



Sanaulah says LG elections not possible before four months

Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah said on Friday though the government respected court's ruling, the local government elections would not be possible before four months. Speaking to the media, Mr Sanaulah claimed that there were already threats in Islamabad due to a suicide bombing in the I-10 area a few days back. (Report on Page 8)



MNA Zubaida Jalal rejects media reports of her resignation

Former Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal Khan has rejected media reports regarding her resignation as the Member of the National Assembly (MNA). ARY News reported on Thursday, Zubaida Jalal said that she has never tendered her resignation as an MNA. She added that different TV channels are airing false stories regarding her resignation. Jalal clarified that she is still an MNA of the Balochistan Awami Party.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Preparation for Climate Resilient moot

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar and Minister for State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar are also present on the occasion.



Photo: PID

FM Bilawal congratulates new Chinese, Uzbek foreign ministers



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday congratulated Qin Gang on his appointment as the new Chinese foreign minister and Saidov Bakhtiarov as the acting foreign minister of Uzbekistan. "Heartiest congratulations to my dear brother Saidov Bakhtiarov on being appointed as Act. Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan," Foreign Minister Bilawal tweeted. He recalled Saidov Bakhtiarov's warm hospitality during his visit to Samarkand. "Looking forward to working together to strengthen Pak-Uzbek relations in diverse fields," the foreign minister remarked.

The foreign minister said that he looked forward to working with Qin Gang towards taking the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership to even greater heights.

Imran urges public to partake in Saturday's LG polls in Islamabad



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday urged public to fully participate in tomorrow's (Saturday) local government elections in Islamabad. His statement comes minutes after the Islamabad High Court ordered the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold local body elections in the federal capital on December 31. The former prime minister, while reacting to the court decision, congratulated the people

of Islamabad on the court order to hold local elections in the federal capital.

He said that as a result of the court decision, the people of Islamabad will be able to elect their local government through voting. "It is the grace of almighty Allah that the honorable courts always rejected the illegal decisions of the ECP"

Imran Khan said that this corrupt group is afraid of the people, and they always take an escape route from the elections, adding that the attempt of the thieves is only to maintain their control over the country and they are using horse trading and corruption to maintain their control over the country.

The PTI chairman went on to urge the people of Islamabad to fully participate in the municipal elections tomorrow.

Govt to challenge local election's decision by IHC

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : The federal government prepared an intra-court appeal to challenge the decision of the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The court ruled to hold the local election on December 31. Advocate General Islamabad Barrister Jahangir Khan Jadoon while reacting to the verdict said that the order of IHC was apparently contrary to the law and constitution and it cannot be implemented in such short

time. "The court should not have announced that verdict which could not be enforced," he added. He said that according to his information, majority of the employees of Election Commission was on vacations and if elections were not held tomorrow, the order would be no significance.

As per sources, the government started preparations for filing an intra-court appeal after receiving the verified copy of the verdict

Fawad Chaudhry says court working after due time will be strange

Bureau Report

LAHORE : Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice president Fawad Chaudhry said on Friday the court timing was over and it would be strange if courts worked after due time. The court, he said, must uphold its verdict. His statement comes in wake of reaction of the representative of the ruling coalition in centre on the recent order issued by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) directing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold local government election in the capital city on Saturday.

He said Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah should resign if he could not provide security for the election. "It's not Mr Sana who is entitled to hold election but the ECP", he added.

He went on to say that the ECP was working as a subsidiary of the government, and if the ECP did not conduct election tomorrow, it would tantamount to violation of the court's order.

The PTI seems to be in favour of holding the LG elections on Dec 31 as PTI chief Imran Khan had, earlier, urged the public to fully participate in the election.

Prime Minister updated on preparations for Climate Resilient Pakistan conference

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Friday and briefed him about the preparations for the upcoming Climate Resilient Pakistan conference. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar and Minister for State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar were also present. The International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan will be co-hosted by the Govern-

ment of Pakistan and the United Nations to be held in Geneva on January 9, 2023. The prime minister and the federal ministers discussed the matters pertaining to climate change. Bilawal Bhutto also apprised the prime minister about his visit to the United States. The Conference will bring together governments, leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society to support the people and the government of Pakistan after the devastating floods of 2022.

Govt decided to engage international operators to help run three major airports. In a one more meeting the government decided to engage international operators to help run three major airports of Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi with a view to attracting direct foreign investment and providing world-class facilities to passengers. The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the matters pertaining to the aviation sector, a PM Office press release said.

It was decided that the government would hire the services of operators of international repute to run three major airports in the first phase. As per the plan, the international operators would help run the said entities for a period of 20-25 years. The meeting also decided to engage the International Finance Corporation to provide consultancy services. The international operators would provide the services of international standards at the said airports besides uplifting

them through foreign investment. The meeting gave the Public Private Partnership Authority a go-ahead to initiate the formalities. The prime minister instructed the Authority to ensure the accomplishment of the process transparently and in accordance with the highest standards. The meeting was told that 44 countries were pursuing the public-private-partnership formula including the US, UK, India, Bahrain, and Brazil where the airports were run under the PPP mode.

Balochistan govt constitutes parliamentary commission on missing persons

Bureau Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan government on Friday formed a parliamentary commission of inquiry on missing persons, a hand out issued by the Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) said. The commission has been formed on the directives of the Balochistan High Court. The hand out said that Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Ziaullah Langau will be the chairperson of the commission and Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem will assist him as the secretary of the commission. Members of the provincial assembly Asad Baloch, Zahid Reki, Malik Naseer Shahwani and Zamaruk Achakzai have been notified as members of the commission.

President for enhanced Pak-Norway engagement on trade, green energy

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday emphasized the need for accelerated engagements and cooperation with Norway in diverse sectors including trade, business, investment and green energy. The president, talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Norway Sadia Altaf Qazi, who called him here, also called for bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, skill development, defence and exports of Pakistan's cost-effective but highly prized fruit and vegetables. He said that there was a need to substantially enhance bilateral trade from its existing volume of US\$ 128.404 million which did not represent the true potential by promoting Exports of traditional and non-traditional products and services to the rich and affluent market of Norway.



He advised the ambassador-designate to proactively engage and interact with Pakistani expatriates, provide them proactive counsellor services and through their platforms not only promote bilateral trade and investment but also take meaningful steps for increasing people-to-people contacts and promotion of Pakistan's rich, diverse, social and cultural values and tourism opportunities. The president advised the ambassador to explore meaningful and doable opportunities and venues for bilateral cooperation in the field of academia, scientific, industrial research & development and collaboration between the counterpart Universities and Institutes of the two countries. President Alvi said the efforts should also be made for including Pakistan in Norway's list of prioritized countries for enhancing education cooperation under its Panorama strategy 2021-2027, he added. He said that the ambassador should work to secure Norway's support in expediting the conclusion of Pakistan's Free

Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). He also emphasized creating linkages between with the Chambers of Commerce and Industries of the two countries for possible joint ventures, technology transfer, holding social, cultural and business events, exchange of trade delegations and reciprocal ease and facilitation of trade and investment. The president said that there was a need to highlight the atrocities being committed perpetually by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), and the increasing incidences of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and marginalization of minorities and increasing trend of Islamophobia in India, which was putting the life and property of the entire Indian minorities especially Muslims in great danger.

Govt 'offered' long-term interim setup, claims Asad Qaiser

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former National Assembly speaker and PTI leader Asad Qaiser claimed that the incumbent coalition government had offered them a long-term interim government set-up during backdoor talks, ARY News reported. Speaking with private news channel, Asad Qaiser claimed that the government offered PTI a long-term interim government set-up which was immediately rejected by the party as "it will be unconstitutional". "The Constitution has no provision for long-term interim government," he said, adding that PTI was ready for talks with govt on elections date. Earlier, Fawad Chaudhry had said that PTI will not accept the move of forming a technocrat government in the country and will resist.

Offering Fateha

PESHAWAR: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and senators offering fateha on the sad demise of the mother of leader of the opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Akram Khan Durrani at his residence.



Photo: PID

Sanaullah says LG elections not possible before four months

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Friday though the government respected court's ruling, the local government elections would not be possible before four months.

Speaking to the media, Mr Sanaullah claimed that there were already threats in Islamabad due to a suicide bombing in the I-10 area a few days back.

Speaking about the LG polls arrangement, he said that making the arrangement of 1,000 polling stations on an immediate basis was not possible. He said it would take at least 10 months to hold the general election — likely in October.

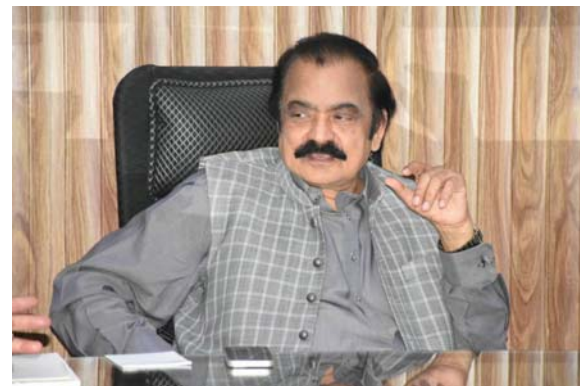
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Amir Muqam on Friday lambasted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chair-

man Imran Khan, saying the latter had failed to deliver for the masses despite his party's nine-year-long rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Addressing the party workers and people of Upper Dir after inaugurating electricity projects, including an electrical feeder at Akhgram, Engr Amir Muqam said that "Imran Khan has ruined the country's economy, and social values and has been found guilty of taking foreign funding even though it was from rival countries in a bid to destabilise and bankrupt Pakistan."

He said the people of KP were now looking towards the PML-N for the resolution of their problems and would "reject the looter of Toshakhana" in the upcoming general election.

"Imran Khan has brought disgrace to the country by allegedly selling Haram Shar-



if's model watch for monetary gains in the market," he said, adding that such expensive gifts were given to the prime minister by foreign dignitaries as a mark of respect and friendship strengthening rather than selling it in the open market.

Engr Amir Muqam said that even close friends of Imran Khan are now talking about how he was selected in the 2018 general election and

imposed on the country.

Engr Amir Muqam, who described Imran Khan as a "certified liar and king of U-turns," said Imran Khan's announcement to dissolve the KP and Punjab assemblies during his "flopped long march" in Rawalpindi was also proven false.

He said that Imran Khan had neither fulfilled the promise of the construction of five million houses nor provided

jobs to 10 million youth, and he had wasted four precious years of the nation by levelling baseless allegations against political opponents.

Amir Muqam said that had Imran's government continued for two more months, the country would have gone bankrupt and defaulted.

"PMLN has joined the coalition government not for power but to save the country," he said, adding the present government has succeeded in taking the country off the FATF's grey list. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team were working day and night to take Pakistan out of all existing challenges.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had made frequent visits to all flood-hit districts of the country, including KP, and personally monitored rescue, relief, and rehabilitation operations there.

President gives assent to CrPC (Amendment) Bill 2022

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday gave his assent to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2022.

In the bill, section 195 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 has been amended.

The president gave his assent under Article 75 of the Constitution,



A President House press release said. APP

NDMA Chairman holds interactive sessions with stakeholders



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Friday held interactive sessions with various stakeholders to seek exploratory synergy for proactive remodeled national preparedness and response mechanism during his visit to Lahore.

He called upon Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in his office. Matters related to better disaster management/mitigation and coordination mechanism between the federal and provincial stakeholders specifically Punjab came under discussion.

NDMA Chairman apprised the CM about the principle ideas of

remodeled national response regime that will mainly incorporate technology-driven early warning systems for sensing any calamity before it strikes. He also deliberated upon the need for building a greater national plan for global attention.

He also paid a visit to the Headquarters of Punjab Safe Cities Authority. He praised and appreciated the efforts of the safe cities authority in ensuring the security and safety of the people while vowing to replicate the same visual system in the remodeled NEOC at vulnerable places prone to calamities.

Both departments exchanged ideas for futuristic transformation and potential exploitation in synergistic mode with other national emergencies responders.

Rashid warns of severe economic slump, calls for snap elections

City Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Friday the entire country had been put on high alert as foreign exchange reserves had dropped to an alarming level of below \$6 billion.

Taking to Twitter, he said it appeared that the 13-party coalition had faded as they were involved in trivial matters such as helicopter landing [a reference to the KP CM helicopter].

Exposing the country's economic situation, the former minister said "we have to see whether or not Saudi Arabia and China will lend Pakistan Rs3 billion each." Negotiations with the IMF, he said, also hanged in the



balance. He was of the view that there was no provision of a technocratic government in the Constitution and that an interim government could be formed for the next general election.

Mr Rashid further said rather than becoming part of any war against terrorism, Pakistan should eliminate the menace of terrorism from its soil. He suggested inclusion of the new election agenda in the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting.

UN rights chief calls for coordinated regional approach to protect Rohingya Muslims

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, Friday called for a coordinated regional approach to protect thousands of Rohingya Muslims risking their lives on perilous sea voyages.

"More than 2,400 Rohingya have sought to leave Bangladesh and Myanmar in 2022 alone, and I am deeply saddened that over 200 have reportedly lost their lives on the way," Turk said in a statement, which came in the wake of the latest sea rescue of Rohingya refugees by Indonesian fishing crews.

Expressing deep sadness, Turk said that the boats used to make the crossings were



not only "overcrowded and unsafe" but also "left to drift for days on without any help".

With no sign in sight of the crisis ending, the UN rights chief urged more countries to assist in their safekeeping.

Specifically, Turk urged the states to coordinate proactive search and rescue operations, disembark Rohingya refugees on their territories, and ensure their protection.

He also called on regional and countries globally to help Bangladesh support the over one million Rohingya refugees who had sought protection there since 2017.

"An urgent solution must be found to enable the voluntary return of all Rohingya, with full respect of their dignity and human rights as full and equal citizens of Myanmar," underscored the high commissioner.

At the close of 2022, the senior UN official reflected on "the story we'd like to write for our future".

"My hope for next year is that we lead our lives, individually and collectively, with kindness, empathy, and unity. In how we relate to each other. In our homes, neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces, [and] online", he said in his look ahead message for 2023.

Turk reminded that if human rights were not protected "in the little places", they lacked meaning anywhere.

He argued for the protection of women's rights at home and in public, saying that women and girls must have "full equality and freedom

from discrimination".

Children's eyes must also be opened to the mistakes of the past, so they could "write a story of hope and unity" to create a better world in which "we celebrate diversity, convinced that we are stronger together than we are apart", added the UN right chief.

He hoped for a future of online expression, protected from hatred and disinformation with consideration for other viewpoints; respectful disagreements; and embraced diversity.

"Think of the person on the other side of the screen," urged the high commissioner, reminding that "there is no place for dehumanizing the other by using reductionist labels or identity politics."

Saira Raza receives award for improving Pak-China cultural ties

News Desk

BELJING: Syeda Saira Raza, Press Attache, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing has received a prestigious award for the promotion of media and cultural relations between Pakistan and China.

Saira Raza, an officer of the Information Group, has made Pakistan proud by receiving two awards in the last two years for her remarkable contribution to the promotion of cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Sharjeel terms jail pictures at social media as fake



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, in a response to the pictures of children in jail being circulated on social media, said that 129 Afghan women are imprisoned for illegally living in Pakistan, however, the children are not under arrest.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Memon said the pictures of Sindh

jails are fake. The minister said that 178 children are being kept with their mothers as the law states that children under seven are to be kept with their mothers.

Stressing that the minors are not arrested, the information minister said these children are kept with their parents, but they are not prisoners. He added that women belonging to other countries, living illegally in Pakistan, are also in jails.

Memon said that none of the pictures on social media is of Sindh jail, adding that they have checked all the prisons. There is no jail for children in Landhi, he added.

The provincial minister further said that about 75 prisoners who are under trial are women. He added that the Sindh government will deport them after they complete their two-month sentence.

Talking about the economic situation of the country, Memon said that inflation is on the rise in the country.

Pakistan Navy seizes huge cache of drugs at sea

Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a successful Intelligence Based Counter Narcotics Operations by Pakistan Navy at sea, two boats carrying narcotics were apprehended and a huge cache of drugs was recovered by the Navy team.

The narcotics including more than 1,500 kgs of Hashish and 143 kgs of Crystal ICE were recovered from the apprehended boats. The value of narcotics in International market was estimated to be approximately Rs 2 billion, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The successful operation by Pakistan Navy resulting in seizure of narcotics was a testament to the facts that despite the prevailing situation the criminals were active for their nefarious design and Pakistan Navy was more vigilant to counter them.

Launch ceremony of Irfan Siddiqui book 'Greez Pa Mausamon Ki Khushboo'

News Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Organized Book Launch ceremony of the well-known intellectual and literary personality Irfan Siddiqui's book "Greez Pa Mosamon Ki Khushbo" at Haseena Moin Hall. Which was presided over by Mahmood Sham. While Dr. Anbreen Haseeb Anbar performed the duties of Moderator. President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmed Shah, Mahmood Sham, Fatima Hassan, Irfan Siddiqui expressed their views in the ceremony.

While Aqeel Abbas Jafari, Shakeel Adil zada, Nasira Zuberi and Rukhsana Saba presented papers. President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah expressed his opinion and said



that a good poet does not need a writer or a critic. The story tells itself. Poetry is a romance. This work cannot be connected with politics or slander.

There are only two passions in life, one is fear and the other is love, which can make you do great things. I discovered the new Irfan Siddiqui today.

Mahmood Sham said that Irfan Siddiqui is a very good poet and a man of discipline. Poetry can never be hidden. His poems captivate the readers. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Fatima Hassan said that Irfan Siddiqui has done us a favor by digitizing the dictionary and saving it. In this way, the gaps between the languages of Pakistan will disappear. Irfan Siddiqui's writing attracts the reader. The author of the book, Irfan Siddiqui, expressed his opinion and said that I am not a person of Mushaira and I have never been to any Mushaira.

Polio campaign to start from January 2 across the district



Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Deputy Commissioner Tank, District Health Officer and Pakistan Army officials formally started the polio campaign starting from January 2 by administering polio drops to the children

a function was organized in the DC office tank regarding the polio campaign. In which senior officials of Pakistan Army, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Heads of all law enforcement agencies including Assistant Commissioners, District Health Officer Tank Dr. Sher Khan Afridi, Police and other officers of the district administration including police officers participated.

On the occasion of the ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Hameed Ullah Khattak, senior officials of Pakistan Army and District Health Officer Dr. Sher Khan Afridi administered polio drops to the children. The polio campaign will start from January 2 and continue till January 6.

On this occasion, District Health Officer Tank Dr. Sher Khan Afridi and Polio officials gave detailed information to the participants about the arrangements for the polio campaign, Deputy Commissioner Hameed Ullah Khattak said,

That it is a common national responsibility of all of us to make the polio campaign successful, for which all resources are being utilised.

Eradication of polio is the need of the hour and we can save our children from permanent disability by giving them the Holy vaccine.

Shortage of dollars has badly affected the industrial sector: FCCI

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will recommend immediate steps to check the increasing parity between rupee and dollar and uninterrupted smuggling of dollars from Pakistan to Afghanistan through "Hawala-Hundi", said Dr. Khurram Tariq President FCCI.

Addressing the executive committee members, he said that non clearance of import consignments due to the acute shortage of dollars has badly affected the industrial sector. He said that importers have to bear detention demurrage charges which has created a serious situation for them. He said that industrial units are working with installed capacity of 60-70% which is expected to further reduce to 40% during next month. He said that industrialists have arranged the salaries of their workers for the current month but they are not sure about the next month.

He was critical of the FBR notices regarding deemed income and said that capital value tax would be in addition to it which would shatter the financial strategy. He urged upon the government to withdraw the detention demurrage charges due to the non-availability of the dollars. Similarly, the import consignments should also be cleared on priority basis to avoid shortage of raw material in addition to its price spiral in the domestic market. He said that currently nobody is ready to hear about their demands; however, he would continue to raise voice for the solution of problems being confronted by the business community.

Saving electricity not a solution to drag Pakistan out of economic crisis

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Saving electricity alone is not a solution to drag Pakistan out of economic crisis and unnecessary privileges and perks and luxurious spending by all departments must be checked with an iron hand, said Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Vice President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

He was addressing a consultative meeting of the business community in PM Secretariat to discuss and evolve consensus on energy saving measures to be adopted by the government of Pakistan. The government was represented in this meeting by Federal Ministers Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Khurram Dastagir, Mariyam Aurangzeb, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Musadik Malik and Molana Asad Mahmood in addition to secretaries and officials of the different ministries. Khawaja Asif said that the government intended to close down the commercial activities by 8:00 P.M to save energy but before implementing the decision, we want to take them on board. He said that the business community should also take this issue as a national level issue deemed necessary to overcome the energy shortage.

Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli said that the government has failed to control the smuggling which is depriving the government of much needed revenue. On the contrary, the business community is the easy prey and hence it was targeting them. He further said that there was no justification of free electricity and gas for the employees who are getting full salaries. He also condemned victimization by the previous government and said that the cases against the business community have not yet been withdrawn. He opposed the point of sale and said that this tool was also abused to victimize the political opponents and hence it should be withdrawn immediately. He stressed the need for reforms in FBR in consultation with the business community.

Annual festival of Bibi Pak Daman

LAHORE: Women lights oil lamps at the shrine of Muslim saint Bibi Pak Daman during an annual festival to mark her death anniversary, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

House unanimously rejects demands to appoint administrator

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Presiding over Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022 of FPCCI, Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has received the unanimous support and cooperation of the house for his remaining term of one year, i.e. January 2023 - December 2023. We should not sow the seeds of discontent, bitterness and subjugation within the business community; as it would be against the national interest and against the interest of the economic growth as well, he added.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has apprised that the representatives of the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan have - unanimously, vehemently and in the strongest possible terms - rejected the demands of some vested interests from the Director General of Trade Organizations (DGTO) to appoint a representative to act as an administrator of FPCCI. He emphasized that these miscreants are very few in numbers and do not represent business community at all. The last thing we need is uncertainty, he added.

Expressing his satisfaction, FPCCI Chief said that the AGM was successfully held in 5 centers, i.e. Karachi (chaired), Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar

and Quetta; whereas, 129 general body members attended AGM in-person and 120 members participated through their proxies to take the total attendance to 249. The AGM continued for 3 long hours and President FPCCI presented his performance for 2022 in detail as well.



Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh highlighted that the elected office bearers of FPCCI for 2022 - 23 are the best suited and experienced leaders of the business community to run the affairs of FPCCI; and, it is indeed in a bad taste that a few elements are working against the collective interests of the business community from within the business communi-

ty. This is unfortunate and uncalled for to say the least, he added.

Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, immediate past President FPCCI, reiterated the fact that it was a long-standing and unanimous demand of all stakeholders of business community and leaders in trade politics to restore the tenure of trade bodies in Pakistan to two years to provide adequate time for research & development activities, robust policy advocacy initiatives, objective liaison with provincial & federal governments and productive participation in international forums

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, explained that the business community should treat FPCCI as their collective and unified platform; and, should not hesitate to come to Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh for the resolution of their complaints, issues and grievances with the provincial & federal governments.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Maggo, former VP FPCCI, maintained that the current management of FPCCI wants to work closely with all sectors, segments and layers of the business community; and, we do not consider the opposition group as our rivals. We will take up the issues of the rival group with as much sincerity as our own, he added.

An engaging conference on equitable and sustainable growth held at LUMS

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The first day of "Pathways to Development: Equitable and Sustainable Growth in Pakistan" saw prominent academics, researchers, social scientists, practitioners, policymakers, politicians, and great minds from the Pakistani diaspora gather at LUMS to discuss issues vital to sustainable development in Pakistan.

The conference was organised jointly by the Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad Department of Economics and the Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre at LUMS, the Institute of Development & Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), the Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex (IDS), Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR), Interna-

tional Growth Centre, and Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP).

Rector, LUMS, Mr. Shahid Hussain, formally inaugurated the conference and expressed great pride in the University for being the frontrunner in furthering dialogue for development. He said, "The role of any academic institution is to nurture an environment where people with curious minds can pursue their goals. Higher education has a huge role to play in exchange of new ideas and research. For that reason, we are proud to be hosting this conference this year." The inauguration session included participation from Mr. Mueen Afzal Chairperson of the Board of Director from Institute of Development & Economic Alternatives, Mr. Maroof

A. Syed, President & CEO of Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan and Ms. Shandana Khan Mohmand, Cluster leader and Research Fellow at Institute of Development Studies.

With an exceptional speaker lineup, the theme for day one revolved around how Pakistan can become more growth and export-oriented. The programme began with a well-attended panel discussion on macro stability and growth in Pakistan, featuring, Dr. Hafeez Pasha, renowned economist; Mr. Mohsin Khan, Advisor to the Board of Director, IDEAS; Mr. Murtaza Syed, Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, and Ms. Aliya Khan, Former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Quaid-e-Azam University. The session was moderated by Mr. Ijaz Nabi, Pakistan Country Director

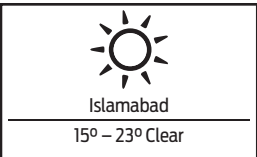


International Growth Centre. Pressing issues like inflation, foreign exchange reserves and taxation in Pakistan, were highlighted.

The sessions featuring Justice Mr. Athar Minallah and Mr. Gonzalo Varela, senior economist at the World Bank, focused on the failings,

lessons and challenges of the justice system as well as export and innovation challenges in Pakistan. The subsequent plenary session with Ms. Ghazala Mansuri, Lead Economist, Poverty Reduction & Equity Group, World Bank and Mr. Imran Rasul, Professor of Economics, University College London, shed light on climate change, building resilience and the importance, challenges, and future of agribusiness.

Day one concluded with a much-awaited panel discussion on fostering inclusive development with Dr. Sania Nishtar, Senator; and Dr. Miftah Ismail, former Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Government of Pakistan. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Ali Hasanain, Associate Professor of Economics, LUMS.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:43 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	3:31 pm
Maghrib	5:09 pm
Isha	6:38 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

NADRA asked to take action against overstaying foreigners

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior ministry has penned a letter to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) regarding the ending of the amnesty scheme for foreigners 'illegally' staying in Pakistan.

As per details, the NADRA has been asked to fine and blacklist the overstaying foreigners as the amnesty scheme will be expired on December 31.

The amnesty scheme for overstaying foreigners is expiring on December 31, 2022, and was introduced by the Ministry of Interior on July 29 to temporarily permit the stay of illegal expatriates.

The interior ministry wrote a letter to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) regarding the amnesty scheme for overstaying foreigners to exit Pakistan.

It stated that the cutoff date of the general amnesty scheme for overstaying foreigners to exit Pakistan is December 31, 2022.

The interior ministry further asked the NADRA to revert to the existing policy. It added NADRA should start collecting the overstay charges for exit permits from January 1, 2023, from foreigners for an overstay period of more than one year.

AJK capacity building moot suggests more empowerment of Kashmiri women

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR (AJK): Speakers at capacity building workshop exclusively for women mediators emphasized on equal access of both men and women to education, healthcare, and technology to ensure their vibrant and result oriented constructive role in all sections of the society.

The day-long workshop was hosted by the world fame Kashmiri think tank, Center for Peace, Development, and Reforms (CPDR) here Friday encourage the women participation in all spheres of life with due powers.

The participants comprising about 20 women activists from the Muzaffarabad region discussed the role of women in the socio-economic sphere of life in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and to formulate strategies to improve their representation in decision-making.

There was broad agreement on this occasion that empowering women and promoting gender equality can fundamentally liberate human potential.

Seasoned academican of Pakistan Prof. Dr. Shaheen Akhtar said that women's participation was crucial to maintaining peace in longstanding and durable practices.

The involvement of civil society groups and incorporation of women's organizations in social systems minimizes their failure chances by 64 percent, endorsing that negotiation and mediation are the fundamental methods of conflict resolution", she added.

She criticized the existing power structure and exclaimed that it required modification and an improved discourse on gender.

"The literacy rate of women in AJK is 67 percent, indicating the high level of girls' enrollment in schools as compared to other

regions where noticeable gender disparity exists," she articulated.

However, women still have limited access to information, training and decision-making powers. Hence, their creativity, insight, and entrepreneurial inspirations remain challenged.

Irtaza Muhammad, the Programme Manager for CPDR, stated that as part of CPDR's commitment to gender inclusion; they are committed to developing the capabilities of Kashmiri women and enabling them to take on a larger role. The CPDR's goals include gender equality and women's empowerment.

The second session of the workshop titled, "Journey to Self-Discovery", was conducted by Manal Sohail, an Anthropologist and Communication Specialist. She encouraged the participants to share their insights.

She elaborated on the concept of self-awareness for living an



emotionally, spiritually and physically nourished life.

Her session included multiple activities to facilitate women's notion of human inventiveness,

better decision-making, teamwork, and collaboration.

A few participants from CISS Institute shared that distorted and divided family structures exist in

AJK due to the conflict and mass migration to the Middle East and Europe. The awareness regarding the exploited groups requires attention at the state level.

Free Food

ISLAMABAD: A needy man is carrying bread (Roti) after collecting free food from a utility food truck of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Pakistan at Faizabad area in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

NSC vows to eliminate menace of terrorism

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC) on Friday vowed to respond firmly to resurgent terrorism in the country and expressed the resolve that militants are enemies of Pakistan.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said the PM Shehbaz Sharif chaired the NSC meeting, which was attended by services chiefs, intelligence heads, and federal ministers.

The participants of the meeting also reviewed country's economy and law and order situation in detail, the PMO statement said.

The forum expressed an unequivocal opinion that Pakistan's national interests will not be compromised and no one will be allowed to harm the national security.

"The basic interests of Pakistan's survival, security, and development will be protected with great courage, consistency, and steadfastness." Paying rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of martyrs in the fight against terrorism, the forum expressed condolences and commiserated with their families and



collectively prayed higher status in heaven for the departed souls.

The meeting expressed the resolve that militants are enemies of Pakistan.

"Entire nation is united on one narrative against terrorism and terrorists and those who challenge Pakistan will get a full force response," it added.

It added that the NSC meeting will continue on Monday, January 2, in which

further decisions will be taken in light of the proposals.

The decision to convene the meeting of the NSC was taken in a meeting between PM Shehbaz and Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir on Thursday.

The meeting came after Pakistan recently witnessed a rise in terror incidents in Balochistan, Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

AIOU Commences MS/MPhil, PhD Exams from January 6

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Final examinations of MS/M.Phil and PhD programs offered in semester autumn 2022 by faculty of social sciences & humanities, faculty of sciences, faculty of education and faculty of arabic & islamic studies of Allama Iqbal Open University will commence on January 6, 2023.

Datesheet and roll number slips are available on AIOU official website and student' CMS portal and being dispatched to students. Examinations of MS/M.Phil and PhD will be held in the academic complex of AIOU, Islamabad.

DC paid a surprise visit to Indoor Sports Hall



Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner, Imran Hamid Sheikh paid a surprise visit to Indoor Sports Hall Kaleem Shaheed Colony and reviewed the various sports facilities available for players. ADCR Mudassar Ahmad Shah, AC Saddar Muhammad Umar Maqbool, DD Development Rana Tahir, DSO Sajida Latif and officials from the Buildings Department were also present. The Deputy Commissioner observed the various sports facilities available for the athletes in the indoor sports hall and said that according to the big area the which has a large complex for indoor games so the players should be facilitated. He checked the minor repair work in the complex and directed the building department to complete it within days. He asked to resolve the roof issue and report him immediately. He appreciated the standard court for handball game and said that the youth should be given ample opportunities to participate in sports. The Deputy Commissioner also urged to build a ground for football game area in the complex. He said that this is the big indoor sports hall of the city where handball, badminton, table tennis and other sports facilities are available while the practice ground is also established.

Security of Parliament House beefed up amid threat alert

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of the current wave of terrorism in the country, the federal government has strengthened the security of the Parliament House by deploying Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel.

According to details, the capital police have banned the entry of unauthorized people into the premises of Parliament House.

Moreover, all scheduled meetings of standing committees have been postponed for an indefinite period.

The security was beefed up after a suicide attack in Islamabad which claimed the life of a policeman and injured four fellow cops. The slain officer was identified as Head Constable Adeel Hussain.

Pillion riding banned in Islamabad

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The district administration has imposed a ban on pillion riding in the federal capital Islamabad

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad imposed Section 144 in the federal capital. The notification stated that action will be taken against the violators of the pillion riding ban under Section 144.

According to the district administration, the pillion riding ban will stay into effect from December 31, 6:00 pm to January 1.

Special security plan issued

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police issued a special security plan amid possible threat of a terrorist attack following the suicide bombing in the I-10 Sector.

According to the security plan unveiled by Capital police, temporary security check posts have been established at 25 different locations in Islamabad while Safe City cameras will record Red Zone entrances.

The video of passengers travelling via metro bus service would also be recorded, the police said in a statement.

The Islamabad police have advised citizens to carry their identification documents and use excise office issued number plates on vehicles. "Legal action will be taken against illegal number plates and unregistered vehicles," police said, adding that foreign nationals should also carry their identification documents.

7th International Water Conference

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) in collaboration with Riphah International University Islamabad, CCRD, COMSATS, Wateraid Pakistan and Federal Flood Commission (FFC) is organizing a 7th international Water Conference, 2022 at PCRWR Headquarters, Islamabad from 29-30 December, 2022. The main objective of the conference is to raise awareness among the youth on emerging water and climate-related issues in the country and provide a platform to the stakeholders to interact with each other. The conference is organized on the four sub-themes to add value to the main theme of the conference. The sub-themes include Climate Change and Maritime Security, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), Water Pollution & Waste Water Management and Islamic perspective on Climate Change, Water Pollution & Water Management.



The inaugural session of the conference was held at PCRWR Headquarters, Islamabad on 29 December 2022. Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director, Riphah University gave his opening remarks and described the main objective of the conference. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR during his welcome address stressed the need for water conservation. He further described that climate change is posing a serious threat to the water resources of the country impacting the livelihood and socio-economic conditions of the communities. He also described

the importance of water in the light of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. Mr. Arif Jabbar Khan, Country Director, Wateraid, emphasized the need for such events to be organized time to time. He expressed his views regarding water quality deterioration in the country and said that the water-borne disease are very common nowadays. Awareness pertaining to water quality should be provided to the communities for a healthy life. Dr. Athar Hussain, Head, CCRD, COMSATS, presented a detailed overview of climate change

in the Pakistan context. Mr. Ahmad Kamal, CEA/ Chairman, Federal Flood Commission emphasized the need for new water storage in the country to combat the risk of climate change. He also suggested that academia may update its curriculum as per the requirements/issues of the country. He ensured his full support to the academia in such initiatives.

Dr. Muhammad Rizwan presented a brief on the initiatives adopted by the USPCAS-W, Mehran University, Jamshoro during the flood response activities. Dr. Ghulam Raza, University of Baltistan shared his finding regarding his research on glacier grafting in Baltistan Area. Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Chancellor, Riphah International University, emphasized the need for the dissemination of innovative technologies to vulnerable communities. He also stressed the wise use of water in all water use sectors and the effective implementation of the policies/ legislation in the country for the sustainability of the water sector.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Afghan refugees in US face uncertainty as legislation stalls

AP Research

Congress has failed so far to create a path to residency for Afghans who worked alongside U.S. soldiers in America's longest war, pushing into limbo tens of thousands of refugees who fled Taliban control more than two years ago and now live in the United States.

Some lawmakers had hoped to resolve the Afghans' immigration status as part of a year-end government funding package. But that effort failed, punting the issue into the new year, when Republicans will take power in the House. The result is grave uncertainty for refugees now facing an August deadline for action from Congress before their temporary parole status expires.

Nearly 76,000 Afghans who worked with American soldiers since 2001 as translators, interpreters and partners arrived in the U.S. on military planes after the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021. The government admitted the refugees on a temporary parole status as part of Operation Allies Welcome, the largest resettlement effort in the country in



decades, with the promise of a path to a life in the U.S. for their service.

Mohammad Behzad Hakkak, 30, is among those Afghans waiting for resolution, unable to work or settle down in his new community in Fairfax, Virginia, under his parole status. Hakkak worked as a partner to the U.S. mission in Afghanistan as a human rights defender in the now-defunct Afghan government.

The proposal, if passed, would provide a streamlined, prioritized adjustment process for Afghan nationals who supported the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. The Homeland Security Department would adjust the status of eligible evacuees to provide them with lawful permanent resident status after they have had rigorous vetting and screening procedures. It also would improve and

expand ways to protection for those left behind and at risk in Afghanistan.

"The Afghan refugees are a very high priority and had some good Republican support, but unfortunately, the Republican leadership blocked it," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., recently told reporters. "These are people who risked their lives for our soldiers and for our country, and we should be rewarding them as we have done in the past."

Several congressional aides explained the holdup on the bill by pointing to a seven-page, single-spaced letter, obtained by The Associated Press, that Grassley's office circulated to all 50 Republican senators in August. The memo outlined his issues with the proposal, resulting in months of back-and-forth negotiation as the sponsors of

the bill tried to address them. U.S. national security and military officials have outlined the stringent screening process that evacuees went through before arriving on American soil. Those security screenings, conducted in Europe and the Middle East, included background checks with both biographic information and biometric screenings using voiceprints, iris scans, palm prints and facial photos.

But Republicans say the vetting system is not fail-safe. They pointed to a September report from Homeland Security's inspector general that said at least two people from Afghanistan who were paroled into the country "posed a risk to national security and the safety of local communities."

As a result, mandatory in-person interviews for all Afghan applicants were written into the bill as well as requirements that relevant agencies brief Congress on proposed vetting procedures before putting them in place. Despite strengthening the vetting process over months of negotiations, the bill never made it out of the Judiciary Committee and failed to win inclusion in the just-passed \$1.7 trillion government funding bill.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., was one of the lead sponsors of the bill. "If this is what we do when they come to our country, and we don't have their backs," she said, "what message are we sending to the rest of the world who stand with our soldiers, who protect them, who provide security for their families?"

But Klobuchar and the lead Republican co-sponsor, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, pledged to bring the bill back up again in the new session of Congress starting in January. "This is the right thing to do," Graham, an Air Force veteran, told the Senate recently. "There's no other ending that would be acceptable to me." He added: "The people who were there with us in the fight, that are here in America, need to stay. This will be their new home." Most people in the United States appear to share that sentiment. A survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taken the month after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan found that 72% of respondents regarded giving the Afghans refuge from any Taliban retaliation as a duty and a necessary coda of the nearly 20-year war.

Pak-China should continue to strengthen cooperation in livestock industry

Pakistan and China enjoy great cooperation with potential in animal husbandry, agricultural exchanges, sideline products and the two sides should continue to strengthen in-depth cooperation, particularly in the livestock industry, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor (CC), Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

The counsellor also said that Pakistan has the capability of processing dairy products for export to Middle Eastern countries and expressed hope about more Chinese dairy companies would join the dairy industry chain.

He said, "The two sides should continue to strengthen major animal disease prevention and control, establish foot-and-mouth disease-free zones, and promote the export of Pakistani buffalo genetic material, livestock, and poultry products to China and other international markets."

The China-Pakistan Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation & Extension Center, China Agricultural University, and Royal Cell Biotechnology (Guangxi) Co., Ltd hosted a Cooperation Seminar on the prevention and control of major dairy buffalo diseases in Pakistan, CEN reported on Friday.

In her welcoming speech, Teng Cuijin, Chairman of Royal Cell welcomed the visit of the Pakistani Embassy and Chinese industry experts, and hoped that through the exchange of this seminar, scientific research institutes and industry-leading enterprises would jointly promote the prevention and control of major animal diseases of buffaloes in Pakistan to meet the quarantine inspection technical standards of the Chinese Customs.

On the occasion, Zhao Deming, Director of the National Animal Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Laboratory, China Agricultural University, underlined the prevention and control of animal diseases as a key issue to solve the bottlenecks in the trade between China and Pakistan.

He pointed out that the sensitive and specific diagnostic techniques introduced by Prof. Yang Lifeng from the university will help build disease-free farms and monitor BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) in Pakistan.

He Cheng, coordinator of the China-Pakistan Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation and Extension Center, presented the cooperation content, technical framework, and preliminary cooperation basis of major cattle and sheep epidemic prevention and control projects in Pakistan.

He also discussed the construction plan and schedule of the Pakistan buffalo embryo testing laboratory and major epidemic disease testing laboratory in 2023 with the project leaders of Guangxi Buffalo Research Institute and Royal Cell.

Xie Wenqiang, Technical Director of Inner Mongolia Bigvet Biotech Co., Ltd., introduced the requirements and testing standards of WOH for the construction of immune-free areas, and how foot-and-mouth disease marker vaccine was applied to the construction of immune-free areas in Pakistan. About 20 delegates from Inner Mongolia, Shijiazhuang, and Guangxi attended the seminar.

Court in Myanmar again finds Suu Kyi guilty of corruption

David Jackson

A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi of corruption Friday, sentencing her to seven years in prison in the last of a string of criminal cases against her, a legal official said.

The court's action leaves her with a total of 33 years to serve in prison after a series of politically tinged prosecutions since the army toppled her elected government in February 2021.

The case that ended Friday involved five offenses under the anti-corruption law and followed earlier convictions on seven other corruption counts, each of which was punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine.

The 77-year-old Suu Kyi has also been convicted of several other offenses, including illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, breaching the country's official secrets act, sedition and election fraud.

Her previous convictions had landed her with a total of 26 years' imprisonment.

Suu Kyi's supporters and independent analysts say the numerous charges against her and her allies are an attempt to legitimize the military's seizure of power while eliminating her from politics before an election it

has promised for 2023.

In the five counts of corruption decided Friday, Suu Kyi was alleged to have abused her position and caused a loss of state funds by neglecting to follow financial regulations in granting permission to Win Myat Aye, a Cabinet member in her former government, to hire, buy and maintain a helicopter.

Suu Kyi was the de facto head of government, holding the title of state counsellor. Win Myint, who was president in her government, was a co-defendant in the same case.

Friday's verdict in the purpose-built courtroom in the main prison on the outskirts of the capital, Naypyitaw, was made known by a legal official who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by the authorities. The trial was closed to the media, diplomats and spectators, and her lawyers were barred by a gag order from talking about it.

The legal official said Suu Kyi received sentences of three years for each of four charges, to be served concurrently, and four years for the charge related to the helicopter purchase, for a total of seven years. Win Myint received the same sentences.

Win Myat Aye, at the center of the case, escaped arrest and is now Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in the National Unity Government, established by the military's opponents as a parallel

administration by elected legislators who were barred from taking their seats when the army seized power last year. The military has declared NUG to be an outlawed "terrorist organization."

The defendants denied all charges, and her lawyers are expected to appeal in the coming days. The official also said both Suu Kyi and Win Myint appeared to be in good health.

"From start to finish, the junta grabbed whatever it could to manu-



repeatedly denied all requests to meet with her, including from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which seeks to help mediate an end to the crisis in Myanmar that some United Nations experts have characterized as a civil war because of the armed opposition to military rule.

The U.N., after its special envoy Noeleen Heyzer met in August with Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, announced the head of Myanmar's military-installed government, that he "expressed openness to arranging a meeting at the right time" between her and Suu Kyi.

A statement from the military government said: "Depending on the circumstances after the completion of the judiciary process, we will consider how to proceed."

Due to her age, the 33 years in prison that Suu Kyi now faces "amount to an effective life sentence against her," said Robertson.

"The Myanmar junta's farcical, totally unjust parade of charges and convictions against Aung San Suu Kyi amount to politically motivated punishment designed to hold her behind bars for the rest of her life," he said. "The convictions aim to both permanently sideline her, as well as undermine and ultimately negate her NLD party's landslide victory in the November 2020 election."

Suu Kyi is currently being held in a newly constructed separate building in the prison in Naypyitaw, near the

repeatedly denied all requests to meet with her, including from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which seeks to help mediate an end to the crisis in Myanmar that some United Nations experts have characterized as a civil war because of the armed opposition to military rule.

The U.N., after its special envoy Noeleen Heyzer met in August with Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, announced the head of Myanmar's military-installed government, that he "expressed openness to arranging a meeting at the right time" between her and Suu Kyi.

A statement from the military government said: "Depending on the circumstances after the completion of the judiciary process, we will consider how to proceed."

Due to her age, the 33 years in prison that Suu Kyi now faces "amount to an effective life sentence against her," said Robertson.

"The Myanmar junta's farcical, totally unjust parade of charges and convictions against Aung San Suu Kyi amount to politically motivated punishment designed to hold her behind bars for the rest of her life," he said. "The convictions aim to both permanently sideline her, as well as undermine and ultimately negate her NLD party's landslide victory in the November 2020 election."

Suu Kyi is currently being held in a newly constructed separate building in the prison in Naypyitaw, near the

courthouse where her trial was held, with three policewomen whose duty is to assist her.

Allowing access to Suu Kyi has been a major demand of the many international critics of Myanmar's military rulers, who have faced diplomatic and political sanctions for their human rights abuses and suppression of democracy.

Suu Kyi, the daughter of Myanmar's martyred independence hero Gen. Aung San, spent almost 15 years as a political prisoner under house arrest between 1989 and 2010.

Her tough stand against the military rule in Myanmar turned her into a symbol of nonviolent struggle for democracy, and won her the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize.

Her National League for Democracy party initially came to power after easily winning the 2015 general election, ushering in a true civilian government for the first time since a 1962 military coup.

But after coming to power, Suu Kyi was criticized for showing deference to the military while ignoring atrocities it is credibly accused of committing in a 2017 crackdown on the Muslim Rohingya minority.

Her National League for Democracy won a landslide victory again in the 2020 election, but less than three months afterwards, elected lawmakers were kept from taking their seats in Parliament and top members of her government and party were detained.

Real estate companies looking to start corporate social responsibility activities can pool in for winter clothing items. Or they can even lend a hand to the importers of Landa Bazar items. However, it will be a small effort because Pakistan is a country of 220 million people but it can still alleviate the suffering of a lot of people. Pakistan's business community has always played an active role in relief during economic crises and natural disasters and the current situation warrants another intervention.

Real estate companies looking to start corporate social responsibility activities can pool in for winter clothing items. Or they can even lend a hand to the importers of Landa Bazar items. However, it will be a small effort because Pakistan is a country of 220 million people but it can still alleviate the suffering of a lot of people. Pakistan's business community has always played an active role in relief during economic crises and natural disasters and the current situation warrants another intervention.

Worst Financial Situation

Waqas Asmat, Islamabad

Pakistan is facing one of the worst financial crises at this time. The exchange rate, inflation, and the hike in prices have had a deeply adverse impact on the segment of society that survives on a fixed income. On top of it, the energy crises during the harshest winter season have added to the suffering. But it did not stop there since the latest adversity came in the shape of increased prices for the import of used clothes. The Landa Bazar items for the winter season will now be expensive and out of reach for poor people.

In these hard times, businessmen and the financial elite of the country need to step up. Real estate companies in particular should participate in activities of corporate social responsibility. One example is companies like AAA Associates which started campaigns and activities to alleviate the suffering of the people in the past. These campaigns included ration campaigns in Sindh, flood relief packages, sehri, iftar campaigns, and women empowerment activities.

Real estate companies looking to start corporate social responsibility activities can pool in for winter clothing items. Or they can even lend a hand to the importers of Landa Bazar items. However, it will be a small effort because Pakistan is a country of 220 million people but it can still alleviate the suffering of a lot of people. Pakistan's business community has always played an active role in relief during economic crises and natural disasters and the current situation warrants another intervention.

On awarding ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Recognizing the contributions rendered by the Pakistani staff of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, the Chinese embassy held the annual awarding ceremony on Friday.

The ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, Deputy DG of the National Development and Reform Commission of China Pan Jiang and Deputy CEO of the Council Member of APCEA Ying Minghao among other officials.

A press release issued after the ceremony said: "During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China this year, leaders of the two countries agreed to advance CPEC with greater efficiency, and make CPEC an exemplar of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation."

It said: "CPEC is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative and a demonstration project of China-Pakistan cooperation."

Speaking at the ceremony, Amba-



sador Nong Rong said that 2022 witnessed the deepening of all-round cooperation between the two countries, i.e Pakistan and China.

He said that against the challenge of global economic downturn and historical floods in Pakistan, the CPEC projects have made sound achievement.

Sharing about the upcoming projects, Ambassador Nong said that a series of good news were coming from different sectors under the CPEC

umbrella. He said that during this year China-aided Eastbay Expressway of Gwadar port, Karot Hydropower, the TEL and Nova power plants in Thar, and the Shanghai Electric Thar coal-based power plant became operational among many other projects.

Lauding the performance of the CPEC staffs, Nong Rong said that the achievements of the CPEC were not possible without joint efforts of staffs from both China and Pakistan.



He hoped that the Chinese and Pakistani staff will cherish the opportuni-

ty, contribute to the construction of the CPEC with practical actions, and continue to consolidate the iron friendship between China and Pakistan.

Pakistan embassy in Moscow holds online open Katchehri

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires (CDA) in Russia Rana Summar Javed on Friday held an online Khuli Katchehri at the embassy in Moscow wherein the expatriates raised the issues of payments being faced by some Pakistani students due to a problem with banking channels.

The online Katchehri was attended by officials of the Consular and Diplomatic Wings of the Embassy of Pakistan. Pakistanis living in Russian Federation participated in the online event.

The participants also discussed prospects for student exchange programmes.

The diplomat informed the participants about the special steps taken by the embassy for streamlining the passport



delivery to Pakistanis.

He further noted that the Russian government had increased the number of scholarships for Pakistani students wishing to study at various programmes in Russian universities to 45.

He added that further

progress in Pak-Russia cooperation on education might be expected as this issue would be specially addressed at the upcoming Pakistan-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission scheduled to be held in Islamabad in January 2023.

In his closing remarks, Rana Summar Javed reiterated the resolve of the embassy's staff to provide maximum facilitation to the Pakistani citizens in Russia and reminded them of the need to abide by the laws and rules of the host country.

Turkish Navy Ship conducts naval drills with Pakistan Navy



Spokesman Report

KARACHI :The Turkish Navy Ship TCG BURGAZADA on Friday visited Karachi Port and participated in bilateral naval Exercise TURGUTREIS - VII.

The Turkish ship port was earlier called Karachi harbour and was welcomed by senior officers of the Pakistan Navy along with officials of the Turkish Consulate, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

During the stay at port, the Commanding Officer of the Turkish Ship called on Commander Pakistan Fleet and matters of mutual interest and bilateral collaboration were discussed.

In port activities, joint professional interactions including the planning of bilateral exercises at sea, tabletop discussions on professional topics, sports & social events including a wreath laying at the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam were conducted to strenuous cooperation and integration between the two navies.

On completion of the port visit, Pakistan Navy and Turkish Naval ship participated in bilateral Exercise TURGUTREIS-VII and conducted joint patrolling in the North Arabian Sea to further hone professional skills and enhance interoperability.

The exercise comprised various naval operations including defence against Asymmetric Attacks, Visit Board Search & Seizure (VBSS), Air Defence Exercises, and Joint Coordinated Patrol.

The visit of the Turkish Navy Ship to Pakistan is a manifestation of strong bilateral ties between the two countries and the exercise is a testimony of PN's resolve toward regional peace and maintenance of order at sea.

Hundreds of Syrians protest signs of Damascus-Ankara thaw

News Desk

AL-BAB : Hundreds of Syrians in the rebel-held north protested Friday against signs of a thaw between Ankara and Damascus after their defence ministers met in Moscow for the first time since 2011.

Several hundred demonstrators gathered in Al-Bab, a town controlled by rebel factions long backed by Ankara, brandishing banners reading: "The revolution is an idea, you can't kill an idea," an AFP photographer reported.

"We will not reconcile, we cannot reconcile, we don't want to reconcile," said Sohbi Khabyeh, one of the demonstrators who had been displaced from the suburbs



of Damascus.

The 54-year-old described Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as a "criminal".

"We will never reconcile with the Assad regime," he added. "Don't help Assad against us, stand with us."

The demonstration comes after the Syrian, Turkish and Russian defence ministers met in Moscow on Wednesday

for the first time since the Syrian conflict broke out over a decade ago.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and his Turkish and Syrian counterparts, Hulusi Akar and Ali Mahmoud Abbas, discussed "ways to resolve the Syrian crisis, the problem of refugees and joint efforts to combat extremist groups in

Syria", Moscow said.

The meeting was just the latest sign of a thaw in relations between Damascus and Ankara — the key backer of opposition forces in war-torn Syria.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who in recent years repeatedly called Assad an "assassin", spoke in November of a "possible" meeting with his Syrian counterpart.

Nearly half a million people have been killed in the Syrian conflict, which has forced around half of the country's pre-war population from their homes.

Similar protests were held in other rebel-held districts of Aleppo province, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Ukraine says repelled Russia nighttime drone attack

Spokesman Report

KYIV : Ukraine said Friday it repelled a nighttime drone attack from Russia, a day after Moscow launched a new wave of missile strikes in the run-up to New Year celebrations.

The attacks came 10 months into Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. In recent months Russian strikes have targeted the energy grid, leaving millions in the cold in the middle of winter.

Ukraine's air force said on Friday morning that Russia attacked Ukraine overnight using "Iranian-made kamikaze drones".

A total of 16 drones were launched from the southeast-



ern and northern directions and they were "all" destroyed by Ukraine's air defence, it said.

The presidency said that Ukraine "withstood" the new drone attacks, which targeted infrastructure facilities.

In the capital Kyiv, city authorities announced an air

alert shortly after 2:00 am local time.

Mayor Vitali Klitschko later said seven drones had targeted the capital. Two were shot down "on approach" and five over the city.

There were no casualties, but falling debris damaged

windows in two buildings in southwestern Kyiv, he added.

One of the drones hit a four-storey administrative building, starting a fire that was later extinguished, said Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the presidential office.

The drone attack came after a barrage of Russian missiles battered Ukraine on Thursday morning, with blasts reported across the vast country, from the northeastern city of Kharkiv to the western city of Lviv near the Polish border.

Ukraine's army said Russia had launched several dozen cruise missiles, the majority of which had been shot down.

Tymoshenko said four civilians were killed and eight as a

result of the strikes on Thursday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said most regions were left without power following Thursday's attack.

Ukraine's energy operator said Friday the damage had a "much smaller impact" on the power grid than "the enemy expected" and the power deficit was back to the levels before Thursday's attack.

But "the situation in the southern and eastern regions is still difficult," Ukrenergo added.

Russia has faced international condemnation and an onslaught of unprecedented sanctions over its war in Ukraine.

CM Punjab nominates Naeem Naqshbandi as political advisor

Arif Chodhry

ROCHDALE : Former Mayor Rochdale Councilor Asim Rasheed welcomed Chairman Overseas Pakistan Welfare Council Naeem Abbasi Naqshbandi at a local restaurant in Rochdale on becoming the Political Adviser of Punjab Chief Minister, in which former President of PTI Britain Rana Abdul Sattar Senior Leader Asif Khan Councilor Rana Faisal. Councilor Chaudhry Arshad-Shaukat Khan and community leaders participated on this occasion. Chief Minister Punjab's political advisor Naeem Abbasi Naqshbandi said that Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has entrusted the responsibility entrusted to him in a good manner.

He will use all the resources to give it. Earlier, I was working for overseas Pakistanis. Now I will do more with the support of the Punjab government. He has done a great job by making it. He has worked together with various institutions of Pakistan before. We hope that Naeem bhai will now solve the problems of overseas with the help of the government.

He said that the Chief Minister found a diamond from overseas and made Naeem Naqshbandi his political advisor. Me and my party will always support him. Councilor Faisal Rana and Councilor Chaudhry Arshad said that we will welcome Naeem Naqshbandi on his arrival in Rochdale. If they are facing difficulties there, you will help them. Shaukat Khan, a businessman from Rochdale, also welcomed the appointment of Naeem Naqshbandi for overseas.

Coal, gas lead 2022 commodities rally; recession clouds new year



News Desk

SINGAPORE : Coal and natural gas markets were poised on Friday to end 2022 with strong gains after a global energy crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war stoked a sharp upswing in prices, while tighter supplies expected in 2023 could fuel more gains.

Industrial metals, iron ore and rubber are on track to finish in negative territory, pushed down in 2022 by China's strict zero-COVID policy and fears of a world recession.

Agricultural markets, including grains and palm oil, jumped to all-time highs in March on adverse weather and pandemic-related supply disruptions, triggering food inflation, but those commodities gave up much of their gains in the second half.

"Despite the recent price declines, commodities will still likely finish the year as the best performing asset class..." Goldman Sachs said in its 2023 commodity outlook.

"From a fundamental perspective, the setup for most commodities next year is more bullish than it has been at any point since we first highlighted the supercycle in October 2020."

Global gas markets were roiled this year after Russia cut supplies to Europe and a major pipeline was damaged amid the war in Ukraine, leading European countries to import record volumes to ensure winter supplies.

The additional demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG) amid tighter supplies of piped gas placed enormous strain on the global market, spurring an energy crisis that pushed gas prices to historic highs.

Newcastle coal futures have soared almost 140% in 2022, the biggest jump since 2008. U.S. gas futures and Dutch wholesale gas prices have jumped by more than 20%, rising for a third consecutive year.

Because Europe will continue importing LNG to rebuild gas inventories next year after winter, gas prices are expected to remain elevated amid limited new supplies coming on-stream.



Mayor Rochdale Councilor Asim Rasheed welcomed the Chairman Overseas Pakistan.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index. Current: 40,420.45, Prev. Close: 39,747.36. Day's High: 40,420.45, Day's Low: 39,694.12. Index Value: 6,812,640,461, Change: +673.09. Percentage: +1.69%, Time: 30 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm.

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Europe: FTSE 100 Index. Index Value: 7,451.74, Change: -60.98. Percentage: -0.81%, Time: 30 Dec, 12:35 pm GMT.

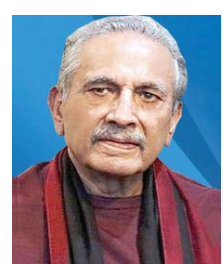
Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average. Index Value: 33,220.80, Change: 0.00. Percentage: 0.00%, Time: 29 Dec, 5:27 pm GMT-5.

Table with 2 columns: Index Value, Change. Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average. Index Value: 26,094.50, Change: +0.83. Percentage: +0.0032%, Time: 30 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9.

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Buying, Selling. Open Market Forex Rates. Includes Australian Dollar, Bahrain Dinar, Canadian Dollar, China Yuan, Danish Krone, Euro, Hong Kong Dollar, Indian Rupee, Japanese Yen, Kuwaiti Dinar, Malaysian Ringgit, New Zealand \$, Norwegians Krone, Omani Riyal, Qatari Riyal, Saudi Riyal, Singapore Dollar, Swedish Korona, Swiss Franc, Thai Bhat, U.A.E Dirham, UK Pound Sterling, US Dollar.

No positive change in economic situation in 2023

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said 2022 has been a difficult

year for the people, while political and economic instability will remain at its peak in 2023, due to which the problems of the people will increase.

Inflation and terrorism may increase in the incoming year while the clouds of default will continue to hover over the country, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement that the country will face challenges in the new year as well and our economy will face worst conditions.

It will be difficult for the country to be out of the quagmire of problems as the political leaders agree to disagree on important matters.

The country has reached the brink of economic collapse and now Pakistan is considered among the weakest countries in the world.

After the destruction of the agricultural sector at the hands of floods, the industrial sector is being destroyed with negative policies while the policymakers are making temporary arrangements that will backfire.

The business leader said that the current economic managers are doing new experiments instead of taking the country out of the worst economic crisis. Their performance has really been slipping over the past few months, and they are no longer meeting the expectations of the masses.

On top of that, an opposition leader is playing a dangerous game by repeatedly inviting the establishment to intervene, thereby weakening the political process.

In these circumstances, the new wave of terrorism has increased the anxiety of the people, which is a big question mark on our anti-terrorism strategy, he said.

Huawei expects to round off 2023 with total revenue of 636.9 billion yuan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a New Year letter circulated to Huawei 195,000 employees globally, Huawei Rotating Chairman Eric Xu said that the company expect to round off the year with a total revenue of 636.9 billion yuan, which is in line with forecast, a slight rise in last year total revenues which totaled 636.8 billion yuan.

The senior Huawei executive said: "in 2022, we successfully pulled ourselves out of crisis mode. US restrictions are now our new normal, and we're back to business as usual. It's been all hands-on deck for the past year, with every single member of the Huawei team working hard to navigate challenges and improve the quality of our operations".

Eric Xu also highlighted that Huawei ICT infrastructure business maintained steady growth, and the decline in Huawei device business has abated. Huawei achieved rapid growth in digital power and Huawei Cloud,



and took the competitiveness and user experience of our intelligent automotive components

to new heights.

"The macro environment may be rife with uncertainty, but what we can be certain about is that digitalization and decarbonization are the way forward, and they're where future opportunities lie. Faced with external volatility, we need to remain focused and stay true to our vision and mission. We need to double down on our commitment to building the foundations of the digital economy and to driving green and sustainable development. By doing this, we can create greater value for our customers, partners, and society at large". Eric highlighted.

Eric also forecasted that 2023 will be the first year that Huawei returns to business as usual with external restrictions still in place. It will be a crucial year for Huawei, so the company need to actively drive progress, keep inspiring passion across the organization, and further hone the company capabilities. "We need to be proactive about improving the business environment and more effectively managing risks.

This is the only way we can reach our business goals for 2023 and lay a solid foundation for Huawei's continued survival and development".

The letter specifies 4 priorities for the company sustainable survival. The first one is maintaining heavy investment in R&D. Eric said: "We need to make our products and solutions more competitive through innovation, reshaping architecture, and systems engineering design. We have to fully commit ourselves to future-oriented basic research and open innovation, and focus our limited resources on value-creating domains. In addition, we need to uphold open collaboration across the value chain to guarantee our supply continuity and resilience".

The other 3 priorities are securing victory through quality, Commitment to progress and seizing opportunities to grow the harvest, and pressing ahead with transformation to inject vitality into the organization and motivate everyone to forge ahead

Corns sacks

PESHAWAR: A vendor is packing corns sacks for selling purpose in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

SC decides first ever cartel case; Upholds finding of cartelization in poultry sector

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: While deciding the first ever cartel case, the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan has decided the civil appeal filed on behalf of Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) against the judgement of the Competition Appellate Tribunal, that upheld the Order of CCP dated 29 February 2016 with respect to price fixing in contravention of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

CCP had imposed a fine of PKR 100 Million on the Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) for price fixing of poultry products, in violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

The Honourable Supreme Court, to this extent, has allowed PPA's appeal and reduced the penalty from PKR 100 million imposed by CCP in its Order to PKR 25 Million, taking into account that the said advertisements by PPA were discontinued after a few days, i.e., "after two days for eggs and five days for poultry". The Honourable Supreme Court has directed PPA to pay the penalty amount of PKR 25 million within a period of 15 days from the date of the Order.

Moreover, the Supreme Court has directed CCP to "frame and notify relevant rules inter alia relating to imposition of penalties"

Currently, there exists guidelines on imposition of financial penalties. Under Section 57 of the Act, the Commission, with the approval of the Federal Government, has the power to make rules.

The Supreme Court proceedings pertained to CCP's Order wherein CCP found that PPA had inter alia discussed and approved the advertisement of prices of certain poultry products (concerning broiler chicken and chicken eggs) in the national press, which was prohibited under the Competition Act. Against CCP's Order, the first appeal was filed by PPA before the Competition Tribunal and its decision was authored by the Member, Technical, Mr. Ahmed Owais Pirzada. The Competition Tribunal held that: "...By advertising prices of the poultry products in the national press the appellant has clearly prevented, restricted and reduced competition within the relevant market, which is a clear violation of section 4 of the Act."

It was further observed that the findings recorded by CCP were "based on proper appraisal of relevant provisions of Competition Law as well as other material brought on record.

The same are, therefore, maintained." PPA had filed an appeal against the said Competition Tribunal order before the Supreme Court.

Govt should ensure full implementation of IMF conditions

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government should now focus on the economy by reducing the focus on the opposition.

The economy can be brought back on track in some time and relief can be provided to the people if the IMF conditions are fully implemented, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the important issues should be dealt with quickly because the economy is weak and inflation is increasing due to the delay.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government has few resources and many problems. Despite the lack of resources, failed government institutions are being nurtured by wasting hundreds of billions of rupees annually.

Everyone can see the outcome of involvement of provincial governments in the health and education sector, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said if wheat had



been imported on time, the price of flour would not have gone up on record across the country. When private airlines in Pakistan can run in profit, why has PIA lost 635 billion rupees, he questioned.

He said that thirty-four percent of electricity is stolen and wasted during trans-

mission and distribution, including seventeen percent of individuals and organizations who do not pay the bill but they are supplied with electricity.

The theft and losses makes electricity more expensive for the bill paying consumers and it also damages the economy.

Similarly, gas companies are also losing two hundred billion rupees annually, which need to be sold immediately.

These institutions are being run only for the sake of the jobs of four and a half lakh employees, the price of which is being paid by twenty two crore people. These entities should be sold and the income should be used to run the country.

The government should stop running ports, railways, banks, airlines, industries, transport and construction companies because it is not its business and should only play the role of regulator.

By selling the failed institutions, the government will get huge income, hundreds of billions of rupees will be saved annually, these institutions will start providing facilities to the people, which will lead to economic development and people will get employment.

Dubai Chamber of Commerce launches Cloud Computing Business Group

News Desk

DUBAI: Dubai Chamber of Commerce, one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, has announced the launch of the Cloud Computing Business Group, connecting companies within the sector to encourage productive dialogue on ways to propel and embed cloud computing services across the various business industries in Dubai.

Commenting on the launch, Maha AlGargawi, Executive Director of Business Advocacy at Dubai Chambers said, "As one of the most future-ready nations in the world, a cloud-powered advanced digital infrastructure is essential to support Dubai's goals of fully integrating digital technology into all government opera-



tions and plans. The setting up of the cloud computing business group is a pillar of this infrastructure as it will encourage transparent conversations between its members, supporting the sector in advocating beneficial policy changes that will in turn enhance its competitiveness."

One of the business group's founding members, Miguel Villalonga, CEO of e& enterprise Cloud, added, "The formation of this business group comes at the right time as cloud computing has become integral to businesses and the overall Dubai economy ecosystem. It will serve as a platform

for fruitful discussions between stakeholders in the sector. Such collaboration enables leveraging expertise while aiming to enhance cloud computing landscape in the UAE. It resonates with our efforts to be the leading digital enabler for cloud solutions."

Sharing similar sentiments, Omid Mahboubi, Founder of MENA Cloud Alliance and co-founder of the Cloud Computing Business Group, said, "I am pleased to be part of the establishment of this business group and look forward to constructive dialogues with peer members on ways and means we can support businesses in the cloud computing sector. This business group will be a catalyst for driving adoption of cloud computing in various organisations across the board."



Amidst the changing weather conditions, foodpanda Pakistan in collaboration with Akhuwat Foundation took an initiative to distribute original Levis outfits to more than 5000 foodpanda delivery heroes across Pakistan. These special outfits will keep delivery riders warm and protected from harsh weather conditions while delivering orders.

Rupee freefall continues as US dollar hits Rs226

News Desk

KARACHI: The rupee's losses continued on Friday as the local currency closed at Rs226.43 against the dollar in the interbank market, ARY News reported quoting SBP.

According to the SBP, the greenback surged by Rs0.2 against the local currency in the interbank market to close at Rs226.43 on the last working day of the outgoing 2022 year.

The dollar is being sold between Rs231 to 235 in

the open market, the forex dealers said.

The local unit depreciated by Rs49 in the outgoing year, according to forex dealers.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Pakistani rupee is under pressure for a couple of weeks as Islamabad and IMF are holding talks on the ninth review of a \$7 billion loan program.

Earlier, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) asked Pakistan to reduce expenses before the talks on the ninth review of a \$7 billion loan program.

Pakistan hold New Zealand for a draw

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan ended their four-match losing streak at home after brave and gutsy half-centuries by Imam-ul-Haq, Saud Shakeel and Sarfaraz Ahmed denied New Zealand a chance to go 1-0 up in the two-Test series at the National Bank Cricket Arena on Friday.

Resuming the fifth and last day at 77 for two and still needing 97 runs to make New Zealand bat again, Pakistan looked down and out when they slipped to 206 for seven (32 runs ahead) with 49 overs still remaining in the match.

However, the eighth and ninth wicket partnerships between Saud Shakeel and Mohammad Wasim Junior, and Saud and Mir Hamza, respectively helped Pakistan to declare their second innings at 311 for eight.

That set New Zealand a daunting but an achievable 138 runs target in 17 overs, and when both the teams shook hands due to a fading light, the visitors were 61 for one in 7.3 overs.

New Zealand, who had last won a Test in Pakistan in Lahore in 1969, were on course to break the 53-year win drought when they left Saud Shakeel to battle out the remaining 49 overs in the day with

Team	Score	Wickets	Over
Pakistan (1st Innings)	438	10/100	130.5
New Zealand (1st Innings)	612-8d	8/100	130.5
Pakistan (2nd Innings)	311-8d	8/100	130.5
New Zealand (2nd Innings)	61-1	1/100	130.5

the tail-enders.

Saud had twice squandered the opportunity to help Pakistan win Tests against England earlier this month, but this time he was equal to the task when he returned undefeated on 55 from 138 minutes of watchful and laborious batting during which he received 108 balls and struck seven fours and a six.

Saud not only conjured up his fifth half-century in fourth Test, he added 75 runs for the eighth wicket from 111 balls (71 minutes) with Mohammad Wasim Junior, while he put on 34 runs from 82 balls (50 minutes) for the unbroken ninth wicket with Mir Hamza.

Wasim showed his batting exploits and skills at probably the best time in his early days as an international cricketer when he not only survived 57 balls but also

scored 43 runs with five fours and a six. Mir Hamza kept New Zealand bowlers at bay for 34 balls while scoring three not out.

Earlier, Pakistan starting the day at 77 for two, plunged into a crisis when night-watchman Noman Ali (four) and captain Babar Azam (14) returned to the dressing room in a space of 34 balls to leave the home side in a bother at 100 for four and still needing 74 runs to make New Zealand bat again. Both the batters were adjudged leg before off Michael Bracewell and Ish Sodhi, respectively.

At that stage, Imam and Sarfaraz got together in a rescue act and added 85 runs for the fifth wicket before crisis struck Pakistan again.

Sarfaraz, immediately after reaching his second half-century of the match, paid the price for attempting a shot to a wide Sodhi delivery and was caught at the wicket, first innings centurion Salman Ali Agha missed a wrong-un from Sodhi and was bowled before Imam's fighting knock ended when he was deceived by Sodhi to be smartly stumped by Tom Blundell.

Sarfaraz's 53 came off 76 balls and included seven fours, while Imam was unlucky to miss his fourth Test century when he was dismissed for 96. His 206-ball knock was laced with 10 fours

and a six.

New Zealand were brilliant in the field on the fifth day.

Ish Sodhi recorded his maiden five-fer while finishing with career-best figures of 36.5-11-86-6, while wicketkeeper Tom Blundell accounted for three Pakistan batters in the second innings to finish with seven dismissals in the match.

The second Test will commence at the National Bank Cricket Arena on Monday, 2 January.

Scores in brief

Pakistan (1st innings) 438, 130.5 overs (Babar Azam 161, Salman Ali Agha 103, Sarfaraz Ahmed 86, Imam-ul-Haq 24, Saud Shakeel 22; Tim Southee 3-69, Michael Bracewell 2-72, Ish Sodhi 2-87, Ajaz Patel 2-112) and 311-8d (Imam-ul-Haq 96, Saud Shakeel 55 not out, Sarfaraz Ahmed 53, Mohammad Wasim 43; Ish Sodhi 6-86, Michael Bracewell 2-82)

New Zealand (1st innings) 612-9d, 194.5 overs (Kane Williamson 200 not out, Tom Latham 113, Devon Conway 92, Ish Sodhi 65; Abrar Ahmed 5-205, Noman Ali 3-185) and 61-1 (Tom Latham 35 not out)

Player of the match - Kane Williamson (New Zealand)
Result - Match drawn

Shiraz Asif wins 1st position in Olympic Council Asia Seminar, Quiz Competition

News Desk

KARACHI: Young talented Shiraz Asif of the Softball Federation of Pakistan has won the first position in the quiz competition of the seminar on the importance of mental health in sports competitions organized under the auspices of the Olympic Council of Asia and the Pakistan Olympic Association Athletes Commission.

In the quiz competition on the first day of the seminar, Shiraz Asif won the first position by getting 66.67 points in one minute and 34 seconds.

Haron Sarwar Butt of the Pakistan Karate Federation secured second place by scoring 50 points in two minutes and 17 seconds while Badminton Federation's Ali Nawab secured the third position with a time of 2 minutes and 25 seconds scoring 50.00 points.



More than 60 players and officials from more than 30 federations participated.

It should be noted that the athletes of the Softball Federation of Pakistan have won the top position for the third year in a row. At the end of the seminar, the President of the Pakistan Olympic Association Lt. General (ret'd) Syed Arif Hassan, International Hockey Federation President Tayyab Ikram, Vice

Chancellor of Lahore College for Women University Dr. Bushra Mirza and Secretary General POA Muhammad Khalid Mehmood gave shields and other prizes to the players who won positions and put up a remarkable performance.

Speaking on the occasion, Gen Arif Hassan said, the quiz competitions are aimed to make the players mentally stronger. It was a pleasure

to see that the players know their game along with their skills in the field of sports.

Meanwhile, Softball Federation Haider Lehri, Secretary General Asif Azeem and Chairman POA Athlete Commission Muhammad Inam Butt have congratulated all the position holders and hoped that they will continue with remarkable performance in future competitions as well.

Bilawal grieves over death of footballer Pele



Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of Pele, the great footballer from Brazil.

In his statement, the PPP chairman said that Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known mononymously as Pelé, has had a profound impact on the popularity of the game of football around the globe.

He said that on the death of Pele, football fans all over the world are in a state of mourning in Pakistan, especially in Sindh, including Lyari in Karachi.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari sympathized with the fans of Pele around the world as well as the people of Lyari. He said that Pele gave new glory to the game of football, and the world shall always remember this great player.

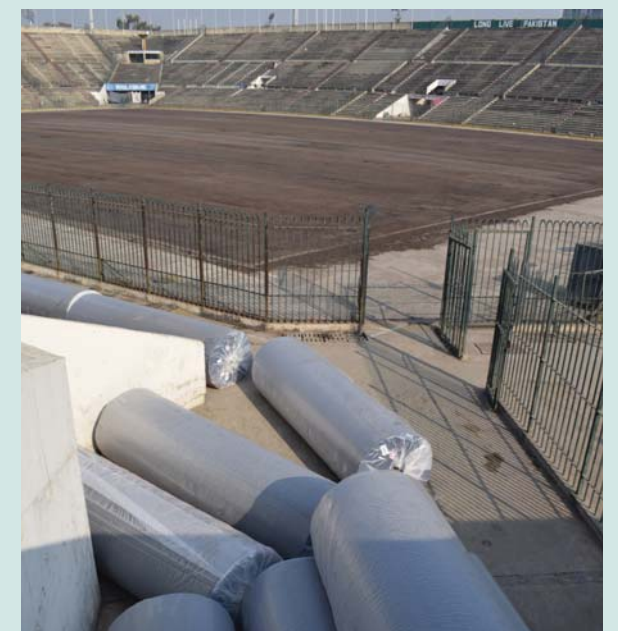
Pakistan Students Olympic Association Premier League, 2022



Tahir Amin Malik

KARACHI: Under the Pakistan Students Olympic Association Premier League, 2022 is going under way at Sports Complex Karachi, which included Throwball, Fustal, and Catch Ball. Different departments, Academies, and Clubs Boys and Girls are taking parts in the competitions. In Mix Throwball for the 3rd position match Hyderabad got 3rd position, The final will be played on 31st December. In open category Catch Ball Hyderabad moves into the final after defeated NTA Yellow by 2-0, While in 2nd Semi Final ZAB team lost the match against NTA Red by 2-0. For the 3rd position match NTA Yellow beat NTA Red by 2-1. The final will be played on 31st December between Hyderabad Greens and ZAB team and prize distribution ceremony will be organized on 31st December and concluding the final.

FIH approved synthetic Astroturf



News Desk

LAHORE: Big news for national hockey players as the new FIH approved synthetic Astroturf has reached the National Hockey Stadium from Belgium with the efforts of Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi on Friday.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi in his statement congratulated the national hockey players and said that the game of hockey will be promoted to a great extent after the laying of new synthetic Astroturf in the National Hockey Stadium. "The long-standing demand of the hockey players has been fulfilled and now the hockey players will be able to improve their game as per international standard," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said Sports Board Punjab has always given importance to hockey. "Our hockey past was glorious and now we are striving hard to regain the lost prestige in the game of hockey."

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi further said that international hockey matches will also be held on the new synthetic Astroturf. "We are also constructing a world class Hockey High Performance Center to prepare and groom our players as per modern challenges," he added.

India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant injured in car crash

NEW DELHI: India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant was hospitalised on Friday after being involved in a car crash, his Indian Premier League (IPL) team said.

Pant was alone in the car when it collided with a divider on the road and caught fire, multiple reports in Indian media said. The wicketkeeper suffered injuries to his head, back and leg, the reports added.

His IPL team Delhi Capitals said the crash was in the northern state of Uttarakhand.

"Rishabh Pant met with an accident between Manglaur and Narsan in Haridwar district," they said in a tweet. "He has now been shifted to a hospital in Dehradun after receiving primary treatment in a hospital in Roorkee."

The team did not give details on the 25-year-old's injuries. Hospital authorities were not immediately available to give an update on Pant's condition but Delhi and District Cricket Association Secretary Siddharth Sahib Singh said he was "stable".

Kabaddi World Cup will be held in Lahore in 2024

LAHORE : Pakistan will host next Kabaddi World Cup in 2024 in Lahore; this was disclosed by a 2-member delegation of Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF) during their meeting with Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi at National Hockey Stadium on Friday.

The promotion of kabaddi among the younger generation across the province was also discussed at length during the meeting. Rana Sarwar said that the International Kabaddi League has also been allocated to Pakistan.

The PKF delegation was comprised of PKF Secretary Rana Sarwar and senior coach Tahir Waheed Jatt. PKF Secretary Rana Sarwar also presented a souvenir to Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi on this occasion.



Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad

Tariq Qureshi said that Sports Board Punjab has always taken all possible measures for the promotion of all sports disciplines including kabaddi in all parts of the province. "We also extended every kind of cooperation and facilities to all participating teams during the previous Kabaddi World Cup in 2020 and will do the same in 2024," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said Pakistan has plenty of kabaddi talent and the next World Cup in Lahore will help a lot in further promotion of this game among the youth. "Organising Kabaddi World Cup and International Kabaddi League in Pakistan is definitely a big honour for the country and we will utilise all resources to make these events successful," he added.

Mikaela Shiffrin clinched a hat-trick of World Cup wins in Semmering

News Desk

SEMMERING : Mikaela Shiffrin clinched a hat-trick of World Cup wins in Semmering on Thursday, taking her tally to 80 World Cup victories as the American stormed through the 60-gate course fastest on both slalom runs.

The 27-year-old's win leaves her just two short of the women's record of 82 victories set by compatriot Lindsey Vonn, and six off Ingemar Stenmark's all-time record.

"I don't know what to say about the 80 thing yet. But it was a bit wild," said Shiffrin as she pipped compatriot Paula Molthan into second place by 0.29 seconds with Germany's Lena Duerr in third.

"I hope they all had a nice time watching, they were all cheering." "Paula had a ripping run and

it's special to share this with her." Shiffrin, who now has 50 slalom wins, also won the two giant slalom races held over the last two days at the Austrian venue.

She now leads Petra Vlhova in the overall rankings with 875 points to the Slovakian's 506, with Italy's Sofia Goggia on 470.

In the slalom rankings, Shiffrin also leads with 425 points to Wendy Holdener's 370. Vlhova is third with 280.

Shiffrin's next target is to pass Vonn, who retired in 2019, with a series of events to come early in the new year.

The calendar includes two slaloms in Zagreb on January 4-5 before two giant slaloms at Kranjska Gora in Slovenia on January 7-8.

Another slalom follows on January 10 in Flachau, Austria. At 27, Shiffrin already has four

overall World Cup crystal globes, six world titles (11 medals in all) and two Olympic titles.

In the World Cup, her statistics are staggering. In 230 starts over 11 years, she has been on the podium 127 times with 80 victories.

Thursday's victory represented the second time Shiffrin had completed a treble at Semmering.

"It is pretty hard to put into words. I skied really strong all three days and was really happy with my feeling," said Shiffrin.

"I knew it was going to be bumpy and had some tough spots but I have been trying not to look ahead too much.

"I did not want to be too conservative on the second run, it wasn't really planned but I just tried to be athletic and smart and it worked okay."

It was the first slalom podium for Molthan and just her second career World Cup podium.

