ایک حبشی مر دیاحبشی عورت مسجد نبوی میں جھاڑود یاکرتی تھی۔ایک دناس کاانتقال ہو ئىياتور سول الله مَثَالِيَّةِ إِنَّهُمْ نِي اس كے متعلق دریافت فرمایا۔لو گوںنے بتایا کہ وہ توانتقال نے مجھے کیوں نہ بتایا، پھر آپ منگانٹیا آئی قبر پر

فرمانٍ رسول الله عله

تشریف لائے اور اس پر نماز پڑھی۔ (صیحی بخاری: حدیث نمبر458 **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

President for increasing Pak-UK bilateral trade to US\$ 10 billion per year

President Dr Arif Alvi has underlined the need to take tangible steps to increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and the UK, which stood at £3.1 billion in 2021, to US\$ 10 billion per year in a short span of time by fully utilizing the existing opportunities. (Report on Page 5)

country's sake: Shujaat Hussain

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 19, Thursday, January 12, 2023



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(a) @daily spokesman



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Cabinet meeting of ECC

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presiding over the meeting of the Econom-



PM says \$9.7b pledges a confidence vote on Pakistani nation; assures third party validation of spending

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, calling the \$9.7 billion pledges by the international community at the Geneva conference a "vote of confidence" on the Pakistani nation, assured that the funds would be spent transparently and audited through the third party.

"This is the manifestation of trust and dignity to the government and people of Pakistan by the world nations. They would not have pledged around \$10 billion of their taxpayers' money if they had any apprehensions of any embezzlement in funds as was being propagated by our political adversaries," the prime minister told a news conference after he returned from Geneva where he co-hosted International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Giving a breakup of the pledged money, the prime minister said



billion followed by \$2 billion by World Bank, \$1 billion each by Saudi Arabia and AIIB, \$500 million by Asian Development Bank, \$100 million each by China and USA, Euro 380 million by France, Euro 84 million by Germany and \$25 million by Qatar, besides others.

The prime minister congratulated the whole nation as well as the coalition government for the unexpected response by the the Islamic Development Bank international community as he secretaries had prepared an effimade the biggest pledge of \$4.2 said the pledges were far above cient roadmap for the reconstructo eliminate the scourge. However, deal with the militancy.

He said following the pledges by the international community, it was the Government of Pakistan's responsibility to ensure successful and transparent execution of the projects to meet the needs of flood survivors and the world's

Appreciating the efforts by ministers for foreign affairs, climate change, finance, information and others, he said the federal victims.

To a question, Prime Minister Shehbaz said the country had sufficient stock of wheat however it was upon the provincial government to release the commodity to the flour mills. He said unfortunately, the provinces were not releasing the required quantity of wheat and assured that the federal government would use its powers to provide relief to the masses.

He said the federal government had already transparently distributed around Rs90 billion among 2.7 million households through the Benazir Income Support

Regarding his upcoming visit to the United Arab Emirates, the prime minister said Pakistan desired to enhance its trade and investment relationship with the

friendly country. Responding to a question about the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the prime minister mentioned the National Security meeting which discussed the situation in detail and resolved

PM thanks Saudi crown prince on announcement of \$1 bln at Geneva conference

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed gratitude to Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Prince Mohammed Bin Salman on announcement of \$1 billion at climate conference held in Geneva.

The prime minister said, "We are immensely grateful for his decision to consider increasing Saudi investment up to \$10 billion and deposits with State Bank of Pakistan to \$5 billion," he said.

In another tweet, Shehbaz Sharif also thanked President World Bank David Malpass for pledging \$2 billion for the postflood recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation at Resilient Pakistan Conference in Geneva.

he said the provincial government was responsible to strengthen its counter-terrorism department to

Parvez Elahi won the vote of confidence

LAHORE: Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi has taken the vote of confidence from the Punjab Assembly late Wednesday night.

The voting process to show confidence in Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi has concluded in the provincial

The Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) tabled a resolution for the vote of confidence for the Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi

ARY News exclusively reported that the vote of confidence for Punjab CM Pervaiz Elahi will be

The Punjab Assembly's session was resumed late Wednesday night to conduct the voting for showing confidence in CM Pervaiz Elahi after completing the required number

PTI MPAs Mian Aslam Iqbal and Raja Basharat submitted the resolution for the voting today.

While talking to ARY News, PTI MPA Mian Mehmoodur Rasheed said that 187 lawmakers will show their confidence in dure for the voting.



the Punjab CM today.

Despite the federal government's tactics, PTI and its allies managed to complete the numbers in the Punjab Assembly ahead of the vote of confidence.

The claims of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Rana Sanaullah and Attaullah Tarar proved false as the remaining PTI and PML-Q MPAs, Javed Akhtar and Ammar Yasir reached the assembly hall.

Strict security arrangements were made in the Punjab Assembly in view of the expected protest of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N). Security officers were deployed beside the speaker's dice ahead of the

After the submission of the resolution, the PA secretary announced the rules of proce-

Court has more options other than terminating NAB amendments: CJP

Example 2 City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Wednesday remarked that it was not necessary to terminate the amendments in the NAB laws as the court had also more options and it was viewing betterment in laws.

He remarked that our society was suffering from the disease of corruption and there should be a balance between work for public benefits and taking individual advantages.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial heard the petition of PTI's chief Imran Khan against the amendments in NAR laws

The counsel of the federal government Makhdom Ali Khan informed the court that 159 members of the house had voted in favour of NAB amend-

The chief justice remarked that the question was that case was then adjourned till

opposition at time of legislation was necessary.

The CJP remarked that the courts were not a forum to resolve political conflicts. Whether it would increase the conflicts if the courts started to take decision on controversial

He further said that there was also a political dispute in this case. The question was that how the court would defend and protect the constitution, he said.

The chief justice said the constitution stood for the nation and it also had to be viewed that to which extend the court could go in this case. The public office holders were also accountable, he said, adding that anti corruption laws were intact since the creation of Pakistan.

He said that the court should also trust the Parliament and politicians.

The further hearing of the whether the attendance of Thursday January 12.

flood-hit Pakistan



Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China is pledging an additional \$100 million from the devastating 2022 China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

"We have also carried out projects including smart hydrology, rehabilitation housing and mobile medito continue supporting cal vehicles. We will continue Pakistan's recovery efforts to provide real-time weather and disaster early-warning floods, announced Luo service; We have provided Zhaohui, chairman of the a post-disaster assessment report after Chinese experts' visit to the disaster sites in

China pledges \$100m Lawmakers being pressurised additional aid to to part ways with PTI: Imran

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan has alleged that PTI lawmakers are being threatened and offered marked a red line on Imran Khan and money to part ways with the political party.

Imran Khan made the statement while addressing a session of Punjab's parliamentary party today.

He praised PTI Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) for attending the session in large numbers despite facing difficulties in movement owing to the foggy condition in Lahore.

He said that he is fully aware of how PTI MPAs are being pressurised and offered money to part ways with the political party. He also praised Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) lawmakers and Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Pervaiz Elahi for not accepting the pressure.

These people were also asked to

side of PML-N (Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz)."

He alleged that PTI lawmakers and its allies are being told that they they are going to minus Imran Khan.

"Pakistan belongs to the Pakistanis. Only Pakistanis can mark a red line on someone but anyone else. If some people are arrogant enough to think about redlining any personality then they have no sense of politics, neither they read the history nor care for the

He said that not a single political party gains such popularity in Pakistan as compared to the PTI. Khan said that those who are having any doubts should watch the videos of his 65 power shows. He said that millions of nationals came out of their houses to resist the toppling of the PTI government via a conspiracy.

He said that the nationals had also backed PTI in the Punjab by-polls only do constructive criticism. He

part ways with the PTI and join the and gave a clear message to the powerful circles. He said that all tactics were used to force the nation to accept the 'thieves' as their rulers, but they all failed.

> While slamming the incumbent government, Khan said that the current rulers did nothing for Pakistan but they only get another NRO and dissolve their corruption cases worth Rs1,100 billion.

He said that unemployment and inflation are rising and factories are shutting down in the country and now, the Pakistani government will be bound to accept all conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for getting another tranche of loans, otherwise, the national economy will be destroyed. If the government accepts the IMF conditions, there will be a new wave of inflation hitting the nation.

He said that PTI wants a strong judiciary in the country and they will

Suspects in Imran attack case not interrogated by JIT

Monitoring Desk

LAHORE: An important revelation was made regarding the ongoing probe into the Imran Khan attack case that the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) did not interrogate the arrested suspects so far, citing sources, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

Sources told ARY News that the JIT has not yet interrogated the arrested suspects in the Wazirabad gun attack on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and former premier Imran Khan.

It was revealed that one of the JIT members rejected to meet the key suspect Naveed. The JIT member gave the reason that it is a high-profile case and he would be blamed for meeting the suspect if something gets wrong. Sources added that the JIT

convener and a member are interrogating the suspect. It is pertinent to mention here that Ghulam Mahmood Dogar is the head of the JIT on Imran Khan attack case. On the other hand, the JIT

also started preparations for filing the interim challan in the attack case. The investigation team prepared a separate report based on the leaked videos of the suspect Naveed.

According to the report, Naveed's first video was filmed through a mobile phone of a senior police officer. The report of leaking videos of the main suspect has been also made part of the interim

Women Crisis Center

ISLAMABAD: Honorable Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court, Syed Muhammad Anwer along with Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar visits Women Crisis Center on Wednesday.



OIC condemns Israeli attacks on Al-Aqsa, calls for mobilizing efforts to protect Al-Quds

News Desk

JEDDAH: The Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) emergency meeting has condemned the continuous Israeli attacks on the Al-Aqsa Mosque and called for mobilizing efforts to protect Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

The meeting held Tuesday at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah took place at the request of Palestine and Jordan in coordination with ed Al-Agsa Mosque and the Saudi Arabia, the current brotherly Palestinian people dom supports all efforts chair of the Islamic Summit, and the chair of the Executive the feelings of millions of comprehensive solution meeting will come out with Committee to discuss recent Muslims and fuel conflict, to the Palestinian issue to developments in Al-Quds extremism, and instability enable the Palestinian people within the OIC framework and Al-Aqsa Mosque. A in the region, in addition to to establish their independ- and in coordination and intecommunique was adopted being a flagrant violation of ent Palestinian state on gration with active regionby the Committee condemn-relevant international reso-the 1967 borders with East al and international organing the Israeli aggression on lutions. Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Saleh Hamad Al-Suhaibani, full protection for Al-Aqsa affirmed that the continuous Mosque and stop serious Israeli attacks on the bless-



constitute a provocation to aimed at reaching a just and

Al-Suhaibani reiterated Saudi Permanent Reprethe Kingdom's firm posisentative to the OIC, Dr. tion on the need to provide violations and provocations.

accordance with the resolu- li aggression and violations tions of international legit- against Islamic sanctities.

imacy and the Arab peace initiative. He stressed that the King-

He stressed that the King- president of the Islamic Summit and the Executive Committee, hopes that this a unified Islamic position

OIC Secretary-General Hissein Ibrahim Taha affirmed that the Israedom of Saudi Arabia, as the li attacks against the bless-

ed Al-Aqsa Mosque are an offense against the feelings and beliefs of Muslims around the world, as well as a flagrant violation of international law and UN reso-

He confirmed that these attacks would fuel violence and tension and destabilize security and stability in the region.

The Secretary-General called for responsible international action that compels Israel to stop these serious violations in order to preserve the existing historical and legal status of Al-Agsa Mosque as a place of worship for Muslims alone.

He called for mobilizing and redoubling the 's political, economic Jerusalem as its capital, in izations to stop the Israe- and media efforts in order to protect the occupied Al-Quds, support the steadfastness of its people in the face of Israeli Judaization schemes and defend the inalienable Palestinian rights.

Nepra notifies reduced FCA for November 2022

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: After due process, NEPRA issued its decision on K-Electric's petition for reduced Fuel Charge Adjustments (FCA) for the month of November 2022. The approved reduction is at a rate of PKR 7.4307 per unit and will reflect in consumer bills for the month of January 2023. FCAs are approved by the regulator, NEPRA, after review who also specifies the month during which the charge is applied in consumer bills.

FCA is dependent on the global prices of fuel and are passed on to consumer bills under the prescribed rules and regulations of NEPRA and the Government of Pakistan. The FCA for November is a reduced charge primarily due to a decrease in international fuel prices. The price of power purchased from CPPA-G decreased by 37% compared with the month of September 2022. Similarly, for RLNG and Furnace Oil, the price decreased by 18% and 15% respectively.

Admin sets up 74 wheat flour sale points in Rawalpindi

City Report

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Food Department on Wednesday set up 74 wheat flour sale points in different areas of the district to facilitate the citizens and ensure regular supply of the flour on subsidized rates.

According to a Commissioner Office spokesman, earlier, 60 wheat flour sale points were set up by the administration while on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan, the number of the sale points were increased to 74 in different areas of Rawalpindi including city cantt and saddar

He informed that all the flour mills of the district were directed to supply 500 subsidized wheat flour bags weighing 10 kg to the citizens daily. The administration was ensuring supply of nearly 37,000 wheat flour bags on daily basis in various markets and bazaars across the district.

He said the district administration teams were also monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to prevent the smuggling of wheat flour and action would be taken against the violators according to the law.

ECP to use modern technology in next general elections

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to use modern technology in the next general elections and launched a district-level survey on internet and other issues. The Election Commission

its preparations for the next

to use modern technology for

the polls. The commission initiated a survey to identify internet and other technical issues in its district offices. The commission acquired services of Pakistan Telecommunication Compa-

ny Limited (PTCL) for the use of modern technology. The ECP spokesperson said in a statement that modern and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's equipment will be installed



at the offices of all district election commissioners.

The relevant election officers will be given access of Pakistan (ECP) continued to the electoral system upgration and internet. The general elections and decided commission directed the district election commissioners to cooperate with the PTCL teams.

Sources told ARY News that the use of modern technology will assist the commission to get timely results in the next general elections. The ECP also sent the copies of its letter to the Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan

Installation of conical baffles in geysers made mandatory

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority has made the installation of conical baffles mandatory in existing geysers and in new geysers.

The decision was taken purely in consideration to conserve energy and eliminate the gas shortages in the country, said a press release issued on Wednesday.

The installation of Conical Baffles will result in 20 percent to 25 percent saving in gas bills consumed due to the use of geysers and will as ongoing natural gas crisis in use.

the country.

The total number of gas consumers in the country are 10.65 million and 3.088 million consumers are connected with geysers. Total approximate savings in gas will be 6.4 MMCFD per day with the help of this initiative. The deadline set for the installation of conical baffles is December 2023.

OGRA conducted a public hearing on the petition of SNGPL and SSGCL, submitted as per directions of the Federal Government, for the amendment in standard gas/ RLNG supply contract for such help in mitigating the domestic and commercial

Customs seize truckload of smuggled items worth Rs 41.5m

👺 Bureau Report

MULTAN: A team of Anti-Smuggling Organization, Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Multan has intercepted and seized a truck trailer at Multan Motorway M-5 that was carrying smuggled items worth approximately Rs 41.5 million, customs officials said on Wednesday.

The truck-trailer bearing registration number E-7056 was valued around Rs 10 million while the duties and tax evaded were assessed at approximately Rs 30 million, officials said.

The detailed examination of truck trailer led the recovery of smuggled miscellaneous items/goods including 3150 kilogram curtain cloth of assorted color, 2478kg polyester gents suiting/shirting cloth (woven), 1200kg Sofa cloth of assorted color, 700kg polyester ladies printed fabric of assorted colors, 1920kg polyester ladies Net Fabric of assorted colors.

Total weight of fabric was found to be 9448 kilograms. Moreover, 400 LTV tyres of different brands and sizes in new condition, and 200 cartons of cigarette filter paper weighing 2400kg

Over 18% surplus witnessed in Pakistan-Bangladesh trade: SBP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's during first five months of corresponding period of last year.

The trade surplus during the months under review year basis, exports to Bangmillion against \$277.863

ing 18.64 percent growth. to US \$70.431 million.

The overall exports to goods and services trade Bangladesh were recorded a surplus of 18.64 percent July-November (2022-23) against exports of \$ 23) as compared to the July-November (2021-22), showing growth of 15.34 percent, SBP data revealed.

Meanwhile, on year-to-

months of last year, show- from US \$ 72.356 million

Similarly on monthon-month basis, exports with Bangladesh witnessed at \$365.290 million during of Bangladesh were rose November 2022 current fiscal year (2022- 316.680 million during comparison with exports of US \$ 60.355 million in October 2022, SBP data said.

Pakistan's exports to other counwas recorded at \$329.668 ladesh during November tries witnessed a decrease ladesh during November 2022 witnessed a nominal of 2.01 percent in first five million during same decrease of 2.66 percent, months, from US \$ 12.313 18.25 percent from US to the data.

billion to US \$ 12.065 billion, the SBP data

revealed. On the other hand, the imports from Bangladesh by 16.69 percent during during the period under review were recorded at \$ 35.622 million against \$38.817 million last year, showing a decrease of 8.23

Meanwhile, year-to-year basis, imports from Bang-2022 also decreased by

\$10.559 million last year to US \$8.631 million.

On month-on-month basis, the import from Bangladesh increased by 20.37 percent during November 2022 when compared to the import of US \$7.170 million in October 2022, SBP data said.

The overall imports into the country witnessed decrease of 16.15 percent, from \$29.663 billion to US \$ 24.872 billion, according

Bilawal, PM Shehbaz 'begging' for country's sake: Shujaat Hussain

Monitoring Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has slammed the 'critics' for calling Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto 'beggars', saying that both were 'begging' for country's sake, ARY News reported on Wednesday.

In a statement, the former prime minister slammed the opposition for accusing Pakistan's top leadership -PM Shehbaz Sharif and FM Bilawal Bhutto - of 'begging'.

Shujaat Hussain noted that they were 'begging' for the country's sake. "They [prime minister and foreign minister were begging for rehabilitation of flood victims and economic

development," he added. "We will also participate with



them in this good deed," Shujaat 'Climate Resilient Pakistan'in Gene-Hussain said, asking the 'critics' to take steps for the sake of the nation.

It is pertinent to mention here that PM Shehbaz Sharif co-host-

va along with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The conference brought together governments, leaders from the ed an international conference on public and private sectors and civil

society to support the people and the government of Pakistan to deal with the enormous challenge of post-flood reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Pakistan secured over \$10 billion in pledges from international financial institutions, donor agencies and development partners for the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of flood-affected areas, during the International Conference.

The major pledges made at the conference, co-chaired by Pakistan and the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, included \$4.2 billion from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), \$2 billion from the World Bank, \$1.5 billion from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), \$1 billion from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia, according to the state news agency



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Thursday, January 12, 2023

Rally and protest in support and solidarity of 'Wana Olasi Pasoon'

跨 Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Rally and protest demonstration in Dera in support and solidarity of "Wana Olasi Pasoon". The protest was taken out from Haq Nawaz Park to Dera Press

Member National Assembly Ali Wazir should be released, and the abducted Jamshed Wazir should be

On this occasion, leaders of various political parties, Niaz Wazir from ANP, Yasin Wazir from PPP, Abid Wazir from PTI, Jamshed Wazir from PTM, Mustafa Mehsud from Wana Olasi Pasoon, Akhtar Syed Advocate, Former National Assembly candidate Zubair Wazir, VC Chairman Jalal, VC Chairman Saifur Rehman and South Bar President Noor Ali and other leaders raised slogans and recorded protest against the ongoing unrest in

It is the government's responsibility to enforce law and establish peace in the area, target killing, extortion and bomb blasts have become the norm.

The demands of the ongoing sit-in in Wana for the last six days should be accepted, the 10 demands of the ongo-



ing sit-in in Wana are legal and constitutional and should be resolved.

1: Peace is the responsibility of the civil government, if the police is required to conduct a search operation or action on wanted persons or in a place, then action should be taken according to the law.

If the police need the FC or the army, the police can take help under Article 126 of the Order 2002.

2: The erstwhile FATA has been merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all the provisions of the 1973 Constitution are applicable to the areas of erstwhile FATA,

Therefore, apart from the constitution and law, peace committee, national army or 2007 agreement are not acceptable to us in any case.

3: Peace in South Waziristan Lower is subject to the restoration of the government writ, for the restoration of the government writ, a separate DPO, judges including all line departments should be transferred to Lower

4: Jamshed Wazir should be released immediately.

5: Police checkpoints should be established in small and big bazaars located at Spin, Azam Warsak, Shakai,

Angoir Adda, Zarmelan, Ragzai police

And to give legal powers and privileges to the police, to restore the closed jobs of the special force and to ensure the attendance of the existing police

6: FC should be deployed on emergency basis for the protection of police stations, police posts and police during

7: Indiscriminate ban and strict action should be taken against government/non-government vehicles with black glass, violators should be arrested and presented in courts for legal action.

8: Indiscriminate action should be taken against drugs.

9: All types of armed organizations and miscreants should be banned.

10: To remove obstacles to trade on the Pak-Afghan border at Angoradah, and to allow Pakistani identity card holders to enter Angoor Adda Gate.

Demand the federal and provincial governments and officials to seriously address the constitutional, legal and democratic demands of the people of Lower Waziristan.

However, take measures on an emergency basis to solve it, otherwise we will continue the series of protests.

exceeding AED 400 are free of charge. The UAE is the second largest source of remittance globally, with nearly \$50 billion sent abroad in 2021. Over 1.7 million Pakistani expats live and work in the UAE and the country has become one of the largest sources of remittance to Pakistan, with \$452.5 million transferred to Pakistan in November 2022 alone. Careem plans to expand the service to include transfer to the Philippines, Egypt, and India in the coming months.

Careem Pay partners

digital remittance

with Lulu Exchange to launch

KARACHI: Careem has partnered with Lulu Exchange, one of UAE's

largest licensed remittance providers, to launch international remittances on Careem Pay, enabling customers and Captains to send money abroad.

the UAE to Pakistan in minutes at competitive rates through the 'Send

Abroad' tile on the Careem app. Funds are sent directly to a recipients'

foreign bank account whether they are Careem or non-Careem custom-

 $ers. \ The \ process \ is \ fully \ digital \ with \ electronic \ KYC \ completed \ in \ seconds,$

making it possible to send money overseas in just a few taps. Transfers

In the first phase, customers can seamlessly transfer money from

Mudassir Sheikha, CEO and Co-founder of Careem, commented "We're delighted to partner with one of UAE's largest licensed remittance providers to introduce the simplest remittance service from the UAE to Pakistan to the Careem app.

US Embassy, NUST launch Rising Stars Startup Competition' for minorities

ISLAMABAD: The National Science & Technology Park at NUST and the US Embassy, Pakistan have launched the "Rising Stars Startup Competition." Conceived and designed by NSTP for the minorities, the primary objective of the programme is to increase the number of quality entrepreneurs and, in so doing, give impetus to long-term economic growth of Pakistan. Besides the US Embassy, Draper University has also been welcomed aboard as a Knowledge Partner offering virtual training to participants, while Pak Mission Society has been engaged as an Outreach Partner to mobilise minority communities.

Under the initiative, selected participants will avail mentoring, support from industry partners, and access to networking events. The programme will help foster a culture of entrepreneurship amongst the underprivileged to the extent that they become capable enough to scale their ventures. In addition, hands-on trainings and workshops will be offered to participants to build their entrepreneurial skills and business acumen. Participants will also be able to showcase their ideas to investors to secure funding for their respective startups. The 9-month-long programme will be conducted in a hybrid mode. Startups will also visit industry and innovation hubs, and avail pitching opportunities based on their readiness levels.

SECP issues Guidelines for Offering Islamic Financial Services, 2023

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark development for the growth of Islamic finance in the non-bank financial sector, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has issued Guidelines for Offering Islamic Financial Services, 2023, covering all its regulated sectors.

The guidelines are framed to facilitate growth of Shariah-compliant financial products in the financial services market regulated by the Commission, which include Islamic capital markets, Takaful, Modarabas, NBFCs, pension and private funds, REITs, and so on.

The guidelines are based on notions of proportionality and gradualism and cover key principles for the conduct of Shariah-compliant operations by persons offering Islamic financial services. It also introduces the concept of "Islamic windows" in all regulated sectors, apart from providing detailed guidelines for the conversion of conventional financial institutions into Islamic financial institutions. Another essential aspect covered in the guidelines is the foundational principles for developing cohesive Shariah governance within Islamic financial institutions.

Protest

KARACHI: Activists of Muttahida Qaumi Movement factions including MQM-Pakistan, MQM Bahali Committee, and Pak-Sarzameen Party (PSP) Wednesday staged a protest outside the Election Commission of Pakistan office, against



Bank Alfalah introduces QR Payment Solution with SnappRetail

News Desk

LAHORE: Bank Alfalah continuing its rich legacy of being the industry leader in digitizing the retail landscape of Pakistan, Bank Alfalah has entered into to scan QR codes generated in-App, an aggregator partnership with SnappRetail. This partnership is designed to accelerate Merchant acquiring activities and to encourage digital payments monitor sales, inventory, and busiat the Point of sale (POS). Under this ness transactions in real time within collaboration, merchants acquired by SnappRetail will be on boarded to the QR (Quick Response) payment system of Bank Alfalah, bringing the cash-ori- PKR 3,000 and easy installments of ented merchants into the fold of the documented economy.

a merchant's valid CNIC. Moreover, the application's seamless payment system requires the merchant to accept payments by getting the customers eliminating the need of handling cash. Furthermore, Merchants have the liberty of setting up an e-shop to the App. Customers can further avail "Buy now Pay Later" facility on QR payment with a minimum order of up to 12 months.

Speaking about the partnership, The newly acquired merchants will Mohammad Yahya Khan, Group Head be registered on Alfa Business Appli- Digital Banking at Bank Alfalah said, cation. The App offers smooth in-app 'Digitizing retail sectors has always

registration process that only requires been one of our utmost priorities Through this collaboration, we will reach our goal of empowering retail merchants across the country by offering them various methods of accepting digital payments through one single platform and helping them grow their business by access to digital credit.'

Moazzam Ali Khan, Chief Strategic Officer at SnappRetail explained how the collaboration will strengthen financial inclusion: "On a mission to digitize traditional retail, Snappretail has always brought innovative services and collaborations with the sole purpose of making Pakistan more financially inclusive. With this collaboration, we hope to accelerate our cohort's top line as they tap into new digital payment-

PEMRA raids cable TV networks for relying illegal Indian channels in Karachi

跨 News Desk

KARACHI: On the directions of Chairman PEMRA, PEMRA Regional Office Karachi conducted an enforcement drive on reports of deliberate violations by Cable operators for airing illegal Indian Channels/Content violating directions of Supreme Court of Pakistan as well as those issued by the Authority from

PEMRA field staff conducted Surprise inspections in various localities of Karachi city and raided 04 cable operators i.e. M/s Sharjah Cable Network, M/s Karachi Cable Services, M/s New Satellite Communication and M/s Star Digi-

tal Cable Network who were airing illegal Indian channels as well as Indian content. During the raid, illegal equipment was seized by the PEMRA enforcement team. Show Cause Notices have also been issued to the violators for due course of law

PEMRA, once again warns all cable TV operators of country to immediately stop airing illegal Indian Channels/content which are otherwise illegal or proscribed by the Authority. No channel other than PEMRA licensee would be allowed for distribution on cable TV networks and any operator found defying the orders henceforth would be dealt strictly in accordance with

FESCO authorities monitor examination centers for recruitment of various posts

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The written examination of the shortlisted candidates for the recruitment of various posts of Grade 17 in Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) will be held on January 14 and 15 at various examination centers across the country. Written examination for the posts of Assistant Director (Accounts/Finance), Assistant Director (HR/Admin) and Assistant Director (MM/ FSM Field Store Manager) will be held on Saturday 14th January in Faisalabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and Sargodha in which 3104 candidates will participate. While the written examination for the posts of Junior Engineer/SDO (Operation), Junior Engineer/SDO (Civil) and Revenue Officer will be conducted on

Syngenta Pakistan launches CENTRIGOTM farming ecosystem in service of local farmers

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Syngenta Pakistan Limited, a leading agriculture innovation and technology company that provides crop protection, seeds, and digital services to millions of Pakistani farmers, has successfully launched CENTRIGOTM Farming Ecosystem to facilitate local farmers in overcoming the barriers to higher productivity and profitability. CENTRIGO™ addresses the end-toend challenges of farmers to ensure insurance, and will continue to develthat farming is efficient and profitable, op strategic partnerships to better serve by optimizing food production through holistic solutions offered via a network of physical centers, supported by digital tools to serve farmers at scale.

Setting a new benchmark for the spectrum of solutions addressing key

access to the right products, technology and services, including crop inputs, Agri financing, crop insurance, drone spraying services, farm machinery, all in one place. CENTRIGO™ has convened best-in-class partners to provide these services, including Bakhabar Kissan for remote farm management, Drone Robotics for drone spray services, Japan Machinery Store for farm machinery and Salam Takaful Limited for crop

The inauguration ceremony of the first CENTRIGOTM center was held in Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on January 11th and was attended by key stakeindustry, CENTRIGO™ will offer a full holders including government representatives, Syngenta Pakistan's leader-

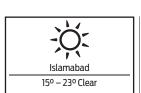
pain points of farmers by providing ship team, partners and local farmers. This was the first of several centers that Syngenta Pakistan will be launching

Speaking on the occasion, Zeeshan Hasib Baig - Country General Manager Syngenta Pakistan - said: "In line with our farmer-centric vision and in continuation of our efforts to facilitate our farmers, we are excited to launch CENTRI-GO[™] farming ecosystem in Pakistan.

Director General Agriculture Extension KPK, Jan Muhammad while attending the Swabi center's inauguration, stated that "One of the key challenges that our local farmers face is the distance that they have to travel to get different agri products and rices. Syngenta Pakistan by launching CENTRIGO™ centers has taken a leap forward in addressing this issue.



.. 5:18 pm



SERVICES Namaz Timings

..6:46 pm **EMERGENCY**

Maghrib

EIMEIZOEIZO I	
Rescue (Police)	. 15
Bomb Disposal	. 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 8	i 16
Emergency Ambulance 112	2 &
& Rescue Services 4451	122
Motorway Police92660)44
Motorway Police9270601-	-20

Women Police

Statio	15	
Islamabad		9222596
Rawalpindi	92	70601-20
Rawatpiriui	52	/0001-20

ENOUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

110011	
CMH	5611111
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 9	221334-43
CDA 92	
Met Office9	250360-6
RDA	. 5555864
TMA	. 5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation	. 9209224
Potohar Town	. 9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

US based eye diseases diagnostic platform, Ophthalytics visit The Diabetes Centre

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: CEO of renowned eyes diseases platform, Ophthalytics, Mr. Awais Bajwa along with the MD, Dr Neelam Nosheen visited The Diabetes' Centre here today in Islamabad.

On arrival, they were given a warm welcome by MS Brig. ® Muhammad Aimal Khan along with other senior staff.

Both senior officials from Ophthalytics had a detailed meeting with Chair, The Diabetes Centre, Dr Asjad Hameed wherein they were briefed about Hospital's vision along with working of various departments

The guests were also taken on round of the Hospital and given briefing about its various operations. While giving details CEO Ophthalytics, Mr. Awais Bajwa said it is a revolutionary AI-based diagnostic platform for eve diseases currently under FDA clearance.

Roundtable Conference on

'Naval Developments in the Indian Ocean - Its Effects in the Region & Beyond'

150 Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: A Roundtable Conference on "Naval Developments in the Indian Ocean - Its Effects in the Region & Beyond" was organized by the Indian Ocean Study Centre of National Institute of Maritime Affairs Islamabad in collaboration with the Institute of Regional Studies. Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI(M), DG NIMA welcomed all the worthy speakers & participants and highlighted the significance of the roundtable conference regarding the naval developments in the Indian Ocean Region.

Dr. Adam Saud, Dean, Faculties of Humanities & Social Sciences, Bahria University, delivered an overview of the topic including a theoretical perspective. He said that the Indian Ocean is turning into a battleground of US and China competition, and India is being projected as a trusted friend of the West. Mr. Kamran Hashmi, Research Associate is the future of world politics. At pres-

ent, the Indian Ocean may be calm on the surface but, it is extremely turbulent, and the possibility of multiple conflicts between various stakeholders cannot be ruled out. The presence of foreign naval bases indicates the importance of the Indian Ocean. Ambassador (Retd) Masood Khalid covered the diplomatic aspect. According to him, China's goal is to enhance its military power to secure its Sea Lines of Communication.

China is heavily dependent upon the Indian Ocean for its trade. President IRS Ambassador Nadeem Riaz while concluding the session briefed about the strategic significance of the Indian Ocean and emphasized peace & stability in the Indian Ocean are the keys to world prosperity.

He was of the opinion that we should do multifaceted engagements with all while safeguarding our national interests through maintaining a fine balance. The seminar was well attended by academia, professionals, students of universities. NIMA said that Indian Ocean Region researchers of think tanks, and policy-



Rain in Capital

ISLAMABAD: A motorcyclist wearing plastic sheet to protect himself from rain on his way during rainy weather in Federal Capital



Transparency in disbursement of cash assistance is the hall mark of BISP

Example 2 City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Fasial Karim Kundi, SAPM/MOS on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety said ensuring transparency in cash disbursement to deprived and under privileged women is the hall-mark of the working of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). He stated this while discussing various initiatives of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) with Her Excellency Ms. Dilsad Senol, ambassador of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) in Pakistan, about. H. E. Ms. Senol, called on the Minister of State in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Minister of State under-



redress of the BISP beneficiaries, a Call Centre has been established in BISP head office. Instructional videos for awareness and advocacy are also shared on social media BISP has, therefore, launched platforms on regular basis, he added. Rs. 70 billion have affected areas as well as all been distributed among the over Pakistan for inclusion scored that for complaint 2.8 million people who were such people in Benzair Kafalat

affected by floods, Faisal Karim Kundi added

The devastation of floods in Pakistan has pushed many people below the poverty line. Dynamic Survey in the flood

H. E. Ambassador Senol noted that floods have put extraordinary burden on the government of Pakistan for provision of relief to the affected people. She said that the whole world is exposed to the climate changes and climate related calamities and every country will have to face its consequences, however, the world is still not ready for it,

she observed. The visiting TRNC ambassador appreciated Government of Pakistan for establishing diplomatic ties with TRNC and said that over ten thousand Pakistanis are living in TRNC and we feel that very soon cricket would be introduced in TRNC as well.

UNODC established One-Stop Women and Juvenile Facilitation Center in Gujranwala!

Solution Correspondent

GUJRANWALA: The UNODC Country Office in Pakistan opens a Women & Juvenile Facilitation Center (W&JFC) in Gujranwala in collaboration with Punjab Police, with the financial support of the Government of Norway. The Women and Juvenile Facilitation Centre (WJFC) is the second facility of its kind established by UNODC in Punjab after successful operations of its forerunner Centre in Gujrat since 2019. The WJFC is modelled as per international standards, providing compreenvironment to women and juvenile victims of violence for reporting, recording and investigation of crimes.

In order to officially operation-H.E Per Albert Ilsaas, Ambassador ceremony hosted by the Police Admin-



hensive services and compassionate of Norway to Pakistan; Anja Myrtveit, Second Secretary Development Program; Per Martin Bjartan, Police Liaison Officer; Bilal Majeed, Program Advisor Development and Dr. Jerealize the Center, an inauguration my Milsom, Representative, UNODC ceremony was held at Saddar Police Country Office Pakistan along with Station, Gujranwala today. Officials many senior official from UNODC from the Royal Embassy of Norway, and Police Department attended the

istration Gujranwala

Mr. Munir Ahmad Marath, Regional Police Officer Gujranwala, welcomed the guests and extended gratitude to UNODC (COPAK) and Government of Norway for its gracious support and appreciated the Centre as a historic move in Gujranwala region towards protecting the vulnerable victims in need of help.

Albert Ilsaas, Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan underscored the need for upholding the rights of women, girls and children, particularly addressing crimes of violence that are increasing at alarming rate in Pakistan.

Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative, UNODC Country Office Pakistan highlighted UNODC's continued support towards enhancing the capacity of Criminal Justice sector in Punjab through multiple reform interventions, including training of more than 2,000 officials in Advance Investigation, Crime Scene Management and provision of Mobile Crime Scene Units Handling of GBV and Juvenile Cases and enhancing Police-Prosecution Coordination; establishing E-learning Centers in Gujrat, Gujranwala and PTC Lahore, and a Research Unit at Center for Professional Development for Prosecutors (CPD) in Lahore.

Civil society urges to approve tobacco control strategy without delay

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Delays in the approval of the National Tobacco Control Strategy (NTCS) has definitely paved the way for moves to facilitate tobacco industry as approval of SRO on Heated Tobacco Products. Coalition for Tobacco Control-Pakistan (CTC-Pak), a coalition of more than 100 CSos has expressed concern and utter disappointment on measures taken by the government to legalize Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs) particularly e-cigarettes in Pakistan which are against the protocols of FCTC and country's tobacco control laws. It is ironic that the Ministry of health did not even consult with all stakeholders $while \ legalizing \ heated \ to bacco \ products \ which \ are \ already \ banned \ in$ the region's countries. Being the signatory of the FCTC, issuing SRO regarding e-cigarettes is blatant violation of international convention protocols for tobacco control.

CTC-Pak project coordinator, Zeeshan Danish, in a statement has said that the Ministry of Health instead of focusing on the enforcement of tobacco control laws to safe public health, has been facilitating the tobacco industry by disregarding Article 5.2 of the FCTC. It is surprising that the ministry is trying to reverse the country's efforts and achievements of two decades regarding tobacco control.

WHO and international donors are providing support to the government to take measures for tobacco control in Pakistan. FCTC member countries are responsible for policy making for tobacco control. The health ministry has developed a National Tobacco Control Policy or Strategy which is waiting to be approved since long. The CTC-Pak and other tobacco control organizations have urged upon the government to approve and implement the strategy without further delay.

Newly elected local bodies will play a key role in strengthening democracy: PM A7K

Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that after holding Municipal elections in the region efforts were afoot to transfer power to the local bodies. In his message to the party workers, prime minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan congratulated the newly elected local body members for taking the oath of office and expressed the optimism that the newly elected members would realize their responsibilities to fulfill public trust.

"Have activated the basic democratic institutions in the state after a gap of 31 years for which we are paying the price", the PM said adding that the newly elected local body members would play a key role for the functioning of state institutions after taking the oath of office. Local bodies, he said were the effective means of solving the problems being faced by the masses. The PTI government, he said would provide all the resources and powers to the newly elected bodies to strengthen the local system. Holding local elections, he said was the promise the PTI had made during the pre-election campaign. The PM said that he was happy to see that this promise stands fulfilled now.

Government ready to cooperate at all levels to improve quality of education: President AJK

Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry was given a detailed briefing by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Azad Kashmir at the President's Office in Muzaffarabad. On this occasion, the President was apprised of the aims and objectives, infrastructure, ongoing projects and challenges of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Azad Kashmir.

Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Dewan Ali Chaghatai, Secretary Razzak Nadeem, Special Secretary Qazi Inayat, Nazim-Ala Elementary and Secondary Education (Male) Syed Talib Hussain Shah, Nazim-Ala Elementary and Secondary Education (Female) Taslim Gul, Project Director Islamic Development Bank, Chairman Textbook Board and others were present in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion the AJK President stated that the government would cooperate at all levels to improve the quality of education. He said that difficulties faced by educational institutions would be addressed on priority basis

"Besides construction of buildings, providing provision of basic facilities to educational institutions and enhancing administrative expenses for the educational institutions in the budget will be ensured", the president said. The president stressed the need for arranging training workshops for teachers, which he said would increase the productivity and quality of education.

He issued instructions to speed up their efforts vis a vis the Islamic Development Bank project for out-of-school children so that the children who were not in schools due to lack of resources could be able to get education. Barrister Chaudhry said that the government would lend it's full cooperation at all levels to promote quality education in Azad Kashmir so that students can get quality higher education.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor: Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi:

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Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com 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-Igbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

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

0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

World Bank projects Pakistan's growth at 2.0 percent in FY2022/23

ith the World Bank warning that the global economy is "perilously close to falling into recession", the development lender forecast Pakistan's growth at 2.0 percent in fiscal year 2022/23 (July-June), in its annual Global Economic Prospects report Tuesday.

The bank said the figure for Pakistan growth was "half the pace that was anticipated last June, and faces challenging economic conditions, including the repercussions of the recent flooding and continued policy and political uncertainty.'

Overall growth in South Asia is projected to slow to 5.5% in 2023 before picking up to 5.8% in 2024."This pace reflects still robust growth in India, Maldives, and Nepal, offsetting the effects of the floods in Pakistan and the economic and political crises in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka," the report said.

Growth in India is projected to slow to 6.9 percent in FY2022/23, a 0.6 percentage point downward revision since June, as the global economy and rising uncertainty will weigh on export and investment growth, it said, adding that the South Asian county was expected to be the world's fastest growing major economy.

In Bangladesh, growth is expected to slow to 5.2 percent in FY2022/23 (July-June) due to rising inflation and its negative impact on household incomes and firms' input costs, as well as energy shortages, import restrictions, and monetary policy tightening.

Food insecurity is rising in the (South Asian) region which consumes about one-fifth of its calories from wheat products, houses more than one-third of the global poor, and where food accounts for a greater share of its consumption basket compared to other emerging and developing economies, according to the report.

"Although global food price inflation appears to have subsided, risks of increased deprivation and inadequate nutrition remain ele-

"Climate change is a significant threat in the region. The recent floods in Pakistan are estimated to have caused damage equivalent to about 4.8 percent of GDP. Extreme weather events can exacerbate food deprivation, cut the region off from essential supplies, destroy infrastructure, and directly impede agricultural production."

At the global level, forecasts for growth in 2023 were cut nearly in half, dropping from 3% to 1.7%—the third-weakest pace of growth ever projected by the World Bank, behind paces recorded during the 2009 and 2020 recessions.

The bank said major slowdowns in advanced economies, including sharp cuts to its forecast to 0.5% for both the United States and the euro zone, could foreshadow a new global recession less than three years after the last one.

"Given fragile economic conditions, any new adverse development — such as higher-than-expected inflation, abrupt rises in interest rates to contain it, a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic or escalating geopolitical tensions — could push the global economy into recession," the bank said in a statement accompanying the

The bleak outlook will be especially hard on emerging market and developing economies, the World Bank said, as they struggle with heavy debt burdens, weak currencies and income growth, and slowing business investment that is now forecast at a 3.5% annual growth rate over the next two years — less than half the pace of the

"Weakness in growth and business investment will compound the already devastating reversals in education, health, poverty and infrastructure and the increasing demands from climate change," World Bank President David Malpass said in a statement.

Tapping multi-billion tourism potential for economic gains

Saeed Ahmad Ali

world nations are earning billions of dollars annually from the tourism sector, Pakistan is still struggling to fully tap this resource with a minimal number of tourists visiting the country despite its uncountable bounties.

An amalgamation of the scenic beauty of mountain ranges, vast plains, soothing lakes, gushing rivers, enchanting coastline, calm deserts and religio-historic monuments, the country hosts socio-cultural relics gathered from knowledge and experience of invaders, rulers, historians, communities and anthropologists.

Diversified in cultures and cuisines, the country also boasts of noble traditions of hospitality, brotherhood, and religious harmony encompassing Buddha, Gandhara, Indus, Mughals, Sikhs and other civilizations in its architecture, attire and abodes.

It is geographically unique with archaeological heritage, spiritual and cultural sites providing ample tourism oppor-

followers of different religions. Thus one can judiciously claim that Pakistan's tourism industry holds limitless untapped potential.

Taking the example of Punjab province, this region owns ancient cities of Taxila and Harrapa, the glaring sites of Muslim spiritualism, Sikhs and Hindus temples, ancient archaeological remains and Khewra mines where the forces of Alexander the Great were believed to be staying during expedition of sub-continent.

"Our region is rich in culture and diversity with vast tourism potential. We can earn billions of dollars by promoting this sector," said Managing Director Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) Agha Mohammad Ali Abbas.

"Since, our tourism potential is unknown to most of the world, we are focusing on projecting it through digital media," Ali Abbas said. "To promote digital and eco-tourism, we have inaugurated around 176 rest houses at tourist destinations for visitors to book through on-line facility."

He said besides traditional historic and religious tourism, TDCP is developing 'Tourism

Mianwali and Chakwal districts besides new destinations like Kotli Sattian, Jhelum, Soan-Valley, Attock in Rawalpindi region, Fort Munro and Koh-e-Suleman in Dera Ghazi Khan and sites in Bahawalpur and Multan regions.

'Our Cholistan Desert Jeep Rally and Cultural Festival gets international attraction. Therefore, besides 18th rally in February this year, we are also adding to it features like Dirt Bike Race, Camel Race, cultural performance and Para-Gliding show," he informed.

"Cholistan Desert Rally is running successfully since 2005 having nine categories of motorsports including a bike race participated every year, by over 100 famous drivers," he said.

As most of the world's population is follower of a particular religion, therefore pilgrims of every religion visit their holy places every year and Punjab has vast potential of tourism for Sikh, Budhha and Hindu pilgrims.

In this context, Gurdwaras Janam Asthan, Panja sahib and Kartarpur bear pivotal importance for followers of the Sikh religion besides Gurdwaras Tambu Sahib, Maulvi Patti

tunities for nature lovers and Zones' in Salt Range, Khushab, sahib, Kaira Sahib and Nahang, the birthplace of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Then there are temples of Katasraj, in Chakwal district and number of others in Sindh, having much importance for Hindu pilgrims.

Similarly, shrines of Muslim Sufi practitioners also present ample bounties of tourism for Punjab in the form of Hazrat Ali Hajveri, Hazrat Fareed-ud-Din Ganj Shakar, Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya, Sultan Bahu, Bullay Shah and a number of other saints and religious scholars.

One can also not keep oblivious to historic heritage of great Mughals and other rulers of the sub-continent hailing from Central Asia that offer great tourism potential. To experience Mughal heritage and architecture, a visit to Lahore Walled City is a must as the New York Times picked the city as one of the top places to visit in 2021.

Punjab province can also earn billions through religious tourism as mentioned in a recently issued Economic Report, pointing out Sikh tourism potential of around US \$ 34 million besides creating 85,000 jobs and Buddhist tourism around US \$ 17 million and around

The Punjab Growth Strategy (PGS)-2023 report also observed that the province can annually earn around US \$ two billion from international tourism and US\$ one billion from domestic tourism besides generating 250,000 jobs.

"In recent years, 5.9 percent of the country's GDP was attributed to tourism that helped create nearly four million jobs," said Malik Jawwad Khan a private tour operator.

Within the first quarter of 2020, tourism was poised to break all previous records even though the world was struck by the COVID-19," Jawwad said.

Usman Qureshi, the editor of monthly magazine, 'Explore Punjab' said Punjab has a wide range of natural places as he mentioned to desert tourism in Cholistan and Thal, Uchhali Complex of Khushab district, historic forts like Lahore Fort, Derawar Fort, Rawat Fort, Rohtas Fort, Fort Manro and a number of others at different destinations.

"Punjab has multi-billion-dollar tourism potential due to its rich heritage if this potential is fully tapped," Usman

MPA Sajid Bhatti also underlined the need for transforming



Gaza must not be forgotten amid Israel's latest controversies

Yossi Mekelberg

n the tumult of the recent Israeli general election and the farcical process of forming a new government, the focus was chiefly on how it would affect Israeli democracy and relations with the Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, while the Gaza Strip remained completely forgotten. Alas, Gaza should not be forgotten, destined only to draw attention when rockets are launched or when hostilities with Israel flare up. The 2 million people who live there, under intolerable conditions of a cruel Israeli blockade and oppressive Hamas rule, should be on our minds, as they are living in what is probably the world's largest openair prison.

There are many facets to the Israeli blockade of Gaza that began in 2007 and, whatever qualms one has about Hamas, which controls the Strip, or Palestinian Islamic Jihad's presence there, this cannot serve as a justification to deprive millions of human beings of their most basic human and civil rights. Not only are they blockaded by Israel, but they are also held as hostages as long as Hamas is in power and, who knows, maybe

And yet, within the big picture of the Gazan people caught in this impossible and unjustifiable situation, there are also those senseless and cruel measures that are imposed by Israel that no security argument can justify. Instead, they are simply about controlling the population and demonstrating who is in complete control of their lives, livelihoods and well-being, even with no physical presence within the Gaza Strip. One of these despicable measures is high-

lighted by the Israeli human rights organization Gisha in its new report, entitled "One-Way Ticket," concerning a procedure that "forces Palestinian residents of the West Bank who are living in Gaza to effectively 'waive' their right to move back to the West Bank as a condition for submitting permit applications for humanitarian needs." Israel, acting unilaterally, as it does habitually in its dealings with the Palestinians, registers West Bank residents separately from Gaza residents. It does not take much effort to unearth the ploy behind it, as Israel is deeply concerned with the demographic aspect of its conflict with the Palestinians. This was the thinking behind Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005 and the reason why the two populations are dealt with separately, in complete disregard of its signed agreements with the Palestinians.

Demographically speaking, there is currently an equal number of Jews and Arabs within the boundaries of pre-1948 Mandatory Palestine between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. But considering the birth rate in both populations, it is only a matter of time — if it is not already the case — until a Jewish minority, which is mighty in military and economic terms but small in numbers, controls the Arab majority.

Hence, in the minds of Israel's leaders, removing from this equation 2 million Palestinians who reside in the Gaza Strip, adding to them with residents of the West Bank and still controlling them from the outside, helps to ease the pressure on Israel to grant those under its direct and indirect occupation the right of self-determination, or any other rights that every human being is entitled to.

Such "innovative" ideas are typical of an ingly difficult.

occupying force that has absolute power, especially over people sometimes at their most vulnerable, who need to visit an ailing relative, who require medical treatment themselves or who want to participate in a family occasion.

Tania Hary, the executive director of Gisha and one of the most authoritative voices on the situation in the Gaza Strip, observed that, from her organization's experience, "Israel exploited urgent, humanitarian requests to visit the West Bank to compel people to sign the form (that they are settled in Gaza), under pressure and intimidation, and then used this to claim that the person 'waived' their basic right to return to the West Bank in the future." This is conducted, according to Hary, in contravention of international law and for all means and purposes is a forcible transfer, in "a grave breach (of international law) amounting to a war crime."

The new Israeli government is in its infancy and there is no doubt that there are strong elements within it that treat the notions of human rights and humanitarianism, especially when it comes to the Palestinians, with scorn. Some among them are champing at the bit for a showdown with Hamas in Gaza, believing that it can be defeated militarily — such a move is bound to end with huge loss of life and an immeasurable humanitarian disaster.

In the meantime, the daily grind of the blockade continues. Its purpose is to wear down the Gazans, but all it is doing is stoking resentment and hatred toward those who inflict inhumane measures upon them, while in the long-term making coexistence and reconciliation between the two peoples, who are doomed to live together, increasMy Words My Talk

People friendly initiatives of Mohsin Punjab Ch Pervez Elahi

call Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi the name of Mohsin Punjab because the steps he has taken regarding the welfare of the people in his two terms of government are unprecedented. By becoming a tree, emergency services to the people throughout Punjab. Its scope is so wide that it has gained acceptance throughout the province. This is because the facility of motorcycle squad is available only in a few countries, now after the provision of new ambulances and helicopters for this service, its usefulness will increase further.

A few days ago Mohsin Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi announced to make the Punjab Institute of Qur'an and Seerat Studies a Khatam-ul-Nabin University with a grant of one billion and this bill was passed by the Punjab Assembly with an overwhelming majority. The classes will be shared with Madinah University and Jamiat Al-Azhar University, while for the

first time in the marriage contract, a special Khalaf was included regarding Khatam-ul-Nabin (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). Orders were issued to the offices to frame the mentioned verses regarding Khatamul-Nabin, in addition to special measures regarding the teaching and memorization of the Nazra of the Holy Qur'an up to the primary level, while the teaching and provision of books for all subjects up to BA. was made free of charge which was possible for the first time in the history of Pakistan.

During the tenure of Mohsin Punjab Parvez Elahi, 6 new districts of Punjab have been created so far, which will be remembered as revolutionary in the 15-year history of the province. These districts include Murree, Tlagung, Wazirabad, Kot Addu, Jampura and Taunsa. While Taunsa could not be given the

form of a separate district during the reign of Usman Buzdar, this work was also completed during the reign of Mohsin Punjab Parvez Elahi, and by adding cancer and other diseases to the Health Insaf Card, its scope was further expanded. Expanded so that a large number of people can use this card for providing health services. To provide facilities to patients suffering from heart diseases, Chaudhry Anwar Ali Cheema Institute of Cardiology in Sargodha is being started with a budget of 6 billion and the number of beds in Wazirabad Institute of Cardiology has been increased by 200 beds while in Nijab Institute of Cardiology 50 crores. The grant will provide new

thallium scan and CT scan facili-

ties and a new pharmacy will also

Mudassar Qadeer

be established for patients to get free medicines from which a large number of patients will be benefited. of Cardiology, Bahawalpur, with the help of which Thalam scan and CT angiography machines will be installed there. will provide the best treatment facilities and along with this they have also announced the

allocation of Rs 5 billion for a 200-bed Mother and Child Block at Lady Wellington Hospital.

Taking into account the welfare of the common man, the Punjab government is willing to complete all these projects for the promotion of the people-friendly vision of Mohsin Punjab Parvaizalhi and for the welfare of the people so that the people of Punjab can benefit from the fruits of these projects. Among these projects, one important project is the Go Punjab app, due to which you can get many facilities at the doorstep of your home, which is an important achievement of its kind, which has the practical support of Mohsin Punjab. These are the revolutionary measures which are available to the residents of Punjab after 15 years and their fruits will shine with their splendor in the days to come.

President for increasing Pak-UK bilateral trade to US\$ 10 billion per year

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has underlined the need to take tangible steps to increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and the UK, which stood at £3.1 billion in 2021, to US\$ 10 billion per year in a short span of time by fully utilizing the existing opportunities, exploring new avenues and markets, diversifying products and services, and ensuring economic and political stability in the country.

The President expressed these views while talking to UK's outgoing High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Christian Turner, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today

Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner, the President said that enhanced bilateral cooperation to substantially increase trade and investment from the UK in Pakistan would also help in improving the economic conditions of the country, besides creating jobs to reduce unemployment and sustain higher growth rates in coming years.

The President said that the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), which would replace the GSP in early 2023, would provide tariff reductions and simpler terms to Pakistan including duty-free exports of over 94% of goods from Pakistan to the UK.

He appreciated the inclusion of Pakistan in the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) and expressed the desire to fast-track the progress on the signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to substantially enhance trade and signing of an agreement between the two sides for the launch of Trade Dialogue in the coming months.

During the meeting, the President appreciated that 120 British companies were operating in Pakistan with cumulative investments of around \$10 billion and noted that FDI increased by 22% in the financial year 2020-21 rising from US\$117 million to US\$143 million. He also appreciated that over the last five years up to 2019, Pakistan averaged as the



largest recipient of the UK's bilateral overseas development aid (ODA) in Asia.

The President stressed the need to create bilateral Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) and Enhanced Strategic Partnership by developing a 10-year roadmap for taking relations forward in diverse fields, including trade, invest-

ment and climate change.

He expressed the need to further deepen the cooperation between Pakistan and UK in defence and security cooperation, and counter-terrorism cooperation and thanked the UK government for its assistance and support for safe city projects in Islamabad and Lahore and the establishment of

a forensic lab in Lahore and extended support to counterterrorism department.

The President said that Pakistan suffered from a catastrophic global warming-induced super flood whereas Pakistan's contribution towards global warming was less than 1%. He added that 33 million people were affected by the floods, millions lost livelihoods, millions of livestock were lost, and millions of acres of crops were destroyed. He said that the international community should help mitigate the impacts of global warming and climate change, and help vulnerable countries build resilience against climate change.

During the meeting, the President also urged the need for engaging the highly qualified and knowledgeable Pakistani diaspora in the UK and creating a system through the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and the Virtual University of Pakistan (VU) to transfer their knowledge, expertise and intellect to Pakistani students and to improve the country's education system. He also emphasized creating linkages among UK's Higher Education Institutions with AIOU and VU for the exchange of faculty, and cooperation in the critical fields of Science and Technology, including IT.

During the meeting, the increasing permeation of Hindutva philosophy in Indian society was also discussed. The President emphasised that the international community should take notice of the increasing intimidation, harassment and marginalization of minorities, especially Muslims, in India and take tangible steps to pressurize India to give minori-

During the meeting, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan with its English-speaking workforce and its proximity to the Middle East was ideally placed for making investments by the UK-based companies. He said that the certainty in the economic outlook, political stability and sustained policies would further help in attracting UK invest-

Advanced, high-tech Chinese coaches to enhance Pakistan Railways' operation

Misbah Saba Malik, Jiang Chao

LAHORE: Muhammad Naeem was busy checking brand new train coachformal induction in Pakistan Railways for commercial use.

they not only impressed the officials who nance.

standard of the coaches, together with manufactured in Pakistan with China's Chinese engineers who came to Lahore to work with them.

Many functions of the coaches are new to Pakistani engineers and teches with Chinese engineer Lei Song in nicians, so they were trained to learn Pakistan's east Lahore province on a more about them in China and will be chilly winter evening, ahead of their further trained while working together with their Chinese peers in Pakistan.

"The coaches have a lot of advanced The coaches imported from China functions, including the passenger were recently parked at Lahore after information system, air cushion shock completing their trial run during which absorber, Wi-Fi, air conditioning, and an energy-saving light system that my saw them for the first time, but also Pakistani counterparts think is very Naeem and his colleagues who visited advanced and have never used before, China in September last year to receive so our job is to provide training services training about the coaches' mainte- regarding repairs and maintenance of the coaches for the local tracks, Su work," Lei told Xinhua.

Pakistan acquired the limit of 160 km per hour, and are China through a transparent bidding department of China Railway Rolling specially designed to provide very process in which the Chinese compacomfortable travel to passengers," the
ny was the preferred pick among all 55-year-old Head Train Examiner of others from different countries. From Washing Line in Pakistan Railways the contract to acquire 230 coaches, told Xinhua, adding that he will do his 46 arrived in Pakistan at the end of last best to ensure safety and maintain the November, while the remaining will be

support.

Talking to Xinhua about the specifications of the coaches, Muhammad Imran, divisional mechanical engineer of the Lahore division of Pakistan Railways said that they are extremely robust, and have cozy interiors and modern technologies to provide comfortable and fast travel to passengers.

Imran visited China after the contract was won to discuss with Chinese engineers about the structure of the coaches, and their specific design to make them compatible with the local tracks and environment.

Talking about the specific design Weiyue, senior engineer and the project manager of the overseas proj Stock Corporation (CRRC) Tangshan company, told Xinhua that the gauge of railway tracks is 1.435 mm in China whereas it is 1,676 mm in Pakistan, so the operating state of the Pakistani line and the requirements of the track were



By the middle of 2023, raw materials for the remaining 184 coaches will be imported and Chinese technicians will help Pakistan produce and assemble the coaches in about two and a half years, Su said.

"We hope that the train exported to fer program, Imran said that Pakistan

transfer agreement a gift for the people of Pakistan, Imran said that "machinery, plant, and equipment will be installed in Pakistan during the transfer of technology ... and in the future, Pakistan Railways will be able to manufacture these

advanced technological high-speed coaches independently." The newly received coaches will be used as premier trains with special staff and maintenance facilities, Muhammad Hanif Gul, divisional superintendent of the Lahore division at Pakistan Railways under the Ministry of Railways

does not have much experience with

manufacturing coaches in recent history,

and it is a very good project for Pakistan

to provide new skills for its people and

Calling the train and the technology

modernize its factories.

"It will substantially enhance the image of Pakistan Railways and it will provide comfort to passengers and will be another feather in the cap of Pakistan-China collaboration," he added.

World Economic Forum' Global Risks Report 2023:

Tensions peak between urgent cost of living crisis and sustainable climate action

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan faces digital vulnerability and cybersecurity, rapid inflation, debt crisis, possible state collapse, interstate conflict and terrorism as top risks for the next 24 months

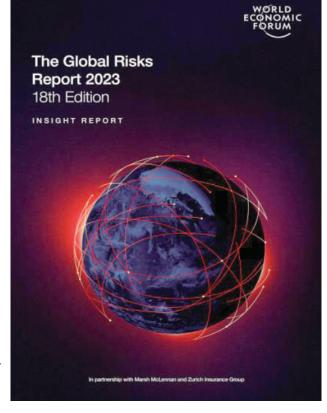
Geneva, Switzerland/Islamabad, Pakistan 11 January 2023 For the past 17 years the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report has warned about deeply interconnected global risks. Conflict and geo-economic tensions have triggered a series of deeply interconnected global risks, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2023. These include energy and food supply crunches, which are likely to persist for the next two years, and strong increases in the cost of living and debt servicing. At the same time, these crises risk undermining efforts to tackle longerterm risks, notably those related to climate change, biodiversity, and investment in human capital.

On Pakistan, the Global Risk Report identifies that a combination of extreme weather events and constrained supply could lead the current cost-of-living crisis into a catastrophic scenario of hunger and distress for millions. This can also turn the energy crisis towards a humanitarian crisis. Energy shortages - because of supplier shut-offs or natural, accidental, or intentional damage to pipelines and energy grids - could cause widespread blackouts and fatalities if combined with seasonal extreme

identified the top ten risks that pose the biggest threats to Pakistan in the next two years have been identified as: 1) Digital power concentration and monopolies, 2) Failure of cybersecurity measures (including. loss of privacy, data fraud or theft, cyber espionage), 3) Rapid and/ or sustained inflation, 4) Debt crises, 5) State collapse, 6) Lack of widespread digital services and digital inequality, 7) Interstate

sity loss and ecosystem collapse, 9) Terrorist attacks, 10) Employment and livelihood crisis.

Amir Jahangir, Chief Executive Officer Mishal Pakistan, the Partners Institute for New Economy and Societies Platforms of the World Economic Forum said. "the Global Risk Report 2023 identifies that for Pakistan, both the affordability and availability of basic necessities can stoke social and political instability".



He further said, "Last year, the increase in fuel prices alone led to protests in an estimated 92 countries, some of which resulted in political upheaval and fatalities, alongside strikes and industrial shutdowns". He said, "the impact of insecurity will continue to be felt in Pakistan and may also exacerbate instability due to simultaneous food and debt crises. Resulting in the emergence of a possible more technocracy-based decision-making leadership framework.

The Report identifies that the cost-of-living crisis is the biggest short-term risk while failure of climate mitigation and climate adaptation are the largest longterm concerns. The geopolitical rivalries and inward-looking stances will heighten economic constraints and further exacerbate both short- and long-term

The World Economic Forum in the Global Risk Report says that estimates suggest, over 800,000 hectares of farmland has been wiped out by 2022 floods in Pakistan - this has resulted in increasing commodity prices significantly in a country that is already grappling with record 27% inflation. Water stress is also widespread in Pakistan, this particularly impacts women and girls responsible for water collection, with knock-on impacts for health and education outcomes. More widespread scarcity, combined with paralysis of international cooperation mechanisms, has necessitated a degree of water nationalism, resulting and Zurich Insurance Group, in prolonged disputes between

neighbouring states and countries. In the face of spreading humanitarian crises and state instability, water infrastructure could continue to be used both as a weapon and target, mirroring past water conflicts and terrorism in India, Pakistan, and Afghan-

at present, the global pandemic and war in Europe have brought energy, inflation, food, and security crises back to the fore. These create follow-on risks that will dominate the next two years: the risk of recession; growing debt distress; a continued cost of living crisis; polarized societies enabled by disinformation and misinformation: a hiatus on rapid climate action; and zero-sum geo-eco-

nomic warfare. "The short-term risk landscape is dominated by energy, food, debt, and disasters. Those that are already the most vulnerable are suffering - and in the face of multiple crises, those who qualify as vulnerable are rapidly expanding, in rich and poor countries alike. In this already toxic mix of known and rising global risks, a new shock event, from a new military conflict to a new virus, could become unmanageable. Climate and human development therefore must be at the core of concerns of global leaders to boost resilience against future shocks," said Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, World Economic Forum.

The report is produced in partnership with Marsh McLennan draws on the views of over 1,200

global risk experts, policymakers, and industry leaders. Across three timeframes, it paints a picture of the global risks landscape that is both new and eerily familiar, as the world faces many pre-existing risks that previously appeared to be receding.

product for train production in Pakistan told Xinhua.

in the future. We hope to have friendly

cooperation with Pakistan to achieve the goal of joint development and bene-

Talking about the technology trans-

fit-sharing," she added.

Unless the world starts to On the international front, cooperate more effectively on a perpetual state of crisis where climate mitigation and climate adaptation, over the next 10 years this will lead to continued global warming and ecological breakdown. Failure to mitigate and adapt to climate change, natural disasters, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation represent five of the top 10 risks with biodiversity loss seen as one of the most rapidly deteriorating global risks over the next decade. In parallel, crises-driven leadership and geopolitical rivalries risk creating societal distress at an unprecedented level, as investments in health, education and economic development disappear, further eroding social cohesion. The Report also sheds light on the rising rivalries risk not only growing geo-economic weaponization but also remilitarization, especially through new technologies and rogue actors.

The coming years will present tough trade-offs for governments facing competing concerns for society, the environment and security. Already, short-term unpredictable consequences. The geo-economic risks are putting report explores "Resource Rivalnet-zero commitments to the test and have exposed a gap between what is scientifically necessary and politically palatable. Dramatically accelerated collective action on the climate crisis is

needed to limit the consequences of a warming world. Meanwhile, security considerations and increasing military expenditure may leave less fiscal headroom to cushion the impacts of an elongated cost of living crisis. Without a change in trajectory, vulnerable countries could reach they are unable to invest in future growth, human development, and green technologies.

The report calls on leaders to act collectively and decisively, balancing short- and long-term views. In addition to urgent and coordinated climate action, the report recommends joint efforts between countries as well as public-private cooperation to strengthen financial stability, technology governance, economic development and investment in research, science, education, and health.

The Global Risks Report is pillar of the Forum's Global Risks Initiative which works to promote greater common understanding of short-, mid- and long-term global risks to enable learning on risk preparedness and resilience. This year's report also examines how present and future risks can interact with each other to form a "polycrisis" a cluster of related global risks with compounding impacts and ry", a potential cluster of interrelated environmental, geopolitical, and socioeconomic risks relating to the supply of and demand for natural resources including food, water, and energy.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index	Fluctuation
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index
Current	Prev. Close
40,758.20	40,801.51
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,988.28	40,597.35
Index Value	Change
6,168,914,944	-43.31
Percentage	Time
-0.11%	Jan 11, 2023 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,763.91	+69.42
Percentage	Time
Percentage +0.92%	Time 11 Jan, 2:29 pm GMT
	11 Jan, 2:29 pm GMT
+0.92%	11 Jan, 2:29 pm GMT
+0.92% USA: Dow Jones I	11 Jan, 2:29 pm GMT ndustrial Average
+0.92% USA: Dow Jones I	11 Jan, 2:29 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change
+0.92% USA: Dow Jones I Index Value 33,817.37	11 Jan, 2:29 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change +113.27
+0.92% USA: Dow Jones I Index Value 33,817.37 Percentage	11 Jan, 2:29 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change +113.27 Time 11 Jan, 9:36 am GMT-5

Open Market Forex Rates

Change

+270.44

Time

11 Jan, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Index Value

26,446.00

Percentage

+1.03%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	168	170
Bahrain Dinar	607.43	611.93
Canadian Dollar	180	182
China Yuan	33.69	33.94
Danish Krone	32.96	33.31
Euro	271	273
Hong Kong Dollar	29.09	29.44
Indian Rupee	2.76	2.84
Japanese Yen	2.5	2.55
Kuwaiti Dinar	746.53	751.53
Malaysian Ringgit	50.95	51.4
NewZealand \$	145.98	147.18
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	593.54	598.04
Qatari Riyal	62.26	62.76
Saudi Riyal	66.7	67.35
Singapore Dollar	171.42	172.72
Swedish Korona	21.78	22.08
Swiss Franc	247.56	249.31
Thai Bhat	6.82	6.92
U.A.E Dirham	68.75	69.35
UK Pound Sterling	306	309
US Dollar	235.7	238

Martin Dow Group launches scholarship program for IBA students



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Martin Dow, the Multinational Healthcare Group in Pakistan, has launched another initiative for deserving students at IBA Karachi under the program of M. Jawed Akhai Scholarship seats.

Chairman of Martin Dow Group Mr. Ali Akhai met with IBA Karachi's Executive Director Dr. S Akbar Zaidi to formalize the scholarship program aimed at strengthening the legacy of the founding chairman. Under this program, scholarships in the memories of M. Jawed Akhai will fund the education of deserving students at IBA.

Expressing his views, on this occasion, Chairman Martin Dow Group Ali Akhai said, "Jawed Akhai, the Founding Chairman Martin Dow Group, focused on improving the quality of life of underprivileged communities and making sustainability a part of Martin Dow's business model as per our core values. We are here to improve the quality of life for the communities we serve is a reflection of our belief in Creating Distinction for Life."

We are taking this legacy forward by further enhancing the relationship with the IBA Karachi through the M. Jawed Akhai scholarships for the needy, contributing to sustainable causes and building positive connections with communities, he added.

Till now, the Martin Dow Group has been IBA's long-standing partner in delivering an international-standard health & learning environment to students. The Martin Dow Health Centre was established to provide free of cost medical treatment to students, faculty, and staff members at the IBA. Besides, M. Jawed Akhai gold medals and shields were introduced to motivate & reward the best in class at the IBA.

ICCI organized a Conference on 'Revival of Economy'

Example 2 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Conference on Revival of Economy. Prominent business leaders from across Pakistan included Shehzad Ali Malik Chairman United Business Group (Lahore), Dr. Gohar Ejaz Patronin-Chief All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Lahore), S.M.Tanveer former Chairman APTMA (Karachi), Ghazanfar Bilour (Peshawar) & Engr. Darood Khan Achakzai (Quetta) former Presidents FPCCI, Khalid Tawab former Senior Vice President FPCCI (Karachi), Qazi Akbar Vice President FPCCI (Chakwal), Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General UBG, Haji Afzal former President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Peshawar), Naima Ansari former Vice President FPCCI (Islamabad) addressed the conference.

being faced by the economy and passed a solution unanimously to steer the economy out of the current economic crisis. The resolution called upon the government to cooperate with



The business leaders discussed key issues and markets to boost the exports that would amount and produce exports surplus as well. help in reviving the fragile economy of the country. The resolution said that being an agriculbillion on the import of wheat, cotton, pulses the private sector in enhancing imports substi- and edible oil and stressed that their imports of IT, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals be given due consideration by the government

The resolution said that Pakistan is making 70% exports of only 3-4 products and demandtural country, Pakistan is spending US\$ 12-13 ed that the government should support the business community in increasing the exports tution and diversification of products basket substitution in the country would save this and other products. The resolution said that for implementation.

the shortage of dollars is the main cause of the rising economic crisis in the country and stressed that the government should consider offering 10 years' tax holidays on depositing dollars in banks to improve forex reserves of the country. The resolution further demanded that the government should also consider offering a bonus scheme to exporters and foreign remitters to cover the difference between bank and open market dollar rate. The resolution urged that the government should privatize all loss making public sector enterprises including PIA, Pakistan Steel Mills, Pakistan Railways and electricity companies that would save around Rs.1000 billion annually.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed all the business leaders to the Conference and stressed that the government should evolve a new strategy in consultation with the business community to address the current economic troubles.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI thanked the business leaders and all the participants of the Conference and hoped that the resolution passed by the business leaders would

Subsidised flour bags

HYDERABAD: A large number of women standing in a queue to buy flour bags at subsidided rates provided by the government outside Niaz Stadium.



IPO signed Institutional agreements with University of Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan signed Institutional Agreements with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi; Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources, Islamabad, and; Pakistan Agriculture Research Centre, Islamabad to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) there.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chairman IPO-Pakistan Mr. Farukh Amil, Director-General IPO-Pakistan Ms. Shazia Adnan, Executive-Director IPO-Pakistan Mr. Meesaq



Arif, and respective heads of the host institutes.

The Institutional Agreements will help in enhancing the institutional capacity of the host institutes to effectively exploit the high quality technical information present in patent as well as scientific and technical literature database.

The respective heads of the TISC host institutes appreciated the institutional agreements as a leap forward in the promotion of innovation and research in their institutes, and promised a closer collaboration with IPO-Pakistan in effective implementation of the agreements.

Cashbacks on bills

K-Electric (KE) partners with savyour and visa for savings

News Desk

KARACHI: Promoting a culture of bill payments through digital means, K-Electric (KE) has partnered with Visa, the world leader in digital payments, and Savyour – Pakistan's only consumer's reward platform to provide cashbacks to the customers on paying their KE bills. This is an industry first in the power sector where a company is offering discounts to all customers paying digitally via a debit

Savyour is Pakistan's first and only cashback app and rewards platform featuring more than 500 brands across various categories while Visa transactions.

The exclusive offer all KE customers with Visa the Savyour app. There is also no minimum limit on the bill amount to be eligible for cashbacks. On weekdays, customers can avail 2% cashpaid via digital payments

through Savyour and 4% with VISA debit/credit cards with a maximum cashback of PKR 1600, while upto 10% cashback can be availed on weekends with a maximum cashback of PKR 2100 with Visa Debit/Credit cards.

KE has been working actively to integrate digitalization into its core processes to provide customers with a seamless experience. The utility is pioneering innovation and supporting regular bill payment through the KE website and KE Live App by offering cashbacks, discounts, and also the ability to convert bill payments into installments. These combined efforts have enabled KE to achieve 1 is the world's second largest million digitally connected payment gateway for digital users which is a significant milestone.

To avail able until 28th February to users can download Savyour app which will redirect debit and credit cards using them to KE's website. On making payment through their Visa debit or credits cards, the cashback amount will reflect in the customer's Savyour Wallet, which can back of the total bill amount be easily withdrawn by the

FCCI President met with President FPCCI



👺 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) must formulate a sustained economic agenda to drag out Pakistan from the prevailing crisis in consultation with all stakeholders, said Dr. Khurram Tariq, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). In a meeting with Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, he said that after 9/11 internal as well as external turmoil inflicted major shock to the fragile economy of Pakistan and we are still experiencing its ill impacts. He said that external factors are beyond our control but we could eliminate political uncertainty in addition to creating much needed consensus on the charter of economy and in this connection FPCCI has taken an appropriate step to consult the stakeholders and business community from all over the country. He feared

that drop in GDP and unprec-

edented rise in unemploy-

ment might create the worst

law and order situation in the

country during 2023.

He said that in order to control the situation, the business community must pool its energies and pressurize the government to formulate viable, result oriented and reliable policies for the sustained economic growth in the best interest of the nation and country. Dr. Khurram Tariq disclosed that he had made a serious effort from the platform of FCCI to evolve consensus on important economic issues among the local trade bodies but in view of the gravity of the situation such efforts must be made at the federation and national levels

He welcomed the FPCCI initiative to create consensus on the charter of economy but said that political parties and influential circles might also be taken on board so that the economic agenda could not be affected due to regime change or political confrontation. Dr. Khurram Tariq also dwelt at length on prudent policy measures to minimize the import of fuel, fixing business hours and privatization of loss-making State-Owned Entities (SOE).

Implementation of commitments will be a challenge: Mian Zahid Hussain

156 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said announcements and commitments of more than ten billion dollars for Pakistan by the international community in the Geneva Conference arranged by Pakistan and the UN is a success for Pakistan.

The conference proves successful diplomacy and improvement in Pakistan-US relations by the current government, which will not only provide relief to the thirty million flood victims but also end the rumours about Pakistan's default, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the success of this conference has also shown that Pakistan's global isolation has ended and the international community stands with Islamabad.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the



credit for the reduction of tensions with an important country like America goes to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, for which they deserve compliments.

Due to the efforts of the Prime Minister, the provinces also participated in this conference, which was a sign of national unity to the participants of the conference and sent a positive message, he added.

The business leader also lauded the dedication, skills, and role of the relevant diplomats and other officials of Pakistan in this regard. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Foreign

Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his team have fulfilled their responsibilities. Economic Affairs Minister Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Environmental Minister Sherry Rehman and Information and Broadcasting Minister Maryam Aurangzeb also made great efforts.

The Information Minister highlighted the efforts of various ministries, the Minister of State for External Affairs worked hard, and the Foreign Secretary, ambassadors and other diplomats also worked day and night which yielded positive results.

He said that after this success, the real challenge is to implement these announcements and promises, for which a transparent method of spending will have to be adopted and all the concerned people should also use their capabilities for it so that the international community is not disappointed.

K-20 Cup 2023: Apollo, Golden, Lucky Star, Ali Garh Club get victories

👺 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Apollo Club, Golden Star Cricket Club, Lucky Star Club and Ali Garh Club emerged victorious in the K-20 Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament matches played here on Tuesday.

Usaid Amin sparkling knock steered Apollo Club to a thrashing 140 runs win over Shah Faisal Club in the 11th match of the tournament. Besides Usaid, Muhammad Akhlaq (53), Babar Arshad (45*) and Rehan Nadeem (30) also batted brilliantly and scored a huge total of 212-5 in allotted 20 overs. M Ilyas, Ali Manzoor, Soban Malik and Bilal Ansari got one wicket apiece.

Superb bowling by Apollo Club bowlers restricted Shah Faisal Club to a paltry 72-10 in 18.2 overs. Only Mohammad Ilyas (17), Ahmad Zahoor Elahi (16) and Salman Mirza (12) reached the double figures. Umair Butt was key wreckerin-chief grabbed 3 wickets for 2 while Usaid Amin, Mohammad Rameez and Asad Rafiq bagged 2 wickets each. For his all-round performance, Usaid Amin was named player of the match.

Golden Star Cricket Club maintained their supremacy in the tournament as they defeated P&T Gymkhana by 26 runs. Golden Star, batting first, posted a total of 178-8 in 20 overs. Azzam ul Haq hammered 44 runs, Abrar Ahmad 31,



Mohammad Naveed 27 and Usama Tahir unbeaten 21. Adan Khan, Adan Mir and Asad Raza took two wickets each.

P&T Gymkhana, in reply, could score 152-10 in 19.2 overs. Ahmed Bhatti top-scored with 52 runs while Mohammad Ishaq struck 39 and Yawar Bashir 17 runs. Ahmad Safi Ullah, Zain ul Hussain, Abrar Ahmad and Sadaqat claimed 2 wickets each.

Lucky Star Club edged past Prince the loss of 6 wickets. Qasim Akram ground.

Club by 4 wickets in a thrilling 13th encounter of the tournament. Prince Club, batting first, gathered 137-9 in allotted 20 overs. Zeeshan Shabbir was top scorer with 45 runs while Nasir Shah

Lucky Star Club successfully chased

smashed superb 45 runs while Imran Dogar cracked 22 and Zain ul Hassan 19 runs. For Prince Club, Anas Mustafa and Usman Dhillon got two wickets each.

Sparkling bowling performance by Mubashar Aslam guided Ali Garh Club to a thumping 9-wicket victory over Valencia Club in the 14th match of the tournament. Valencia Club, batting first, scored 123-9 in allotted 20 overs with Ismael Muhammad smashing 33 runs and Adnan Arshad 17. Mubashar Aslam was wrecker-in-chief of Valencia Club batting lineup as he clinched 4-16 while Ehsan Ullah took 3-25 and Awais Nazir 2-15.

Ali Garh Club comfortably chased the target in 15.4 overs losing just one wicket. Both Hazrat Wali and Faraz Ahmad batted sensibly and slammed in unbeaten 57 and 56 runs respectively. The only wicket of Ali Garh batter Zeeshan Ashraf was taken by Muhammad Abbas. Mubashar Aslam was declared man of

On Thursday (January 12), three matches will be played. Pak Lions will compete against P&T Gymkhana at Model Town Greens ground, Township Whites Club will vie against City hit 17 and Asif Ghafoor 16 runs. Abuzar Gymkhana Cricket Club at Pindi Zafar and Azeem Arshad captured two Gymkhana Cricket ground and Shinning Cricket Club will play against Yu the target of 138 runs in 19.3 overs for Slim Cricket Club by at Model Town Club

Janbaz Boxing Club wins first Colgate Palmolive Karachi Women's Boxing Championship

Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Janbaz Boxing Club has won the first Colgate Palmolive Karachi Women's Boxing Championship title with 5 gold medals, whereas Pak Shaheen Club got second position with 4 gold medals. In comparison, Lyari Labor Boxing Club won 3 gold medals and won the third position. According to Karachi Boxing Association, as many as 57 boxers from different women's boxing clubs of Karachi participated in the championship organized under the auspices of the Boxing Association and with the support of Colgate Palmolive in the event played at Ali Muhammad Qambarani Boxing

tion Asghar Baloch, Secretary of POA huddin Siddiqui said there is no dearth



Sports Organiser Dr. Asma Muham- the country. We only need to groom this mad Ali Shah, Vice Chairman of Sindh talent into world-class players, he said. athletes at all levels in collaboration with President Mahfouzul Hag Commissiondistributed among successful players er Karachi Sports Coordinator Ghulam the country at the international level and world-class athletes to win medals and and other participants on this occasion Muhammad Khan, Colgate represent- they are equally capable and talented. by legendary ex-Olympian Islahuddin ative Amna Kashif and SBA Secretary Siddiqui, the chief guest on the occasion. Abdul Razzaq and other sports personneed of this country is to provide them President of Sindh Boxing Associa- alities were also present. Olympian Isla- with the best facilities and suitable that these women boxers can be a part of

Women Commission Veena Masood, of talent among Pak women athletes in

Dedicated to the spirit of service, the

their best to make the country proud in

Asif Azeem said that the patronage of women boxers by Colgate Palmolive is a welcome step and such events will be very helpful in the promotion and development of women's boxing.

Veena Masood said that all possible steps are being taken to empower women and provide them ample opportunities in sports from the platform of the POA Women Commission.

Colgate Palmolive Representative Amna Kashif said that Colgate Palmolive is proud to patronize women's sports and we will continue to encourage women Olympic Association Asif Azeem, Vice Adding that our female players are also Pakistan Olympic Association to provide fetching valuable prizes and trophies for them with a platform and make them honours for the country at internation-

Asghar Baloch said that he is hopeful opportunities so that they can also do the national boxing team of Sindh and

GC University Eleven beat US Consul General Eleven,Lahore



LAHORE: Ground GC University Lahore in an exhibition match which was arranged by Glaxy Sports Academy Founder Rabia Qadir under the auspices of PCB Mr.William K.Macaneole lead the team of CG Eleven while Dr. Asghar Zaidi led the team of GC University. This exhibition match was played for the promotion of Gender Equality and both male and female players participated in this exhibition match and this credit goes to combinedly to Consulate General Mr.William.K.Macaneole and GC University Vice Chancellor Dr. Asghar Zaidi.

On this occasion Founder of Glaxy Sports Academy Rabia Qadir thanked to both personalities to participate in this exhibition match and support this event.Mr.William said that in all departments we are in favour of women's participation he said that we are proud to favour in Education, Entrepreneurship, Sports, Media and other departments to Women's. He said that maximum participation of women's can strength the economy of Pakistan. Taniya Malik., Head of PCB Women Wing said that for the healthy environment sports is very necessary for women's and women's should come in the field of sports.

She said that to participation in cricket for women's PCB is working in different projects. On this Occasion former hockey Olympion Shahbaz Ahmed Sr, Former Pakistan cricket team Manager Azhar Zaidi, former hockey player Naseem Ahmed,Federal Union of Journalist Secretary Arshad Ansari and other dignitaries were present. Dr Asghar Zaidi also said that GC University will continue to hold the sports event in future he thanked to Consulate General Nr.William, Glaxy Sports Academy founder Rabia Qadir to organize such a fabulous event under the foggy

Meeting reviews arrangements for Cholistan Rally to be held in February

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: As part of preparations for 18th International Cholistan Desert Rally, a meeting was held to review the performance of the various committees established for various tasks for smooth and well-organized conduct of the Rally.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Zahid Parvez Waraich and attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Aitzaz Anjum, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Naeem Sadiq Cheema, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur City Dr. Anam Fatima, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur Saddar Faisal Ahmed, Regional Manager TDCP Tariq Rabbani, President Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chaudhry Zulfikar Ahmed Maan, Chief Officer District Council Mian Azhar Javed, Director Arts Council Bahawalpur Muhammad Sajjad, SDO Cholistan Development Authority Imtiaz Lashari, Divisional Sports Officer Aamir Hameed, Director Livestock Sibtain Bukhari, In-charge Security Branch Mohsin Sardar, DSP Traffic and others, Assistant Commissioner Ahmedpur East and Assistant Commissioner Yazman joined the meeting through a video link.

The Deputy Commissioner said that all the arrangements for the Cholistan Desert Rally should be completed properly and all the events shall be organized on the scheduled dates and times.

Back to pavilion

KARACHI: Pakistan's Imam-ul-Haq walks back to the pavilion after his dismissal during the second one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Pakistan and New Zealand at the National Stadium, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

New Zealand thump Pakistan to level series 1-1

KARACHI: New Zealand but the attacking enterprise the National Bank Cricket Arena in Karachi.

(Conway 101, Williamson 85, chase of 262, New Zealand Nawaz 4-38, Naseem 3-58) beat Pakistan 182 (Babar 79, Sodhi 2-38, Southee 2-33) by 79 runs

New Zealand suffered a slow, grippy Karachi pitch, offered Pakistan hope with

defeated Pakistan by 79 runs of Devon Conway and Kane in the second one-day inter- Williamson prior to that national (ODI) on Wednes- gave their spin-heavy attack day to level the series 1-1 at a defendable total to work with. After Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson made the Zealand 261 early incisions in Pakistan's spin quartet muzzled the hosts with their subtle variations and forced the series

into a decider on Friday. Despite wickets falling late collapse of 6 for 37 on a around him, Babar Azam

find a higher gear to keep the asking rate in touch. Mitchell Santner did his

thing by relentlessly attacking the stumps and holding his length back. Michael Bracewell, who is more of a batting allrounder for his domestic side Wellington, was the most economical spinner, returning 1 for 29 in his ten overs.

Ish Sodhi, who returned to the side in place of Henry Shipley, bowled into the pitch

79 off 114 balls, but could not and often drew mis-hits from Pakistan's batters. The legspinner bagged the prized scalp of Babar, the second-last Pakistan batter to be dismissed, and all but sealed New Zealand's series-levelling win. Glenn Phillips, who is now a reluctant wicketkeeper because of a back condition, added to New Zealand's spin stocks in an ODI World Cup year, trapping Haris Sohail lbw. The spinners had combined figures of 30-0-114-5.

32-member Balochistan delegation arrives in Lahore under youth exchange programme

跨 Sports Reporter

LAHORE: A 32-member delegation including 10 females from Balochistan arrived in Nishtar Park Sports Complex under Youth Exchange Programme under the leadership of Director Youth Affairs Balochistan Ejaz Ali on Wednesday.

Seven male and female national level karate, cricket and wushu players and 21 students from different colleges and universities were also part of Balochistan delegation which is on a 4-day visit of provincial metropolis on the invitation of Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab.

The Balochistan delegation also called on Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Musarrat Jabeen at Punjab Stadium. Talking to delegation Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Musarrat Jabeen said that the visit of Balochistan delegation under Youth Exchange Programme is definitely a useful activity. This kind of trips played a key role in giving valuable exposure to young boys and girls of the country and this practice should continue in

Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Musarrat Jabeen further said that national solidarity will grow among the youth of different province through these Youth Exchange Programmes.



Sports Department Punjab is taking effective measures for the training and grooming of young boys and girls in multiple fields," she added. The members Balochistan delegation visited different departments and sports facilities in Nish-

tar Park Sports Complex such as Punjab Stadium, Tennis Stadium, State-of-the-Art Tennis Courts, Punjab International Swimming Complex, NPSC Gymnasium Hall and National Hockey Stadium, E-Library, Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Punjab Safe City Authority (PSCA). Director Youth Affairs Sved

Umair Hassan gave thorough briefing about different departments and sports facilities of Youth Affairs and Sports Department. The documentaries of Punjab Games, Youth Programmes and other achievements were also shown to guest delegaStadium.

Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Deputy Secretary Liaqat Ali Bhatti, Assistant Director Youth Affairs Nazish Noor, Assistant Directors M Sajid and Mohayyud Din were also present on this

During their E-Library visit, the members of guest delegation were given briefing about multiple facilities, functions and features such as Youth Helpline and Co-Working Space etc.

Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan on this occasion warmly welcomed the Balochistan delegation. "Youth Exchange Programme will promote national unity and brotherhood among youth. Through this programme, the youth of Punjab and Balochistan will get an opportunity to learn from each other," he added.

members of Balochistan delegation highly appreciated the performance, projects and achieve-"There is no doubt that tion at National Hockey ments of Youth Affairs and

Sports Department. They expressed their pleasure to witness modern sports facilities in Nishtar Park Sports Complex. "E-library is the best project where students are quenching their thirst for knowledge," the students said. Following are the members

of guest delegation. Director Youth Affairs Balochistan Eiaz Ali, Assistant Director Youth Affairs M Mustafa, Zeeshan Ali, M Raza (Officials), Shahzaib Khan. Waheedullah, Miss Mah Gul, Fakhrun Nisa (karate players), Basit Ali, Mirwais Khan (cricketers), Miss Nargis Batool (wushu), Miss Saima Tareen, Miss Nissa Tabasum, Miss Nayab Batool, Miss Aqsa, Miss Shukria, Miss Zahra, Miss Saman Mushtaq (female students), Fawad Ahmed, Asmat Durrani, Faiz Muhammad, Syed Bilal Ahmed, Abdul Qadir, M Ramzan, Sameer Ahmed, Yaseen Jaffar, Fida Hussain, Zeeshan Ali, Ammar Ayoub, Iltaf Hussain, Yasir Nawaz and M Shoaib (students).