

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
عائشہ نے کہا میں نے (ایک دفعہ) نبی کریم ﷺ کو دیکھا کہ آپ ﷺ نے مجھے چھپا رکھا تھا اور میں جس وقت کے لوگوں کو دیکھ رہی تھی جو مسجد میں تیروں سے کھیل رہے تھے۔ عرب نے انہیں ڈانٹا لیکن نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ جانے دو اور ان سے فرمایا اسے نوازو! تم بے فکر ہو کر کھیلو دیکھا۔  
(کنز العمال: حدیث نمبر 988)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

## 47 govt, 15 private Bills sailed in NA during 2022: Speaker

As many as 47 Government, 15 Private Bills were sailed through in the National Assembly from January to December 2022, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said on Saturday. The Speaker said the National Assembly Secretariat has performed extraordinarily in the field of legislation in the year 2022 till date and 38 bills have become Acts of Parliament. (Report on Page 8)



## Imran Khan failed to deliver during tenure: Javed Latif

Federal minister Mian Javed Latif said on Saturday that Imran Khan failed to deliver any productive initiative during his past four years period as he was busy with misguiding public in his gatherings. Talking to a private media channel, the minister claimed that Imran Khan left the country on the brink of bankruptcy. Coalition government was correcting the economic direction of the country, he asserted.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 8, Sunday, January 1, 2023

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily\_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 268 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Last sunset of the 2022

LAHORE: A view of last sunset of the year 2022 in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## President reprimands SLICP for denying insurance to a widow for 9 years

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: While upholding the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, President Dr Arif Alvi has conveyed his displeasure to the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) for denying legitimate insurance claim settlement to a widow for nine-long years.

While expressing his displeasure on maladministration by SLICP, the president ordered that the widow should be paid full amount of claim with accumulated profit by factoring in inflation during the waiting period, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday.

The president rejected the representation preferred by SLICP against the Wafaqi Mohtasib's (WM) order directing it to settle the claim by providing due relief to the widow according to the policy provisions within 30 days of the orders.



The deceased, Malik Dilshad, had purchased a life insurance policy from SLICP on 30.11.2010 for the sum assured of Rs 200,000.

He died on 21.07.2013 and his wife, Shabnam Dilshad (the complainant), applied for the insurance claim to SLICP, which was repudiated on the ground that the deceased policyholder had pre-insurance ailment of heart disease, which he had hidden.

Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib, which passed the order in her favour. SLICP, then, filed a representation against the orders of WM.

The president observed that the point of view of SLICP

## COAS urges unity to counter terrorism and economic challenges

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir said on Saturday all must stay united as Pakistan was going through tough phase posed due to terrorism and economic challenges.

COAS was the chief guest at the Commissioning Parade of 118th Midshipmen and 26th Short Service Commission (SSC) was held on Saturday at Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi. On the occasion, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Upon arrival at Pakistan



Naval Academy, the COAS was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. Addressing the parade, the COAS congratulated the commissioning term for the successful completion of training and

becoming guardians of the maritime frontiers of Pakistan.

The COAS said, "The maritime domain is continuously shifting, mainly due to technological advancement, herein only those navies would prevail and

prove effective that would align with professionalism and modern trends of warfare."

The COAS appreciated Pakistan Naval Academy for imparting quality education not only to Pakistani cadets but to the cadets of friendly countries. He advised young officers as future leaders to lead by their conduct, character, professional acumen and foresight.

The Army Chief stated that Pakistan was passing through one of her most critical junctures and this required development of national consensus by all stakeholders to sail through the confronted challenges

of economy and terrorism.

Later, the chief guest gave away awards to the prize winners. The prestigious Quaid-i-Azam Gold Medal was awarded to Lt Kashif Abdul Quyyom Pakistan Navy for his Overall Best Performance. Midshipman Naufil Malik was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour for his overall best performance.

He also addressed the officers of Karachi Corps, Rangers and other CAFs at Malir Garrison. COAS underscored the need for focus on the profession and demands of modern warfare and directed information operations.

## Imran regretting failure to make Pakistan bankrupt: Marriyum

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Saturday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan was regretting his "failure" to make the country financially bankrupt.

In a statement in reaction to Imran Khan's tweet, she said that the "foreign agent" regretted that his commit-

ment to bankrupt the country has not been fulfilled.

She said that the foreign agent and Toshi Khana thief was running away from the elections.

The minister said that Imran Khan was thrown out of power by exercise of the democratic right of a no-confidence vote.

Despite remaining in power for over three years, why Imran did not hold

the local body elections, she asked.

Castigating Imran, she said that the PTI was "committed" to conducting elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, what happened to that commitment? What happened to the commitment to give one million jobs and building five million housing units, she said while taking a jibe on PTI leadership.

## PM grieved over demise of former Pope Benedict

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed his deep grief over the death of former Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

The prime minister, on his Twitter handle, said that the former pope's death would be mourned by millions around the world including Pakistan.

According to media reports, former Pope Benedict XVI died on Saturday at the age of 95. He had led the Catholic Church for about eight years until, in 2013, he became the first Pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415.

Benedict spent his final years at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery within the walls of the Vatican. His successor Pope Francis will lead the funeral on January 5.

## Govt struggling hard to revive national economy destroyed by PTI: Ahsan Iqbal

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said the current coalition government is struggling hard to revive the badly destroyed economy after compromising its political stakes on national interest.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said the PTI during its tenure, not only damaged the economy but it also ignored the law and order situation as well as war on terrorism.

He alleged the PTI was brought into power by giving NRO to Imran Khan Niazi through RTS system in 2018 elections and an illegible, inexperienced and incompetent government was formed.

He added the PTI government, through devaluation

of currency and other inappropriate steps, had thrown the country into the worst inflation and debts.

The minister said that the economy was allowed to weaken from 2018 to 2021 during 4 years of the PTI rule.

"Now, the country is bearing the burden of Rs 5000 billion of debt services per year which was Rs 1700 billion in 2018," he added.

He said that almost 100 per cent resources were being used for payments of debts and the country needed more loans to be run.

"No doubt, it is very crucial time for the nation, but we will succeed in bringing the country out of the crisis", he added.

Ahsan said that economy and peace should not be politicized, expressing hope that Imran Khan Niazi would stop enmity with the country by suspending his

anti-state campaign.

He said that not a single word was said by any international financial institution about default of the country but, the PTI and Imran Khan were continuously making campaign to create a psychological atmosphere about it which was actually a hybrid war against the nation.

He said the world was going to organize a conference in Geneva to express its unity with Pakistan on January 09.

To another question, he said that dollar in the country was under pressure due to several reasons including big payments made by the government recently and purchase of dollars by Afghan traders. However, he said that the government was vigilant enough and taking steps to counter the challenge for dollar.

To a question about short-

## Imran Khan aims to form govt in Sindh

News Desk

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asserted that he would form the next government in Sindh, reiterating his demand for 'immediate and transparent' elections.

According to details, the former premier made these remarks while talking to social media workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), who called on him at his residence at Lahore's Zaman Park.

Speaking on the occasion, Imran Khan regretted that the country was heading towards disaster, lambasting the ruling coalition over 'failed' economic policies.

"The people - who were given the reins of the country - cannot manage the economy," the PTI Chairman said, reiterating his demand for 'immediate and transparent' elections.



سوئی ناردرن گیس  
Sui Northern Gas  
Natural Gas Distribution

Helpline: 1199

# سردی آگتی ہے خیال رکھنا!

گیس کے مسلسل استعمال سے بل میں تیسری سلیب پر  
3 گنا سے زائد اضافہ ہو جاتا ہے

یہ بل مزید اضافے کے ساتھ چھٹی سلیب پر  
18 ہزار روپے تک پہنچ سکتا ہے

اس لیے اضافی بل سے بچنے کیلئے اپنے گیزر میں

ٹائمڈیوائس انسٹال کروائیں  
جس سے ہڈیو مو بائل ایپ گیزر ہو خود بخود آف اور آف

گیس سیور کون لگوائیں  
جس سے پانی رہے زیادہ دیر تک گرم اور بل ہو آدھے سے بھی کم

گیس سیور کون اور گیزر ٹائمڈیوائس آرڈر کرنے کے لیے  
1199 پر کال کریں

PID(L)1940-D

## Law and order

FAISALABAD: Police personnel holding flag march to maintain law and order during New Year night in the city.



Photo: Online

# Soldier embraces martyrdom, four terrorists killed in Jani Khel, Bannu IBO

## Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom on Saturday whereas four terrorists were killed by the Security Forces during an Intelligence Based

Operation (IBO) conducted in general area Jani Khel, Bannu of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, an intense fire exchange took

place between own troops and terrorists during the conduct of the operation.

The Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. However, weapon and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terror-

ists who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens.

The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Muhammad Wasim (age 25 years,

resident of Khairpur) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat during intense exchange of fire.

The sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

# 47 govt, 15 private Bills sailed in NA during 2022: Speaker

## Agencies

ISLAMABAD: As many as 47 Government, 15 Private Bills were sailed through in the National Assembly from January to December 2022, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said on Saturday.

The Speaker said the National Assembly Secretariat has performed extraordinarily in the field of legislation in the year 2022 till date and 38 bills have become Acts of Parliament.

While in the year 2022, 25 resolutions were passed in the House on various issues. Apart from this, the National Assembly Secretariat received 3,751 questions from the members out of which 1,004 questions were answered.

In the year 2022, a total of 183 calling attention notices were received out of which 71 were tabled in the House and 43 were discussed.

In the year 2022, a total of 82 privilege motions were received out of which 45 were sent to the relevant committee. Furthermore, 124 motions

were received under Rule 259 of 2007 Rules and Procedures in the House out of which 32 were tabled in the House.

He said the prominent legislation done by National Assembly include Election Bill, Rahmatul Alameen Authority Bill, National Highway Safety Bill, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council Bill, Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, Export and Import of Pakistan Bill, National Accountability (Second Amendment) Bill, Pakistan Tobacco.

Bill, Anti-Dumping Duties Bill, Capital Development Authority Bill, Martyrdom Bill, Petroleum Bill, Foreign Investment and Local Government Elections Bill in Islamabad are included.

Apart from this, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, Standing Committees and Parliamentary Committees remained extraordinarily active for supporting the House to perform its legislative role.

These committee also remained active to enhance parliamentary oversight and to ensure accountability. The



committee also ensured to take up the issues of public importance as its chief priority.

He said the year 2022 would ever be remembered as it was the first time in the history of Parliament that the doors of national assembly were opened for three days to marginalized segment of the society like women, children, minorities and transgender to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the House.

The 1st ever parliamentary caucus on Children was also

formed due to special concern of the National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf.

Parliamentary diplomacy has been the chief hall mark to highlight the challenges of climate change as the House hosted Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) seminar to fight the case of climate justice for the country which culminated as the world adopted 'loss and damage fund' in COP-27. Furthermore, 2022 remains prominent year in the history of politics when record number

of legislation were enacted for the welfare of common people.

It was also the first time that social media of national assembly was made proactive to fill the space between people and their representatives.

The year 2022 has been the first year in the history of Pakistan when it has crossed important milestones as on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee celebration the doors of the parliament were opened for the first time for the public, in which women, children, and minorities, former and current members of Parliament participated.

He said that people belonging to the most downtrodden sections of the society were invited to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and were seated in the seats reserved for the members of Parliament.

These Diamond Jubilee celebrations were well praised by the public and it was a child's speech in Parliament which was viewed by 6 million people on Twitter and for the first time Parliament's Twitter account remained top trending.

# Sindh Governor, Farooq Sattar agree to work together for 'Karachi's progress'

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and former Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) convener Dr Farooq Sattar have agreed to move past all previous differences and progress forward on the political front for 'Karachi's progress'.

Talking to journalists after meeting Farooq Sattar at his residence, Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori said that his ultimate goal was to unite every faction Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) for prosperity of Karachi.

The Sindh Governor said they have developed a consensus in playing their role to fill the "political vacuum" in Karachi and urban Sindh, and move past any differences that they may have had in the past.

He regretted over the 'lack of facilities' available in Karachi, saying that the residents of the provincial capital were still facing water shortage, power shutdowns, street crimes and other problems.

"We have lost power due to our mistakes", Kamran Tessori said, pointing out that rights can only be obtained only through power. "Today, the youth of Karachi are

unemployed," he said, adding that due to unemployment and coercion, the youth are not even able to protest for their rights.

He noted that there were no differences in views of Farooq Sattar, PSP Chairman Mustafa Kamal and MQM Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. "They all want the development of Karachi", he added.

Taking over the presser, Farooq Sattar lauded Sindh Governor for his efforts to unite all MQM factions, vowing that they would work together in future for Karachi's progress.

He noted that the party leaders started splitting in 2016 and he parted ways in 2018. The former convener said all faction have the same ideology, adding that he was trying to unite the party for past two and a half years.

"We are not going to unite just for the election, our goal is bigger than that", he said, adding that they were uniting for all the oppressed people of Pakistan.

He also regretted over the rising street crimes in Karachi, noting that hundreds of youths have lost their lives in robberies. "It has now become necessary to unite all for the development of the city," he reiterated.

# Finance Minister chairs meeting on revenue performance of FBR



## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired a meeting on the revenue performance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman FBR, members of the Board of FBR and other senior officers from the Finance Division attended the meeting, said a press release.

Chairman FBR Asim Ahmad gave a detailed presentation on revenue targets and performance of FBR for the months of November and Decem-

ber 2022.

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

The Finance Minister expressed satisfaction and appreciated the FBR team for their efforts in meeting the targets. He further extended his full support to FBR in the performance of their duties for revenue collection.

Dar also stressed the FBR team to position themselves according to changes in the economic outlook and advised the FBR rank and file to increase their efforts to achieve the true tax potential in the country.

# EU Ban on PIA to be lifted soon: Spokesperson

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The ban imposed by the European Union on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight operations is anticipated to be lifted soon.

According to sources, an Audit team of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to do a remote online in which they will inspect all the various issues related to flight operation including flight safety and flight engineering.

The EASA team will carry out a safety audit of CAA and PIA prior to allowing flights from Pakistan to European countries, said sources.

# Bilawal Bhutto castigates Imran Khan for 'damaging' economy, democracy

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has lambasted former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for 'damaging' the country's economy and democracy, ARY News reported on Saturday.

Addressing the party's candidate for local government (LG) elections, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman said that sending the 'selected' packing was a victory for the 'die-hard' party workers.

"We took to streets against the 'selected' and his politics of hatred," Bilawal Bhutto said, adding that they traveled from Karachi to Islamabad and returned triumphantly after ousting Imran democratically.



He regretted that Imran Khan's politics of hatred has damaged the society, adding that the former premier destroyed the economy and brought the country close to default. He alleged that Imran Khan had released terrorists from jails.

"The accused responsi-

ble for the APS attack is now free and roaming abroad," he claimed, alleging that Imran Khan released terrorists and brought them to tribal areas. "Imran calls us imported but he himself imported the terrorists", he added.

Bilawal Bhutto further said that terrorism was Imran

Khan's biggest sin and he should be held accountable for it. "The PTI chief should be asked why terrorism returned to the country," the foreign minister added.

The foreign minister noted that whenever a free, fair and transparent elections would be held, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will be victorious.

He said the country was passing through a difficult period but the PPP would steer the country out of this phase. "We had saved Pakistan from economic and security disaster in the past, and we will again do it," he vowed.

Bilawal said that in his view, the strength of his party was politics of unity where people of various backgrounds and ethnicity were welcomed and treated with equality.

# CM Murad says no 'terrorist' can now shut down Karachi

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Murad Ali Shah has asserted that no 'terrorist' can now shut down Karachi, pointing out the law and order situation of city in 2008.

Addressing the candidates in local government (LG) elections, the Sindh chief minister noted that businesses were forced to close across the metropolis in 2008, regretting that it was ranked the sixth worst city in the world in terms of law and order.

"When Pakistan People's Party (PPP) came into power, it restored law and order in Karachi," CM Murad Ali Shah claimed.

He also criticised the previous federal government, claiming that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led (PTI) did not spend a single penny on the provincial capital. "They (PTI) had neglected the city," he said, lambasting the Imran Khan-led party for 'just making tall claims'.

CM Murad maintained that now no 'terrorist' can shut down Karachi, adding that the development and prosperity of the provincial capital was being carried out and the PPP would



change the city.

The Sindh chief minister also vows to curb the rising street crimes in the city, vowing that his party would never let down the citizens. "The right to rule the city belongs only to Pakistan People's Party (PPP)," he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that the new phase of the Sindh LG polls are scheduled on January 15 in Karachi Division after its postponement for six times.

The street crime data released by police showed deteriorated situation of law and order in Karachi with over 81,000 incidents in 2022.

ARY News obtained the street crime record of Karachi which stated that more than 81 incidents were

reported this year. 52,000 motorcycles were stolen and snatched, whereas, 26,400 citizens were deprived of mobile phones.

More than 2,000 vehicles were stolen and snatched. The data also uncovered the poor performance of the police department in curbing crimes and recovering stolen or snatched assets.

According to the report, only 4,000 stolen assets were recovered including 2,900 motorcycles, 600 cars and 530 mobile phones.

Chinese Company Gifts Stationary To Students In Balochistan Spokesman Report

BEIJING : As many as 571 students from Saindak Public Model High School, Nokkundi, Balochistan were gifted stationery including school-bags by MCC Resources Development Co. Ltd. (MRDL), a subsidiary of the China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC Group) recently.

The donation ceremony was presided over by Vice President of MRDL. On the occasion, Wang Jicheng, Chairman of MCC Tongsin Resources Ltd (MCCT), handed out the school bags to the students, encouraging them to

be future scientists, writers, entrepreneurs, and statesmen.

He pinpointed that the company would continue to support and promote the development of schools under the Saindak project and surrounding villages as always and provide a stage for all students to achieve their goals, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday.

With the support of MRDL, Saindak Public Model High School has now been transformed into the only senior school in the district.

Saeed Ahmed, Principal of the School, expressed his gratitude for the long-term care and support for local education from MRDL.

He hoped that in the future, the School would be built into a model school in Balochistan and even in Pakistan.

At present, all school-age children around the Saindak project can receive education in Saindak Public Model High School for free. MRDL has invested about 10 million Pakistani rupees in the cost of teaching materials and teachers' salaries for the maintenance and operation of these schools every year.

## Reference against estranged PTI MPA sent to ECP, says Musarat Jamshed Cheema



**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE : Spokesperson for the Punjab Government and Chief Minister Musarat Jamshed Cheema said on Saturday that Speaker provincial assembly Sibtain Khan has sent reference against estranged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPA Chaudhry Masood Ahmed to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

In a statement, she requested that the Election Commission to take action instead of accepting the petitions filed by the PTI.

Cheema further said that the future of turncoats is disqualification, adding that the masses will hold turncoats accountable in the forthcoming elections.

The spokesperson went on to say that those who bought the members of the assembly will not get anything.

She said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is united under the leadership of the chairman Imran Khan against the thieves, adding that those who have sold their conscience will not be taken back in the party under any circumstances.

## The uncertainty of the dollar is affecting import and export business

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: The President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Khurram Tariq, has expressed concern over the unusual difference between the official and market rate of the dollar and warned that it will completely stop the flow of foreign remittances. Will happen and new economic challenges will arise as a result. He said that unlike the official rate of 225 rupees, the dollar is being sold at 255 rupees in the market, due to which the LCs are not open for the purchase of industrial raw materials and as a result, the closing of industries is accelerating. Whereas, for the next few months, closure of industries, increase in unemployment and decrease of 1 billion dollars per month in exports are being predicted and this situation will be enough to bring Pakistan's weak economy to the brink of destruction.

He said that the difference between the public and private rates of the dollar is not only affecting the LC and import-export business, but the inflow of remittances sent by Pakistanis living abroad has also stopped completely. Sending their remittances through reference handi instead of official channel. He said that due to the difference between the official and market rates of the dollar, the volume of investments in the black market is increasing, while the exports will also be adversely affected in addition to the decrease in government revenue.

He said that instead of artificially stopping the value of the dollar, it should be left to market forces to prevent its black sale and smuggling to Afghanistan. He further said that immediate and realistic steps have to be taken to get the economy out of the current crisis.

## Election of District Press Club Wana completed,



**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: The annual elections of District Press Club Wana have been completed, according to which Mujeeb Rehman was elected president unopposed while Zardad Wazir was elected general secretary.

Aala Khan has been elected as Finance Secretary, Noor Ali Khan as Vice President, Zafar Khan as Senior Vice President, Qismatullah as Press Secretary and Meraj Khalid as Joint Secretary.

Adam Khan Wazir, chairman of the Constitutional Election Committee of District Press Club Wana, announced the results in the presence of the district administration and said,

## Annual election of press club

PESHAWAR: A journalist casts his ballot during annual election of press club in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# G20 countries should refrain from participating in any meeting in IIOJK: KGC

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Kashmir Global Council (KGC) has warned international community and G20 countries to avoid any meeting in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir on Indian EMA. Kashmir Global Council (KGC) has expressed deep concern and over India's inclusion of Jammu and Kashmir in the list of venues for the 2023 G20 summit.

KGC President Farooq Siddiqui said in a special statement that if Russia hosts G20 meetings in Crimea or Donetsk, it is likely that the US, Britain, France, Canada and other G20 members will boycott such meetings. Or at least register your protest. He asserted that the G20 members should act keeping in mind the real facts of the Jammu and Kashmir conflict and should avoid their presence in disputed Kashmir otherwise they risk setting a

worse example that will lead to regional tensions. The occupation and annexation should be justified.

Farooq Siddiqui said that it is noteworthy that the United Nations Human Rights Office released two reports on Jammu and Kashmir (in 2018 and 2019) which allege massive human rights violations by the Indian armed forces was documented. Additionally, the Indian government has denied travel access to Kashmir for foreign journalists, UNHRC officials, Red Cross for decades. India's move to host the G20 meetings in Kashmir is part of the Indian government's desire to normalize the situation in Kashmir despite the presence of over three-quarters of a million Indian armed forces in the region.

Farooq Siddiqui said that it would be absurd for Western countries whose foreign policy values are based on the fundamental principle of respect for

human rights worldwide to hold any meeting in an area where the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is in force. ) and strict laws such as public safety are in place. Act (PSA) is being used with impunity to stifle freedom of expression, and voice dissent, killing people with impunity without recourse to the justice system. The KGC president said that our organization welcomes the statement of the New Democratic Party (NDP) of Canada earlier last year calling on the Canadian government to boycott the G20 events in Kashmir.

The KGC asks all G20 members to express their objection to India holding a meeting in Kashmir on the grounds that the Kashmir issue has not been resolved in accordance with the UN Charter or the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

## Maulana Tariq Jamil out of hospital after heart attack

Renowned religious scholar and preacher Maulana Tariq Jamil has been discharged from the hospital as his health has improved remarkably, his son Yousaf Jamil said Saturday.

In a statement on the microblogging platform Twitter, Yousaf said that his father is now out of the hospital by the grace of Allah. "Thank you for your prayers and love," he wrote.

Earlier this week, Maulana Tariq suffered a heart attack in Canada after which he was hospitalised.

A tweet from the preacher's official Twitter handle, along with his smiling photograph, was shared in which he could be seen sitting on a hospital bed bundled up in a shawl and wearing a woollen cap on his head.

"By the grace of Allah and prayers of you friends, [my] health is a little better now. Will be discharged after staying under the care of doctors in the hospital for three more days," the tweet read, requesting more prayers.

# Gwadar Port has begun the import of 200,000 tons of urea fertilizer

**Spokesman Report**

GWADAR: This milestone project began just a few days before the end of 2022, and it appears to be a new step for 2023, Gwadar Pro reported it on Saturday. This will help Gwadar Port establish itself as a regional logistics hub. So far, the private sector has processed and transported all imported commodities from



**Trade Agreement.**

For the first time, Pakistan Trade Corporation (TCP) reached an agreement with China Overseas Port

**Holding Corporation (COPHC), the Chinese operator of Gwadar Port.**

The agreement now calls for the import of 200,000 tons of

urea fertilizer from Gwadar Port in stages. Gwadar Port began processing urea fertilizers after a bulk carrier named Ultra ESTERHAZY docked at Gwadar Port on December 29th with a consignment of 32,000 tons of urea. The total import will be completed in three phases. COPHC official told Gwadar Pro that "Shipping service provider (Makran Trader) and Ship clearing agent are both local.

This means Gwadar Port is providing business opportunities to the locals on a large

scale."

He stated that because Gwadar port has gained credibility in the private sector, TCP is importing 200,000 tons of urea and 450,000 tons of wheat through Gwadar Port. GPA sources revealed that Gwadar transshipment drive is picking up momentum. Gwadar Port recently processed a consignment of 8,000 tons of DAP fertilizers, which were then transported by road to Afghanistan, marking the first Afghanistan fertilizer shipment in 2022.

## Sukkur: Per Kg Flour Price Reaches Rs140



**Spokesman Report**

SUKKUR: Flour crisis has intensified in Sukkur, as the commodity is being sold at Rs140 per kg in the open market, ARY News reported on Saturday.

According to details, the prices of flour have skyrocketed in Sukkur. The price of flour in the open market has reached Rs140 per kg.

Meanwhile, a 10-kg bag of flour was being sold for Rs1,1300 in the local market, which was being sold at Rs900 few days earlier. Masses are finding it hard and facing difficulties in buying flour as their purchas-

ing power is already affected by the record-inflation.

Read more: Flour crisis intensifies in Punjab

On the other hand, the per kg flour price has reached Rs125 to 130 in Quetta, Balochistan.

The prices of flour touched sky-high in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan while the commodity was not available in most shops across the province.

The price of a 20-kg flour bag has reached Rs2,500. Meanwhile, a 50-kg bag of flour was being sold between Rs6,000 to 6,500 in the local market.

Islamabad  
15° – 23° Clear

## 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 &
& Rescue Services	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
Cantt 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

*Legendary Urdu writer: Maulana Altaf Hussain Hali remembered*

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pioneer of contemporary Urdu literature Maulana Altaf Hussain Hali was remembered here Saturday on 108th death anniversary in the literary circles.

He was simultaneously a poet, prose writer, critic, biographer and reformer of the nation, who felt the changing demands of life at the literary and social level.

Altaf Hussain Hali was born in Panipat, where he also received his early education. On coming to Delhi, he learnt Arabic and Persian and received support from two major poets, Ghalib and Shefta.

Hali paid serious attention to Mohammad Hussain Azad's call for the reforming Urdu poem and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's call for rationalism in social, political and educational matters of the Muslims in particular.

His notable works include Muqadda-ma-i-Sher-o-shairi, Madd-o-Jazar-e-Islam, Tiry-aac-e-Masnoon, Majaalis-u-Nisa, Tabaqaat-ul-Arz and biographies of Persian poet Sadi, Sir Syed and Ghalib.

Altaf Hussain Hali died in 1914. Pakistan Post issued a commemorative postage stamp in his honor on 23 March 1979 in its 'Pioneers of Freedom' series.

# Sherry Rehman hopes country to overcome crises in 2023

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Saturday in her new year's message expressed the hope that in 2023 the country would completely come out of the crises caused by the previous government.

In a statement issued here, the federal minister wished Happy New Year to everyone.

Sherry said the year 2022 was a very difficult year for Pakistan.

"Pakistan has been at the center of world attention due to historic floods and the worst effects of climate change.



A quarter of the country and more than 33 million people were affected due to rain and river floods," the minister said.

She added that more than 1,700 people died, houses, roads and infrastructure were severely damaged. Such devastation caused by the environmental crisis was unprecedented in recent history, the minister said.

Due to the previous incompetent and failed government, the coalition government had to take difficult and unpopular

economic decisions to save the country from default as soon as it came to power, Sherry Rehman said.

"Millions of our brothers and sisters are still living homeless in these winters. My message to people on the New Year is to support the flood affected people in their full recovery. Their complete restoration is a shared responsibility of all of us. We should all be hopeful for the year 2023," the minister said.

She concluded with her prayer, "We pray to Allah Almighty that the new year will be a year of stability, progress, prosperity and happiness for the country and the nation."

## Welcome 2023

ISLAMABAD: People enter in a shopping mall in the sign of welcome 2023 year in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

## Mushaal reminds UN of its unfulfilled promise to Kashmiris

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation Mushaal Hussein Mullick hailed Kashmir Institute of International Relations to the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres regarding Indian ploy to de-internationalise the Kashmir issue and added that India virtually turned the strife-torn valley into a military garrison where all basic rights of the people have been usurped.

Mushaal, a wife of Yasin Malik, in a statement on Saturday, said that Kashmir dispute was one of the oldest unresolved disputes pending on the UN agenda, as now even the fascist Indian government was questioning the role of United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOGIP) in the region.

She said that Kashmir Institute of International Relations



in its letter to UNGS rightly raised the point that India has since long trying to make UNMOGIP's presence in the region controversial saying that the mandate of the mission had lapsed since it related specially to the ceasefire line under the Karachi Agreement. Since 1972, India has adopted a non-recognition policy towards third parties in their bilateral exchanges with Pakistan over the question regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir, she

added. However, Mushaal stated that Kashmir dispute was constant source of tension between two nuclear countries Pakistan and India for the last over seven-decades, which resulted in multiple wars and conflicts over the years.

She alarmed that the hindutva regime continued state terrorism and unabated human rights violations could flare up another war between Pakistan and India,

which could not only endanger the regional peace but could also risk the world peace since both the countries were nuclear powers.

Mushaal reminded that the UN should honour its long-forgotten unfulfilled promise of holding plebiscite in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) so as Kashmiris could make decision about their own fate.

The Chairperson called upon the international community to take action on the well-documented human rights violations being committed with impunity by the Indian occupation forces against innocent Kashmiri men, women and children.

She said it was time for the world to ensure that the Kashmiris get their long-denied right to self-determination, which was the only viable and agreed solution to the decades-long dispute.

## 2022: The year Pakistan's entertainment industry marks a historic comeback



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: As 2022 is about to take its final bow, adding a fair share in the revival of the Pakistani entertainment industry while bringing audiences back to cinemas, Pakistani films got the cash registers ringing at the box office.

With back-to-back hit films smashing global records, Pakistani cinema staged a comeback in 2022 like never before which made Pakistan a pivotal part of global entertainment.

Starting with Bilal Lashari's directorial 'The Legends of Maula Jatt', the cinematic masterpiece became the highest-grossing Pakistani film of all time with a total of 2.38 billion worldwide collections.

Rewriting the history of Pakistani cinema, the film has been honored as the second-highest-earning film in the UK for the year 2022 as well as the most-watched South Asian film in Norway.

Adding to the list, Humayun Saeed starrer 'London Nahi Jaunga', a spin-off of the 2017 'Punjab Nahi Jaungi', became the second-highest-grossing Pakistani film and the third-highest-grossing Pakistani film of all time.

Versatile starlet Humayun Saeed, added another feather to his cap as he paved his way to Netflix's cult web series 'The Crown', portraying Dr Hasnat Ahmed Khan, a British-Pakistani heart surgeon.

Apart from the highest-grossing films, 2022 marked the international debut of top-notch Pakistani celebs such as Sajal Aly made her debut at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) with Jimima Goldsmith's film "What's love got to do with it" while Fawad Khan, Mehwish Hayat along with the veteran actress Samina Ahmed enchanted the international audience with their stellar performance in 'Ms Marvel'.

Last but not the least, A-list Pakistani star Atiqah Odho and TV anchor Tauseeq Haider are all set to debut their international acting career with the Turkish drama series "Koyu Beyaz".

## Islamabad Capital police devise elaborate security plan for New Year night



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital police have devised an elaborate plan for security on eve of "New Year Night" in the city and decided to ensure special deployment to maintain peace and tranquility, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, more than 3000 policemen would be deployed to ensure fool proof security and keep a vigilant eye during possible celebrations on New Year night.

The plan was finalized by the orders of the Inspector General of Police Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.

IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan issued directions to deploy police contingent at important places, shopping centers, and main markets for the safety of the public on the eve of New Year Night. He said that people should behave as civilized citizens and avoid any irresponsible activity on the occasion.

Following directions of IGP, all police officials would ensure special deployment in their respective areas including shopping centers and main markets for the safety of the public during the night. Police Commandos will be also deployed at different places apart from patrolling by police officials.

All zonal police officers have been directed to remain present in their respective areas to keep foolproof security arrangements in their area of responsibility while special traffic teams have been made to ensure smooth flow of traffic on the occasion. Traffic police officials will also coordinate with the operational police to maintain law and order and control traffic on the occasion, the IGP directed.

IGP Islamabad has appealed to the citizens to demonstrate responsibility in their attitude and behave like a member of civilized society.

He said that section 144 CrPC has been imposed for pillion riding on bikes by the administration while one-wheeler, aerial firing and fire-works would not be allowed in the city and every possible step would be taken to ensure protection to the lives and property of the citizens.

He further said that all the activities in the city would be monitored through Safe City and drone cameras. The CPO (Operations) would supervise all the security arrangements.

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is prime responsibility of the citizens and no laxity would be tolerated in this regard.

## The data of cases dealt in Islamabad High Court in the year 2022 has been released.

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD :Islamabad High Court (IHC) dealt with 11,271 cases in the year 2022.

According to details, the data of cases dealt in the Islamabad High Court from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 was released. The number of cases dealt in the Islamabad High Court in the year 2022 was 11,271.

The data released further showed that the number of pending cases in the Islamabad High Court was 17,054.

## MIH signs MOU with EO to ensure standard medical services to needy people

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Maroof International Hospital (MIH) and Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to make joint efforts to ensure the provision of quality healthcare services to the destitute people of the country.

The agreement was signed by CEO MIH Haroon Naseer and President of Entrepreneurs' Organization Hasan Y. Rizvi. On the occasion, both said that many deserving people need our support and we will provide them best medical assistance through a joint venture for humanity.

The CEO of Maroof Int'l Hospital Haroon Naseer said that the hospital has launched many projects from its trust to help deserving people, particularly in the health sector. He added this partnership will help further increase healthcare services for poor people in the country.

Haroon Naseer said, "I firmly believe that until health care is truly universal and easily accessible, our goal should never be anything other than the provi-



sion of top quality, professional service without discrimination."

"Our endeavor is to make Maroof International, one of the best private sector healthcare providers in order to give Pakistan's healthcare industry the much-needed development boost which is so desperately needed."

President of Entrepreneurs' Organization, Hasan Y. Rizvi said that their organization is a global, peer-to-peer network of business founders and build-

ers stretched across 70 countries with over 17,000 members who gain wisdom and support.

He said that members of EO develop and grow through meaningful relationships based on trust and respect. "We expand that growth and share it with partners by aligning with world-class organizations that share similar values."

He said that engaging media as a major partner is also part of this agreement to effectively run health awareness

drives in the country.

President of Entrepreneurs' Organization, Hasan Y. Rizvi said that their organization is a global, peer-to-peer network of business founders and builders stretched across 70 countries with over 17,000 members who gain wisdom and support.

He said that engaging media as a major partner is also part of this agreement to effectively run health awareness drives in the country.

President of Entrepreneurs' Organization, Hasan Y. Rizvi said that their organization is a global, peer-to-peer network of business founders and builders stretched across 70 countries with over 17,000 members who gain wisdom and support.

He said that members of EO develop and grow through meaningful relationships based on trust and respect. "We expand that growth and share it with partners by aligning with world-class organizations that share similar values."

He said that engaging media as a major partner is also part of this agreement to effectively run health awareness drives in the country.

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: spokemanislamabad@gmail.com  
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

## Safe city project of Islamabad

Under the leadership of Inspector General of Police Islamabad, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Safe City Islamabad is playing a key role in maintaining the law and order situation in the federal capital and against criminal elements.

According to the police public relations officer, more than 100 kilometers of optical cable including damaged cameras were repaired and made functional on a priority basis.

At the same time the process of installing 750 new cameras was also completed to further increase the efficiency of Safe City Islamabad in which 50 additional cameras equipped with artificial intelligence technology were installed for effective monitoring at entry and exit points.

Similarly, the installation of 20 additional cameras for reading vehicle number plates under the automatic system has also been completed. To further improve the communication system 14 out of 20 ELTV towers have been enabled.

Safe City also established a secure online portal for ongoing recruitment in Islamabad Capital Police to better coordinate all stages from online registration of candidate applications to tests.

Flashlight and radar system has been repaired and reactivated on roads while 48 CDA cameras installed at various locations to maintain law and order situation in Islamabad and further improve surveillance including metro-bus service were also connected with Safe City.

Furthermore, F-10, Shifa International Hospital, Jinnah Supermarket, DHA, various private institutions, shopping malls including toll plazas of National Highway including were also linked to the centralized system Safe City Islamabad.

Automatic tracking of vehicle number plates and a new system of auto-alert message on vehicle theft and loss has been introduced at Safe City while the e-challan system has been re-engineered and its performance has been further improved.

More than 9, 42,000 calls were received on the helpline of Islamabad Capital Police during this year in which more than 90 thousand calls were related to the police, 12 thousand were important calls while 98 percent of the total calls were unnecessary.

A complaint management system was launched which is fully operational and working efficiently. This system received more than 1, 36,000 citizen's complaints and more than 1, 32,000 complaints have been redressed while the rest of the applications are being processed on a priority basis. Around 507 hotels, guest houses and shelter homes in Islamabad are connected with the Safe City Hotel-Eye software in which the data of more than 81 thousand citizens have been registered. After the encryption of the registered data, 88 suspects have been locked up in different police stations.

Similarly, the Islamabad Capital Police Traffic Division ensured compliance with the law by taking indiscriminate actions against drivers who violated traffic laws in 2022. Traffic Wing issued 77,820 learner permits to the citizens for driving license while 82,739 licenses were renewed after their expiry. Similarly, 2183 lost licenses were re-issued and Islamabad Capital Police Traffic Division issued a total of 2586 professional licenses and 31,452 non-professional licenses this year. As many as 3484 issued licenses were converted, 37,522 new licenses were issued and 3788 license categories were upgraded.

## China-2023



Analysis  
Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Chinese President Xi Jinping will play a very significant role in both regional and international politics in 2023. He will focus on accomplishing his three top most targets that includes-Chinese Dream, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-GCC strategic partnership. Xi Jinping, who will assume charge for the third time in early 2023 as a Chinese President, performed well by presenting Chinese point of view on World's political and economic fronts and his effectiveness during his last two terms enable him to get a rare third term.

Mr. Xi will certainly expedite work on ideological vision short-handed as Chinese dream, which in other words means elements of nationalism, traditional Chinese ideology and economic expansionism. Since 2013, Xi Jinping has displayed vast ambitions. Truly ambitious leaders want to guide their people's dreams. After becoming party Chief Mr Xi promised his coun-

try a "Chinese Dream" which included building a moderately prosperous, strong and an orderly society, world-class armed forces, a cleaner environment and a return to the centre stage of world affairs. According to President Xi, "The Chinese Dream, a dream about peace, development, cooperation and win-win, is closely linked with the beautiful dreams of people in countries around the world." Xi Jinping's third term starting in 2023 will further support the China Dream. The Communist Party of China (CPC) conceived and codified the China Dream at the 19th Party Congress in 2017, at the conclusion of Xi's first term pledged to eliminate poverty by 2021; become a modernized country by 2030; a modernized military and global innovation leader by 2035; a developed economy by 2049; and a modernized great power and world-class military by 2050. The 20th Party Congress in October 2022 enshrined Xi Jinping's Mao-esque cult-of-personality leadership with a third term to consolidate full control over national security and accelerate China's self-reliance for economic security.

It is also attributed to the solidarity between the two sides in times of adversity. Against regional and international uncertainties as well as challenges such as the financial crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and major natu-

ral disasters, the two sides have come to each other's aid and navigated through the difficulties together.

In 2023, Xi Jinping will try to achieve targets of poverty reduction and advance the cause of national reunification with Taiwan. Moreover, Xi would work hard to common prosperity for all by reducing income gaps in China. Under the goal, Beijing has imposed regulations on the nation's lucrative sectors such as the IT and financial industries. Through the implementation of such economic policies, President Xi Jinping pledged to substantially grow the country's per capita gross domestic product. China has made "breakthroughs in some core technologies in key fields" with major successes in such areas as space development, supercomputers, quantum information and nuclear power technology.

Moreover, in 2023, China will mark the tenth anniversary of its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the multi-billion-dollar fund for roads, ports and other critical infrastructure around the world. Ahead of this anniversary, it is important to pause and reflect on the significance and trends of China's international finance on the global economy. Thus, implementing the BRI is part of a strategic "China Goes West" proposal to de-escalate head-on conflicts in maritime Asia

by intensifying connectivity on Eurasian land. The diverse BRI projects and messages demonstrate that China's solutions to these economic problems have been varied. However, data indicates the BRI strategy has been largely successful. For example, as of 2021, China signed (MOUs) with 140 countries and 32 international organizations, among them 46 are in Africa, 37 in Asia, 27 in Europe, 11 in North America, 11 in the Pacific and eight in Latin America. Additionally, in 2012, China's outbound foreign direct investment (FDI) was \$ 80 Billion plus, but in 2020, it was \$154 billion, ranked as the world's number one overseas investor. As the BRI approaches ten years of age, its integration with domestic priorities has become more systematic. Among the corridors, the land-based BRI is tightly connected to Xinjiang's development and western China's globalization. The sea-based BRI ties closely with the Greater Bay strategy surrounding Hong Kong and the maritime expansion of eastern China. Furthermore, China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are expanding their investment and operation in the green economy, digital infrastructure, construction industries and railways. To date, more than sixty countries accounting for two-thirds of the world's population—have signed on to projects or indicated an interest

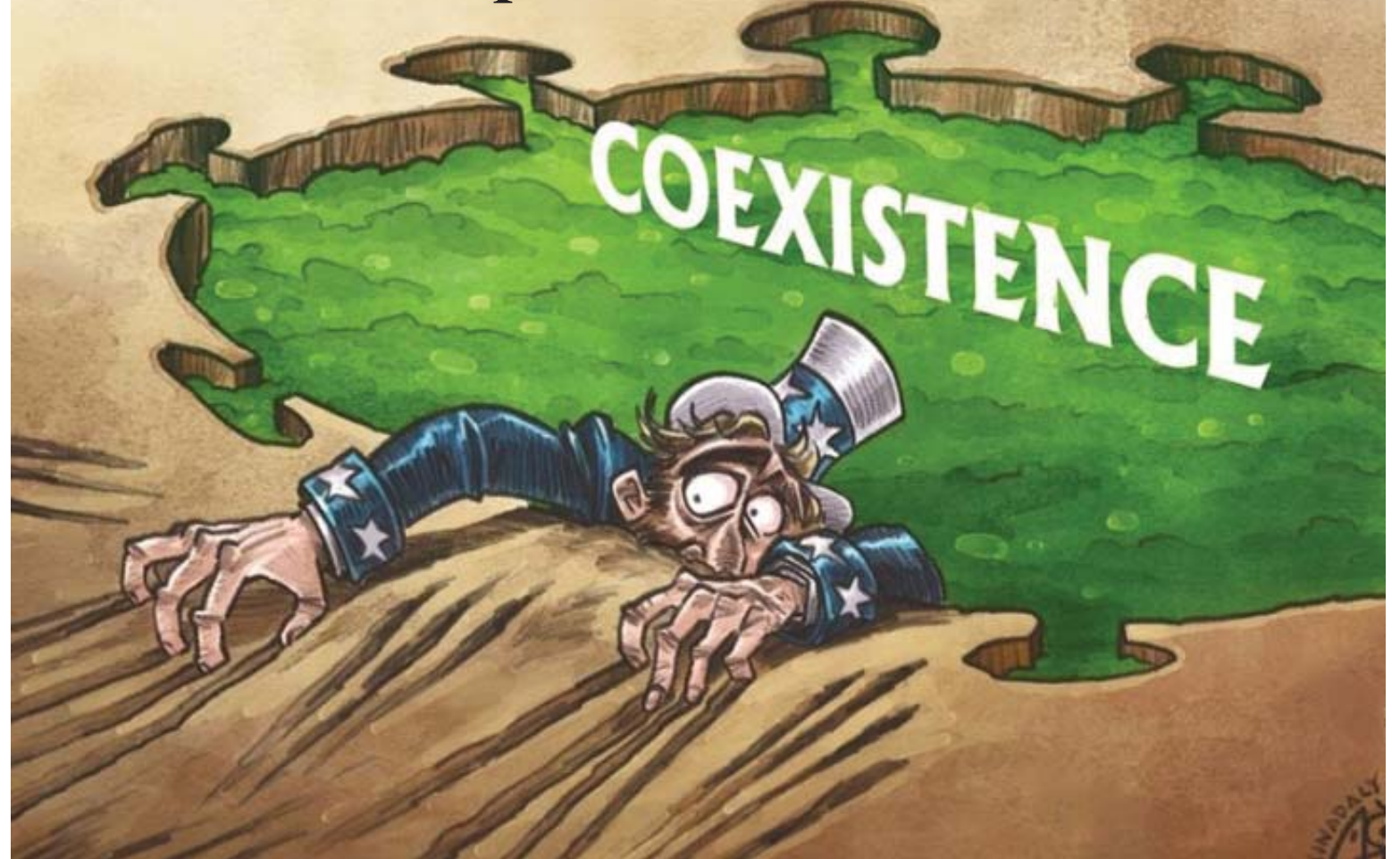
in doing so. Analysts estimate the largest so far to be the estimated \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a collection of projects connecting China to Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. In total, China has already spent an estimated \$200 billion on such efforts. China's overall expenses over the life of the BRI could reach \$1.2-1.3 trillion by 2027, though estimates on total investments vary.

Recently, President Xi Jinping, has met with more than 30 world leaders in the past three months. We see this as a purposeful attempt to "make up for lost time" during the pandemic, when Xi shunned in-person engagements over concerns tied to Covid-19. This came at a price. By contrast to China's relative isolation, a flurry in US diplomatic activity in 2021-22 and the Ukraine war have helped to strengthen consensus among Western (and some Asian) governments in regard to national security, technological competition and human-rights concerns pertaining to China.

Despite having some challenges from the US on international fronts, Beijing has committed to give no worth to such anti-China initiatives, but influencing World politics by launching pro-poor states mega projects with local support.

(The writer is media consultant his email syeed.gilani@gmail.com)

## Don't lie flat! The pandemic is not over!



## 'It's New Year: Renew your dictionary of life'

Iqra Rasheed Sial

So here we are, another year has passed and it's time to think about the future. Everybody will bid farewell to 2022, a year that gifted us our lives back. People resumed normalcy after two years of Covid restrictions, so celebrate this New Year and welcome 2023 with your family and friends. According to a study published in the Journal of Clinical Psychology, only 46% of people who made New Year's resolutions were successful. That means over half of the people who set a goal for the new year will fail! This year, as you begin the process of setting your goals, process of setting your goals, keep these points in mind to stay motivated throughout the year, re-examine your resolutions and move forward as the seasons change.

Start with "why": Last year I read "Start With Why by Simon Sinek" Although the purpose of this book has more to do with branding and marketing for business, I was inspired to apply this concept to fitness goal setting. The idea is that, along with writing down your specific goal, you write down why you want to achieve that goal. What is about that goal that is so important? So try to be concise and clear with your answers, and use them to write down how you will feel once your goal has been accomplished. Make sure your vision does not include other people in it, only you. That vision will motivate you throughout the year. If it fails to motivate you rethink your goal, re-examine

why you want to achieve your goal, and rewrite your vision of the future.

Goals should be Specific:

Articulate the resolution as clearly as possible. For example, quitting smoking is better than being healthy. While "being healthy" is great, the wording can be interpreted in many ways. Don't make goals arbitrarily. If you don't want your determination to wane, set goals that align with your values and have personal significance Marc Prosser, cofounder and publisher of Fit Small Business, has noticed that many people commit the error of making unrealistic goals so clear your vision of goal.

Stop try to "move up" or "add on" every week:

Pakistan was not built in a day.

We've established it will take time for your resolution to become a reality, and we know change is difficult, so if you fall off track, get back on track. Keep the following ideas in mind such as Skipping an intermediate task is not a complete failure, Missing a goal by 10% or even 80% is not a complete failure, Finishing a task late is not a complete failure. Setbacks can happen, but so long as they are handled correctly, they will not impact the big goal. The key is to avoid a defeatist attitude at all costs, i.e., "Well, I screwed up once, why should I even try to do this anymore."

Cut Back on Bad Influences:

While some friends and family want to help, others can hold you back, especially if your resolutions to cut back on a bad behavior means you can't participate in that behavior with them or they see you wanting to change as a rejection of the

way they live their lives. For example, if you are trying to quit smoking and getting ribbing from a group of people you usually smoke with at work, try this: "I really enjoyed our time outside, but I'm really sorry that I have to back off now because stopping smoking is so important to my health. Hanging out with the gang during the smoke sessions would be more than I could tolerate. Again: My regrets." If you clearly state what you're trying to do, and that person continually pushes back, it could be a sign that the relationship isn't a good one for you. This can often be an issue in a relationship where one partner continues with a destructive habit when the other is trying to quit. "You really need to ask yourself whether this is a red flag about something in a relationship that can be very dangerous for you that you want to be prepared for in advance,"

Practice mindfulness:

Anxiety can nag at anyone during any season, in all parts of life and it can be easy to let the idea of the future or past experiences inform your reality of the present. Practicing mindfulness means doing everything you can to be grateful for what you have in the moment, where you are in life, and who you are right now psychological experts say committing to mindfulness can help you become a better person in less than a year's time.

So its NEW YEAR and the best time to renew your dictionary of life: remove words like jealousy, hate, revenge and greed from your heart and put words like love, care, compassion and satisfaction in their place. This will ensure that you have great and guilt free year ahead.

Happy New Year 2023.

## Floods push economic growth below budgeted target: Economic Outlook

ISLAMABAD: The economic growth for the fiscal year 2022-23 is likely to remain below the budgeted target due to devastation created by floods, finance ministry said in a recent report released here Friday.

"This combination of low growth, high inflation and low levels of official reserves is particularly challenging for policy makers," says the Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for December 2022.

It says, as in many other countries, Pakistan's economic activity remained currently below potential, implying a negative output gap. At the same time, again as in many other countries, inflation remained substantially above targets.

Furthermore, as is also the case in several other emerging economies, the global energy crises, which has pushed up global commodity prices, also puts downward pressure on international official reserves.

According to the report, in the short run, demand management policies by Pakistan's central bank and government were designed to fight inflation and protect official reserves and protect inclusive growth.

During first five months of FY2023, Pakistan's economy showed signs of resilience to domestic and global challenges. Despite facing inflationary pressures, trade and current account deficits are continuously showing improvement, which is a sign of relief for financing challenges.

On fiscal front, fiscal consolidation is topmost priority to achieve targeted fiscal deficit despite government is facing the unprecedented challenge of providing relief to people in flood-hit areas.

But in the long run, the government aims to stimulate the supply side to elevate the long run potential growth rate of the economy.

Increasing the long run growth trends of output, per capita real incomes and employment can only be achieved by stimulating investments in new production capacities and improving overall productivity.

According to the report, the inflationary pressure has started easing out as the Month-on-Month (MoM) Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation declined from massive high of 4.7 percent in October 2022 to 0.8 percent in November.

The same trend is witnessed in Sensitive Price Indica-

tor (SPI) which decelerated for three consecutive weeks in December that would also be transmitted into CPI inflation of the current month.

Moreover, the recent government's decision to provide relief to the masses by slashing the prices of petroleum products is expected to translate into lower cost of food and non food for general public.

SBP has announced the increase of 100 bps in policy rate in order to curtail the inflationary expectation while the declining international commodity prices are expected to offset the inflation spikes that emerged due to domestic supply shocks.

On agriculture productivity, the report says, standing water due to recent floods may create problem in achieving the assigned wheat sowing target, however, the federal and provincial governments are working hard and committed to enhance wheat productivity. The Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) output came in somewhat lower than expected on the basis of a baseline scenario.

Floods push economic growth below budgeted target: Economic Outlook

It says, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reached \$ 430.1 million during July-November FY2023 against \$ 884.9 million last year, showing decrease of 51.4 percent. On MOM basis, FDI was recorded at \$ 81.8 million in November 2022 as against inflow of \$ 94.9 million in October 2022.

The net FBR revenues increased by 9.2 percent to Rs 1317 billion during Jul-Oct FY2023 against Rs 1205 billion last year. Tax collection grew by 16.8 percent to reach Rs 2139 billion in the first four months of FY2023 up from Rs.1830 billion in the comparable period of last year.

In Jul-Nov FY2023, workers' remittances recorded at \$ 12.0 billion against \$ 13.3 billion last year, a decrease of 9.6 percent.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign exchange reserves increased to \$ 12.0 billion on December 21, 2022, with the SBP's reserves stood at \$ 6.1 billion. Commercial banks' reserves remained at \$ 5.9 billion

The KSE-100 index closed at 42,349 points as on 30 November 2022 while market capitalization settled at Rs 6,768 billion. APP

## Good Bye 2022 as Pakistan and the World Rings in 2023 with New Hopes

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan and rest of the world rang in the New Year 2023 with new hopes, wishes and ambitions, bidding farewell to a turbulent 12 months marked by the war in Ukraine, economic stresses and the effects of global warming.

According to details, people in all major cities of Pakistan prayed that 2023 will usher the country into a new era of prosperity and peace. Security measures were beefed up as a large number of citizens took to streets to celebrate this occasion.

The Pacific nation of Kiribati was the first to welcome in

the new year, followed by New Zealand an hour later.

Sydney was also among the first major cities to ring in 2023, restating its claim as the "New Year's Eve capital of the world" after two years of lockdowns and coronavirus-muted festivities.

Australia's borders have reopened and throngs of revelers gathered along Sydney's sparkling harbour to watch 100,000 pyrotechnics light up the southern sky.

A crowd that had been projected to surpass one million watched as a spectacular 12-minute display showed the waterway and illuminated the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



## Moral, historical rightness is on our side', Putin says on New Year's eve

News Desk

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said in his New Year's address Saturday that "moral, historical rightness" is on Russia's side as his country faces international condemnation for its offensive in Ukraine.

As Russian regions in the Far East rung in the New Year, the Russian leader delivered his traditional midnight address standing among soldiers who fought in Ukraine, according to Russian news agencies.

Putin said in remarks carried by news agencies that this year was marked by "truly pivotal, fateful events" which became "the frontier that lays the foundation for our common future, for our true independence."

"Today we are fighting for this, protecting our people in our own historical territories, in the new constituent entities of the Russian Federation," he added, referring to Ukrainian regions that Russia claimed to have annexed.

"Moral, historical rightness is on our side," he said.

The Russian leader also said that "a real sanctions war was declared on us" after the world's top democracies slapped Moscow with a barrage of sanc-



tions in response to military action in Ukraine.

"Those who started it expected the total destruction of our industry, finances, transport. That didn't happen," he added.

According to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, Putin delivered his New Year's speech from the headquarters of Russia's southern military district, where he was on a visit earlier on Saturday and presented awards to servicemen.

Among the recipients of the awards was Russia's commander in Ukraine, General Sergei Surovkin, Russian news agencies said.

Footage shown on Russian state TV showed Putin raising a glass of champagne with soldiers — both men and women — dressed in military uniform.

"Russia was driven to the point of either surrendering everything or fighting. A long as we have people like you... of course nothing can be given up," Putin told them.

## UK to extend its energy price support scheme

Spokesman Report

UK: The UK will extend its Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) for non-domestic customers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the country's department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy said in a statement on Thursday.

The scheme will provide a discount on gas and electricity unit prices for non-domestic customers like businesses, voluntary sector organizations such as charities, and public sector organizations such as schools, hospitals and care homes.

The government will also provide a fixed payment of 150 pounds (\$180) to all non-domestic consumers that are not on the gas grid or use alternative fuels, with "top-up" payments for large users of heating oil based on usage.

The extension of the energy price support scheme comes at a time when energy-intensive businesses in the country are struggling with the soaring cost of power.



## NDTV founders resign from board after Adani takes control

Web Desk

NEW DELHI : India's New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) said on Friday its founders Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy had resigned as directors after billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate took majority control of the media company.

Along with the Roys, four other independent directors also resigned, effective Dec. 30, NDTV said in a statement.

Adani Enterprises Ltd (ADEL.NS), through subsidiaries RRRP Holding and Vishvapradhan Commercial, now owns 64.72% of NDTV, which runs three national channels.

The Roys will continue to hold a 2.5% stake each in NDTV, according to the statement.

"I am resigning owing to the change in ownership of the Company. There are no other material reasons for my resignation," Prannoy Roy, one of India's best-known journalists, said in his letter to the company resigning as executive co-chairperson.

The acquisition of NDTV by Gautam Adani, the world's third-richest person, will pit him directly against fellow Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani who has also expanded his media empire.

"The Adani Group is privileged to further bolster NDTV with world-class infrastructure and talent and transform NDTV into a thriving multi-platform global news organisation," Adani said in a separate statement.

Adani Group would "strengthen and invest in the NDTV newsroom to be a multi-faceted multi-media digital platform", the statement added.

## A woman was duped into paying Rs 20 lacs by a Facebook friend

Web Desk

AMRITSAR: The incident occurred in India's Punjab state where a woman in Amritsar has been tricked into paying Rs 20 lac by a male "friend" on Facebook.

The accused and Manpreet Kaur became friends on Facebook a few months back. He also assured the woman that he would soon come to India to meet her.

Manpreet was informed by the man that he had sent her a gift from the UK that she needed to collect from Customs by paying Rs 20 lacs. Later, on the pretence of getting the gift released from Customs, the accused deceived the woman into paying the aforementioned sum.

The police have registered a case, and an investigation into the matter is underway.

## North Korea fires 3 ballistic missiles after unprecedented year of tests



Spokesman Report

SEOUL: North Korea fired three ballistic missiles toward the sea east of the Korean Peninsula on Saturday, the South Korean military said.

The launches were the latest in an unprecedented number of missile tests conducted by North Korea this year, as Pyongyang presses on with weapons development amid speculation it could test a nuclear weapon for a seventh time.

The three short-range ballistic missiles were fired from around 8 am local time (2300 GMT) from North Hwanghae Province, south of the capital Pyongyang, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

All three flew at an altitude of around 100 km (62 miles) and covered a range of around 350 km (217 miles), Japan's defence ministry said. South Korean military also said the missiles flew about 350 km.

"North Korea's ballistic missile launch is a grave provocation that undermines peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula as well as the international community," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, condemning it as a clear violation of the U.N. Security Council resolution and urging it to stop immediately.

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the latest launches did not pose an immediate threat to U.S. personnel or territory, or to Washington's allies, but they highlighted the destabilising impact of North Korea's weapons programme.

The launches came a day after South Korea's defence ministry announced it had successfully conducted a test flight of a solid-propellant space launch vehicle.

On Monday, five North Korean drones crossed into South Korea, prompting the South's military to scramble fighter jets and attack helicopters to try to shoot them down, in the first such intrusion since 2017.

Relations between North Korea and U.S.-ally South Korea have grown more tense since South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's conservative government took over in May, promising a tougher stance toward the North. Not counting Saturday's launches, North Korea has fired around 70 ballistic missiles this year, Yonhap news agency said, including about eight intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM).

## Palestine rejects annexationist, violent to ethnic cleansing policy guidelines of Israel's new govt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine rejects the annexationist, violent, racist, and incitement to ethnic cleansing policy guidelines of Israel's new government. The State of Palestine considers this agenda an existential threat to the Palestinian people and their inalienable and inviolable rights. This coalition of avowed racists and rejectionists have openly and unapologetically adopted an agenda of colonial expansion, racial discrimination, and apartheid thus demonstrating their complete disdain towards the international community, international law, United



Nations resolutions, and the international consensus for peace.

In light of the Israeli government's audacious clear and objectionable agenda, the international community must carry out its responsibilities and reject

any dealings with a government committed to carrying out international crimes, including annexation, political persecution, and racial discrimination. States must not give credence or legitimacy to this government's deplorable platform,

which embodies the antithesis of the values and political principles the international law-based order and principles of self-determination, territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence.

International peace and security are under attack, requiring quick and unequivocal international mobilization at the bilateral and multilateral levels, including the Security Council. Of immediate urgency, the international community must ensure the protection of the Palestinian people from Israel's ongoing campaign of dispossession and displacement, colonization and annexation, ethnic cleansing and persecu-

tion. States that have long used their political clout to shield Israel from any accountability and ensure its exceptional treatment as a state above the law must also cease this irresponsible policy of direct and indirect complicity in Israeli crimes.

The Palestinian people will not relent in their rightful quest for freedom and self-determination. The Palestinian people will not be deterred or dissuaded from attaining their rights by such criminal policies and conduct of the colonizer. The attainment of our inalienable human rights, including our legitimate right to exist and live in our homeland is non-negotiable.

## Bolsonaro leaves Brazil with two days left in his mandate

Web Desk

BRASILIA: Brazil's outgoing President Jair Bolsonaro, who has not acknowledged his electoral defeat, left the country Friday, two days before his successor's inauguration and shortly after bidding his followers a tearful farewell.

The controversial far-right leader left for Florida in the United States on an air force plane around 2:00 pm (1700 GMT), according to several news outlets.

"I am flying, I'll be back soon," CNN Brazil reported Bolsonaro as saying.

His plane landed in Orlando shortly after 9:00 pm (0200 GMT Saturday), according to the aviation tracking website FlightAware.

This means he will miss Sunday's swearing-in ceremony

and will not transfer the presidential sash to leftist president-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, as is the tradition.

Bolsonaro is technically president for two more days.

His vice president, Hamilton Mourao, is now acting president and will give a national address on Saturday, according to the RNR public broadcaster.

The presidency did not respond to AFP questions on the timing and purpose of Bolsonaro's trip.

Earlier Friday, Bolsonaro assured supporters in a live broadcast on social media that "we will not see the world end on January 1" when Lula takes up the presidential mantle.

"We have a great future ahead," the outgoing president declared, adding: "Battles are lost, but we

will not lose the war."

It was Bolsonaro's first live address since his narrow October defeat, after which the active social media user fell uncharacteristically silent.

**Unprecedented security**  
Lula had won the election with 50.9 percent of the vote to Bolsonaro's 49.1 percent.

His inauguration would be the first since 1985 without the outgoing president transferring the presidential sash to his successor.

That year, the last president of the military dictatorship, General Joao Batista Figueiredo, snubbed the inauguration of Jose Sarney, according to reports from the time by the O Globo newspaper.

Addressing hundreds of followers who continue to protest outside military installations in

Brasilia and other cities demanding the army intervene to stop Lula's ascension, Bolsonaro said he had given his best.

"I never expected to get here," he said, in tears.

"At least, we delayed by four years Brazil's collapse into this nefarious ideology, which is the left... Say the best of me," added Bolsonaro, who according to a majority of analysts leaves behind a poor record that includes environmental destruction and Covid-19 chaos.

According to Friday's government gazette, the presidency had authorized a delegation to travel with Bolsonaro to Miami from January 1 to 30 to provide "security and personal support."

The outgoing leader spoke for the first time Friday about a failed bomb attack in Brasilia a week



ago by a man who said he was a Bolsonaro supporter seeking to sow "chaos" ahead of the inauguration and "prevent the establishment of communism in Brazil"

under Lula. "Nothing justifies this attempt at terrorism," Bolsonaro said.

The failed attempt with explosives placed in a fuel truck, as well

as acts of vandalism carried out by other Bolsonaro fans, prompted the authorities to deploy an unprecedented security contingent for Sunday's swearing-in.

*The National Press Club celebrates the first anniversary of Pakistan's first Plastic Road*

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Press Club held an event on 28th December commemorating the first anniversary of Pakistan's first plastic road.

The event was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis, Sardar Saleem Haider, President of the National Press Club, Anwar Raza, Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counselor Embassy of Turkey, Barira Hanif, Head Office of Sustainability NUST alongside Director of Public Affairs and Sustainability at Coca-Cola Pakistan, Aisha Sarwari.

In December 2021, Coca-Cola Pakistan with partners, Capital Development Authority (CDA) and National Incubation Center (NIC), inaugurated Pakistan's first plastic road in Islamabad. The one-kilometer road on Ataturk Avenue, Islamabad, utilized over ten tons of PET plastic waste, providing a practical and scalable solution.

This project is the first of its kind in the country and uses local research and technology to ensure that the solution is compatible with the local environment. The road is cost effective and twice as durable than one without plastic. One year on, the road has proven to be repair and damage free enabling the partners to now scale the solution across the nation.

Speaking at the event, Sardar Saleem Haider said "Since Pakistan is vulnerable to climate change, public-private partnerships are essential to ensure collaborative and sustainable impact. Pakistan's first plastic road stands as a blueprint of excellence on innovation and I commend The Coca-Cola Company, the Capital Development Authority and the National Incubation Centre."

The President of the National Press Club Anwar Raza also pointed out that the plastic road has greater potential for reversing environmental degradation.

"We see Pakistan's first plastic road as an opportunity to help rural development, urban housing societies and national highways to start laying the foundation of reuse. The World Without Waste agenda at Coca-Cola is part of a global pledge we took to work on projects with long term benefit, aligned with local government priorities" said Director of Public Affairs and Sustainability at Coca-Cola Pakistan, Aisha Sarwari.

The event culminated with government associates and private sector partners inaugurating the new press club facilities, contributed by Coca-Cola, to help support and ease journalist communication.

*OGRA slashes LPG price by Rs 136.86 per 11.8-kg cylinder*



ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Friday issued a price-revision notification of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for January, decreasing the commodity price by Rs 136.86 per 11.8-kilogram cylinder.

According to the notification, the LPG price has been reduced by Rs 11.59 per kilogram.

After the revised price, the LPG cylinder would be sold in the open market at Rs 2,411.43 in January, which was available at Rs 2548.29 in December.

Whereas, the per metric ton (MT) LPG rate has been fixed at Rs 204,358.51 for January. The commodity sale price per MT was Rs 215,956.45 in December.

The new price will be effective from January 1, 2023.

Meanwhile, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Industries Association (LPGIA) appreciated the coalition government for the remarkable reduction in the LPG price during the peak winter season as the initiative would help provide the common man with cheap fuel, especially in remote areas of the country.

LPGIA Chairman Irfan Khokhar said the current government believed in giving maximum relief to the masses and suggested that the LPG price could be further brought down with certain corrective measures.

He suggested increasing LPG's local production and restarting Asia's biggest plant, operated under Jamshoro Joint Venture Limited (JJVL), which was closed for the last two years.

He claimed that the association could provide LPG to consumers across the country at a reduced rate if the LPG industry was given incentives at par with the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector.

**Prices of petroleum products to remain unchanged**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar here on Saturday said that the government has decided to keep the existing prices of petroleum products unchanged for next 15 days to facilitate the masses in the country, particularly to provide relief to lower-income people during intense winters.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that these prices would be applicable from January 1, 2023 and would remain in force for next 15 days to January 15, 2023.

He said that the decision for keeping the existing prices of petroleum products unchanged in local market was taken under the special direc-



tives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to provide relief to common man, particularly the lower income groups and ensure provision of fuel at household level on affordable prices to meet the winter requirements.

The price of diesel will remain unchanged at current level and it would be available on existing price of Rs227.80 per liter, petrol Rs214.80 per liter, kerosene oil Rs171.83 per liter and light diesel oil at Rs169.00 per liter, he added.

Due to movements of petroleum prices in the international markets, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has recommended Rs 8.76 per liter increase in kerosene oil and Rs 7.73 per liter of light diesel oil, however, the government has decided against to keep the existing prices of other oil products unchanged.

**USC to provide essential commodities on subsidized rates**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) under Prime Minister Relief Package would provide subsidized essential food items from January 1, 2023 across the country through its country-wide network to provide maximum relief to common man.

A press release issued by the corporation on Saturday reaffirmed its resolve to facilitate the nation in providing more efficient and transparent subsidies to the people under the Prime Minister Relief Package to reduce their hardships and provide them maximum relief.

Keeping in mind the difficulties and problems faced by the people, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has announced to provide targeted subsidies on basic food items through Utility Stores Corporation. These items include flour, sugar, ghee, rice, and pulses.

The subsidy will be available from the 1st of January 2023 and consumers who are



enrolled in the Benazir Income support Program (BISP) and whose poverty index score is equal to or below PMT-32 will be provided the special targeted subsidies on food items including flour, rice, pulses, sugar and ghee.

For the registered consumers with BISP, the flour will be available at Rs 400 per 10 kg bag, ghee Rs300 per kg and sugar for Rs 70 per kg, Rs15 to Rs20 will be saved on rice and pulses per kg, however, the monthly purchase limit for the consumers also fixed.

According to the purchase limits, a consumer could able to purchase 40 kg of flour, 5 kg sugar and 5 kg of ghee monthly, besides, all other consumers of Utility Stores Corporation will also be provided subsidies on these five food items under the Prime Minister Relief Package.

For the other consumers, flour will be provided at Rs648 per 10 kg bag, ghee Rs375 per kg and sugar at Rs 89 per kg,

where as Rs 15 to 20 per kg discount on the purchase of pulses and rice will also be provided to consumers other than registered with BISP.

The monthly purchase limit for these consumers is also set according to which they can buy 20 kg of flour, 3 kg of sugar, and 3 kg of ghee.

For the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the flour will be provided for Rs 400 per 10 kg bag at all the sales points and mobile stores established on the instruction of the prime minister.

The USC has asked its all consumers and customers to SMS their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) numbers from their mobile phones to 5566 and they will receive a one-time password (OTP) after which they can avail subsidy and can purchase items.

This OTP is applicable at all Utility Stores and this new system will facilitate the consumers in buying the subsidized items in a very transparent manner and will also save their time.

**Shoe manufacturing industry has a great potential to grow in Pakistan: RCCI**



News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has said that the shoe manufacturing industry has a great potential, the government should pay attention to this sector and provide incentives.

"Footwear contributes less than one percent to Pakistan's global exports. Despite the low contribution to the international footwear market, Pakistan is the seventh largest producer of footwear, manufacturing more than 2.0 percent of all footwear produced worldwide.

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony of catwalk shows at a local hotel, RCCI President Saqib Rafiq said that the platform of the chamber is available to bring local brands forward.

The government should focus on this sector and give incentives like other sectors. Shoe manufacturing is a major part of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), he added. He informed that Pakistan exports footwear to more than 60 countries in five continents of the world. Pakistan's exports of footwear have registered a high rate of growth in the recent past.

The Chamber has always demanded that the services sector should be developed to increase exports. He further added that the government should focus on sectors that require minimum infrastructure and investment. Motorcycles, mobile phones, and other prizes were distributed in the ceremony. Vice President Faisal Shehzad, Anjuman Tajran Punjab President Shahid Ghafoor Pracha, Executive Member Muhammad Akram, representatives and members of Shoes Market Association were also present in the ceremony.

**Cattle show**

KARACHI: People are looking cattle during Dalfa cattle show at Expo Center in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

**PIAF for practical steps to win investors' confidence as FDI plunges 47% in 1Q**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Raising grave concern over the falling trend of foreign direct investment the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) on Saturday said that the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Pakistan has plunged by 47 percent to \$253 million during the first quarter (1Q) of the current fiscal year, indicating that the government has failed to win the confidence of foreign investors due to continued rupee depreciation and uncertainty.

PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor Ch, observed that the inflows under the FDI recorded 31.7 percent decline to \$395 million during the quarter under review as compared with \$579 million in the same quarter of the last year.

Quoting the data, Faheem ur Rehman Saigol said that the total foreign private investment into the country fell by 36.3 percent to \$241.3 million during the quarter under review when compared with \$379



million in the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal year. The portfolio investment in the capital market registered massive decline in outflow during the quarter under review. The outflow of portfolio investment recorded \$12.1 million during the first quarter of the current fiscal year as compared with the outflow of \$100.5 million in the same quarter of the last year.

The foreign public investment under the head of debt securities recorded an outflow of \$18.2 million during the first quarter of the fiscal year 2022/2023 as compare with inflow of \$980 million in the same quarter of the last fiscal year. The total foreign investment including private and public recorded a decline of 83.6 per cent to \$223 million during the first quarter of the current fiscal year as compared with \$1.36 billion in the same quarter of the last fiscal year.

The PIAF Chairman said that China has been the leading investor in Pakistan for few years and was a major contributor to the increase in the size of FDI. However, the new fiscal FY23 may drag down the inflows from elsewhere due to slowdown of economies in the developed countries, he warned. He said that Pakistan has remained a potential market for foreign investors, who still have plans to make fresh investment in the country, but they have continued to wait for the return of economic stability. He highlighted uncertainty in the rupee-dollar parity as one of the major concerns of foreign investors.

**TikTok celebrates #YearOnTikTok with its first Creator Awards in Pakistan**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: TikTok marked the end of the year with a celebration of community, creativity, and self-expression at its Year on TikTok 2022 event, which was an immersive spectacle held in Lahore. The event was an immersive real-life spectacle, where TikTok celebrated its Pakistani creator community, top videos and trends of the year with the end of year Creator Awards and exciting performances.

TikTok is a place where creators share their talents, creativity, and interests with their community and help create cultural movements and raise awareness around societal issues on the platform. TikTok celebrated some of the most inspiring creators with the TikTok Creator Awards, where winners were announced across 11 categories, including entertainment, lifestyle and sports, as well as the award for the Top Creator of the year. These creators were awarded for their ability to engage with their audiences and create cultural movements that started on TikTok before moving to the physical world, creating a real-world impact.

As the home for entertainment, guests at the #YearOnTikTok event were treated to performances by content creators Tahir Abbas, Hareem Rashid, and Daaniya Kanwal, who used the power of TikTok to make a name for themselves with their talent. The grand finale of the event was a magical performance by music heartthrob Abdul Hannan, whose songs have been some of the most popular tracks of the year on TikTok in Pakistan.

Tarek Abdalla Regional General Manager at TikTok Middle East, Türkiye, Africa, Pakistan and South Asia, said, "We are filled with pride as we celebrate our community who have been a driving force behind some of the exciting trends of 2022. From sharing innovative ideas to turning their passions into successful careers, the members of our community have shown incredible resilience and creativity."

**The winners:**

- Top Technology Creator-Talha Malik (talha\_reviews)
- Top Health Creator-Danial Ahmed (danial.ahmed8)
- Most Viewed Educational Video-Syed Aun (syedaun14)
- Top Food Creator-Chef Rizwan Chaudhary (babafoodsrrc)
- Top Beauty Creator-Humna Zahid (samosiii)
- Top Travel Creator-Skardu Valley (skarduvalley)
- Top Gamer-Shehzada Shahab (drtabzzyt)
- Top Sports Creator-Muneeb ur Raheem (s3baller)
- Top Entertainer-Fizza Muneeb (Fizzamuneeb1)
- People's Choice Award-Zulqarnain Sikander (Zulqarnain)
- Top Creator of 2022-Zunaira Mahi (zunaira.mahi)

# 20-K Cup T20 cricket tournament from January 5

## News Desk

LAHORE: 20-K Cup T20 cricket tournament will roll into action here from January 5 at five different grounds. For years, this event was played under the title of Col (ret'd) Fateh Sher Khan Memorial T20 Cup but this year it has been given a new title, said Nabeel Ahmad, patron and sponsor of the competition while talking to media on Saturday.

He said being a former cricketer he has special passion for the game and that's why he always sponsors this cricket event to play his role in the development of cricket at early level and to contribute in the overall development of the game in Pakistan while living in America.

Nabeel, a Pakistani American and former chief executive officer (CEO) of the United States Of America Cricket Association said his late beloved father, Col Fateh Sher Khan rendered meri-

torious services for his motherland. He said altogether 20 teams will showcase their talent in the event which aims at promoting cricket at grass-roots level and to revive the club cricket.

"The competition carries a total cash prize of rupees over one million



with winner pocketing Rs. 500,000 and runners up walking away with Rs. 250,000," he added.

The other cash awards are MOM 3000, Best Bowler 25,000, Best Batsman 25,000, MOM semi final 10,000, MOM Final 20,000

Most Sixes 20,000

The participating teams are, Ali Garh cricket Club, Apollo Cricket Club, City Gymkhana Cricket Club, Cricket Centre Club, Golden Star Cricket Club, Ludhiana Gymkhana Cricket Club, Lucky Star Cricket Club, Model Town Cricket Club, Model Town Greens

Cricket Club and Yu Slim Cricket Club. The opening match will be played between Model town greens and Pindi Gymkhana at Model town greens ground.

He said all the participating teams will be given colourful playing kits and Model Town Green Cricket Club is organizing the tournament.

"There is a dire need to organise high quality club tournaments around the year to expose the aspiring cricketers to competitive cricket and to find new talent", said Nabeel.

The venues of the tournament are Model Town Greens Cricket Club, Model Town Cricket Club, Pindi Gymkhana Cricket Club, Ali Garh Cricket Club and Cricket Center Club.

Pakistan Cricket Board's affiliated umpires, match referees and scores will officiate in the matches.

All the matches will be shown live on different social media platforms.

Cricket Club, Model Town Whites Cricket Club, PakLions Cricket Club, Pindi Gymkhana Cricket Club, Prince Cricket Club, P & T Cricket Club, Shah Faisal Cricket Club, Shah Kamal Cricket Club, Shinning Cricket Club, Township Whites cricket Club, Valencia

Cricket Club and Yu Slim Cricket Club.

The opening match will be played between Model town greens and Pindi Gymkhana at Model town greens ground.

He said all the participating teams will be given colourful playing kits and Model Town Green Cricket Club is organizing the tournament.

"There is a dire need to organise high quality club tournaments around the year to expose the aspiring cricketers to competitive cricket and to find new talent", said Nabeel.

The venues of the tournament are Model Town Greens Cricket Club, Model Town Cricket Club, Pindi Gymkhana Cricket Club, Ali Garh Cricket Club and Cricket Center Club.

Pakistan Cricket Board's affiliated umpires, match referees and scores will officiate in the matches.

All the matches will be shown live on different social media platforms.

## Messi, Ronaldo likely to play friendly in January: reports



## A Sports

KARACHI: Two of the biggest football superstars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are likely to come face to face in a friendly match in January 2023, reports suggested.

According to the details, the two football greats Messi and Ronaldo could meet mid-season after a long delay, subjected to Messi's club Paris Saint Germain's (PSG) possible tour to Saudi Arabia to play a friendly match on January 19.

The reports further suggested that the Saudi team will field players combined from clubs Al Nassr and Al Hilal.

The possibility of the two former La Liga rivals coming face to face once again when Ronaldo joined Arab club Al Nassr after month-long speculation following the termination of his contract with English Premier League club Manchester United.

"History in the making. This is a signing that will not only inspire our club to achieve even greater success but inspire our league, our nation and future generations, boys and girls to be the best version of themselves. Welcome Cristiano to your new home," Al Nassr said in a statement as they posted a picture of the five-time Ballon d'Or winner holding up the team's jersey.

## Nadal crashes in season-opening match as Swiatek cruises at United Cup



## Web Desk

SYDNEY: Rafael Nadal lost his opening match of the season Saturday in the countdown to the defence of his Australian Open title, but women's world number one Iga Swiatek cruised to victory at the United Cup.

Nadal, who was also below-par at the season-ending ATP Finals in November, crashed to Britain's 14th-ranked Cameron Norrie 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the mixed-teams tournament in Sydney.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion struggled with his first serve, getting just 58 percent in, which ultimately cost him a first defeat to Norrie in their fifth meeting.

"It's pretty crazy, I never won a set before (against him) so firstly I wanted to do that and I had to stay super patient," Norrie said after the 2hrs 44mins battle at a packed Ken Rosewall Arena.

"It was a super physical match and huge to get through that and finally beat him. He's beaten me easy the last few times."

There was little to separate them in the opening games, with a first break point in game six for Nadal, but Norrie saved with a half-volley.

## 'Historic moment': Saudis flock to buy Ronaldo shirts after Al Nassr deal

RIYADH: Only hours after Cristiano Ronaldo penned a two-year contract with Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr, crowds flocked to a football kit store in Riyadh to buy the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's new club jersey.

Abdulmohsen al-Ayyban, 41, and his nine-year old son, Nayef, were among those queuing at Al Nassr club's official kit store on Saturday where clerks were busy pressing Ronaldo's name onto t-shirts.

"We are witnessing a historic moment," al-Ayyban told AFP of the deal which he believes "will elevate the Saudi football league".

Ronaldo on Friday signed for Al Nassr until June 2025 in a deal believed to be worth more than 200 million euros.

A wide smile stretched across Nayef's face as he proudly held his new jersey aloft.

For the young Saudi, a dream has come true.

"I have always wanted Al Nassr to acquire the best player in the world," he said. "I will make sure to watch all his games at the stadium."

Ronaldo, 37, is expected to appear before fans next Thursday, an official from the Al Nassr club told AFP.

## Faisal Fiaz nominated for honorary doctorate award

## Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Faisal Fayyaz was nominated for the Honorary Doctorate Award 2022 in Computer Science on 25th December 2022 in New Delhi by International Internship University and Honorary Doctorate Award 2022 in Philosophy of Diplomacy and International Relations on 27th December 2022 by Wisdom Leadership University. Dr. Gurdeep Singh, who is the close friend of Faisal Fayyaz, Indian Hockey Olympian and director/chairman of Indian universities sports board, on the behalf of Faisal Fayyaz, received the Honorary Doctorate Award of Faisal Fayyaz in International India Office, New Delhi.

While addressing on this occasion, Dr. Gureep Singh appraised all the educational & scholars like initiatives and efforts in sports and computer science by Faisal Fayyaz. Dr. Gurdeep Singh said that Heroes are ordinary people who make themselves extraordinary.

I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for



all people. Heroes are made by the paths they choose, not the power they are graced with. Faisal Fayyaz is real hero who understands the responsibility that come with his freedom and Faisal like a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles. Faisal Fayyaz has also received national youth empowerment award from Rising Pakistan, Minhaj Youth League & Educasa International in Islamabad, Pakistan. Faisal has received awards two times from President & Chief Executive of Pakistan General Parvaiz Musharraf while receiving

the grand prize award from Acting president of Pakistan & Chairman Senate Mian Somro in Microsoft All Pakistan Developers Conference 2005 in Pearl Continental Hotel, Karachi and Faisal received special award Henry Lal gold medal & roll of honor from President of Pakistan, General Parvaiz Musharraf on 4th May 2000. Faisal Fayyaz has received 5 Roll of Honors from Government College Lahore, Forman Christian College Lahore University, Govt college of physical education Lahore and Punjab University.

Faisal Fayyaz is a well renowned Computer Science

Professional, Cambridge certified Computer Science teacher, Wakelet Ambassador, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert, Cisco Pakistan Trainer, Global Speaker, International Event Organizer, Global Educator, Scientist, Wakelet Community Leader, Professor, Researcher, International Speaker and Subject Specialist of Computer Science, System Software, Robotics, Embedded Systems. He received Certificate of Appreciation while presenting research "Importance & diversity of STEM" on 10th May 2022 at 10am in C101 Auditorium, World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA in International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF 2022) alongwith mentoring of "Virtual Human Health & Safety Integration System" which project is also Best of the Category award holder and Grand Winner project of 1st time in the history of Pakistan in National Science and Engineering Fair 2022.

Leadership University. He is editorial board member of Asia Pacific Journal of Advanced Education & Technologies.

## PCB management committee discontinues Pakistan Junior League

## A Sports

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management committee on Saturday decided to discontinue the Pakistan Junior League (PJJ) after their second meeting at the National High Performance Centre here.

According to the PCB, the management committee reached a conclusion of discontinuing the PJJ, while in a bid to ensure there is a pathway for the high-performing teenagers, agreed to revive junior series on a home and away basis.

"The PCB Management



Committee agreed to discontinue the Pakistan Junior League," PCB said in a statement.

"However, to ensure there is a pathway for the high-performing teenagers and the country continues to produce talented cricketers across all age gaps, it was

agreed to revive junior series on a home and away basis.

"It was also agreed to hold discussions with the HBL Pakistan Super League franchises to include an Under-19 player under their Emerging Categories in the playing line-ups."

Besides the discontinu-

ation of the PJJ, the PCB management committee also held an extensive discussion regarding the restoration of the Regional and District Cricket Associations and Departments/Service Organisations in line with the PCB Constitution 2014.

As a result, it was declared that Regional and District Cricket Associations and Departments/Service Organizations are now operational again, and a strategic plan will soon be developed to formally include them in the domestic cricket structure, including participation in the PCB Board of Governors, in due course.

## Interim chief selector Afridi inspects pitch for second Pak-NZ Test

## Sports Desk

KARACHI: The chief of the Men's Interim National Selection Committee Shahid Afridi on Saturday, inspected the pitch being prepared for the upcoming second Test between Pakistan and New Zealand at National Bank Cricket Arena.

According to the details, Afridi, who was busy with his eldest daughter's wedding ceremony, got back to work soon after as he visited the National Bank Cricket Arena in the morning and inspected the pitch.

In this regard, the former Pakistan captain also interacted with the groundsmen and instructed them to prepare a more lively and bouncy pitch for the second Test.

Following the inspection, Afridi also had a brief interaction with



the media here and emphasized the

importance of lively pitches to make sure the safeguarding of the bowlers and also termed it as the only way forward for Pakistan cricket.

"We cannot move forward if we keep playing on the pitches we played in the past. We want to modernize and improve our cricket. Such pitches can prove to be harmful to the bowlers," said Afridi.

"Good pitches can be made in Pakistan and we will try to make a bouncy pitch for the second Test," he added.

It is pertinent to mention that the pitch for the recently-concluded first Test turned out to be a nightmare for the bowlers, especially the pacers as a mammoth 1422 runs were scored in response to 28 wickets.

## Pak vs NZ: PCB announces free entry for fans for the second Test

## News Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has announced free entry for spectators at the second test match between Pakistan and New Zealand that will be played from 2-6 January at the National Bank Cricket Arena Karachi.

According to the PCB, the audience is only required to carry their original National Identity Card to get access to the National Bank Cricket Arena.

"The spectators are only required to bring either their original CNIC or B-form to enter the stadium and they will be able to watch the action free of cost from any of the premium (Imran Khan, Quaid, Wasim Akram and Zaheer Abbas), first class (Asif Iqbal, Waqar Hassan and Majid Khan) and general enclosures (Muhammad Brothers and Intikhab



Alam)," said PCB in a statement.

"Shuttles will also be running in between the National Bank Cricket Arena and the Gareeb Nawaz parking area for ease of access into the stadium by spectators," the statement added.

Notably, the decision came in light of the disappointing turnout of the crowd for the recently-concluded first Test between Pakistan and New Zealand ended in a draw.