitor the movements of the TTP? The incident exposes the monitoring/surveillance system of the CTD if it was in place.

Why was it so easy for the TTP detainees to take control of the CTD center along with the security officials?

How it was an easy task for the militants to get weapons from the CTD's detention center and use the weapons against the security officials?



Javed Mahmood

Analysis

Writer is senior journalist and experienced writer, analyst, and author. Work with *daily The Muslim*, *daily Business Recorder*, *Daily Times*, *daily The Nation*. Currently he is working as a Freelance Writer/Editor for American organizations. (Courtesy of *The Truth International (TTI)*)

The Prodigal Ibn Batuta-II

Zoya Ansari

His return from China to Morocco was not the end of his travels. He was soon off again to visit the receding frontier of the Muslim presence in al-Andalus and then southwards again, this time into the West African Sudan. This was not a consciously conceived grand plan from the beginning but rather an enterprise that emerged from the travel experience itself. Once Ibn Batuta had decided that performance of the pilgrimage was not an end in itself he ventured again.

Located as it was on the Ummah's westernmost fringe, he never rejected his Moroccan homeland but rather viewed it as one of several vital points on the perimeter of that greater formation of the Ummah that he had witnessed in his lifetime of travel.

Ibn Batuta narrated his travels to the author of works on poetry, Islamic law and theology, Muhammad Ibn Juzayy who was appointed as Ibn Batuta's collaborator by the reigning Marinid Sultan of Morocco, Abu Inan Faris. Ibn Juzayy's commission was to assemble from Ibn Batuta's dictation into a compilation which should comprehend what was of profit in them. The full title of Ibn Batuta's work highlights two separate but inter-related themes: cities together with their hinterland (amsar) and the journeys (asfar) to and from them.

Ibn Batuta's narrative provides insight into the actual experience of travel in which he is seen coping with the forces of nature, the vagaries of fortune and of human behaviour, even descriptions of uneventful stages of a journey and all of these could combine to reflect those experiences and assist in imagining the living drama of medieval travel. Ibn Batuta's initial objective and motive for departing his native Tangier was inspired by a desire to inform and entertain his audience and his goal was to give pleasure and instruction.

Together with his gender, this bundle of known characteristics constituted his identity and he wrote foremost for an Arabic-reading North African public that would have included women. Fourteenth-century Muslim domains occupied the middle portion of

a longer period of dramatic expansion of the Islamic social order.

Ibn Batuta was aware of Muslim losses in the West during the Christian re-conquest of the Iberian Peninsula (al-Andalus), yet was hopeful too of potential gains in the East which, indeed, were finally realised in Anatolia with the establishment of the Ottoman Empire.

Despite the gains and losses, during the half millennium between roughly 1000 and 1500, the Muslim world on balance had expanded threefold in size, well



beyond its early Middle Eastern heartlands. Ultimately, a permanent Muslim presence – of greater or lesser significance – was established in regions which Ibn Batuta had visited in the course of his travels.

In modern geographical terms, these areas included Central Asia, India, South East Asia, China and sub-Saharan Africa; he also managed a brief detour to Constantinople, the future Ottoman capital of Istanbul.

Ibn Batuta in the fourteenth-century a world encountered that was politically one of relative calm and consolidation following upon the deluge of the Mongol invasions the previous century that culminated in the destruction of Baghdad and the Abbasid caliphate in 1258.

The Mongol successor states, ruled by Genghis Khan's descendants who had converted to Islam, busily promoted conditions conducive to the movement of people, merchandise and ideas across highly porous cultural and linguistic frontiers. Ibn Batuta also experienced Islam as a minority faith in India, where, however, Muslims were politically powerful and also where Islam was still marginal and not firmly grounded as in central Africa and in Sumatra and Java in South East Asia such as modern Indonesia.

Concluded

Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Oliy Majlis & People of Uzbekistan—I

Spokesman Report

Assalomu alaykum, dear compatriots! Distinguished deputies and senators! Dear guests!

Our beloved Uzbekistan is moving towards the new era of the national development. The profound changes are taking place in all areas of our life.

Thankfully, this year our population has exceeded more than 36 million. Approximately 900 thousand new generation are joining to our ranks every year.

We have been doing consistent efforts to create all conditions for providing peaceful and prosperous life for every member of a big and friendly family – Uzbekistan.

It would not be wrong, if I say that ending of 2022 was very difficult and challenging year.

The experience we have gained during this period has vividly proved the following truth: the progress can be achieved only by hard and courageous work.

In this regard, it is expedient to mention the heroic efforts of our people despite the pandemic, deep economic and political crisis, confrontations around the globe.

Due to the large-scale and efficient reforms the GDP has increased for more than \$80 billion for the first time.

This year alone, we have attracted \$8 billion direct investment to our economy, while the export reached \$19 billion. There have never been such big results.

For the first time in our history we have increased the amount of pensions and social benefits to a level not less than minimum consumption expenditure. For instance, 500 thousand low-income families received social support in 2017, and today this number reached to more than 2 million families. The amount of allocated resources has increased to 7 times, and reached 11 trillion soums per year.

We will consistently continue the policy of increasing the income, the amount



of salaries, pensions and social benefits. These numbers are easy to say. There is a selfless work behind each of them. Hence, the most significant issue under our consideration is the human dignity and honor.

In this regard, over the past six years, throughout the country we built around 300 thousand houses or 10 times more compared to previous years.

During this period, we have created additional 500 thousand school places, reaching the total number to 5 million 300 thousand. At present, we are undertaking efforts to create additional 1 million 200 thousand school places.

In order to protect the health of our people we are transforming all medical services to the district and makhalla's level.

We are creating the necessary conditions to provide jobs for our people, to open up the new opportunities for their

businesses, and turning them into the real owners with stable income.

It is certainly joyful that this year 381 of our athletes won prizes in the World and Asian competitions, as well as 43 of our talented and knowledgeable young people at prestigious international science Olympiads and competitions.

The prayers and supplications of our esteemed fathers and mothers at families and during the Hajj and Umrah visits provide us with more strength and energy.

Today, Uzbekistan is becoming one of the centers for world politics and has been widely recognized by the world community.

Our country hosted the summits of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Organization of Turkic States, as well as tens of high-level international conferences, where the major initiatives were put forward. This all has a vivid demonstration of increasing the inter-

national prestige of Uzbekistan.

I would like to extend my gratitude to each of our compatriots, who makes a tangible contribution to the development of our country through their selfless work.

I wish new victories to our brave young people, who are raising our flag higher on podiums of sciences, culture and sports. They are our proud and glory.

My best wishes to the guardians of our Motherland, who have been protecting the inviolability of borders and peaceful life in our country.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to our mothers and fathers, the distinguished women, entrepreneurs and farmers.

I sincerely appreciate the participants of today's meeting, our foreign partners and the representatives of diplomatic corps, who are supporting our reforms. Undoubtedly, all of our achievements

over the past period are only the initial outcomes on the path of creating New Uzbekistan, in the country, where the honor and dignity prevails.

We will continue our noble deeds together with our creative people, and will certainly achieve the great goals.

Dear compatriots and distinguished guests!

We are well aware that the humanity has been experiencing very tough times now. The rapid climate changes on the planet, the depletion of water and other natural resources is becoming a pressing issue. The deficiency of mutual trust in international relations, the rise of confrontations and conflicts pose a serious threat to the stability and development.

Unfortunately, such dangers do not escape us.

The alarming situation took place this summer in Karakalpakstan has left pain in the hearts of all our compatriots. Thanks to the wisdom of our multi-ethnic nation, the situation has quickly stabilized.

The motto "The achievements of Karakalpakstan are the achievements of the whole Uzbekistan, the concerns of Karakalpakstan are the concerns of the whole Uzbekistan" remains for us as the program of practical actions.

Our noble goal is to create together a comprehensively developed, prosperous and flourishing New Karakalpakstan in the New Uzbekistan.

No force can affect our friendship, the nation who lived side by side for the centuries. We have a common past, present and the future.

We can ensure the stability and territorial integrity of our beloved Homeland.

By maintaining peaceful and stable life in the country, strengthening the independence, we will consistently continue our path of sustainable development.

Dear friends!

I would like to emphasize the vital truth: the world today is rapidly changing. The more the demand of the popu-

lation grows, the more does the well-being.

In order to bring the country's development to a new level, it is necessary to change the system of governance, the legislation and the society. If we do not change, if do not draw attention to the vivid problems, we will definitely be behind of life and the progress. Our people, our youth shall not forgive this.

The principle "First and foremost – the human being, then – the society and state" should deeply be reflected in the Constitution and laws, in our daily life. We need to further strengthen the national statehood, thanks to this solid foundation we are able to effectively overcome today's serious trials and future, yet unknown challenges and threats.

In this regard, the work continues to improve the Basic Law. Our people are anticipating big changes from the constitutional reforms. A clear confirmation of this is more than 220 thousand proposals received until today.

The discussions and debates intensify continue. All of us that our deputies and political parties show responsibility and activity in this process, drawing a particular attention to each of proposals. I am thankful for this.

We undertake the decisions, relying on the principle "The society is the initiator of the reform" and consulting with our people in all spheres.

As a whole, we need to develop modern Constitution, imbued with the idea and essence of respect to human honor and dignity, as the highest value, such Basic Law that is consistent with the objectives of New Uzbekistan and serves future generation.

All proposals and suggestions, expressed by our citizens, shall certainly be taken into consideration and the draft Constitution taken into a nationwide referendum.

The utmost thing, every our compatriot should feel himself as an involved participant of the ongoing reforms, in order to have the right to proudly say: "This is my Constitution".

Egyptian ambassador calls on Syed Naveed Qamar, seeks halal meat, rice from Pakistan



Tarek Mohamed Dahroug, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and expressed desire to enhance the export of rice and halal meat from Pakistan.

The Ambassador specifically requested that the Pakistani government take measures to make it easier for Egyptian importers to purchase Pakistani Halal meat and rice.

"We believe that Paki-

stani meat and rice is better in quality than its neighboring countries". Egyptian ambassador

Minister Qamar welcomed the Ambassador's proposal and assured the Ambassador that the Ministry of Commerce would work closely with the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt to ensure that the proposed measures were implemented.

Syed Naveed Qamar observed that total trade between Pakistan and Egypt stood at \$ 636.89 million during (July-June) 2021-

22 out of which exports amounted to \$104.68 million and imports from Egypt stood at \$532.21 million, which did not match the actual potential of the trade.

Meanwhile, the honorable Minister pointed out visa stamps issues facing to the Pakistani business community, even for participation in trade fairs in Egypt.

To which the Ambassador assured that such problem will not be faced to the business community in future adding that Egyptian embassy will offer entry at the spot

to the passengers those who have Schengen, American and Canadian visa stamps on their passports at airport.

At the end both the minister and the ambassador agreed to work together to enhance the bilateral trade and to explore new avenues for mutual benefit. They also agreed to hold regular meetings to keep abreast of developments in trade and investment.

The meeting concluded with the Minister and the Ambassador exchanging gifts and promises of future cooperation.

ICCIA and ICIEC signed MoU

Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) signed an MoU for cooperation in the area of trade and investment development in common Member States.

The agreement was signed by H.E. Yousef Hasan Khalawi, Secretary General of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA), and H.E. Ouassama KAISSE, Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) at the ICCIA Headquarters in Karachi, Pakistan on 16th December 2022.

The MOU aims to strengthen and extend the cooperation between the two parties for the furtherance of their respective mandates. The parties anticipate that their cooperation will encompass a number of specific areas.

According to this MOU, the parties stand ready to cooperate in exploring the possibility of promoting intra-OIC trade; attracting investments into member countries; supporting green and sustainable financing; and developing Halal industry worldwide. In conformity with their respective responsibilities, activities, and organizational requirements, both parties agreed to make reasonable efforts in



organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops for the development and promotion of trade and investment, for the private sector of the Member States. The parties will consult each other for the purpose of developing specific instruments for the implementation of the cooperation activities contemplated in this MOU.

The MOU signing ceremony was held in the presence of the business and diplomatic community, Mr. Eyyup Yildirim, Commercial Attache, Turkish Consulate General in Karachi, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Yemen in Karachi and Chairman, Baig Group of Companies, Dr. Irfan Bukhari, President & CEO of EXIM Bank of Pakistan and Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman Pakistan-Tur-

kiye Joint Business Council & Senior Member of FPCCI as well as other members of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).

As an affiliated Institution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the ICCIA is considered the Private Sector representative for 57 Member OIC Countries, through their National Chambers / Federations / Unions of Commerce & Industry as well as Muslim business communities in non-OIC countries. In view of the global economic challenges and opportunities, the ICCIA has developed a strategic plan to implement its objectives and to empower MSMEs. It seeks to strengthen closer collaboration in the economic, commercial and other relevant fields, through

three major tasks; (1) Acting as an engine for mobilizing investment, (2) Policy making related to private sector and (3) Development of private sector and its related representatives (Chambers of Commerce).

The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) is a multilateral institution and a member of the Islamic Development Bank Group, having its Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. ICIEC was established to enlarge the scope of trade transactions and encourage the flow of foreign direct investments to its Member States by providing (re)insurance cover against commercial and non-commercial in accordance with the principles of Shari'a.

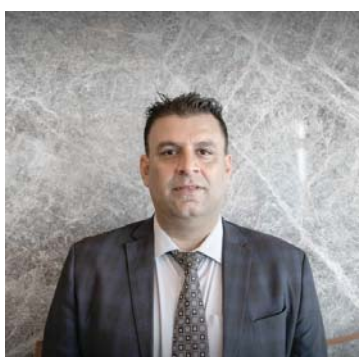
Al Khoory Hotels makes two senior management appointments

Spokesman Report

DUBAI, UAE: Al Khoory Hotels, part of the Al Khoory Group's hospitality division, has made two senior management appointments to drive the next phase of the company's growth in Dubai.

Seasoned Hotel Manager Dhiraj Bagai will utilize nearly 20 years of hospitality experience to lead the recently launched Al Khoory Courtyard Hotel, where the focus will be on showcasing the quality accommodation, facilities and amenities twinned with exceptional value, and the Urban Al Khoory Hotel where he will underscore the brand's innovative, vibrant and modern credentials.

An Indian national, Bagai has vast



Dhiraj Bagai Hotel Manager Al-Khoory Courtyard and Urban Al-Khoory

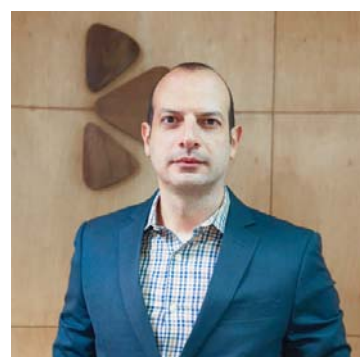
experience in Dubai and across Asia. He has held numerous senior manage-

ment positions, most recently as General Manager of La Verda Suites & Villa in Dubai Marina. Before that, he spent five years in Seminyak, Bali, where he was Hotel Manager for the five-star Double-Six Luxury Hotel.

In his native India, Bagai held senior positions with a host of hotel operators, including Taj, Radisson, and Wyndham.

Arun Kumar, General Manager Hospitality Division, Al Khoory, said: "Dhiraj's experience and in-depth knowledge of the hospitality scene in the UAE and India will be invaluable to Al Khoory as we look to strengthen our hospitality offering across the brand in what is an increasingly competitive marketplace.

"We look forward to working with



Naji Moukhachen Head of Sales Al-Khoory Hotels

Dhiraj as we consolidate our market position as a leader in leisure and business travel for visitors to the emirate

and residents."

As part of his remit, Bagai will be responsible for all hotel operations, from employee satisfaction and sales and revenue generation to exceeding guest expectations.

Speaking about his appointment, Bagai said: "The Al Khoory brand continues to grow in prominence within the UAE tourism hospitality market. I look forward to continuing this upward growth trajectory by upholding the hotel's high standards by working closely with our suppliers and increasing occupancy through excellent guest experiences."

Also joining the Group is Naji Moukhachen, who takes up the position of Head of Sales for the Hospitality group. A graduate of Cornell Univer-

sity and an MBA from the Swiss Business School, he has over 12 years of hospitality experience in senior sales positions, having established numerous successful strategies for a series of hospitality brands in the UAE and internationally.

His career includes senior management positions within Rotana Hotels and Hilton, where he was most recently Commercial Manager for Hilton DoubleTree Al Jadaf.

"Naji is extremely capable with a proven track record in driving commercial success within the hospitality industry. His understanding of the UAE market and results-driven ethos will be an asset to Al Khoory Hotels, particularly as we look to our next growth phase," said Kumar.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
39,342.89	39,832.45
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,022.37	39,276.70
Index Value	Change
3,060,963,673	-489.56
Percentage	Time
-1.23%	21 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,497.32	+126.70
Percentage	Time
+1.72%	21 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,360.92	+511.18
Percentage	Time
+1.56%	21 Dec, 11:46 am GMT-5
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
26,387.72	-180.31
Percentage	Time
-0.68%	21 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	151.01	152.26
Bahrain Dinar	601.41	605.91
Canadian Dollar	166.05	167.4
China Yuan	32.24	32.49
Danish Krone	32.32	32.67
Euro	257	259.5
Hong Kong Dollar	28.91	29.26
Indian Rupee	2.72	2.8
Japanese Yen	2.24	2.28
Kuwaiti Dinar	739.02	744.02
Malaysian Ringgit	50.95	51.4
New Zealand \$	143.33	144.53
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	587.35	591.85
Qatari Riyal	61.75	62.25
Saudi Riyal	64.5	65.1
Singapore Dollar	165.24	166.54
Swedish Korona	21.78	22.08
Swiss Franc	244.17	245.92
Thai Bhat	6.46	6.56
U.A.E Dirham	68	68.5
UK Pound Sterling	295.5	298.5
US Dollar	232.25	234.5

Speakers stress need to harness hydropower potential for adding more clean energy

2nd International Conference on Pakistan Hydropower Sector



➤ Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD : Speakers at the 2nd International Conference on Pakistan Hydropower Sector on Wednesday stressed the need to harness hydropower potential in the country for adding more clean and green electricity to the national grid system for sustainable economic growth.

They were of the view that Pakistan was blessed with huge hydel and renewable energy (RE) generating resources and it was a dire need to exploit all these resources for generating clean and green energy.

The conference was organized by Energy Update in collaboration with Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) and International Hydropower Association (IHA) to discuss more opportunities to produce cheap and clean energy from the hydro sector and to foster renewable energy resources in mitigating climate change.

Appreciating the efforts of the organizers of the conference, Minister of State for Power Division Hashim Notezai said under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the incumbent government has a special focus to produce energy from indigenous resources, especially hydel, wind, and solar in order to minimize reliance of imported fuel.

Assuring full government support, he invited the investors to come forward and invest in clean and green energy. There were greater opportunities in the energy sector of Pakistan and the investors should take benefits

from it, he said.

Managing Director PPIB Dr Shahjahan Mirza said that his organization has successfully added over 18,000 Megawatt (MW) of electricity to the national grid so far through Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which was around 50 per cent of total installed capacity. PPIB was providing one-window facilities to the investors and lenders in this regard, he said.

He went on to say that currently, the share of hydel was 25 per cent in the energy mix, followed by six per cent solar and 69 per cent of thermal. The government has now set a target of 62 per cent of energy through RE and hydel resources, he added.

Dr Mirza said the government also intended to increase the reliance on indigenous resources and wanted to induce more green energy in the system in the next 10 years. A concrete roadmap was devised in this regard and it was the first step that all projects were being awarded through competitive bidding.

However, he said private sector role in the hydropower sector at the global level was very limited. China's private sector has made a huge investment in the hydropower sector of Pakistan and the recent 720 MW Karot hydro-power project has been commissioned on June 29, 2022, with a cost of \$ 1.2 billion under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Work was also being carried out on the 1100 MW Kohala hydropower project under CPEC, he added.

Shahjahan said that Pakistan has identified hydropower poten-

tial stood at 65,000 MW besides an additional 21,000 MW from Gilgit-Baltistan. However, he said GB has not yet connected through the national grid system of the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and it would take around 5-6 years.

He said PPIB has attracted huge foreign investment from the UK, Korea, and other countries in energy-generating projects.

CEO Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Engineer Muhammad Naem said dams and drains for mitigating climate issue was the theme of the conference. Pakistan was blessed with surplus water and energy resources, he added.

However, he said we could not plan to exploit the hydropower potential in the country in the last 75 years. No doubt climate change has some effect but we could mitigate its effects through proper planning, he added.

He said we could not cope with climate change unless we stored and conserved water. There was a dire need for more concentration on the planning of water storage and the development of hydropower projects.

Naem said that PEDO under a public-private partnership has planned various small hydropower projects in remote areas having around 2,500 MW capacity which would start power supply in the next 10 years.

He said PEDO had completed the solarization of many mosques, schools, basic health units and over

6000 households so far in KPK.

Amir Bashir CEO of Diamer Basha dam said that WAPDA has tapped around 9,400 MW hydel generation so far and work on more mega projects was being carried out to store 11 million acre-feet (MAF) water besides generating 16,000 MW of electricity.

He said WAPDA was building mega projects including Diamer Basha, Mohmand, and Dasu dams to enhance water storage capacity in the country.

Chairman of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) Tauseef H Farooq while speaking on the occasion said that he was a big fan of hydropower projects in the country adding that NEPRA was fully committed to promoting indigenous resource-based affordable electricity to the consumers.

He said currently the country's total installed power generation capacity stood at 43,000 MW but it was mostly based on imported fuel. He said that he had suggested the past government includes hydro in the classification of RE. The government has also devised a plan to completely change the current energy mix and generate over 65 per cent of electricity through indigenous resources including hydel, solar, wind, etc.

Minister of Energy and Water Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhary Arshad said that the energy crisis could be overpowered by tapping more hydel potential in various parts of Pakistan and AJK. He

said AJK has also huge hydropower energy potential which needed to be exploited for economic and agricultural growth.

CEO International Hydropower Association Mr. Eddie Rich said hydropower was growing but not at a fast pace globally. Hydropower was a clean and green energy that needed to be promoted at fast track, he said.

He said there was a huge potential for hydropower at a global level that needed to be exploited. The existing hydro fleet has also an urgent modernization need, he said.

Earlier in his welcome address Chairman organizing committee of the conference, Naem Qureshi said the conference was being organized to discuss the progress Pakistan and the adjoining region had achieved in the hydropower sector.

He said the conference would prove to be a milestone in the promotion of hydropower not only in the country but also in the region.

Dr. Munawar Iqbal, DG Hydro PPIB, Mohd Fauzi Bin Shafie, CEO, TNB Remaco Pakistan Pvt Ltd, Senior Advisor CSAIL NA Zuberi, Halima Khan H.O corporate affairs EU, Khattar AbdulKhalek, Head of Business Development and Acting GM for Aerodyne KSA, Muhammad Asad Imran, Country Manager, DOLSAR Engineering Pakistan, Fahd Bin Zafar, MM Pakistan (MMP), Sohail Butt, Former DMD, PSO, and others also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of hydropower for sustainable development.

IMF against state control over dollar: Mian Zahid Hussain

➤ Tairq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said the growth rate will remain low in the coming year while inflation and unemployment will increase.

Interest rates are likely to rise further in 2023, profits of many companies will decrease, many businesses will run on almost zero profit and many will bankrupt, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in present circumstances, any further delay in reviving the IMF programme would be tantamount to suicide.

Talking to the business community, the veteran busi-



ness leader said that at present the state of the country's economy is critical and Pakistan also has to repay a huge amount of loans which has become a big problem.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar wants to bring the dollar to two hundred rupees, while the majority of economists are calling it impossible, he said.

The finance minister said that the finance minister is not ready to leave the dollar unregulated at any cost because it will weaken the rupee and increase inflation

in the country.

On the other hand, the IMF wants to remove all controls on the dollar which will push its value to Rs250 to 275 but this will also increase exports and remittances.

The dispute has led to a deadlock in talks between the government and the IMF, which is unnerving investors.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the difference between the official price of the dollar and the open market rate has increased to 25 rupees, which is establishing a parallel market.

The present situation is a blessing for those who are involved in illegal hundi business while Pakistanis living abroad are also sending money through illegal channels due to which the remittances have decreased by 15% and the country's problems are increasing.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the IMF is pushing for reforms agreed upon in the agreement so that country's financial position improves, the risk of bankruptcy can be avoided and the government does not have to borrow every two to three months but the government is worried about the public response.

Government is not able to make a firm decision due to fear but it should restore the IMF programme as soon as possible so that the IMF pays the tranche of the loan, after which friendly countries, other international organizations and investors will also start giving loans to Pakistan and things will improve temporarily.

If Pakistan's debts are restructured and there are no reforms, soon Pakistan will have to face the current situation again.

Germany to help with trade facilitation & technical education: Irfan Sheikh

➤ Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his satisfaction that Pakistan's bilateral trade surplus with Germany has crossed psychological mark of \$1 billion and there are clear indications that Pakistani exports are on a growth trajectory with the world's fourth largest economy and the largest in Europe with a GDP of \$4.5 trillion.

However, President Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh noted, the exports of \$2.5 billion are still way too below the real potential as there is huge demand of Pakistani textiles in Germany, he remarked in a message on the occasion of the visit of H. E. Mr. Andreas Wegner, Depu-

ty Consul General of Germany, to the Federation House.

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, stated that Pakistan should be focused on the renewal and expansion of GSP+ to make full use of the very affluent German consumer market. He also stressed upon the need to export services and human resources to Germany in large numbers.

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, explained that Pakistan can benefit from Germany enormously through technology transfer as Germany is one of the most advanced countries in the world technologically. He requested the visiting diplomat that German embassy should consider making visa issuance process speedy and more forthcoming

for Pakistan as a lot of businessmen, workers, tourists and students want to go to Germany for their respective fields of interests.

Sahibzadi Mahin Khan, Convener of FPCCI's Standing Committee on Diplomatic Affairs, proposed that the scope of GIZ programs of Germany should be expanded in other provinces of Pakistan; like they have been offered in Punjab as youth is the advantage point of Pakistan and they can be empowered & emancipated through technical training opportunities.

H. E. Mr. Andreas Wegner expressed his optimism that most of the FPCCI demands can be met with mutual consultative processes; and, Germany is willing to help with polytechnic &



Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, is presenting the commemorative shield to H. E. Mr. Andreas Wegner, Deputy Consul General of Germany in Pakistan. Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Maggo, Mr. Idrees Gigi, Sahi

vocational training; establish collaborations between German & Pakistani IT companies; offer German language courses; help with the rehabilitation of flood affectees; foster the capabilities to cope with climate change; facilitate the

'Our Employees Our Biggest Strength', says CEO Indus Motor

➤ Bureau Report

KARACHI : Owing to the continuing LC restrictions imposed by the State Bank of Pakistan and the consequent shut down of its plant at Port Qasim, Karachi, Indus Motor Company (IMC) vows that it will not lay-off its workforce.

"Pakistan is at a cross roads both economically and at the political front. The State Bank of Pakistan's LC restrictions which continue unabated, has adversely affected our operations, halting produc-

tion intermittently, for the sixth month running now," remarked the company's Chief Executive, Ali Asghar Jamali.

"Our human resource is our most valuable asset and our biggest strength by far. As we have always done in the past, guarding their welfare during any rough patch is our moral obligation as it is now.

Despite these challenging times, and following Toyota's legacy of tenacity, we are optimistic and standing tall. InshahAllah, this too shall pass," said Jamali.

Babar Azam rises to career high Test batter ranking

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan captain Babar Azam has attained a career-best second position in the latest MRF Tyres International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Test Player Rankings after notching two half-centuries in the final Test of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) series against England in Karachi.

Babar's knocks of 78 and 54 have helped him overtake Steve Smith, who managed 36 and six in a low-scoring game between Australia and South Africa in Brisbane. Babar, who is ranked first in ODIs and fourth in T20Is, trails Marnus Labuschagne by 61 points in the Test rankings.

Australia batter Travis Head, whose first innings score of 92 was the highest in the Brisbane Test, has gained three slots to reach a career-best fourth position as he crosses the 800-rating point mark for the first time in his career. His previous best was fifth position in January this year.

In the latest weekly update that also takes into account performances in the first Test of the WTC series between Bang-



ladesh and India in Chattogram, Cheteshwar Pujara's knocks of 90 and 102 not out have lifted him 10 positions to 16th while Shreyas Iyer (up 11 places to 26th)

and Shubman Gill (up 10 places to 54th) have also gained after some fine performances in the match.

England captain Ben Stokes (up places

to 23rd), South Africa's Temba Bavuma (up eight places to 24th) and Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan (up four places to 37th) are some others to move up the batters' list. England's Harry Brook is in the top 50 for the first time after scoring centuries in all three Tests in Pakistan.

In the bowlers' rankings, South Africa quick Kagiso Rabada has gained four spots to reach third position after grabbing four wickets in each innings at Gabba. Rabada, a formerly top-ranked bowler, was third in August this year before slipping down the table.

India spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel have made rapid progress after helping win the Chattogram Test.

Yadav's Player of the Match effort of eight for 113 has lifted him 19 places to 49th while Patel's five scalps in the match see him jump 10 places to a career-best 18th position.

Other bowlers to move up the list include Maroon Jansen, Jack Leach, Mark Wood, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Scott Boland and Mohammad Siraj.

Results over the past week see Australia consolidate their position at the top of the WTC table with India in second position.

PMYP, HEC hold closing ceremony of Wrestling National League

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The closing ceremony of Wrestling National League was held under the auspices of Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) at the University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Lahore (UVAS). Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC was Chief Guest in the closing ceremony.

On sidelines of the closing Ceremony, Chairman HEC commenced groundbreaking of Swimming Pool in UVAS.

Speaking at the occasion, the Chairman said, "I am delighted to witness that our youth is actively engaged in sport activities like Wrestling and other games." He advised the students not to indulge in non-issues and focus on becoming a productive resource to play their part in making Pakistan a



prosperous country.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that HEC has a well-established Sports Division that is providing facilitation to youngsters to participate in various sports.

He also informed the audience that Pakistani students are performing very well in all fields of life. "I feel proud to say that Pakistani students have secured

maximum number of scholarships as compared to other students in European Union merit-based scholarships."

Dr. Muhammad Nasim, Vice Chancellor UVAS said that through the Talent Hunt Youth Sports League, revival of sports activities and strengthening of sports culture in Pakistan is expected and hoped that our players would bring more and

more laurels if this kind of handholding continued.

During the closing ceremony, final wrestling competitions were held. Team of Punjab wrestlers won the first prize, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team stood at second place and the team from Balochistan finished third on the points table.

The national league of weightlifting and wrestling is part of Talent Hunt Youth Sports League, a first of its kind project in which trials for 12 selected sports are to be conducted in 25 locations across the country followed by provincial and national leagues.

The purpose of conducting the trials in selected sports is to provide an opportunity to the youth of the country on the grass root level to showcase their talent in the sports of their interest.

Haniya Minhas creates history for Pakistan by qualifying for semi-finals



Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Haniya Minhas becomes one of the most skilled players after qualifying for semi-finals at the Orange Bowl Tennis Championship. This comes as a pride and milestone victory for Pakistan and BARD Foundation to witness Haniya at her best in one of the most challenging international tournaments. Haniya's training and sports activities have been supported by the 'Bilquis & Abdul Razak Dawood' (BARD) Foundation, since she was only 9 years of age.

Prior to securing her spot in the semi-finals at Orange Bowl, over 2000 players participated at Eddie Herr Junior Championship where Haniya Minhas secured a bronze for Pakistan among 90 countries. Haniya joined IMG for training on 22 August 2022 that was followed by a continuous series of remarkable successes at Little Mo International Championship in New York, USA, USTA National Under 14 Tennis Championship in Florida, US, USTA Under 16 National Tennis Championship in the United States, Under 14 National Tennis Championships in Coral Springs, Florida and USTA Under 16 Girls National Championship Final in Florida, USA.

Expressing her delight on successive remarkable performances in the most challenging tournaments, Haniya said, "These series of successes have filled me with gratitude and even higher passion to continue playing to the best of my abilities."

Mehreen Dawood - Pakistan's leading philanthropist and founder of the BARD Foundation, appreciated Haniya's success, saying that: "It is a great honour for Pakistan and the BARD Foundation that such a breakthrough had been made by a Pakistani girl. Haniya's triumph will prove to be an inspiration for other players, especially young girls, and serve as a motivating factor for upcoming players."

The long-term vision and mission of the BARD Foundation is to support the development of talented, young Pakistanis, in any profession, sport, or other fields of endeavor. It sponsors the best performing youngsters, to fulfill their dreams and prove their mettle.

Badminton Championship 2022

Larkana: Players of Lahore and Quetta Board teams in action during All Pakistan Inter-Board Badminton Championship 2022 at Officers Club, organized by Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Larkana.



KPT honours medal winners of Commonwealth Games 2022

News Desk

KARACHI: Karachi Port Trust (KPT) organized a grand Cash Award Ceremony for the medal winners Athletes of the Commonwealth Games 2022 held in Birmingham, England, to appreciate the achievements of our national heroes and laud their performances to encourage them in their future endeavours. Chief Guest Parliamentary Secretary Eng. Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani, Chairman, KPT Syed Muhammad Tariq Huda, GM (Administration) Brig Tariq Bashir TI(M), Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, Chairman Port Qasim Syed Hassan Nasir Shah HI(M) and CEO KICTSC Kim and many other dignitaries and notable personalities graced the occasion at KPT Sports Complex.

On the occasion, Gold medalists in Javelin throw Arshad Nadeem and weight-lift-



er Nooh Dastagir Butt were awarded a cash prize of Rs 2 million each while National wrestlers (Silver medalists) Inam Butt, Zaman Anwar and Sharif Tahir were awarded cash prizes of Rs 1 million each. The (Bronze medalists) Judo player Shah Hussain Shah and Inayat Ullah wrestler were awarded Rs 5 Lac each.

On the occasion, the FIFA World Cup

2022 grand finale was also shown after the ceremony on live streaming which brought the attendants on their feet.

The Chief Guest Parliamentary Secretary Eng. Sabir Hussain Qaimkhani while speaking on the occasion lauded the remarkable achievements of Pakistani athletes in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and hoped that the medal

tally secured by our athletes in Commonwealth Games will inspire the upcoming athletes in future sports.

"They are our national heroes and we hope they will continue with the grand show at the international level to bring more medals to the country and enhance the country's image at the international level, the Chief guest added.

Earlier, the KPT Chairman said that securing the gold medal in Commonwealth Games is not a small thing. "It's a huge deal and involves years of hard work and dedication by the medal winners", he said.

He lamented that in our country we do not encourage our medal winners the way other nations take care of their sportsmen and medal winners.

He said that he is the father of an athlete and knows how hard it is to make it to the international level and compete alongside world level players.

Mohsin Nawaz called on Secretary Sports



Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan's international long range shooter Mohsin Nawaz called on Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta and Director General Sports Punjab Mohammad Tariq Qureshi at Punjab Stadium on Wednesday.

Additional Secretary Sports Malik Sanaullah and Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan were also present on this occasion.

The promotion of long range shooting in Pakistan was discussed in detail during the meeting. Secretary Sports Punjab Ehsan Bhutta also gave a shield to Mohsin Nawaz on this occasion.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta and Director General Sports Punjab Mohammad Tariq Qureshi expressed their best wishes for Mohsin's success in his next international long range shooting event.

Talking on this occasion, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said Mohsin Nawaz is the pride of Pakistan. "Out of 7 international events, Mohsin Nawaz has won medals 5 times in South Africa and twice in America. He has clinched 25 medals including six gold, seven silver and 12 bronze medals in national championships and won 7 international medals including four gold, two silver and one bronze medals in international long range shooting competitions".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said Mohsin has achieved great success through hard work and dedication, for which he deserved huge congratulations. "A long range shooting event will be organized in Punjab to bring out new shooting talent". Director General Sports Punjab Mohammad Tariq Qureshi on this occasion said Mohsin Nawaz is a talented young man. "We will hold more long range shooting events to promote this game in Punjab".

Mohsin Nawaz expressed his gratitude to Secretary Sports Punjab Ehsan Bhutta and DG Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi for extending valuable encouragement. He said that he is preparing for his next international long range shooting event scheduled to be held in South Africa in March 2023.

Special goalkeeping training camp kicks off in Lahore



Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The shortlisted Under-22 players include Usman Ali, Salman ul Haq, Saqib, Sayed ur Rehman, Hasan Ali, and national team goalkeeper Abdul Basit. The players have been shortlisted based on their performances in the previous camps. The main objective of the camp is to further strengthen the skills of the players.

Sharing his views, National Goalkeeping Coach Zahid Taj said: "The role of goalkeepers has become very important in modern football. The PFF has decided to pay special attention to this area. The players have talent, and their fitness also looks good, and they are showing great interest in training and working hard."

"Our focus is improving the performance of every participant and the more they take a keen interest in the training and work harder, the better they can produce results at national and international levels. Overall, we are trying our best to prepare them for future challenges," he added.

Anil Khokhar won the Bronze medal in Asian Kickboxing Championship

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Anil Khokhar won the Bronze medal in Asian Kickboxing Championship here at Thailand. According to Secretary General Pakistan Kickboxing Federation Tahir Abbas there were three fighter of Pakistan took part in Kickboxing Championship and in very short time the camp was organized before depart to take part in Thailand but despite of that Pakistan Fighter showed an excellent performance in Asian Kickboxing Championship and Pakistan maintained the tradition of not being returned the empty handed.

Due to the non availability of fund only three fighter of Kickboxing team could take part, Tahir said If more funds available then Pakistan team could get the more medals. Anel Khokhar could not win against the Irani fighter and lost the fight 75 Kg weight category. However, Anil Khokhar performance was out standing during the Championship.

KPK beat Northern by 83 runs

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 351-4, 50 overs (Kamran Ghulam 118 not out, Mohammad Haris 61, Sahibzada Farhan 58, Waqar Ahmed 50; Mehran Mumtaz 2-45)

Northern 268 all out, 46.2 overs (Umar Akmal 76, Mubair Khan 63, Zeeshan Malik 33, Umar Amin 32; Ihsanullah 5-49) Player of the match - Kamran Ghulam (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Sindh beat Balochistan by six wickets

Balochistan 253 all out, 47.5 overs (Haseebullah 107; Danish Aziz 3-50, Shah Nawaz Dahani 2-45)

Sindh 254-4, 41.1 overs (Saim Ayub 102, Mohammad Suleman 66 not out, Sharjeel Khan 36; Kashif Bhatti 3-38)

Player of the match - Saim Ayub (Sindh)

Southern Punjab beat Central Punjab by 97 runs

Southern Punjab 274-8, 50 overs (Zain Abbas 69, Hassan Khan 48 not out, Sharoon Siraj 45; Aamer Yamin 4-54, Usama Mir 2-39)

Central Punjab 177 all out, 38 overs (Ahmed Shehzad 54; Arafat Minhas 4-34, Faisal Akram 3-41, Hassan Khan 2-35)

Player of the match - Hassan Khan (Southern Punjab)