

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
محمد بن ابی بکر ثقفی نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے
اس میں ہاتھ سے کلمہ کے متعلق دریافت
کیا کہ آپ لوگ نبی کریم ﷺ کے جہد میں
اسے کس طرح کہتے تھے۔ اس وقت ہم سنی
سے عرفات کی طرف جا رہے تھے، انہوں نے
فرمایا کہ تلبیہ کہنے والے تلبیہ کہتے اور کعبیر
کہنے والے کعبیر۔ اس پر کوئی اعتراض نہ کرتا۔
(کنگڈنری: حدیث نمبر 970)
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Imran Khan's dream for snap polls won't come true with mere predictions: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Saturday rubbishing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's prediction regarding the early polls said the general election would be held on completion of the constitutional term of the coalition government.



Quaid-e-Azam advocated for human, religious freedom: Asif Ali Zardari

Former President and President PPP, Asif Ali Zardari, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said on Saturday that the PPP was steadfast on its resolve to make Pakistan a democratic and welfare state. The former president said that the founder of Pakistan was a true democrat and an enlightened leader who advocated for human and religious freedom.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Decoration for Christmas

ISLAMABAD: A man is busy in decorating of F-6 Kachi Abadi ahead of celebration Christmas ceremony in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Bannu operation will prove coup de grace in war on terror, avows COAS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir's Waziristan and SSG Headquarters visit has made it clear that the Bannu operation will prove to be the last nail in the coffin of war against terrorism and the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is also considering the large number of deaths of terrorists as its biggest loss. It should be remembered that the Army Chief Gen Syed Asim Munir had visited Waziristan and his visit sent a strong message to the armed forces, masses and terrorists. Bannu operation will go down as one of the most successful hostage situation operations in history as the operation was completed in the



most professional manner and in very patient phases, without the army taking any pressure from the complex environment or any other factor. The Chief of Army Staff gave a clear statement: "The Pakistan Army is determined to take the battle to the terrorists and to break the nexus with their facilitators, so as to ensure lasting peace." He saluted the SSG commandos and declared them the proud of the nation.

PM reviews solar energy projects

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday here chaired a review meeting on the use of solar energy to meet the requirements of electricity in the country. He stressed converting the electricity used in federal government buildings to solar energy. He issued special instructions for formulating a comprehensive strategy to effectively resolve the issues faced in the early completion of the solar energy projects. The PM said the use of solar energy in electricity production could effectively resolve the issues including the energy crisis in the country and rising prices of electricity. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, former prime minister and member National Assembly Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, minister for power Khurram Dastgir, minister for trade Naveed Qamar, and minister for food security Tariq Bashir Cheema attended



the meeting through a video link. Special Assistant to Prime Minister Ahad Cheema and Jehanzeb Khan and high-ranking officers also participated in the meeting. Agencies

Sanjrani urges nation to shun differences for prosperity



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani on Saturday urged the nation to set aside differences and get united for a progressive, peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Pakistan by following the vision of the founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In his message on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great Quaid-e-Azam, the chairman said the only way to overcome the problems being confronted by the country were to ensure the rule of law and strictly follow the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. "We have to improve our future by following the guiding principles of the founder of Pakistan," said the chairman, adding that Quaid-e-Azam was a great visionary leader.

Keel laying, steel cutting ceremony of HANGOR Class Submarines held at Karachi Shipyard



KARACHI: The indigenous submarine development project at Pakistan has achieved another mega milestone, when the Keel Laying Ceremony of first HANGOR Class Submarine and Steel Cutting of second Submarine was held at Shipyard and Engineering Works (KS&EW) here Saturday. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as the chief guest, a news release said. The defence agreement between Pakistan and China included development of eight HANGOR Class Submarines including four under construction

at Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group (WSIG) in China and remaining four being built at KS&EW under Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement. The construction work of first submarine to be made at KS&EW Pakistan commenced in Dec 21 and now the Keel Laying is being laid which is a major milestone in history of any naval vessel being constructed. Concurrently, construction work on subsequent submarine has started with its Steel Cutting at the same shipyard. HANGOR Class Submarine is capable to undertake variety of missions as per operational dictates. The submarine possesses advanced stealth features and fitted with State-of-the-Art weapons and sensors to operate under multi-threat environment and can engage targets at stand-off ranges. On the occasion, the Chief Guest expressed that it is a matter of great pride to witness the Keel Laying and Steel Cutting of two submarines concurrently.

President urges KATI to enhance women's participation in business sector

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday urged the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) to enhance women's participation in the business sector and labour force as they could play an integral part in society. He called for taking practical and time-bound steps to increase women's inclusion in the productive workforce and creating a safe, conducive, and women-friendly environment at the workplace. The president expressed these views during his visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. President urges KATI to enhance women's participation in business sector. Speaking on the occasion, the president said that businessmen played an important role in shaping business practices as well the opinion of society, and that they must set goals and directions in order to achieve the financial objectives of enterprises for economic prosperity, in addition to playing their role to make businesses dispense their responsibilities towards society. The president urged the business community to follow the path of the founder of



Pakistan by pursuing the unity, faith and discipline to become successful in every walk of life and hoped that the business community would continue to strengthen economy of the country. He further said that it was encouraging that despite the challenges, Pakistan's exports for the first time in history had touched US \$ 30 billion mark and said that the government was committed to provide a competitive and fair business environment to entrepreneurs and had taken necessary steps to achieve the purpose. Faraz ur Rahman, President Korangi Association of Trade and Industry, S.M Tanveer, Patron-in-Chief Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) and Muhammad Zubair Chhaya, Deputy Patron-in-Chief Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) also spoke on the occasion and thanked the President of Pakistan to spare his time for KATI. Later on, the president distributed awards among the office bearers of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) on their achievements in the economic sector.

President writes to PM, CJP to alleviate grievances of Murad Saeed

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in separate letters addressed to the Prime Minister and Chief Justice of Pakistan Saturday asked them to look into the issues raised by Murad Saeed to alleviate his grievances. In his letters to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, the President referred to the serious allegations levelled by the Parliamentarian, which inter alia included: fake, bogus, frivolous FIR was registered against him for the incident that occurred at Masjid-e-Nabvi, Madina Sharif, on May 1 2022, despite the fact that he was in Pakistan. Multiple FIRs have been registered against him on same charges all over Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz's visit to China provided new guidance for bilateral relations: Liu Jinsong

BELJING: Director General, Department of Asian Affairs of Chinese Foreign Ministry Liu Jinsong has said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in November was a great success with fruitful outcomes, and provided new guidance for China-Pakistan relations. "China is ready to work with Pakistan to take the visit as an opportunity to further implement the important common understandings reached between leaders of the two countries and maintain the momentum of high-level development of China-Pakistan relation," he said. He expressed these views during a meeting with Paki-



stan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque, here, according to a statement issued by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Liu Jinsong also briefed him on the main outcomes of the Central Economic Work Conference, emphasizing that China's economy remained resilient with a great potential and vitality, and the fundamentals sustaining China's sound economic growth, in the long run, remain unchanged.

Making PWDs equal, productive citizens of society

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alive addressing an interactive session with persons with disabilities organized by the World Health Organization on Saturday.



CM Elahi to take vote of confidence: PTI top brass

Bureau Report

LAHORE : Amid hectic politicking in country's largest province, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top brass on Saturday announced that Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi would take a vote of confidence.

PTI's announcement comes in the wake of the Lahore High Court's order that, on the condition of bounding the Chief Minister to obtain a vote of confidence before dissolving the assembly, suspended Punjab



Governor Balighur Rehman's notification barring Mr Elahi from holding the CM office.

Speaking to media persons outside deposed premier Imran Khan's Zaman park residence in Lahore, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry, flanked by provincial minister Aslam Iqbal, said the Punjab Chief Minister would dissolve the Punjab Assembly after obtaining the vote of confidence. Fawad while reiterating demand for snap elections said the incumbent rulers had disappointed the masses.

Shazia Marri congratulates nation on Quaid's birthday, Christian community on Christmas

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Shazia Atta Marri has congratulated the whole nation on the birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, to be marked on Sunday.

The federal minister also congratulated the Christian community on the festival of Christmas.

In a video message released today, the federal minister Shazia Marri said,



"I wish all the Christian community 'Merry Christmas' from the bottom of my heart."

Shazia Marri said that we must pledge on this day to make Pakistan an inclusive and more progressive country as per the dream of the Quaid-e-Azam. APP

Punjab Assembly to be dissolved after vote of confidence: Speaker

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Sibtain Khan on Saturday said Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi will dissolve the assembly after obtaining the vote of confidence, ARY News reported.

Talking to the media in Islamabad, Sibtain Khan stated that Punjab CM will dissolve the assemblies after obtaining the vote of confidence since they were moving towards immediate elections.

He also dares Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders to table a no-confidence motion in the provincial



assembly.

He maintained that Imran Khan's stance is clear that the assemblies should be dissolved on announce date as CM Punjab has the full confidence of members.

"The PPP and the PML-N were suggested to hold talks as we are not running away, and we have submitted written assurance to the court," Sibtain Khan added. Punjab Assem-

bley Speaker added that it is not possible to gather all 187 members in 18 hours.

Earlier, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) withdrew its no-confidence motion tabled against Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, the Punjab CM who was de-notified by the governor a day earlier.

MPA Khalil Tahir Sindhu said the no-confidence motion was withdrawn against Elahi after he was de-notified by the Punjab governor.

He further said that no-confidence motions against Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan and the deputy speaker had not been taken back.

UAE, Pakistan trade growth termed satisfactory

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The total trade between the UAE and Pakistan reached Dhs19.7 billion in 2021, with a growth rate of 23 percent compared to 2020, and the growth rate of trade volume between Ajman and Pakistan reached 30 percent during the last five years.

Abdullah Al Muwajji, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Ajman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), has affirmed the Chamber's keenness to consolidate its external relations and build strong partnerships to achieve sustainable future growth for the economy of the Emirate of Ajman.

This came during his meeting with Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the UAE at the ACCI headquarters on Saturday where they discussed joint economic cooperation, ways to consolidate bilateral relations and examined available investment oppor-

tunities in the industry, trade, tourism and education sectors.

At the beginning of the meeting, Abdullah Al Muwajji welcomed the attendees, praised the deep-rooted brotherly relations between the UAE and Pakistan at the leadership and people levels and stressed the importance of this meeting to discuss opportunities for cooperation and partnership between Ajman and Pakistan in many sectors, explaining that the ACCI is keen to consolidate its external relations and partnerships to achieve sustainable future growth for Ajman's economy.

Faisal Niaz Tirmizi praised the development renaissance in Ajman and stressed the need to exchange delegations and visits to learn about the available opportunities in all fields, explaining that the economic potential and opportunities available in both Pakistan and Ajman would open new horizons to increase the volume of intra trade and joint cooperation, Emirates news agency reported.

Islamabad suicide attack

Police seek formation of JIT

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Sohail Zafar Chattha has asked Islamabad chief commissioner to form a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to probe I-10 sector suicide blast.

In a letter written to the chief commissioner, the Islamabad DIG has recommended the formation of an eight-member JIT headed by SSP of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD).

The eight-member JIT will have 3 DSPs and two officers from intelligence agencies, the letter stated.

Case registered: Meanwhile, a case was registered after a suicide attack in Islamabad's I-10/4 sector under the anti-terrorism act (ATA) at Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

The First Information Report (FIR) stated that police officials

checked a vehicle in which a suspicious long-haired man was present on the back seat.

Following the attack, constable Adeel succumbed to his wounds.

It is pertinent to mention here that a policeman was martyred and six others, including four fellow cops, were injured in a suicide blast reported in Islamabad's I-10/4 sector.

"When the police stopped the vehicle for routine checking, the man detonated himself," he said in a media briefing, adding that an Eagle Squad cop was martyred in the blast while four others were injured.

The CCTV footage showed the vehicle stopped by police for routine checking. Right after, the man wearing a suicide jacket exploded himself.

Following the incident, the capital administration on Friday banned all types of gatherings, especially activities re

Azam Swati approaches IHC for post-arrest bail

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati on Saturday approached Islamabad High Court (IHC) for post-arrest bail in the controversial tweets case, ARY News reported.

Swati filed the bail plea in IHC through his lawyer Babar Awan.

In the post-arrest bail application, Azam Swati stated that he did not post derogatory remarks against any institutions.

The applicant has made federation and FIA cybercrime wing as respondents in the petition.

Earlier, Islamabad Special Judge Central Azam Khan y rejected the bail plea of Senator Swati in the controversial tweets case

During the hearing, the Islamabad court remarked that the PTI leader committed the "same offence" twice. Prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi explained to the court that Swati has a "blue tick" on his Twitter account and is followed by notable personalities.

On Nov 27, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Senator Azam Swati, in a case related to controversial tweets against state institutions.

The PTI leader was taken into custody by a three-member FIA team from his farmhouse located in Islamabad's Chak Shahzad. A fresh case has been registered against the PTI lawmaker. FIA Cybercrime Wing has confirmed the arrest of the PTI leader.



25th December 1876 – 11th September 1948
146th Birth Anniversary

“Freedom, however does not mean license. It does not mean that you can behave just as you please and do what you like, irrespective of interests of other people or of the State.”

(Address to students at Dhaka University, 1948)



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

Lok Virsa holds colorful Christmas celebrations



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) celebrated Christmas in a befitting manner here Friday at Shakarparian.

Lok Virsa complex remained the center of Christmas celebrations throughout the day.

A prestigious opening ceremony was held at the Pakistan National Heritage Museum. A large number of people belonging to Christian community and others attended the cake cutting ceremony followed by prayers for peace, progress and prosperity in the country.

Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Saint Thomas Church, Blue Area and U.P. Church F-7/4 collaborated with Lok Virsa



for Christmas celebrations. Church choirs and PNCA performing art theatre gave vibrant performances on the occasion. Mystic songs and Dhamaala were also presented to celebrate Christmas.

The objective of the celebrations was to express a message of solidarity and unity with the Christian community from a cultural perspective.

On this occasion Anwaar-ul-Haq.

Director (Museums) National Institute of Folk & Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa, said Lok Virsa, projects the cultural traditions of all communities including Christian community. The spirit behind it is to promote and strengthen national harmony and integration among the entire nation through cultural perspective. Lok Virsa is a national institution dealing with Pakistan's rich cultural heri-

itage. It focuses on supporting those who are the real bearers of magnificent cultural heritage.

It always plans and presents such programs and activities that create love, peace, harmony and solidarity in all classes of society including minorities, he added.

A group of traditional drummers (Dholis) entertained the public with their exotic performances.

A Grand Jirga was held with IGFC (S) KP Haroon Hameed Chowdhury



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: IGFC South (KP) Major General Haroon Hameed Chaudhary held a Grand Jirga with the Chief tribal elders of Wazir Tribes in South Waziristan district regarding maintenance of peace in the area.

On this occasion Scouts Force Commandant Muhammad Owais Shamim and Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Ashfaq Khan was present in the Jirga.

During the Jirga, the current security situation and the joint efforts of security forces and elders to restore peace and order were discussed in detail.

Major General Haroon Hameed Choudhary, IGFC South, emphasized that a conducive security environment is essential to help the local people.

Similarly, the survey of mineral deposits will benefit the local people of the area and all this is possible if there is complete peace and order in the area.

The leading elders should come forward and take their responsibility for maintenance of peace and ensure the regional (Khowarey) system.

The IGFC made it clear that any kind of deficiency on the black glasses of vehicles will not be tolerated after December 27, 2022.

The names request the cooperation of the people, The leading leaders of the Ahmadzai Wazir tribes participated in large numbers in the Jirga.

Digital Marketing is vital for business growth women led businesses

Man Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: Digital Marketing is vital for business growth women led businesses should fully adopt this important tool of marketing to transform from conventional push strategies to those that pull the customers, said Mrs. Rubina Amjad, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI). She was addressing to the participants of One Day Training Program organized by FWCCI in collaboration with Small & Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA).

She said that Digital Marketing is extremely important in today's business growth. The age of traditional marketing is now story of the past. The world of marketing has taken a new turn. She said that over a short span of few years, it has moved from the conventional push strategies to those that pull the customers and in the transformation, the marketers around the world have adopted a multi-channel approach to attract customers. She said that the significant part of this strategy is the social media marketing that has made obsolete the old ways of marketing. She said that unlike traditional marketing,



digital marketing brings high revenue with little investment and communicates with the customers and interact huge range of customers.

She said that FWCCI has set up Women Business Incubation Centre with the main objective to provide 'hands on support' with state of the art infrastructure and female oriented environments, to promote women empowerment particularly for young female graduates to start their own businesses. It will also cater to 'home based' women entrepreneurs to venture into commercial

level subsequent to export development.

With the help of slides, Mr. Manqoosh-ur-Rehman, Resource Person from SMEDA briefed the participants on the importance, potential and strengths and possible risks of Digital Marketing. He said that Digital marketing is an easy networking and communication platform that is also used for instant customer-consumer engagement. He also spoke on the objectives of Digital media marketing.

At the occasion, Qazi Saddam Naseer from Smeda also highlighted working of

SMEDA and various grants announced by the Government for SMEs growth and development.

A question-answer session was held wherein Mrs. Abiha Hamid, Mrs. Tehmina Pasha, Dr. Najmal Afzal, Ms. Sania Tahir, Ms. Shehla Sharif and others took part.

Vote of thanks was offered by Mrs. Saghira Tajammal, SVP, FWCCI while a large number of women were present at the occasion. At the end, certificates were distributed to the training participants by President FWCCI.



Businessmen women Madam Lubna Advocate, Madam Sha-beena Gilani and other members of Women Chamber of Commerce cuts the birthday cake of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

CBD Punjab pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam on his 146th birth anniversary

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab), has paid a creative tribute to the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his 146th birth anniversary by installing a portrait of Quaid-e-Azam 50 ft above the ground level.

The portrait is installed at the CBD Punjab project site in Lahore.

CEO of PCBDDA, Mr. Imran Amin has said that "We are working hard to make Pakistan a welfare and economic state as per Quaid's vision. This is a small token of homage to the efforts of Quaid E Azam for this nation. We will keep our flag weaving high".

This portrait also reflects the commitment of CBD Punjab to bringing Pakistan to the highest level of development and will make Pakistan a great economic welfare state



PUBLIC NOTICE

"Campbellpur Greens Attock (Extension)" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Qutba Tehsil Hazro District Rawalpindi. Public is hereby informed that **Qazi Ahmed Akbar** son of Qazi Khalid Mahmood, Chief Executive Officer, (CNIC#37101-1458708-5, Resident of Jatal Tehsil Hazro District Attock, Office #Kamra Naya Road Campbellpur Greens Housing Society Attock, has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Housing Scheme located in Mouza Qutba situated in Tehsil Hazro District Attock under Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020. The detail of area is as under:-

Mouza	Khasra No.	Khasra No.	Area			
			Kanal	Maria	Sft	
Qutba	131, 133, 135, 136, 160, 171	1457, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1393, 1394, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1456, 1507, 1389, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1449, 1450, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1521, 1522, 1528, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1459, 1460, 1468, 1469, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1483, 1486, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1495, 1500, 1501, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1516, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1529, 1530, 1542, 1285/1, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1284, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1364, 1246, 1458,	742/2	13	-	-
	311	742/2	13	-	-	
	348/2	766	20	-	-	
	90	750	01	-	-	
	93	759	02	-	-	
	284	735, 760, 756/2, 756/3	48	16	137	
	286	744, 754, 755, 757	-	-	-	
	264	758	-	16	-	
	270	743, 769	02	17	-	
	189	761, 763, 764, 765, 768, 770, 771	72	11	136	
	190	762	15	06	-	
	TOTAL		176	08	184	

ANY PERSON having objection against sanction of "Campbellpur Greens Attock (Extension)" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Qutba Tehsil Hazro District Rawalpindi ownership/title documents of land mentioned above may, within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained.

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

To curb illicit tobacco trade, enforce laws instead of increasing taxes

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Arthur Laffer, an American economist, has emphasized the need to increase the ability for strict enforcement of laws, rather than raising taxes, to curb the illicit tobacco trade in Pakistan.

He highlighted that in a high tax environment, the trend of tax evasion was on the rise.

2115 fellows graduate from the PepsiCo-Amal Career Prep Program

News Desk

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE: 2115 student Fellows have graduated from the PepsiCo-Amal Career-Prep Fellowship being conducted by Amal Academy. The 2022 graduation ceremony for the program was held in Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar where regional graduating Fellows were present. Educationist, child rights advocate and artist Shehzad Roy was the Keynote Speaker at the Karachi ceremony, and General Manager Pakistan Beverage Limited Agha Muhammad Khan was the Guest of Honor. At the Lahore ceremony, respected businessman, philanthropist and educationist Syed Babar Ali was the Guest of Honor at the Lahore event, joined by Khuram Shah, Director Public Policy & Government Affairs at PepsiCo Pakistan.

Syed Babar Ali in his speech reminded all Fellows to leverage the power of their cohort and learn from each other to excel in their personal and profession-

ally lives. Speaking at the Lahore event, Khuram Shah, Director Public Policy & Government Affairs at PepsiCo Pakistan congratulated Amal Academy and said, "At PepsiCo Pakistan, we believe in nurturing and supporting young talent to create meaningful opportunities for new changemakers. Our engagement with Amal Academy is a part of our agenda to create future leaders, and I am proud of the graduating fellows. They have taken a transformative journey in the past year that will help them become more confident and socially responsible young professionals who can take on the challenges of working in a rapidly changing world that demands sustainability and radical thinking."

Ali Siddiq, CEO Amal Academy, thanked PepsiCo and the partner universities for their companionship and vision in supporting the fellowship. Congratulating the fellows he said, "I hope the fellowship has helped you experience how much power we each hold to impact the world. I'm proud to see all

you've accomplished in the fellowship and am excited for what you hold in store for the future. Today is yours, and so is tomorrow—take charge of it and build what you wish to see!"

The Amal Career-Prep Fellowship is a 3-month leadership program focused on developing the mindsets (purpose, self-efficacy, resilience, etc.) and job skills (confidence, interviewing, CV writing etc.) of underserved students entering the job market. The PepsiCo Foundation has been supporting Amal Academy since October 2018. The partnership, now in its fourth year, has created mentorship opportunities for over 7,514 total graduates, out of which 3,185 graduates (42% of total) are women.

According to graduate surveys, the 166 batches over 12 semesters have created more than 75,000 indirect beneficiaries as 85% of employment-seekers are successful in finding jobs within 3-months of Fellowship. A 62% increase in average household income has been recorded post-Fellowship,

where Fellows have reported 63% improvement in skills, including 72% improvement in initiative-taking, 81% in interviewing, and 60% in confidence and problem-solving.

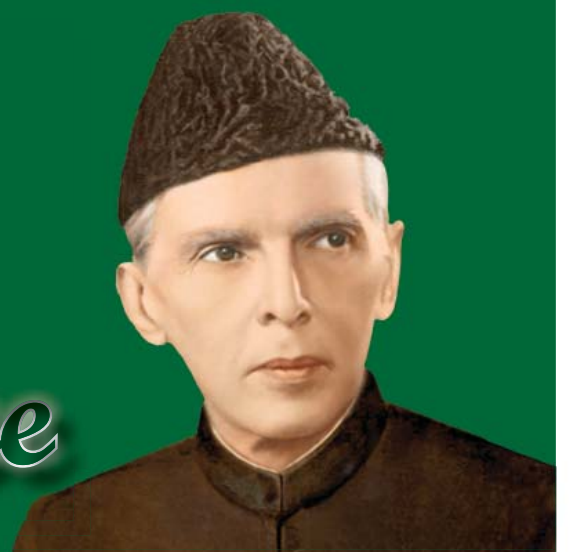
Alvia Khan, Amal Fellow from Batch 212 in Karachi added, "Before joining Amal I was unsure of my path in the corporate world. There were no career plans or path to follow, and I didn't even know the difference between a job and a career. But it would not be wrong to say that Amal has changed my life! I used to get rejected in job interviews because I didn't really know the dos and don'ts of an interview. And after the Amal-Career Prep Fellowship, I was having job offers and luckily I am now working with a UK-based recruiting firm as their sourcing consultant."

The graduation ceremony in Karachi was held earlier at the ICCBS Auditorium, University of Karachi. The Lahore ceremony was held in the University of Engineering and Technology Auditorium. The Peshawar event was held at the University of Peshawar

December
25
Quaid Day

The Daily
The Spokesman

Unity
Faith
Discipline



A birthday gift: Striving for Jinnah's Pakistan

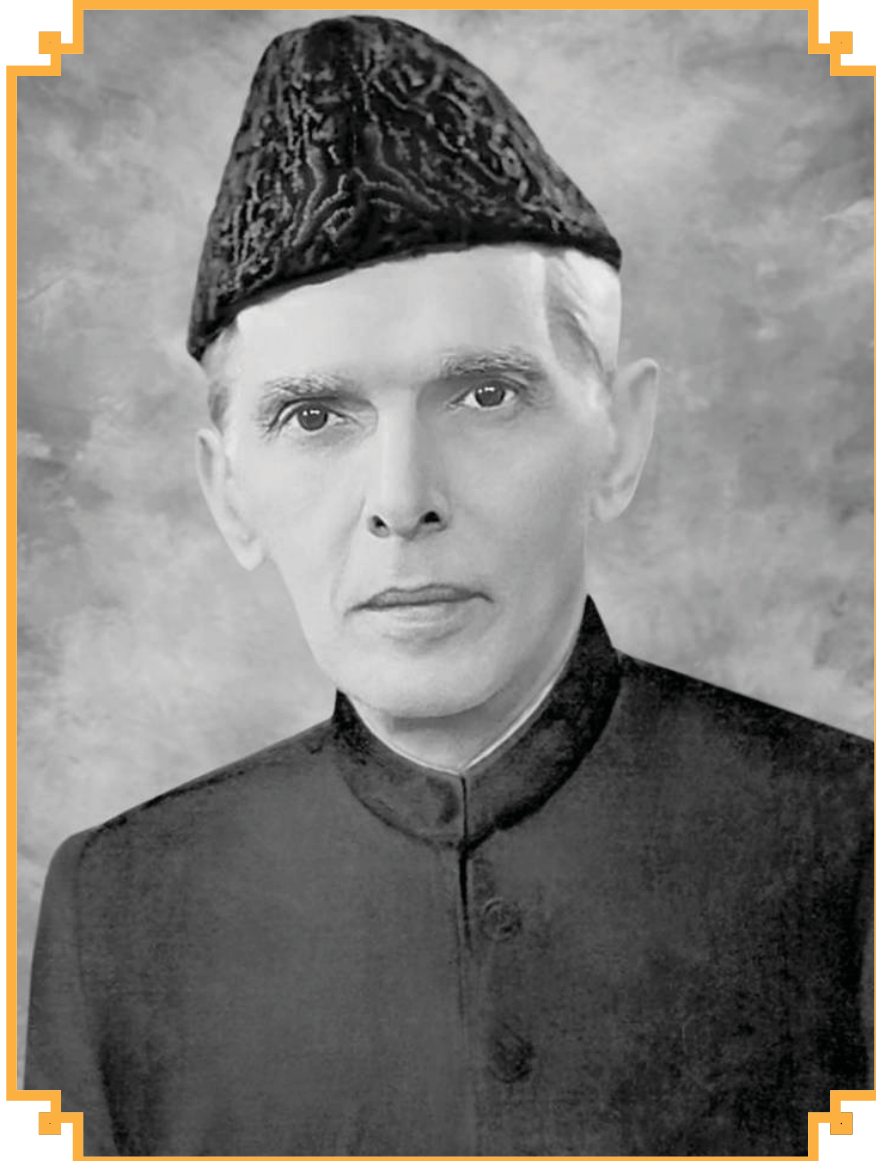
Today is 25th December. So, what glittering, sparkling, inspiring and shining present-pack we have wrapped up to jubilate 144th birthday of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, we revere as Quaid-e-Azam (the great leader), the father of the nation-state of Pakistan.

What stock of our national triumphs, as a nation, we are proudly carrying to the founding father of the nation-family of our homeland? Certainly, lot to be proud of where we have spiralled up since September 11, 1948, the heartrending day 'Babaye-qoum' left us for the eternal abode. He would be watching us from the galaxy of eminent, illuminating, bold, visionary spirits; he being distinct one in that cluster of the fraternity of world leaders. Being a man of intelligence, wit, courage, humane brilliance and political vision, man of principles, our founding father would evaluate our performance-gift with the guiding vision, cardinal principles and political and social ideals he professed for his sons & daughters of coming generations. What is our scorecard?

Let's do some self-reflection

It would broaden Quaid's smiles to know that how fervently Pakistan celebrates his birthday each year. He would recall stating his vision of Pakistan in Chittagong on March 26, 1948, and in Peshawar on April 12, 1948. His vision circumscribed a democratic state, an untheocratic one, which must reflect "the great ideals of human progress, liberty, equality, fraternity, and Islamic values of equality of manhood, fair-play, brotherhood and social justice...galvanising not only (as) the state but also as a unified and strong nation...founded on patriotism, and not provincialism, religious and sectarian diversions, or racism." He might ask how far we succeeded in manifesting his vision in true sense. He in fact would desire to stand tall because of his nation amongst other leaders-galaxy up there boasting of theirs.

Quaid-e-Azam is going to be all-proud



of his nation to have grown from around 33.7 million in 1947 to 208 million in 2020, making us the 5th largest in the world. He might ask about his 42 million sons & daughters of East Pakistan; so, better have a good explanation for that—all those who chipped

in their own fashion. Thing that may disturb him more would be our 154th ranking among 189 countries on UN's Human Development Index (HDI) – indicating where we are struggling still in health, education, and standards of living, pollution and climate. More unnerving would be comparing Pakistan with other South Asian countries.

Jinnah's joys would be visible to see us as a nuclear power, 6th largest military of the world, 33rd largest area (despite losing East Pakistan), 4th largest irrigated land, 1st in the sports and surgical industry, 5th largest human capital. Sadly, his joys are likely to fade to see we are still struggling with necessities—education, food, housing and health of his children in Pakistan. COVID-19 may be a pretext to round away as it is adding to the human predicament in the country. He may give a little credit to the government of handling it yet overall status of his people would sadden him. Don't let him know about Pakistan's poverty statistics spelled by the Ministry of Planning & Development to be 29.5% translating as 55 million people, which the UNDP and World Bank says rising to level of 40%.

Religious equality has been hallmark of Quaid's vision; so, it is important we tell him that we have been doing well in these areas. History reminds us that on 23 June 1947, the Hindu Unionist party was supported by 88 seats of the All India Congress; and All-India Muslim League also got 88 seats and it did not have enough Muslim majority territories in Punjab. So, it were the three deciding votes of the Christians politicians, Mr Dewar Bhadar, SP Singa, C E Gibbon and Choudhry Fazal Elahi, which realised creation of West Punjab, Punjab of Pakistan.

Quaid-e-Azam was a candid and genuine advocate of gender equality and role of Pakistani women in national affairs and development, which make 49% of Pakistani population. Imagine if this half of the nation does not contribute to the socio-economic build-up of our nation. Quaid would be happy that to large extent his vision has manifested into

affairs of the state. Today Pakistani women have excelled in every dimension of the life, and he would want to be physically here to further encourage and appreciate them; but the state and government officials symbolise his presence here within us.

Much of the debate today is about the functions of bureaucracy and our Armed Forces, of whom we all are proud of. However, if we take this issue to him, the Quaid would reprimand us and question us that has not he chalked out his clear and cardinal principles for the role of these both entities.

Looking above from the heavens, rallies, sit-ins, belittling, cheap slogans, and undignified personal attacks amongst the political parties would not be appearing and sounding well to the founding father. He would be certainly unhappy to see how political rivalries are being used to term fellow Pakistanis as traitors. On June 15, 1948, talking at Quetta Municipality, he outlined the code of conduct for any government, "Representative governments and representative institutions... when people want to reduce them merely to channels of personal aggrandizement, they not only lose their value but earn and bad name. There are parties and parties, but the difference between them cannot be resolved by attacks on Party leaders. Nor can political views be altered by the threats of violence."

So, make a gift-pack wisely this year. And, we should aim to have a better one each succeeding year, truly glittering, sparkling, inspiring and shining. Do whatever it takes, as a government, as a bureaucrat, as a defender of the nation, as a student, as a jury, as a trader, as a Pakistani, in any form, to make Pakistan, as he envisioned. Follow his political ideals faith, unity and discipline, his values of social freedom, free-play, fraternity, his cornerstone governance principles of social justice, welfare and equality founded on Islamic ideals, and the democratic creeds embedded in the Constitution of Pakistan. Continue our reverence and honour towards him as father of the nation-state of Pakistan.

Quaid-e-Azam Day – December 25, 2022

Quaid-e-Azam Day in Pakistan is celebrated every year on December 25. It is a celebration of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's birthday across Pakistan. He is believed to be the founder of the country and was known as 'Quaid-e-Azam', which means 'Great Leader'. It's a major national holiday with a lot of events throughout the country. Jinnah was made the governor-general of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. He worked hard to set up a government and organize a country torn by communal violence. He died one year after he was appointed the governor-general of Pakistan in his home in Karachi. His efforts for the country have enshrined him as one of the greatest leaders of Pakistan.

History of Quaid-E-Azam Day

Muhammad Ali Jinnah is honored in Pakistan as the first governor-general and the father of the nation. Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah, as he was popularly known, had a lot of work ahead of him.

He was responsible for looking after thousands of Indian immigrants and setting up a government. Muhammad Ali Jinnah took over a new, shook country to rule. At the time, he was also suffering from tuberculosis. He worked hard to ensure that Pakistan had a form of governance before he died just a year after being in charge as governor-general, on September 11, 1948.

Before he was the governor-general, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a trained barrister with his legal practice. He was an active member of the Indian National Congress and a significant figure in the subcontinent's struggle for freedom

Quaid-e-Azam Day Timeline

1876

Muhammad Ali Jinnah is Born

Muhammad Ali Jinnah is born in the Wazir mansion in Karachi and goes on to study law in England.

1913

Leads the All India Muslim League

Jinnah is determined to safeguard the rights of Muslims in the subcontinent.

1947

The Country of Pakistan is Created

Pakistan is founded and Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah becomes its first governor-general.

1948

Muhammad Ali Jinnah Passes Away

After a long battle with tuberculosis, Jinnah dies on September 11, 1948.

from colonial rule.

By 1940, Jinnah decided that a separate Muslim State was necessary to ensure that Muslims would not become an ignored minority in the newly formed state of India. He fought long and hard to ensure the creation of Pakistan, and his victory is a pivotal point of celebration for the people of

the country.

He was such a beloved leader that his birthday, December 25, was declared Quaid-e-Azam Day. This day is observed in Pakistan in various ways. The national flag is specially hoisted at governmental and non-governmental buildings, plus formal events are also part of the public holiday.

Quaid-e-Azam Day to be celebrated countrywide on Dec 25 with full zeal



ISLAMABAD: All are set to celebrate the 146th birthday of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on December 25 (Sunday) across the country with pledges to uphold his guiding principles of unity, faith, and discipline.

The whole nation is busy in the preparations to celebrate the birth anniversary of the father of the nation with traditional zeal and fervor by paying rich tributes to him for his untiring struggle, sagacity and leadership that led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of sub-continent.

Public and private departments will hold a variety of events including seminars, conferences, competitions and discussion programs to highlight the messages and vision of Quaid-e-Azam.

The national flag will be hoisted on major government buildings throughout the country on the birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan. The day will dawn with special prayers for the security, progress and prosperity of the country.

Special events will be arranged on

the day to highlight and promote the ideals and views of the father of the nation, particularly with regard to rule of law, the supremacy of the constitution, and the upholding of democracy.

Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) arranged a special ceremony on December 22 (Thursday) to mark the 146th birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The ceremony was presided over by noted literary person Dr. Ehsan Akbar while Haroon-ur-Rasheed Tabassum, Yusuf Aziz, Jabbar Mirza, and Professor Dr. Fakhar-ur-Islam were the special guests at the occasion.

The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) will hold special programs on December 25 (Sunday) at Pakistan National Heritage Museum.

A prestigious opening ceremony featuring vibrant performances will also be held at the Heritage Museum Hall, Lok Virsa, Islamabad.

Screening of video documentaries on Quaid-i-Azam will also be shown at the Pakistan National Monument Museum.

Nazariya Pakistan Council has also arranged essay writing competitions in connection with the Youm-i-Quaid celebrations in which students of different educational institutions participated and exhibited their extraordinary oratorical skills.

Islamabad Cycling Association will arrange Cycle Race on December 24 (Saturday) around F-9 Park (Bolan Gate) on the main roads.

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a true and upright leader whose devotion and committed efforts resulted in the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Sub-continent.

He with his leadership qualities and his vision changed the map of the world. The new generation should make Quaid-e-Azam their role model and follow his principles.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Shaoor will arrange hiking at Trail 5 followed by a discussion on Quaid's life on Sunday with the purpose to highlight the vision of the founder of Pakistan in a unique way. While Bazeecha Trust will also mark the day by arranging special functions on Sunday. APP

QUAID-E-AZAM DAY
THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF PAKISTAN'S FOUNDING FATHER - MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH
25TH DECEMBER

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AMI system to curb power pilferage, control losses

Raziq Ali Shah

Switching over to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system will bring about a permanent elimination of power pilferage with a systematic control of transmission through round-the-clock monitoring of the electricity meters at all power distribution companies (DISCOs).

This new technology, being introduced in DISCOs, would help reduce power sector losses, enhance quality of billing and recoveries, control power load-shedding and would also address the consumers' complaints of wrong or over-billing.

The AMI system will end human interventions in meter reading, enhance customer support, better measurements, more accurate billing, a degree of control of consumption and help the persisting dilemma of power outage by enhancing ability of DISCOs to reduce non-technical losses.

This system has already been installed at Multan and Lahore Electric Supply Companies (MEPRCO and LESCO) but at a very limited scale. However, last month, the project was

launched at Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) with the financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Minister for Power Division Engineer Khurram Dastgir told that ADB has provided \$170 million for AMI project being carried out in the IESCO phase wise.

"In the first phase, all electricity meters installed at Rawalpindi Cantonment and City Circles were being switched to AMI with an estimated cost of \$95 million. Over 900,000 electricity meters would be replaced in the city with smart meters in four years," he said.

The minister informed that DISCOs had already been directed to install AMI meters on all industrial, commercial, bulk power supply and agriculture connections to ensure round-the-clock monitoring.

"Through this system, we would be able to identify areas of power pilferage and power losses. The system would also be installed at all high losses feeders and transformers in all DISCOs," he added.

Khurram Dastgir said, after thorough review of performance and issues of a couple of months back, it has been decided that the IESCO AMI system should be

replicated in other DISCOs.

He said, on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, all-out efforts were being made to reduce cost of electricity to provide maximum relief to consumers.

"Besides tapping indigenous energy resources including renewable solar and wind, all government-owned buildings are also being switched to solar energy," he said. "We will shortly be launch bidding for 600 MW solar energy projects to replace costly power plants with cheaper power generating resources."

The authorities are confident that the AMI system would provide precise information regarding power supply and consumption down to individual consumers, enabling DISCOs to investigate causes of non-technical power losses. The improved micro and macro level information in relation to power grids is expected to provide DISCOs, new tools and technologies to mitigate these losses.

"The AMI project would completely end human interventions besides bringing transparency in meter reading," remarked IESCO Chief Dr Muhammad Amjad. "A mobile application was also being introduced for monitoring daily, weekly and monthly consumption of elec-

tricity on meters."

He said the company has around 3.4 million consumers and a data centre has been set up at IESCO's headquarters with the capacity of five million. "All DISCOs had already received directives from the federal government to install AMI systems on all industrial and commercial meters by June 30, 2023."

Dr Amjad said the IESCO has also signed a contract with KT Kaifa for design, supply, installation and commissioning of AMI project in Rawalpindi.

The project was a part of the second power distribution enhancement investment program under ADB financing that is hoped to significantly contribute towards improved information collection for asset management. It will also provide tools to reduce routine operations and maintenance (O&M) costs of distribution companies by eliminating the need for manual meter reading and related field staffing.

"The AMI system would not only eliminate 'Kunda culture' and meter tampering but also help locate power breakdown areas in case of power suspension," said Chairman Board of Directors Engineer Qamar ul Islam Raja. "This system would

also improve billing mechanism and reduce aggregated and commercial losses of the company."

He said the energy industry had always been in need of modern technology and realizing this fact, the government has started this project at DISCOs in collaboration with ADB. "IESCO's AMI is a big project and other companies should learn from it."

He expressed hope that completion of AMI project would increase the sale of electricity at IESCO while timely payment of electricity dues would improve financial position of the company. "Setting up an operational centre and a modern metering lab was also part of the project."

He also informed about setting up a backup data centre in Gujjar Khan to deal with any emergency. "All these initiatives are hoped to improve the operational efficiency of the company and providing better facilities to consumers."

Since, the power shortage issue is aggravating with every passing year, therefore concerted efforts were needed to root out this menace for ensuring agricultural and industrial development and putting economy on sound footing.

Chinese beekeeping technology contributes to local honey production

With the use of Chinese technology, Pakistan has witnessed a historic breakthrough in the processing of bee-related products, especially honey production.

Dr. Muhammad Asif Aziz, Associate Professor of the Department of Entomology Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, is in charge of the Billion Tree Honey Initiative and a participant in the online training course on beekeeping and honey processing technology sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and organized by Hunan Agricultural Group Co., Ltd., last year.

For him, the training came just in time as he was eager to learn more about royal jelly production, bee breeding techniques, honey production technology, and bee-related product processing to reach the goal of the Billion Tree Honey Initiative, that is to produce 70,000 tonnes of honey through the introduction of modern beekeeping equipment, training in the latest technologies, standardization and product certification, and marketing.

"It is challenging to receive technical training online, but I'm lucky to have a great online management team to make everything organized," he told China Economic Net.

"Chinese professors demonstrated the country's beekeeping technology through theoretical explanations and demonstrations on apiaries. And there were interesting introductions of Chinese culture, so we not only learned Chinese beekeeping technology but also had a deeper understanding of China", he termed the training "beyond expectation" and was awarded excellent trainee at the end of the training program.

The training made him realize that to further develop the apiculture industry in Pakistan, the first step should be to improve the skills of local practitioners in the production of various bee products, including royal jelly and other higher-value bee products, through training and capacity-building programs.

Therefore, he started to train local beekeepers in two categories. One is a short-term course that teaches modern apiculture technology for professional bee farmers. The other is middle-to-long-term training for green hands.

Previously, local beekeepers used to think that royal jelly can only be produced in natural beeswax cups and in queenless colonies. Therefore, mostly they remained reluctant to produce this valuable product due to the fear of a loose bee population in the absence of queens and considered royal jelly production costlier than net profits.

"After learning about China's royal jelly technology, Dr. Muhammad Asif Aziz along with his students decided to use Chinese technology. Then, he invited several bee farmers to learn and practice together. To everyone's surprise, royal jelly was successfully produced with plastic queen cells in colonies with queens.

"The approach of Chinese people to work for the betterment of humanity through knowledge sharing is remarkable, which ultimately will pave the path towards social and economic stability of both the nations", he said, looking forward to more exchanges in the future. "Online training can never replace offline practice.

I'm very much looking forward to coming to China in the near future to meet with experts in the apiculture industry face to face", he added.

Pakistan's central bank cuts economic growth forecast to less than 3-4pc

Spokesman Research

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has lowered its projected GDP growth from the previously announced range of 3-4 per cent for the current fiscal year.

The central bank cited flood-triggered devastation and the stabilisation policy as major factors in its economic health report.

The central bank The economy was already in a stabilisation phase when widespread flooding hit a large part of the country at the start of the current fiscal year, the central bank said.

The State Bank of Pakistan released today its Annual Report on the State of Pakistan's Economy for the fiscal year 2021-22. According to the report, Pakistan's economy achieved a real GDP growth of around 6 percent, for a second consecutive year in FY22. The growth was broad-based as both agriculture and industry saw a notable increase that spilled over to the services sector as well.

However, with the continued reliance on consumption as the source of growth, amid sluggish improvement in productivity, the country remained vulnerable to adverse developments in global economy. Hence, a combination of adverse global and domestic developments led to the reemergence of macroeconomic imbalances during FY22.

The report noted that the expansionary fiscal stance in FY22, an upsurge in global commodity prices, and the fallout of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, led to a marked deterioration in the current account deficit (CAD). In addition, the delay in the resumption of the IMF program and political instability exacerbated the country's vulnerability

through the depletion of FX reserves.

The resulting depreciation in PKR amplified inflationary pressures by magnifying the effect of global price increase.

Fiscal policy support in the shape of tax incentives for industry, export and construction, a large increase in provincial development spending, tax incentives and subsidies to protect consumers from the impact of rising international oil prices, supported the momentum of economic activity. Also, the lagged impact of monetary stimulus rolled out during the pandemic, SBP's targets for housing and construction, and capacity expansions under Temporary Economic Refinance Facility (TERF) and Long Term Financing Facility (LTF) continued to underpin GDP growth. In addition, the sustained rally in domestic and global demand and receding concerns about the Covid-pandemic also catalyzed the momentum of economic activity during FY22.

However, the impact of accommodative policies contributed to higher than planned growth in the economy, and together with the rapid rise in global commodity prices, posed risks to the country's macroeconomic stability. Particularly, this led to a sizeable increase in the import bill in FY22 that significantly outpaced the expansion in exports and widened the CAD to a four-year high level.

On the financing side, net inflow of FX loans and liabilities rose considerably compared to last year, but remained lower than planned commitment amid the delay in resumption of IMF program and domestic political instability, leading to a decline in SBP liquid reserves during FY22.

The external account pressures, together with the appreciation in USD index especially in the second half of the fiscal year, led to a

substantial depreciation in the PKR, which further magnified the combined effect of elevated domestic demand and the global commodity price increase, leading to a rise in inflationary pressures. National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) inflation reached the double-digit level of 12.2 percent in FY22, exceeding the SBP's revised projection of 9-11 percent. Food group, particularly the non-perishable category was a major source of inflation because of the persistent increase in global food prices of imported commodities (such as palm oil and tea), alongside the supply-demand gaps in some commodities (in particular, milk and meat).

FBR taxes achieved a six-year high growth and slightly exceeded the upward revised budget estimate for the year. The major impetus came from import related taxes that constituted more than two-third in overall FBR tax collection in FY22. In line with the widening imbalances in the external and fiscal account, public debt burden increased during FY22.

Also with the rising interest rates during the year domestic debt servicing requirements increased during FY22. As the macroeconomic challenges during the year rose, the government and the SBP undertook various corrective measures to curb the pace of domestic demand: (i) raising the policy rate by a cumulative 675 bps; (ii) tightening the prudential regulations for auto and consumer financing; (iii) imposition of

100 percent cash margin requirements (CMR) on a number of import items; (iv) increasing the cash reserve requirement (CRR) for commercial banks; (v) increasing FED on locally assembled cars; (vi) elimination of various tax exemptions under the Supplementary Finance Act; (vii) imposition

of ban on import of non-essential items; and (viii) gradual roll back of fiscal package.

The report notes that the experience from FY22 brings to fore once again the need to address the country's structural weaknesses, such as, a narrow base of foreign exchange earnings and meagre inflows of foreign investment. Therefore, a concerted approach is required to encourage increased localization of the manufacturing base, along with the lowering of energy intensity of the economy by ensuring energy efficiency and conservation. Moreover, amid the growing issues related to climate change and inadequate food security situation, there is an urgent need to formulate a well-thoughtout strategy to meet these challenges.

Priority should be given to produce new varieties of seeds that are suitable to varying weather conditions and to devise a framework that emphasizes water management strategies to increase agricultural productivity.

Finally, transforming the structure of industry to a high technology intensive sector is also needed. However, this requires a voluminous increase in investment in physical and human resources for a sustained period. The rising share of young population in Pakistan provides an opportunity to reap the demographic dividend.

In this regard, the special chapter in this report sheds light on understanding the potential of demographic dividend in Pakistan. The chapter suggests that investment to improve quality of human capital, good governance, alongside an enabling macroeconomic environment that ensures high savings and investments, pro-industrial policies, and efficient markets are some key requirements to yield gains from the demographic window.



Gilgit Baltistan: The jewel on the face of Pakistan

Hadiqa Saif

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is a very sparsely populated highland area in the north of Pakistan. This region has a total area of 72,496 sq. km. It has the longest glaciers outside of the polar region, world's second-highest peak (K2). GB spreads over three high mountain systems: Himalaya, Karakorum and Hindu Kush.

The society of GB is diverse in terms of language, religion, and ethnicity. Gilgit became independent on November 1, 1947, while Baltistan was freed in 1948 as a result of a freedom war. The people of GB have never accepted being part of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir, over which Pakistan and India have been at loggerheads since Independence. GB is bordered by China, India, and Afghanistan and Central Asian states.

The significance of Gilgit and Baltistan is evident to anyone who looks at the map. Without control of Gilgit, Gwadar has no meaning to China. For China, the \$46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a means to increase its strategic presence in Pakistan and to enhance influence through rail, road and pipeline connectivity to Central and West Asia.

For Pakistan, the significance is that it hopes to emerge from the economic distress through infrastructure activity. Gwadar, overlooking the Gulf of Oman and as an alternative to the Iranian port of Chahbahar will give a strategic advantage to Pakistan. Pakistani dreams have varied from making Gwadar a Dubai of the Arabian Sea or a Singapore on this side of the Malacca Straits, the coastline would be its Riviera and the naval base would take care of India.

The writer is an environmental activist and is currently pursuing bachelor's in International Islamic University, Islamabad. She can be reached at hadiqa_bses1800@iiu.edu.pk

ICCI calls for following Quaid's vision to make Pakistan a progressive economy

Tariq Khattaq

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to strictly follow the vision of founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali for making Pakistan a progressive and prosperous country.



opportunity a strong industrial base besides promoting agriculture and other sectors to reduce Pakistan's dependence on others. He said that Quaid-e-Azam had termed commerce & trade as the life-blood of the economy and emphasized that the nation should work honestly & integrity to make Pakistan a hallmark of good standards and quality in the world markets.

ICCI President said that the economy of Pakistan was in dire straits and implementing the economic vision of Quaid-e-Azam was vital to make the country self-reliant and a welfare state. He said that from the very beginning, Quaid-e-Azam had stressed for devel-

in every sphere of life including political, economic, cultural, religious and inter-faith harmony to make Pakistan a rising economy. He stressed that the government should focus on enabling the trade and industry to flourish by promoting ease of doing business and take all possible measures to address the key issues of the business community for economic revival of the country. He said that Quaid-e-Azam had stressed for eradicating the illiteracy, which can be achieved by promoting

the SMEs as these businesses are the largest job creators in Pakistan.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam, Vice President ICCI said that Quaid-i-Azam had desired rapid economic progress of Pakistan. He was fully aware of the economic backwardness and poor economic conditions of the Muslim nation and on numerous occasions he advised the Muslims to learn commerce, industry and technical education to prosper. He stressed that the government should establish a network of vocational & technical training institutes across the country to produce trained and skilled manpower that would help in putting the country on the path of sustainable economic growth.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Atta ur Rehman RPO CTD Rawalpindi, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Raja Imtiaz, Maqsood Tabish, Hamayun Kabir, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rehman Khan and others were also present at the occasion.

Fun Gala in Karachi by Green Crescent Trust for 1,100 orphans

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Government is going to actively seek cooperation from the concerned non-governmental organizations and charities for the early revival of education at schools damaged by recent floods.

This was stated by Sindh Labour and Human Resources Minister, Saeed Ghani while speaking as the Chief Guest at a OSP (Orphan Support Programme) Fun Gala organized by the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) at Dreamworld Resort for over 1,100 orphan students enrolled in its charitable schools. The orphan students from Karachi, Ghoro and Thatta attended the event.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal posing for a group photograph along with participants during 56th annual meeting of Engineering Council at a local hotel in Provincial Capital. Photo: Online

'Gambit on the Devil's Chessboard' by Imran H. Khan launched

News Desk

KARACHI: The grand launch event of the latest book 'Gambit on the Devil's Chessboard', written by Imran H. Khan was held at a local hotel here in Karachi on Saturday.

The chief guest at the event was Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Former Chairman, Senate of Pakistan.

Imran H. Khan has always been drawn to the world of storytelling. He is a seasoned professional who has delved into the deep realms of creativity and penned down a riveting fictional novel. A number of notable personalities attended the event as speakers which included Senator (R) Javed Jabbar, Ameena Saiyid, Muhammad Ali Siddiqi, Professor Huma Baqai and Professor Kaleem Raza Khan.

In his speech, Senator Raza Rabbani highlighted how Pakistan's most prominent novelists in the past decade have one thing in common, and that is they're all out of Pakistan.



Imran H. Khan expressed his deep gratitude to the organizers and the participants of the event. He shed light on his journey of writing the novel and said, "The backdrop of the book and the reason why I wrote this novel is to bring to light the drastic imbalance of power and wealth is something we need to be worried about." He further said, "It has indeed journey of learning to get to this point. I want to thank the organizers, my mentor for helping me in this journey."

Professor Abid Azhar speaking at the event said, "I have read this book multiple times now. Being closely associated with Imran H. Khan; recognizing his

passion and drive, I can see how this book has become a reality. This book is a culmination of his relentless thirst for learning. I congratulate Imran on the successful launch of his amazing book and would encourage all of you to read it."

Mr. Kaleem Raza Khan, one of the honorific speakers at the event shared his thoughts and commended Imran H. Khan's style of writing. His excellent use of metaphors transports one into a world on its own; as if you're watching a movie. Professor Huma Baqai stated, "Fact is stronger than fiction; and when fiction is written with facts in mind, it creates something like no other. Imran H. Khan's novel

will truly resonate with you as he bases every aspect of his novel with the real world."

Amongst the speakers was Muhammad Ali Siddiqi, Resident Editor Dawn and a renowned writer. He said, "A successful writer is one who can create an ambience for the reader. That is exactly what the writer has done."

Amina Saiyid OBE said she started off the book with thoughts that she'd complete it in 10 days. She said she completed it in 3 days straight. "The book is not only fast-paced and action packed, it is so grounded in reality that it resonates with the reader."

Senator Javed Jabbar in his speech said, "Each speaker has truly done justice to the book. What a pleasure it was to read. One of the reasons why I found it riveting was how it is so fast-paced. Yet it is very clear and precise with the flip of every page. It reminded me of our beloved Pakistan and how we can lack the intellectual freedom and the right environment to have writers like Imran H. Khan Come to light."

Mushaal fears Yasin could be tortured to death

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation Mushaal Hussein Mullick strongly condemned the undemocratic and inhuman approach of Narendra Modi led fascist government towards Yasin Malik who was denied all legal and medical facilities despite being incarcerated in fake and fabricated cases and had serious health issues.

Mushaal, a wife of Yasin Malik, in a statement on Saturday, expressed apprehension that senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik was not produced during the scheduled court hearing on Friday-last in false and fictitious Air Force case due to his fast deteriorating health condition.

She said that the court adjourned

the hearing till January 23, 2023 that raised serious questions because he had several health issues but even then he was not provided with the much-needed life-saving medicines.

Mushaal went on to say that fascist Modi regime has failed to break Yasin Malik's resolve for freedom despite using all inhuman and illegal tactics.

The chairperson expressed alarm that the brutal authorities subjected him to torture in the jail because they had nothing to prove him guilty in the court, adding that she was worried about the life of her husband who was kept in death cell of notorious Tihar jail.

Mushaal went on to say that they used all brutal tactics to silent the most powerful voice of the Kashmiris right to self-determination because they neither could buy his loyalty nor could

deter him.

The chairperson said that Yasin Malik was detained and was deprived of all legal and medical facilities for his sole crime for being the most powerful voice of the Kashmir freedom struggle in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal lashed out at the world double standard and said if Zelensky of Ukraine was not committing any crime to fight for freedom of his nation then why Yasin Malik was behind the bars.

She urged that the international community and UN bodies should shun the duplicity and should also raise such collective supporting voice for Yasin Malik and Kashmiris who have been struggling for their birth rights like they are doing in the case of Ukraine.

NUML 22nd convocation held



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 22nd Convocation of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) was held at the Jinnah Convention Centre Islamabad on Saturday. Honourable Chairman National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA), Muhammad Tariq Malik was the Chief Guest. 641 students were awarded degrees along

with 30 gold medals. Rector NUML, Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd), Pro Rectors, Deans, Registrar, Directors, Heads of Departments, and a large number of students along with their parents attended the Convocation.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Tariq Malik congratulated the students, parents, and teachers on the successful completion

of degrees in various disciplines. He emphasized upon the importance of learning at every stage of life. He stressed upon playing active role in both local and global spaces to active success. He was of the view that every failure is a lesson, if you are not willing to fail you are not ready to succeed.

Chief guest stressed that all graduates must realize that how lucky they were to

be educated in an institution like NUML and appreciated their parents for choosing this institute for their education.

Earlier, Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar (Retd) welcomed the honourable Chief Guest and highlighted the achievements and contributions made by NUML in various fields of education. He informed about the various milestones achieved by NUML in curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Rector advised the students to tackle the challenges with determination and positivity. He said that you the students are our proud asset, and therefore must make the best use of the abilities and skills for the betterment of the country

Chaudhry Amin passes away

Sohail Anjum Malik

MANCHESTER: Chaudhry Amin, a prominent Muslim social figure of Britain, met his true creator after a short illness. His funeral prayer will be held at North Manchester Jamia Masjid Wood Street on December 27 after Zuhr prayer. One man devastates the entire city of Manchester (Aarif Chaudhary). Life is a precious gift of nature to mankind, the Lord of the worlds gives life. He also has the power of death-Chaudhary Amin, a prominent social entrepreneur of Britain, died at North Manchester



Hospital after a short illness. Always actively participated in charity work in Pakistan and UK. He was a very kind and compassionate person. Maternal and Muhammad Saleem-Muhammad Wasim's father on his sudden death Senior Journalist Chair-

man Press Club International Pakistan Burtania Chaudhary Arif Pandhir-Former Mayor of Rochdale Asim Rasheed-Mayor Buri Shahina Haroon-Mayor Rochdale Ali Ahmed Barter Amjad Malik prominent lawyer of Burtania Founder and Chief Executive of Association of Pakistan Physician and Surgeon Dr. Abdul Hafeez-Member of Parliament Afzal Khan-Deputy Mayor Oldham Dr. Zahid Chauhan-Businessmen-Haji Khalid-Muhammad Babar-Rana Imtiaz Ahmed-Naseemullah Khan-Muhammad Saeed-Zarar Afzal Malik-Fu Id Afzal

Malik-Zulfikar Ali Chauhan President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf UK Malik Imran Khalil QDS International Forum President Muhammad Ishaq Aziz-Honorary Investment Adviser in Italy by the Government of Pakistan Shahr Yar Khan-Young entrepreneur Nabeel Javed Qureshi-Entrepreneur Shehbaz Judge-CEO of Judge Property Ijaz Judge expressed his heartfelt sorrow and said that the family, friends and close relatives of the deceased should have the courage to bear the great shock, Amen and prayed that the deceased may rest in Jannah al-Firdus.

Advertisement for PARC (Pakistan Agricultural Research Council) featuring a portrait of a man and text in Urdu. The text includes 'کسان خوشحال پاکستان خوشحال', 'یوم قائد 25 دسمبر', 'ایمان اتحاد تنظیم', 'زرعی خود کفالت کی منزل قریب تر!', and 'کندم کی پیداوار میں اضافے کے لیے سفارشات'. It lists various agricultural products and services offered by PARC.

Palestine foresees vital role of Pakistani youngsters in Islamic world



Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Nader Khamis Al-Turk, Chargé d' Affaires Embassy of the State of Palestine visited the AIMS Education System in Islamabad. He had a detailed session with the students and encouraged them for their intellectual abilities. He was addressing a ceremony arranged by the students' executive body for session 2022-23.

Nader Khamis Al-Turk emphasized that Muslim Ummah is direly in need of great leadership and students have an opportunity to invest their minds in a constructive manner to become the future leader of the Islamic world. He said Pakistani students have the abilities and they can not only earn glorifica-

tion for the country but also for Muslim Ummah. Talking to the audience, Chargé d' Affaires said Islam is a great religion and teaches the lesson of unity, peace, and prosperity. He said these attributes are the core values of our religion and show the positive face of Islam to the world. He said the teaching of the Prophet of Islam revolves around these values and tried every Muslim to follow the path shown by the religion. Nader Khamis Al-Turk said in the contemporary world, youngsters of Muslim Ummah are required to show a great deal of responsibility through their actions and character. They should follow the teaching of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and show the world that they

are followers of a great leader of Islam. Sharing about the hardships of Palestine, he said the nation is passing through exceptional circumstances from decades under the illegal occupation of Israel and despite all the suppressions, Palestinians are facing difficulty with courage and bravery. The men, women, and kids all are united and fighting against the Israeli forces. He said this unity is derived from the religion of Islam. He appreciated the Pakistani nation and government support for Palestine at all forums. He said our nation truly loves Pakistan and its people and enjoys the brotherly relationship. Charge d' Affaires Embassy of the State of Palestine highly appreciated the

management of the AIMS Education System for their well-structured educational planning by focusing on curricular and extracurricular activities for balanced learning. He said the AIMS Education System is on the right path to producing future leaders. He said Pakistan has a pivotal role in the Islamic world and the whole Palestinian nation is looking towards Pakistan and tied high hopes from Pakistani youngsters. He said the infrastructure, curriculum, management, and allied facilities are commendable. Addressing the audience, the chairman of AIMS Education System, Mr. Almass Ayub Sabbir said educational institutions have a very responsible role in society and play a key role in shaping the students'

future. He said educational institutes not only provide learning opportunities but also play a significant role in the confidence and character-building of students. Introducing the various student organizations and bodies at the AIMS Education system, he said students are given an opportunity every year to elect their representatives and this helps them a lot in the decision-making process. He said the nation foresees a glorious future in the hands of today's students. Talking about the AIMS Education System, he said we assure the quality of education and facilities for students, and all policies at AIMS are students' centric. He said in the education sector, there are people who are doing this job considering it a part of a commercial entity whereas, they aimed to serve the nation by imparting quality education by offering all the facilities to students within the affordable limits of their parents. He also added that we give special focus on Islamic teachings and guide our students to keep close contact with Islamic principles for their character building and to become valuable members of society. The Palestinian ambassador pinned the badges on students' representatives and felicitated them for their dynamic roles.

Photos by Raja Ghulam Farid

We are more than 30 years in renewable energy business, says Shah Kamal Ahmad Qureshi

Tahir Amin Malik



The Chief Operating Officer Alternate Company Shah Kamal Ahmad Qureshi said that I have been associated with the Solar Energy business for the last 20 years. He said that the response of our products in the market is fine. He said high rise buildings and valuable assets install solaredge due to fire

compliance. He further said we started residential installations and now we are focusing on industrial MW installations, we are more than 30 years in the renewable energy business, like Solaredge and Solar Tech brand in Pakistan. He said that his product Solaredge which is optimized Solar System and its inverter warranty is 12 years and Optimizer Warranty is 25 years. Kamal Ahmed said that his qualification is MSC and he

said My wife Tayyaba Kamal is also Owner and plays a very vital role to run my business. She is Entrepreneur and she is Proprietor and has vast experience in business which is 20 years. He said that we are authorized importer and distributor and we are working with super power China and Germany and our main products are Solaredge, Grid Inverters, Optimizer, Solar tech pump inverters, and all are world class brands. He further

said that Solaredge Solar System generates 15.20% more than the same number of PV if compared with other inverters. He said we provide strong company Improved asset management, better bottom line and complete service suite and our Solar Edge cite references in the South East, including Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Philippines. He said the PV system/ Solar Edge product offers a single phase inverter

with HD-Wave Technology 2.2 Kw-10 kw. Three phase inverters up to 40 kw, Three phase inverters with synergy technology, 66-6 kw to 120 kw, Commercial power optimizers p 605- S 1200 and se also provide monitoring platform with commercial pv solution, three phase inverters, with synergy technology, power optimizers, monitoring platform, Solar Edge, Designers, Communication Option, Energy Meter and current Transform-

ers, performance monitoring and R S 485 port accessories. At last Shah Kamal Ahmad Qureshi said that Government should promote Solar power products for combating with power crisis which is facing by our country. He said Energy crisis has become a critical issue which should be solved as soon as possible and the Government should play a vital role to solve the problem which is facing the Solar Energy business community.

Solar energy is the future fuel that will run machines, car and home electronics: Syed Khursheed Abbas

Tahir Amin Malik

Syed Khursheed Abbas, Country Manager for Pakistan in Solax Power said that Sunlight and Solar energy is the future fuel that will run machines, cars and home electronics. He said Solax Power has grown year on year to become a world recognized international company, with offices in the UK, Netherlands, Germany, Australia, Japan and the USA. Syed Khursheed Abbas said In Pakistan, I was placed in the year 2022 Jan to take care of country operations as the Pakistan market has the highest potential in South Asia. This growth reflects the increased demand for renewable energy products across the world. Solax Power strives to continue to be at the forefront of the solar power revolution with a huge commitment to the research and development ensuring its products remain the market leading solution. 2022 has witnessed a worsened energy crisis and terrible inflation. The world is handing together on a sustainable path. With a decade of research and development history, Solax Power, an expert in the PV and energy storage industry, has involved itself in busy production.



Solax is affirmed by world customers with its renowned and reliable products. The supply cannot fully meet the wide demand, thus Solax

has launched new production lines and boosted the production capacity significantly. The new Solax factory occupies a total area of around 100,000 sqm (30,341 sqm now in operation). The new factory owns a production capacity of 30GW (8.76 million annual units) in Inverter (600% increase) and 7.4GWh (7.3 million annual units) in Battery (400% increase). This huge increase in Solax production capacity is achieved through the upgrading of production lines and equipment. Syed Khursheed Abbas said "I had started my career from Electronics and IT industry and Mobile industry since 1995 and has worked for big brands and also their distribution channel such as Sony, Mercury, Canon, Philips, Fujitsu Siemens, HTC and Megagate and many other brands, Since beginning 2011 due to Load shedding and off grid area, the demand of Solar product has increase but now it has even crossed to 2GW per annum due to higher grid electricity cost, Now the ROI of the Solar solution is 3 years or less. And the life cycle of around 25 years, If we even consider the life cycle of 20 years then this energy source costs Pak Rs 5 or less to consume for their entire life cycle. The biggest advantage we get from being energized by Solar energy is our environment. This green renewable contributes least to our environment. The EV vehicle will create higher demand of electricity and Solar is the new fuel for such product"

He said "Our product has been coming to Pakistan for the last 5-6 years but now due to our R&D and technological strength we have started to focus on all verticals of Solar. In Europe our strength has been the Hybrid Inverters but for last 4 years focusing on Grid string inverters and now we are doing MW projects across globe, In Hybrid inverters we have most reliable home solutions as well C&I segment with our new range of 15-20KW that can be cascaded to 300KW plus. Our backup solutions based on Lithium batteries provide complete freedom for day and night operation" Syed Khursheed Abbas said "The career goal at this moment is to make Solax among top 3 brands in Pakistan and also No 1 brand in HV-Energy storage solution in Pakistan, We have developed some strong products that will be launched in year 2023 and also streamlining our distribution channel with appointing bigger and better business partner I country-wide operation such as Fronus - The BTA technologies, A strong name in Solar product in Pakistan and also Corporate Sales partners to cater to access the increasing demand in corporate segment such as banks, telecom as the need more robust and resilient Power back solution based on Solar energy". He informed us that Solax Power participates in all solar exhibitions across the world. From CNEC in China to InterSolar in Europe and other exhibitions in South America, Australia, USA, Africa and the Middle East, We regularly participate in Exhibition in Pakistan in Lahore, Islamabad and also this December 2022 in Karachi. We also intend to conduct a series of Seminars and training across Pakistan major cities for our channel partners, installers and EPC's.

In the last interview he said "As mentioned earlier, due to our product strength and our corporate direction for Pakistan, We will be investing money in having better Service centers, After Sales support and also Channel development, We are sure to become among the best and reliable trustworthy brands by the year of 2024. We are here in Pakistan, as our energy needs are growing rapidly and in Pakistan the sun shine all 365 days brightly, The Government policies is to achieve 30% energy reliance by year 2030 from Solar, So we want to be major partner in that direction



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PCB confirms change in venue for second Test against New Zealand

A Sports -

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday, confirmed that the second Test of the upcoming historic home series against New Zealand has been shifted from Multan to Karachi.

According to the PCB, the decision was taken citing the deteriorating weather condition in Multan and both cricket boards have mutually agreed to shift

the venue.

Earlier, the sources privy to the matter told A Sports that the PCB proposed a request to the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) to change the venue for the second Test.

Besides the change in venue, the second Test and upcoming ODI series between the two teams have also been advanced by a day.

"It has also been agreed between the

two boards that the second Test and the three ODIs will now be brought forward by a day, meaning the second Test will commence on 2 January with the three ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League fixtures to be played on 9, 11 and 13 January," said PCB in a statement.

Notably, flight operations in Multan are already disturbed due to dense smog which can also pose a dent to the playing overs in the city.

It is pertinent to mention that the English team also experienced a flight delay on their way back from Multan to Karachi due to dense smog in the prior-mentioned city.

Revised itinerary:
26-30 December - 1st Test, Karachi
2-6 January - 2nd Test, Karachi
9 January - 1st ODI, Karachi
11 January - 2nd ODI, Karachi
13 January - 3rd ODI, Karachi

Training Session

KARACHI: Pakistan's cricketers attend training session ahead of the first cricket Test match against New Zealand in the National Stadium, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PCB Management Committee appoints interim men's selection committee

Tahir Malik

LAHORE: The PCB Management Committee has appointed former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi as the interim Chair of the Men's National Selection Committee for the home series against New Zealand.

Other members of the panel are: Abdul Razzaq and Rao Iftikhar Anjum, while Haroon Rashid (member Management Committee) will be the Convener.

Mr Najam Sethi, Chair of the PCB Management Committee: "I welcome the interim Men's National Selection Committee and have no doubts that despite limited time, they will make brave and bold decisions that will help us produce a strong and competitive side in the series against New Zealand.



"Shahid Afridi has been an attacking cricketer who played all his cricket with no fear. He has nearly 20 years of cricket experience, has featured in all formats with significant success and more importantly, has always backed and supported young talent. So, in our collective opinion, there is no better

person than him to understand the rigours, demands and challenges of the modern day game.

"I remain confident that through his insight and knowledge of the game, he will help Pakistan select the best and most deserving players, and contribute in the side's success in the upcoming series."

Shahid Afridi: "I feel honoured to have been assigned this responsibility by the PCB Management Committee and will not stone turned in fulfilling this responsibility to the best of my abilities.

"We need to get back to our winning ways and I have no doubts that through meritocratic and strategic selection decisions, we will help the national side to perform strongly in the series against New Zealand and reclaim the confidence

of our fans.

"I will soon convene a meeting of the selectors and will share my plans with reference to the upcoming matches."

Shahid Afridi played 27 Tests, 398 ODIs and 99 T20I from 1996 to 2018 in which he scored a total of 11,196 runs and took 541 wickets. He also captained the national side in 83 international matches. He was a member of the Pakistan side that won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2009 at Lord's.

Abdul Razzaq, in a 17-year career from 1996 to 2013, played 343 international matches and scored 7,419 runs and took 389 wickets. He was also a member of the side that won the 2009 side that lifted the T20 World Cup at Lord's.

Rao Iftikhar played a Test, 62 ODIs and two T20Is from 2004 to 2010.

Bangladesh bowlers rattle India to leave match hanging in the balance

News Desk

DHAKA: Bangladesh fought their way into what earlier appeared a lost cause on Saturday, knocking over four Indian wickets to leave the visitors teetering after Liton Das compiled a gritty half-century on the third day of the second Test in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh bowlers were given 145 runs to defend after Liton's steely 73 and a wagging tail steered the hosts to 231 all out.

Despite the subpar score, spinners Mehidy Hasan and Shakib Al Hasan rose to the challenge, reducing India to 45-4 at stumps with 100 still left to chase, leaving the match unexpectedly hanging in the balance.

Mehidy claimed three wickets after Shakib's initial breakthrough, removing Cheteshwar Pujara (six), Shubman Gill (seven) and Virat Kohli (one). Shakib started the slide with the wicket of captain KL Rahul for two.

Axar Patel survived the day to stay unbeaten on 26 alongside nightwatchman Jaydev Unadkat (three), with first-innings heroes Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer yet to come in.

Liton said after the close of play that Bangladesh could keep India under pressure and eke out a win with early wickets on Sunday.

"It is possible to win if we can take one or two more wickets in the early morning," he said.

"Rishabh and Iyer are yet to come, they



are of course good players, but as I said if we can take one or two more wickets they will remain under pressure."

For India, building a partnership remains vital.

"I feel we should not overthink that four wickets have gone. If one of our batsmen get set, there won't be much pressure on us," fast bowler Mohammed Siraj said.

Axar had earlier downed three Bangladesh batters and all of India's bowlers were among the wickets.

But Liton rode his luck in an innings where he was dropped twice by Kohli

— first off Axar and then Ravichandran Ashwin — to score what could be 73 vital runs.

There was little support for him on the other end after opener Zakir Hasan (51) fell soon after lunch until wicket-keeper Nurul Hasan joined him at the crease and the pair compiled an aggressive 46-run stand.

That stand was broken by Axar when he drew Nurul out of his crease to set up an easy stumping for Pant.

Liton then added another brisk 60 runs alongside Taskin Ahmed (31 not out) before he was bowled by a Siraj

delivery that nipped back in and found the gap between bat and pad.

Even with those small pockets of resistance, India looked to be in complete control of the match, picking up regular wickets with all their bowlers getting a part of the spoils.

Ashwin had Najmul Hossain trapped leg-before for five in the second over of the day before Siraj removed Bangladesh's first-innings top-scorer Mominul Haque for the same score.

Unadkat then got skipper Shakib (13) to spoon a length delivery to Gill at cover in his first over of the day.

With the hosts struggling, Axar added to their misery on the stroke of lunch, trapping the experienced Mushfiqur Rahim lbw for nine.

He added two more to his tally after the break, getting Mehidy lbw for nought before dismissing Nurul for 31.

Siraj, Ashwin, and a run-out accounted for the final three wickets.

The Bangladesh bowlers had given their side a glimmer of hope in Friday's final session, restricting India's lead to 87 runs just when the visitors looked like they might amass a mammoth score.

Pant and Iyer were running rampant, with both crossing fifty at rapid pace, ending at 93 and 87 respectively, but Bangladesh knocked over the last six Indian wickets for 61 runs to restrict India to 314.

India won the first Test of the two-match series by 188 runs in Chittagong.

Parkha Ijaz dominates in 2nd Fatima Jinnah Ladies Golf

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The golfing contest for prominence in the 2nd Fatima Jinnah PGA Ladies Golf Championship enters the final stage at the par 72 Royal Palm Golf and Country Club Golf Course. As the leaderboard position stands at the end of second round in this three rounds Ladies Gold Event, the merited lady of our national golf circuit, Parkha Ijaz has dwarfed her adversaries with a consistency of shot making and all round application of golfing skills. Helped by her determination to perform outstandingly, Parkha has a two rounds aggregate score of 147, three over par, compiled through a first round score of par 72 and a second round gross 75. Competitively she now has an advantage of seven strokes over her nearest rival Rimsha who is placed at an aggregate score of 154. Rimsha's scores in the two rounds were 78 and an improved 76 in the second round.

Out of the other prime contenders, Suneya Osama is placed further back at an aggregate score of 166, followed by Ghazala Yasmin and Ana James Gill at 169. Others are too far behind to pose any threat to the winning chances of Parkha and Rimsha in the Category A aspirants playing to handicaps falling in the range zero to 14.

Ladies categorized in the handicap range 15-24 appear to be full of fervor and eager to outdo each other. Rabia Tiwana is all animated about doing well and her score for 18 holes on Saturday was net 74. Her rivals appear completely overshadowed by her performance and came up with modest scores.

As for the competition in C category where handicap range is 25-36, the lady who showed flair was Minaa Zainab with a score of net 79. At the same score is placed Saqiba Batool.

The 2nd Fatima Jinnah PGA Ladies Golf Championship will conclude on Sunday at the Royal Palm Golf Course.

Haris Rauf ties knot with class fellow in a star-studded Nikah ceremony



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan speedster Haris Rauf tied the knot with Islamabad-based model Muzna Masood Malik in a star-studded Nikah ceremony here.

Pakistan pacer Rauf got nikkahfied to Muzna Masood in a close-knit affair in the capital city on Saturday afternoon. As per the earlier reports, the bride was a class fellow of the pacer.

The hush-hush affair was attended by several of his teammates and cricket celebs including another groom-to-be Shaheen Shah Afridi, and pictures from the daytime ceremony made rounds on social media.

Both Haris and his now-wife Muzna twinned in white ensembles for the big day. The star wife slipped into a white and gold ensemble by an unknown designer and paired it with gold traditional jewellery.

She was dolled by celebrated makeup artists at Allure Salon who shared the anticipated first look of Masood in the morning today, not to miss the adorable 'HR150' on her henna design.

The groom on the other hand looked dapper in his cream and white sherwani.

The fellow players of the Pakistan cricket team sent heartwarming wishes for the couple of the moment.

To note, the 29-year-old player, who is the backbone of Pakistan's bowling attack, was ruled out of his debut test series against England due to an injury on December 6. He attended the PSL (Pakistan Super League) draft for the upcoming season 8 last week along with some other events in Karachi before flying to his family in the residence city.

Pak v NZ: PCB puts tickets on sale for first Test in Karachi



A Sports

KARACHI: The tickets for the final Test between Pakistan and New Zealand, scheduled from December 26 to 30 at National Bank Cricket Arena Karachi, will be available for purchase from Saturday.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced it had kept the ticket prices at nominal rates, starting from Rs150, in order to ensure that the action would be accessible for all cricket fans.

According to the details, the ticketing price for the General enclosure - Muhammad Brothers and Intakhab Alam - has been set ticket at PKR150, and a First-Class enclosure - Asif Iqbal, Waqar Hassan and Majid Khan - ticket is for PKR250.

Meanwhile, a Premium enclosure - Imran Khan, Quaid, Wasim Akram and Zaheer Abbas - is for PKR300 and a VIP enclosure - Hanif Muhammad, Javed Miandad and Fazal Mehmood - is for PKR500.

The physical tickets can be purchased from Asghar Ali Shah Stadium in Nazimabad, RJ Mall (Pakistan Physical disability cricket association) and Sector-35-F, Korangi n0.4.

Furthermore, van booths at Boat Basin, Clifton will also be set up by the PCB, through BookMe, to further facilitate the fans in obtaining the tickets.

It is pertinent to mention that New Zealand are on a historic tour to Pakistan to play two Tests and a three-match ODI series from December 26 2022 to January 13 2023.

The National Bank Cricket Arena here will host all five matches of New Zealand's historic series after the second Test shifted to here; citing the deteriorating weather conditions in Multan.