Barkat Rice Mills

فرمانٍ رسول وَاللَّهُ عَلَهُ

عبداللّٰد بن عمرر ضي اللّٰدعنهما(نفل) اسي

(Pvt) Limited

Federal IT Minister inaugurates country's first ever digital school

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque on Thursday inaugurated the first digital school of the country in Orangi Town area of Karachi. The Government Girls' Secondary School Raees Amrohi was adopted and renovated by Telecom Foundation Education System as the first ever digital school of the country under the vision of transforming communities.

Robust mechanism in place for redressal of grievances at missions: FO Spokesperson

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Hands shaking

ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of the United Arab Emirates His Highness Sheikh



UAE agrees to roll over existing loan of \$2b, provide \$1b additional loan to Pakistan

ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan wherein the latter agreed to roll over the existing loan of US\$ 2 billion and provide US\$ 1 billion additional loan.

In the meeting took place in Abu Dhabi during prime minister's two-day visit, both sides agreed to deepen the investment cooperation, stimulate partnerships and enable investment integration opportunities between the two countries.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

PM Shehbaz Sharif reaches UAE on two day official visit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reached United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a two day official visit. UAE Economic Affairs minister, Abdullah Touq Al Mari and officers of Pakistani embassy received the prime minister at the airport. The prime minister is accompanied by a high level office.

if to Abu Dhabi and wished made by the Pakistani commuprogress and prosperity for Pakistan.

He praised the historical relawelcomed Prime Minister Shar- and the valuable contributions

delegation; including key members of the federal cabinet. PM Shehbaz Sharif is visiting UAE at the invitation of President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

This is the prime minister's third visit to the UAE after assuming

nity in the UAE.

The prime minister thanked the UAE president for inviting tions between the two nations him to the brotherly country.

UAE agrees to roll over exist-

additional loan to Pakistan

Abu Dhabi: Group photo mad Shehbaz Sharif and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan with the delegates of both the sides

The two leaders discussed the fraternal relations existing between Pakistan and the UAE; and explored ways and means to further strengthen these ties, especially in the fields of trade,

The two leaders also had an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

investment and energy.

They also expressed satis-

progress in bilateral relations.

They agreed on the imporof Prime Minister Muham- tance of enhanced bilateral exchanges and regular dialogue at all levels to further solidify and provide momentum to the relationship.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed for a state visit to Pakistan to which he agreed. The dates will be decided through diplomatic channels.

Later, in a tweet, the prime minister said, "This support will help us tide over economic difficulties. We are deeply touched by kind gesture of our Emirati brothers and sisters."

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign agreement to finance oil derivatives worth \$1 billion



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on Thursday signed an agreement to finance oil

derivatives worth \$1 billion. The agreement was inked Secretary Economic Affairs Dr Kazem Niaz, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Saudi Fund for Development Sultan bin Abdulrahman Al-Murshed, an Economic Affairs Ministry news release said.

Dr Kazem Niaz, on the occasion, said the step was an extension of previously signed agreements in 2019 and 2021 valued at \$4.44 billion to finance oil derivatives in Pakistan.

Development had supported more than 40 projects and programmes in different development sectors valued at approximately \$1.4 billion. All the programmes were

aimed at helping the country achieve its sustainable development goals and build a prosperous future, he added.

Saudi Fund for Development CEO Sultan bin Abdulrahman Al-Murshed said the agreement emphasised the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's commitment to continue supporting the brotherly Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The agreement also reflected the interest of "our leaders in supporting the Government of Pakistan to navigate economic challeng-Since its establishment, es and build a sustainable he said, the Saudi Fund for economy", he added.

Expenditures needed to be reduced to cope with financial difficulties: CJP

👺 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Thursday stressed the need of taking steps to reduce expenditures as the country was facing financial difficulties.

The CJP observed that all the record of donors of the dams fund was available on the Supreme Court's website, and the people would be informed about the machinery purchased from it.

They would ensure that the dams fund would not be spent on coping with the flood damages, he added. The chief justice remarked that transmission lines were very import-

ant for the projects. He was heading a five-member larger bench, which heard a case regarding the construction of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams.

During the hearing, the counsel of State Bank told the court that total Rs 10 billion was received in the the dams fund, which would increase to Rs 17 billion during the current only Rs 25 billion, he added. month due to its investment in government securities.

"No one had ever withdrawn the money and there is over Rs 16 billion amount present in the dams fund at the moment," he added. The collect-



ed amount was first invested in the government securities and then its proceeds were reinvested in T-bills through the National Bank.

The Secretary Water and Power told the court that the instructions had been given to release Rs 2.4 billion for the installation of transmission lines for the dam. The current circular debt in the country was Rs 2.6 trillion and it was expected to further increase, he added.

He said over 90% of electricity was being stolen at some grid stations. The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) supplied electricity worth Rs 95 billion last year but collected

He said electricity was being stolen through hooks and even distribution companies' (Discos) employees were also involved in the power theft. Half-hearted actions were taken against the power thieves, he added.

If such was the situation of Discos then why the same were not privatised as both the government and the International Monetary Fund were concerned about the increasing circular debt, he added.

The Secretary Power said now there was less raise in the circular debt due to raise in electricity prices. There was an annual shortfall of Rs 400 billion in the sale and purchase of electricity, he added.

The WAPDA's lawyer told the court that the Power Division had to pay 240 billion in line losses to the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA). The work of the dams project was affected due to non-payment to the contractors, and also due to floods and security situation, he

He said the infrastructure of Mohmand Dam was damaged and lack of funds was also hindering the dams projects as the amount allocated in the PSDP was also not being released.

He said the international experts had left the country due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan instructed the Secretary Power to ensure that dams project should not be affected for any reason.

CM Parvez Elahi advises Governor to dissolve Punjab **Assembly**

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has signed a summary for dissolution of Punjab Assembly day after he obtained vote of confidence from Punjab Assembly amid ruckus and opposition's boycott following weeks of political turbulence in the province.

The decision to dissolve the assembly had been taken in a meeting between the chief minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan held at Zaman Park, where senior party leaders were also present.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the Punjab CM has signed the summary asking the Governor to dissolve provincial assembly.

The PTI leader said that the advice has been sent to the Punjab Governor. He said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly will also be dissolved with the Puniab Assembly.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-



former prime minister Imran Khan had completed consultation with the party leadership and the Punjab Assembly and decided to dissolve Punjab Assembly. Sources privy to the develop-

ment said the PTI leadership had rejected the suggestion to delay dissolution of the provincial assembly till February and instead the assembly could be dissolved tonight. Previously, in the wee hours

of Thursday, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi proved his majority in the provincial assembly, winning the much-hyped vote of confidence.

The vote of confidence in the provincial legislature concluded with the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) coalition gaining majority support, with the backing of 186 lawmakers, the minimum e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and number needed to win the vote.

PSP, Farooq Sattar formally announce merger with MQM-P



👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP) and MQM Bahali Committee of Farooq Sattar have formally announced the merger with Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) ahead of local government (LG) elections in Karachi and Hyderabad.

The development was announced at a press conference held at the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan's headquarters in Karachi's Bahadurabad,

fa Kamal, Faroog Sattar, Amir Khan, Waseem Akhtar, Anis Kaimkhani and Nasreen Jalil.

Speaking at the outset of the press conference, MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said the "graveness" of the situation in Sindh's urban areas requires all people to join hands.

Khalid Maqbool claimed that the Sindh's urban areas were facing a political crisis, issues related to census and delimitation of constituencies, voter lists and employment.

Nawaz was unhappy with no elections in April

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) MNA Chaudhry Salik Hussain said PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif was unhappy with not holding elections in April

In an exclusive interview with ARY News, the PML-Q MNA Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that the PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif was in favour of early elections but he just wanted to make some important amendments.

He revealed that there were some parties in the PDM coalition who didn't want early elections. CM Punjab and PML-Q leaders used to go together for meeting with the establishment.

The PML-Q leader doubted that may be there are some back-door talks going on between the two leaders. He

said that in politics people change sides but till they are in coalition with PTI they will not unite. Salik Hussain maintained

that PDM was ready to give the chief minister seat to Pervaiz Elahi and there were talks on the seat adjustment as well.

Earlier, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) MNA Chaudhry Salik Hussain conveyed an important message of his father, party's president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo

Talking to journalists after the meeting, Chaudhry Salik said that he has requested the PML-N supremo to return to Pakistan. However, he said, the former premier has not given any final date regarding his

Nawaz Sharif.

The Spokesman

Winters' speciality

KARACHI: A vendor is selling chicken soup (Yakhni) alongside a road in Provincial Capital.



Tough economic times demand dialogue among political parties: President

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi expressing strong concern over the state of the national economy has stressed that the political parties need to hold talks by rising above their differences. In an exclusive interview

with BBC, the president the political heat' to avoid economic situation in the

stakeholders", including the collapse.



termed it crucial to 'lower ruling coalition government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Infurther deterioration of the saf(PTI). He said differences were part of democracy, however, it was crucial for all to make united efforts to save and after that, the leaders negotiations among "all the country from economic can also meet," he said.

"I am not insisting about [holding talks with] PTI chief Imran Khan, but at least the political parties should hold discussions,

Khan had expressed satisfaction over the nomination of General Asim Munir as army chief. He, however, said that he was not 'brokering any dialogue' between Imran Khan and the current army leadership.

Calling 2023 an election year, the president said the political parties should also negotiate about it whether to hold the polls sooner or later, plus or minus a few months.

The president said that he had been personally making efforts to reduce tension He mentioned that in an among stakeholders and united," he said.

earlier consultation, Imran termed social media "a major reason" behind the differences between Imran Khan and former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

He said undue importance paid to social media resulted in misunderstandings and pointed out that "decision-making elements" in the country failed to effectively handle social media.

"I have been trying to bring people together to help them end their mistrust, and I will continue to do so. It is my constitutional responsibility to keep the federation

Promise fulfilled': Moonis reminds PTI on signing summary for PA dissolution



👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Moonis Elahi said on Thursday Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi had fulfilled a promise by signing a summary for dissolution of the Punjab Assem-

Taking to Twitter, the former federal minister said, "Promise fulfilled." Talking about Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, Moonis said, "May we see you back in PM seat soon, @ImranKhanPTI."

Punjab Governor withdraws Pervaiz Elahi's de-notification order, LHC Informed

Mews Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) was told on Thursday that Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman has taken back his order to de-notify Pervaiz Elahi as the chief minister after he managed to secure the confidence of 186 members in the Punjab Assembly.

A five-member bench comprising Justice Abid Aziz Shaikh, Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh, Justice Asim Hafeez and Justice Muzamil Akhtar Shabir

During today's proceedings, Elahi's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar informed the bench that his client had taken the vote of confidence from the Punjab Assembly.

heard the case.

Bilawal speaks with Muttaqi; condemns attack on Afghan foreign ministry



Example 2 City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday held a telephonic conversation with Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttagi and condemned the terrorist attack that took place on Wednesday targeting Afghan foreign ministry.

The foreign minister, in a tweet, said that both the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan were the victims of terrorism and must put in all-out efforts to defeat the

"Spoke to Acting Foreign

condemned the terror ist attack on his (Afghan foreign ministry) yesterday. Both people of Pakistan and Afghanistan are victims of terrorism. Must do all we can to defeat this menace, the foreign minister tweeted.

According to a Foreign Office statement, the foreign minister underscored that terrorism posed a common threat to both Pakistan and Afghanistan and required a collective response.

Reaffirming complete solidarity with the Afghan people in countering this menace, the foreign minister underlined Pakistan's Minister of Afghanistan commitment to work Amir Khan Muttaqi today; with Afghanistan towards

UAE businessmen call on PM

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan had great investment opportunities, and the government was taking all necessary steps to facilitate investors.

The Prime Minister was talking to a delegation of investors and businessmen of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which called on him here.

The delegation comprised Mohamed Hassan Al-Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company the Middle East region with (ADQ), Syed Basar Shueb, a diverse portfolio of large Managing Director of International Holdings Company (IHC) and others.

During the meeting, the delegation was briefed with regard to geo-economic potential of Pakistan in the areas of food and agriculture, aviation, power, alternate energy including solar energy, financial services, healthcare, industry, logistics, real estate, tourism and hospitality.

Mohammed Hassan Al-Suwaidi showed interest in expanding the ADQ's global presence and readiness to explore business and investment potential of Paki-

ADQ is one of the largest holding companies in enterprises covering key sectors of the non-oil economy of Abu Dhabi.

Elevated Pak-ASEAN partnership in the mutual benefit of both sides: Experts

Example 2 City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Experts in a panel discussion here at the stan recognized the ASEAN Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on Thursday stressed that a deeper regional economic integraand elevated Pakistan-ASE-AN partnership was in the mutual benefit of Pakistan tion in Southeast Asia. and South-East Asian coun-

with the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI), led Nguyen Tien Phong and ACI chairman.

Speaking on the occasion, former foreign secretary Sohail Mahmood said Paki-'miracle' that had contributed immensely to peace, tion, and prosperity through effective regional coopera-

He added that Pakistan's desire to forge a closer rela-The experts made the tionship with ASEAN was remarks during a dialogue driven by its 'Vision East session organized here by Asia' policy as well as the the ISSI in collaboration imperatives of geo-eco-

relations between Pakistan academic



and ASEAN members, bilaterally as well as on the institutional platform of ASEAN.

They exchanged views on the current state of Pakistan-ASEAN cooperation The other speakers and underlined the need to by Ambassador of Vietnam focused on exploring avenues enhance linkages between for further deepening cordial business communities and institutions/

think-tanks across ASEAN

member states. The ACI Chairman and other members shared valuable suggestions on strengthening overall collaboration between the two sides, including through increased people-to-people exchanges. It was also agreed that Azuan Haji Ayub.

ISSI-ACI collaboration would be utilized to raise awareness about the potential of Pakistan-ASEAN partnership and ways to optimally realize it.

Besides the Chairman, the ACI delegation included Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Thailand Chakkrid Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Myanmar U Win Myint; Charge d' Affaires of Philippines Maria Agnes M. Cervantes, Acting High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam Abdul Mubdi Osman and Charge d' Affaires of Malaysia Nor

Summary to dissolve KP assembly will be sent two days later'

跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government spokesperson Barrister Ali Saif said on Thursday that KP Chief Minister (CM) Mahmood Khan would send the summary to dissolve the KP assembly to KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali two

The opposition in the KP

assembly had submitted a requisition in the assembly which impedes the dissolution at the earliest, Legal experts said the assembly could not be dissolved after the submission of the requisition.

Meanwhile, the PTI chief

Imran Khan has summoned a session of the party leadership to deliberate on the matter of dissolving KP assembly at his residence in Lahore

Earlier, Punjab CM Parvez Elahi advised the Punjab governor to dissolve the Punjab Assembly thus raising the political tempera-

Installation ofconical baffle in geysers made mandatory by **OGRA**

News Desk

LAHORE: In line with the Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan's Energy Conservation Plan, OGRA has made installation of Conical Baffle in conventional gas geysers mandatory for domestic gas consumers. In this regard, OGRA has approved gas utilities request to undertake mandatory installations of Conical Baffles. A public hearing in this respect was held at OGRA Head Office in Islamabad on January 09, 2023.

The installation of Conical Baffles will result in 20 to 25% saving in gas bills and will as such help in mitigating the ongoing natural gas crisis in the country.

'Disaster Risk Calendar' on cards for generating region-specific emergency alerts: NDMA Chairman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Thursday apprised Executive Director of Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Hans Guttmann, that the authority was working on the formulation of a 'Disaster Risk Calendar' based on foreseeable disasters for generating region-specific emergency alerts which would be subjected to revision by the end of the calendar year in light of practical experiences.

ADPC ED Hans Guttmann called on NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider here, a news release said.

matters of mutual interest Host Country Agreement (HCA) between Pakistan and ADPC which was inked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The HCA will enable

Pakistan and support to make including the signing of the interventions in collaboration with NDMA for making the

country resilient. Both sides

also explored possibilities for

mutual cooperation in future.

NDMA Chairman empha-

for as a collective approach towards disaster mitigation and disaster risk reduction with the advanced outlook of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in Pakistan. He underscored the

potential areas of investment in building the capacity of national emergency response and preparedness through sharing experiences, training and transfer of technology in the field of disaster management.

He also apprised the visiting dignitary of his vision for the establishment of remodeled and technology-driven National Preparedness and Response System in the country for a proactive approach to



ADPC ED discussed ADPC to establish offices in sized on developing mutual disaster management. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi.

ENGRO LNG terminal helps Pakistan save over \$3b through import substitution of furnace oil

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Engro Elengy Terminal has successfully handled over 450 shipto-ship transfers since its inception, as a result, Pakistan has been able to save more than \$3 billion through import substitution of furnace oil.

In 2015, Engro developed the about 55% of LPG first-ever LNG terminal facility of Pakistan. Built in a record 335 days, the LNG terminal currently handles 68% of all LNG imports into Pakistan and a key enabler for country's daily domestic gas require-

EVTL is the only facility in Pakistan households. that combines services for bulk storgases all under one operations. The terminal operations have grown from

handling 0.5 million tons of specialized and hazardous bulk liquid cargoes to around 6 million tons per annum. Since inception, it has facilitated investments of more than \$2 billion in the ble safety record even by global standdownstream petrochemical industry. EVTL provides for over 60 percent of Pakistan's bulk chemical imports and Engro and Royal Vopak partnership, marine imports.

venture stands as now fulfills around 15 percent of the major industrial activities in Pakistan (President, Vopak Asia & Middle and helps contribute towards energy security that serves over 1 million

Therefore, this

EVTL and EETL safely handle age of chemicals, cryogenic and LPG almost \$4 billion of feedstock and products on an annual basis, without any incidents related to product

environment. The business has operated without lost-time injury (LTI) for the last 25 years, which is an impecca-

To mark the 25th anniversary of Mr. Dick Richelle (Chairman Executive Board and CEO

elengy terminal - Royal Vopak) and Mr. Chris Robblee East) toured Pakistan to meet partner Engro Corporation, headed by Mr. Ghias Khan (President and CEO), senior executives of Engro, and visited the terminal facilities at Port Qasim

to engage with the employees as well. According to Mr. Ghias Khan,

contamination or loss, health, and the "This partnership is very special and a great example of Pakistan because it has been very successful in all dimensions. We are now looking forward to greater things not just in Pakistan, but internationally as well. What we value the most about this relationship is the mutual respect and trust, and the desire to learn from each other."

> Mr. Dick Richelle shared that, "We have many partnerships around the globe for quite some time, but what we have in Pakistan is very special. We are not only celebrating 25 years of partnership between Vopak and Engro, but its 25 years of friendship between the two companies. I want to thank everyone at Engro for allowing us to develop this friendship over the period of time, and to do that with the trust we put in EVTL and Elengy."



one's taste buds, Shan Foods and Shop showcased flavors from Pakistan and from around the world at the Karachi Eat Festival 2023. Visitors were also treated with immersive engagement activities such as 360-degree video booths and gaming arenas.

Aimal Developers Organizes dealers convention

№ News Desk

KARACHI: Shangrila City, a luxurious and affordable housing project in Karachi, organized a dealer convention in honor of the people associated with the project at a local hotel on Tuesday. The convention was briefed by Aimal Developers about the master plan of Shangrila City and the details of future activities

At the dealer convention, Syed Muhammad Afzal Hameed, CEO of Aimal Developers, endorsed the master plan of Shangrila City and informed about all the activities and future performance on the site. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Shangrila City is the better future of Karachi. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Kashan Siddiqui, CEO of Al-Meeraj Marketing thanked all the dealers who attended the convention. He said that the real estate sector needs to be made more constructive and profitable and for this purpose, Al-Meeraj Marketing Real Estate Institute is being introduced, which will give the youth an opportunity to move forward and improve their future.

Yousaf Bashir Qureshi (YQB), Owais Rabbani (Motivational Speaker) and Samad Abbas were the chief guests of the ceremony. Addressing the youth, Owais Rabbani said that the youth are the assets of this nation. On this occasion, Samad Abbas also organized a training session. The dealer convention was hosted by Hamza Akhtar Qaimkhani and Syed Bilal Ahmed.

Import restrictions hinder smooth process of future export orders: PHMA

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) has lamented that the import restriction by the State Bank of Pakistan would hinder the smooth process of future export orders, leading to declining foreign inflows amidst depleting foreign exchange reserves which are presently at the lowest ebb in the country.

PHMA zonal chairman Naseer Butt sought the prime minister's intervention to exempt whole textile export sector against restrictions imposed by the central bank, allowing import of all kind of textile industry raw

material to enhance exports growth, as the authorities have placed the import of the textile industry's raw material on third priority. He said that the hosiery industry is facing undue delay in sales tax

refunds and restrictions on import of raw material, resulting into inordinate delay in export orders and damaging the reputation of the country. He called for continuation of Duty Drawback of Local Taxes & Levies (DLTL) Scheme to ensure growth in country's exports, besides releasing the stuck up claims of 2019-20 under this scheme.

IIUI acting president visits male hostels, listens to issues of students

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Professor. Dr. N. B. Jumani, Acting President of International Islamic University (IIU) chaired a session on Thursday at the hostel 5 and 6 of the university where he listened to the problems of the students in presence of all the relevant officers as well as he along with all the Directors personally visited various places at the hostels of male campus and inspected overall situation.

The session was attended by all the Directors and their relevant officials of the departments, while Dr. Abrar Anver, Provost male hostels was also present on the occasion.

Listening to the problems of the students and addressing the issues, the Acting President directed that there must be no negligence in addressing the immediate solvable issues. He desired that all the concerned departments according to the identified problems at the hostels must chalk out plans and submit the reports along with solutions in his office at earliest as he would be personally supervising all matters discussed in hostels during this visit. The Worthy Acting President said that there will be zero tolerance for those who will show negligence in duty.

PMAJK inaugurates Computerized Land Record Service



👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan on Thursday inaugurated the Computerized Land Record Service Center and E.facilitation center for State Subject Certificates and Domicile. On this occasion, Special Assistant Information Technology Board Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Forest Minister Muhammad Akmal Sargala, Senior Member Board of Revenue Dr. Liaqat Hussain, Secretary Information and IT Ms. Midhat Shahzad and several others were present. Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan also visited the Computerized Land Record Service Center. Secretary Information Technology Ms. Midhat Shehzad gave him a detailed briefing regarding the computerization of land records. She told the PM that after maintains the land records all information would be available online on web portal www. ajkzmaeen.gov.pk. She said that the Computerized Land Record Service Centers were also working in other districts of Azad Kashmir added.

Group photo

KARACHI: President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, FTO, Asif Mahmood Jah, Siraj Uddin, Chairman PCA and Muhammad Yousuf,



Education & Health care facilities Successful negotiations for labour will be upgraded

腾 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: "Mazdoor" Card has been launched in collaboration to FCCI in the BOGs of PESSI and with Bank of Punjab to facilitate the secured industrial workers in the prevailing inflation while its ambit would also be further enhanced to finance scheme of "Akhuwat", said Mr. Nabeel Javed Secretary Labour & Human Resource Punjab.

Addressing to the business community & elite business force in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he informed that, steps were also underway to streamline the provision of medical and education facilities to the worker's families and their children.

He further said that the minutes the FCCI to resolve the industrialists' ing 7 lac workers jobless. He said that Human Resource Mr. Nabeel Javed.

problems according to the ground in this crisis, the government must realities. He also assured to notify the take care of the workers by providcommittees and give representation WWF on priority basis.

Earlier Dr. Sajjad Arshad Senior Vice President introduced Faisalabad and FCCI and said that 8,000 provide them subsidized food items in members belonging to 128 different addition to linking them with micro- trades are affiliated with this elected trade body of Faisalabad. He was critical of global meltdown and political uncertainty and said that industries are facing the brunt of the crisis with minimum layoffs of workers.

He said that continuity of this situation may further enhance unemployment and trigger lawlessness in the country. He said that major industrial units are working with only 40% of their installed capacity while 70% power looms and SME ing them subsidized ration and other fringe benefits

Muhammad Amjad Khawaja of Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association, Chaudhry Muhammad Nawaz of All Pakistan Cotton Power Looms Association, Mian Tayyab of All Pakistan Bed Sheets and Upholstery Manufacturers Association, Chairman of FCCI Standing Committee on Social Security Shahid Ahmed Sheikh, Chairman EOBI and Labour Laws Standing Committee Haji Talib Hussain Rana and Shakeel Ansari of Sizing Association also participated in the question-answer session while Vice President Haji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli offered vote of thanks. Later Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad presented FCCI of the meeting would be shared with units have been closed down render- memento to Secretary Labour and

administration

of the district



跨 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: The negotiations of the central leaders of Waziristan Aman Olasi Pasoon Aman (Waziristan peace public movement) with the district administration were successful, the seven-day sit-in was ended and all the blocked roads were

According to the details, the successful negotiations of the district administration with the sit-in going on for seven consecutive days, the participants of the sit-in expressed their happiness on the success of the

Immediately after the success of the negotiations, DC South Waziristan Lower Nasir Khan, DPO Shabir Hussain and AC Wana Yasir Salman Khan Kundi reached the protest pandal, on this occasion, Tehsil Wana Chairman Maulana Saleh Wazir was also with them.

DC Nasir Khan, while expressing his views, congratulated the people participating in the sit-in and said that all the demands of your people are constitutional and legal, we will start implementing all these demands very soon. Some demands take time to process and most requests will be processed many times.

At which the people involved in the sit-in expressed their satisfaction, the sit-in was declared over, and all the closed roads were opened.

It should be remembered that local leaders of all political parties, PPP, ANP, JUI, JI, PTI, NDM, PKMAP, lawyers, businessmen, PTM and a large number of tribal elders and youth participated.

gave their demands to the district

Right information and rights of the society are preferences District Sports Officer Saji-da Latif, Chief Officer District

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Zila Markaz for Right to Information Act has been established in DC office under Punjab Information Commission to provide information to the citizens under this Right to Infor-

The Markaz was formally inaugurated by Chief Information Commissioner Mehboob Qadir Shah and the Deputy Commissioner, Imran Hamid Sheikh. Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Kashif Raza from Agricultural University, In-charge District Emergency Operational Center, officers were also present on the Zila RTI Markaz has been



of the province. He thanked the district administration for this coordination. The Deputy Commissioner said that under the vision of Punjab Informa-Awan, Professor Dr. Jalal Arif tion Commission the said information shall be provided to the citizen under RTI act.

Further the Assistant Muhammad Sadiq and other Commissioner Tehsil City Waqas Safdar Sikandri has this occasion He informed that requested to the Deputy Commissioner for the issuance

Price Control Magistrates for not showing complete actual regard to their official responsibilities regarding price control mechanism. He said that Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh has directed to conduct regular price checking and uploading the data at Qeemat Punjab App but DO

Water WASA Shahbaz Latif,

Community Development

Officer PHED Irfan Riasat,

Council Ghulam Dastgir, Director Operation WASA Muhammad Ejaz Latif, Population Welfare Officer Kashif Habib, AD Agriculture Extension Dr. Khalid Iqbal, Tehsildar City Rana Sajid, DD Agriculture Extension Khalid Mehmood, Niab Tehsildar City Saeed Ahmad, ADWASA Muhammad Izhar ul Haq, Deputy Chief Officer MCF Amjad Ali and Director WASA Kamran Raza price Control Magistrates despite repeating the directions and reminders have failed to file data imposed to profiteers, registering FIRs and sealing of premises etc; therefore DC was informed for taking the disciplinary action against all those who have no interest in public welfare.

Waziristan Aman Olsi Pasoon (Waziristan peace public movement) administration in the form of a letter.





Namaz T	imings
Fajr	5:45 am
Zohr	12:16 pm
Asr	3:41 pm
Maghrib	5:19 pm
Isha	6:47 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	.1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	. 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police927	70601-20
	-

Women Police

Statio	ns	5
Islamabad		9222596
Rawalpindi	92	70601-20

Nawatpiriai 3270001	_
ENQUIRY	
Edhi Ambulance	.1
PIA Flight Info	1
PIA Cargo 92809)7
Railway Inquiry	.1

Railway Exchange 9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi

$SECP\ registers$ 2.374 new companies in Dec 2022

Example 2 Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,374 new companies in December 2022. The total number of registered companies now stands at 183,744. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) of these companies for the current month stands at Rs4.1 billion.

Foreign investment has been reported in 85 new companies. These companies have foreign investors from Afghanistan, Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA and Vietnam. Major chunk of investment was received from China with 48 companies, Germany with 5, Afghanistan, UK and US with 4 each, Iran and South Africa with 2 each and 16 companie with other countries.

In the final month of calendar year 2022, nearly 56 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 41 percent were registered as single member companies. The remaining three percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP). Nearly 99.8 percent companies were registered

online. The real estate development & construction sector took the lead with incorporation of 427, information technology with 329, trading with 292, services with 218, education with 107, tourism with 104, food & beverages with 89, ecommerce with 82, corporate agricultural farming with 63, textile and mining & quarrying with 55 each. pharmaceutical with 51, marketing & advertisement with 50, and 452 companies were registered in other sectors.

MoU signing ceremony held between PARC and IPO Pakistan

S Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO Pakistan) signed an agreement for establishment of Technology Innovation Support Centre (TISC) with necessary infrastructure at National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) Islamabad.

The ceremony was held at IPO Headquarters. Dr, Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC & Mr. Farrukh Amil, Chairman IPO graced the Occasion. Dr. Falak Naz, Member Coordination, PARC and Mr. Meesaq Arif, Executive Director IPO signed the Agreement on the behalf of their organization. The Agreement will provide support to PARC for Intellectual Property Rights Protection, strengthening of its own and national agricultural research system technologies.

On this occasion, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC said that inauguration of TISC at NARC will be held soon. The project aims to provide an enabling environment for technology scouting, adaptation and innovation in Pakistan. Specifically, the project is expected to encourage the incremental and economical innovations at Universities and Research Institutes by enhancing the institutional capacity to effectively exploit the high quality technical infor-



mation present in patent as well as scientific and technical literature databases.

Chairman PARC emphasized that it will provide opportunity for trainings and capacity building of PARC scientists and national agricultural research system in patent registration of innovative technologies for further commercialization under national/international umbrella. Dr. Ali ensured that PARC will provide administrative & HR support to operationalize TISC. PARC will nominate a focal person to coordinate with NARC.

IPO Pakistan for TISC related tasks. PARC will allocate support staff to carry out services of TISC and promote TISC services activities within the PARC and related academic, industrial and business institutes. Dr. Ali said that it has potential to provide a platform to youngsters for registration of their research and link their research with IPO. At the end. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali. Chairman PARC, invited Chairman IPO, Mr. Farrukh Amil, and his team to visit

Anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Poets are cutting the cake on the occasion of 92nd birthday anniversary of Ahmed



Youth will play a key role in achieving the UNO's 4RF agenda

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistani youth will play a key role in achieving the UNO's 4RF objective which includes Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework the global Youth Ambassador of United Nations and exeuctive director Kinnaird Center for Learning and Cultural Development (KCLCD). Rizwan Anwar also attended the International Conference



(4RF), said by Rizwan Anwar, on Climate Resilient Pakistan, co-hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations, at UN Head quarters Geneva, Switzerland with the Pakistan official delegation. adaptation. Rizwan Anwar Rizwan welcomed that UN's recent 4 RF agenda and vowed

that it will also provide a foundation on which the country will build and strengthen longterm resilience to climate-induced disasters.

The conference laid out a multi sectoral strategy for rehabilitation and reconstruction in a climate-resilient and inclusive manner, Securing international support and forge long-term partnerships for building Pakistan's climate resilience and said that Youth of Pakistan is prepared to work voluntarily in close association with CSO's, Government Organizations and INGO's to achieve the goals of preparing the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework

He mentioned that Pakistan has a Youth Bulge which can be engaged to ensure transformational measures are put into place to ensure resilient recovery, and to reduce the impact on developmental gains, so as not to hinder the progress of future generations.

PTC Notch up Huge Recognition with Eight GDEIB Awards

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of fostering diversity and inclusion, Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited (PTC) won eight awards at the Global Diversity & Inclusion Benchmarks Awards 2023.

HR Metrics conducts GDEIB awards on an annual basis through a merit-based process in which organizations are given the opportunity to disclose their diversity, equity, and inclusion accomplishments with reference to Global DEI Benchmarks standards and a focus on social and economic impact on relevant stakeholders. Various leading organizations from all sectors across Pakistan take part in these awards.

Pakistan Tobacco company was awarded in the categories for 1) Vision, Strategy, and Business Impact, 2) Leadership and Accountability, 3) Recruitment, 4) Advancement and Retention, 5) Work-life Integration, Flexibility & Benefits, 6) Assessment, Measurement, and Research, 7) DEI Learning and Development and 8) Community, Government Relations & Philanthropy.

The jury for the awards comprised leading global DE&I experts

including Lynda White-President Mcleod White and Former Board Chair of The Centre for Global Inclusion USA, and Karen Francis-Vice President and Chief DE&I Officer, American Institutes for Research

While commenting on this huge recognition, Ali Akbar, Managing Director PTC, expressed his satisfaction saying that diversity and inclusion is deeply imbued in PTC's approach towards sustainable growth as we believe and focus on properly actioned DE&I policies to have a measurable impact on company performance.

IBCC has approved the equivalence of the CP to HSSC science group.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Career-related Programme (CP) has been officially recognized by Pakistan's Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC), Ministry of Education, and is equivalent to the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) Science subjects (Pre-Medical/Pre-Engineering Group) of Pakistan. All students who have a Secondary School Certificate, or equivalent qualification, will be eligible to study the CP.

Uzma Shujjat, IB's Regional Manager of Pakistan, said: "We are delighted with the news that the CP is now officially recognized to both humanities and science groups throughout Pakistan. This recognition opens new opportunities for CP students in Pakistan to join higher education, including medical and engineering colleges".

The CP is specifically designed for students aged 16-19 who wish to engage in career-related learning, while also continuing to gain transferable and lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement. It is an innovative blend of academic study and career skills that incorporates the vision and educational principles of the IB into a unique programme. The CP's three-part framework comprises the study of at least two Diploma Programme (DP) courses alongside the distinctive CP core and a career-related study.

IIOJK facing the worst Indian state terrorism: Imtiaz Wani

Mews Report

ISLAMABAD: Parties Hurriyat Conference, Azad Jammu Kashmir and Pakistan Secretary Information Imtiaz Wani, has urged the international community to take cognizance of the Jammu and Kashmir.



Imtiaz Wani in a statement issued in Islamabad said that the people

of IIOJK had been facing the worst Indian state terrorism for the last over seventh decades. He said India, which claims to be the world's largest democracy has

usurped Kashmiris' fundamental right, the right to self-determination, which is tantamount to an outrageous assault and an infringement on the essence of the UN charter. He maintained that India's continuous denial to grant the Kashmiris their birth right had prevented the habitants of occupied territory from enjoying the fruits of liberty, experience of dignity and full benefits of freedom as enshrined in the UN charter, the Geneva Convention and other core international human rights treaties.

Imtiaz Wani said that instead of reflecting a genuine desire to grant the Kashmiri people their promised right, the Indian rulers over the past 75 years tried to crush the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self-determination by using its military might. For that matter, India deployed massive troops in the disputed territory whose number has now swelled to over one million, he said. These trigger-happy troops operating under the protection of draconian laws are resorting to extra-judicial killings, detentions, massacres, targeted killings, sieges, torture, enforced disappearances, rape and molestation of women, to intimidate the Kashmiri people into submission, he deplored.

Imtiaz Wani said since 5th August 2019, IIOJK has been turned into a hell for its inhabitants who have been denied every right. "The suffocating conditions in which Kashmiris are forced to live were a greatest challenge for the world's conscience. Kashmir is the only place in the world where humans live without human rights," he said.

He Said urged the international community to take cognizance of the Indian state terrorism in IIOJK and impress upon India to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Kashmiris' aspirations for ensuring durable peace in the region.

Census in 2023 is going to be digital for the first time: PIDE Seminar

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Census in 2023 is going to be digital for the first time ever in the country's history. All the preparations are rolled out and the team is now ready for a gigantic task. The effort is entirely indigenous; all the systems devised and the tools created are by our own experts, enunciated Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), proudly. He was addressing a hybrid seminar, themed "Census 2023: All You Want to Know About", at the Pakistan Institute of Development Econom- ment of Pakistan then constiics (PIDE) Islamabad.

important national activity that is linked with resource allocation to provinces, representation in wider acceptability of census National/Provincial assemblies processes and results. For this

Therefore, the credibility of engagement was carried out in census is of utmost importance. This is what called for comprehensive introspection leading to a solution acceptable to all-digital census.

He apprised the audience that after the results of the latest Census 2017 were approved in 45th CCI meeting held on 12th April, 2021, the Council of Common Interests (CCI) gave directions for the next census to start as early as possible and should be according to international best practices by using the latest technology. The Governtuted a committee of renowned He shared that census is an demographers and experts with comprehensive TORS, to bring transparency, credibility and

order to have ownership of the Earlier in his opening remarks

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor PIDE said that the Censuses remain controversial in Pakistan, at times delayed for over a decade. Now that we are moving towards the new Census, it is time to raise all the concerns and questions we have.

To addressing the Seminar on forthcoming Census 2023, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar said that following UN Guidelines and detailed deliberations of the Committee, it was decided that there ought to be clarity regarding the primary objectives of census - policy and planning. Ensuring universality, implying that counting of whole population residing in country ysis. at time of census should be done,

and the delimitation process. a board-based stakeholders' irrespective of its status/whether one is holder of CNIC or not. The exercise is of counting not of verification. Individual enumeration to carried out-information on each enumerated person to collected. It was also agreed upon that census must be conducted simultaneously and in shortest possible time, he said.

The Chief Statistician also added that a National Census Coordination Committee (N3C) has been developed at the national level in the House of PBS. N3C can be imagined as National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) that was set up during the pandemic. N3C would have centralized decision making, having a control room with dashboards showing realtime progress, trends and anal-

It's a two step process. First, you will have to sign in on a portal and will provide you with a QR code. For the first time, self-enumer-

ation method will also be used. door, just show him the QR code. He would scan it and data will fill the form. Towards the end, it geo-tagging of each structure, tablet-based and self-enumera-Save it with yourself. Later, when tion system will build the trust 1961, 1972, 1981, 1998 and latest the enumerator knocks on your of stakeholders. 126,000 tablets

will be used in the exercise. All checks and security measures are in place for breach or manipulation of the data. He also said that PBS has conducted training of the digital census in three tiers i.e. Training of Master Trainers, Training of Trainers (ToT) and Training of Enumerators. As of now, the pilot census has also been completed. At the end, Naeem uz Zafar,

thanked PIDE for the opportunity and requested for any feedback to mitigate any loopholes if anv. It is pertinent to note that,

the first-ever regular population census in the areas now comprising Pakistan, was held in 1881. Since then regular Census were be saved into system. Moreover, conducted after every ten years up to 1981. Six censuses have been undertaken so far i.e. 1951,

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Hindu nationalists demand laws to bar **Indian Muslims from** public office

n Indian Hindu nationalist and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's former aide Pravin Togadia continues to spew venom against the Indian Muslims as he recently called for amendments in the Indian constitution to bar Muslims from holding any public office and for controlling their population.

"I will bring in a law whereby there can be no SP, PM, DM from any other community... In my Hindu rastra there will be no Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas. For me, Vikas (development) is only for Hindus," said Pravin Togadia, also President of International Hindu Parishad said recently addressing in Assam.

Earlier, at a public gathering in Dhubri district of Assam, he had said that Dhubri had only 20% Hindus with 1,200,000 Muslims having "infiltrated" from Bangladesh and demanded a DNA test of Muslim migrants who came here after 1951 and demanded the BJP-led state government to send those who 'fail' the test to be despatched to detention camps.

Togadia also claimed that the Hindus were the rightful heirs of Indian land and that committed to bringing the Uniform Civil Code just like Ram Mandir, control the Muslim population and disallowing Muslims to get any constitutional post.

He also called for renaming the Indian city of Karimganj as Dev Bhumi as he said Karimganj has been derived from the name of a Bangladeshi.

On another occasion, Togadia had demanded that the minority status for Muslims should be withdrawn and they be made to adhere to the two-child policy to curb their population growth.

"The status of minority (for Muslims) should be withdrawn. A two-child policy should be there to control their population."

At a public gathering, Togadia was also seen administering an oath from his followers to carry weapons and send five million Muslims of Bangladeshi origin back to Bangladesh. He also resolved to arm 20 million people in India and 0.5 million youths in Assam state to help them stand victorious.

Tapping multi-billion tourism potential for economic gains

Dr. Saeed Ahmad Ali

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

It is geographically unique with archaeological heritage, spiritual and cultural sites providing ample tourism opportunities for nature lovers and 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 Zones' in Salt Range, Khushab, Mianwali and Chakwal districts besides new destinations like Kotli Sattian, Jhelum, SoanValley, Attock in Rawalpindi region, Fort Munro and Koh-e-Suleman in Dera Ghazi Khan and sites in Bahawalpur and Multan regions.

"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 sahib, Kaira Sahib and Nahang, the birthplace of Maharaja Ranjit

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 35,000 jobs.

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 said.

MPA Sajid Bhatti also underlined the need for transforming the present TDCP structure to make it an investment mobilization, marketing and promotion arm of the Tourism Department.

"TDCP should promote Public Private Partnership (PPP) and offer incentive package to promote domestic and international private investment," Bhatti proposed.

As Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) forecast earnings of around Rs.793 billion from tourism during fiscal 2022-23and the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) estimates tourism potential of an estimated \$40 billion within a decade. there is dire need to fully focus this sector for achieving desired goals.



Ensuring irrigation water to tail-ender

Dr. S. A. Ali

griculture is crucial to economic growth as it the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) while in developing countries, it accounts for more than 25 percent of the GDP. A healthy, inclusive, and sustainable

food system is vital for achieving the rapidly growing world's development goals. Agriculture is the main artery of Pakistan's economy. It produces around 35 percent of

the GDP, nearly 59 percent of the total exports, employing almost 57 percent of the workforce. Around 35 million hectares of fertile land are suitable for agriculture in the country.

According to the agricultural statistics, the actual cultivated area in the country is about 20.54 million hectares, of which 5.61 million hectares are rain-

However, over the last century, domestic demand for food supply has risen geometrically. According to the United Nations, at the current growth rate, the global population is expected to be doubled by 2050. By then, the food demand is projected to increase to around 59 percent to 98 percent.

It has been realized around the world that the enormous potential of the agriculture sector to deal with the dilemma is food security. Therefore, the agriculture sector has a ripple effect on the economy of nations.

sector also needs to be shaped in a way that it could meet the target of food. Beyond this, climate change-driven issues including urbanization, water rising production costs pose a challenge collusion with irrigation departments the real beneficiaries of the project.

to national food security.

Traditional food production is not sufficient to meet the demand. Pakistan has become a net importer of food. Therefore, in tandem with the current accounts for 4 percent of grain production system, the country needs to adopt manifold productivi-

> The substantial shortage in agriculture output can be bridged by transforming our barren lands into fertile lands. Drawbacks in the tail-ending irrigation system, deforestation, drought, and intensive traditional farming methods are turning an area half the size of Britain into a desert every year.

> According to the United Nations (UN) recent report, by 2030, around 135 million people could lose their shelters and livelihood means to deserti-

> Pakistan, being an agricultural country has enormous agricultural potential. Nearly two third of its population is dependent on agriculture-related earnings and activities.

> Former chairman of Indus River System Authority (IRSA), Punjab Irrigation Chief Engineer Rao Irshad Ali Khan told APP that the process of stealing water by influential persons through planting devices, pipes, and tubes has been going on for the last

The only solution to end the woes of tail cultivators and other affected growers of the area is to take strict measures against water theft, resulting in severe water shortfall by ordering appropriate, Likewise, Pakistan's agriculture timely, and spot against those involved

Inam Khan, a leading grower, and confronting the projected demand for landlord at BRB canal said that cultivators and farmers were looking after the supply of water to the tail-end fields in insufficiency, lack of investment, and the area. He alleged that feudal lords in ance of the system by growers who were

and influential political figures were engaged in water theft.

He alleged that when an honest officer, on a complaint, visits the area, some irrigation department staffers and their companion Baildars immediately inform the corrupt powerful quarters involved in water theft.

Sajid Bashir, Deputy Collector Revenue in Punjab Irrigation Department said that water theft through some illegal out-lets was also destroying the crops of tail-end cultivators while the land is becoming barren.

From time to time, cases in the tailend areas of Punjab have been reported that the small growers were being forced to sell their land at a cheaper rate to influential landlords, Bashir

Arshad Shah Assistant Director of Punjab Khal Panchayat Authority (PKPA) told the news agency that the Punjab irrigation department had implemented a plan earlier to update its communication and measurement systems by installing sensors to monitor real-time water flow in the channels (Khals) under its command.

The project started with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank in recent years envisages installing sensors across the barrages, distributaries, canals, and channels to monitor real-time flow with the prime target of curbing canal water theft.

To a query, he said that the Eastern Sadiqi canal system in Punjab Bahawalnagar district has been selected as a pilot project for the purpose. He said that this canal system has been selected for a far-flung area that is notorious for water theft.

About the project, he informed us that the gradual and phase-wise implementation would help gauge the accept-

Pakistan 8th most climate vulnerable country: Commonwealth SG

Maria Shah

he floods in Pakistan last year caused devastation and carnage, leaving enduring impacts on the lives of millions. Thousands of lives, tens of thousands of homes, and hundreds of thousands of livelihoods have been consumed by water on an unimaginable scale. More than 30 million people have been affected, with more than half a million displaced, said Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland in an article published in a local

She wrote: "They have been the worst floods in Pakistan's history and — with atypically heavy monsoons combined with melting glaciers, on the back of severe heatwaves — they have been an obvious expression of the clear and present danger of climate change, and a most painful reminder that inaction on climate change today is a wilful choice to make tomorrow's crises even worse.

This is true in Pakistan; it is true across India and Bangladesh; it is true across Commonwealth countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

It is a truth which forces us to assess the quality of our immediate response when disaster strikes, and to assess our overall approach to global financing in the age of climate change.

The UN Secretary General stepped forward quickly to mobilise international support for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. This month, the Government of Pakistan and the UN co-hosted the International Conference on Climate Resilience in Pakistan to address climate resilience and adaptation, following the disaster.

In an age when the frequency, scale and impacts of climate change continue to intensify - and interlink with ongoing global economic, energy and food insecurity to further amplify their impact — business as usual will not work.

We need to combine the generosity of people and governments with a more modern, skilful institutional approach which can enable countries with complex vulnerabilities, facing potentially crippling crisis, access to the fullest range of short- and long-

assessment of their real vulnerabilities, not on the blunt metric of GDP.

Pakistan is the world's 8th most climate-vulnerable country, yet 172 countries sit below Pakistan in global GDP rankings. This influences the scale and nature of financial support from global institutions which Pakistan is able to access, whether in times of profound crises, or in the vital long-term effort to build resilience and reduce the impacts of

future crises. This is not a problem for Pakistan only, but for a host of our 56 countries also.

The Commonwealth, alongside many organisations, including the UN, is attempting to drive more nuanced and constructive ways of defining and measuring the vulnerabilities of nation states.

We are working closely with our member states to hone our Universal Vulnerability Index, which assess es a country's real resilience in order to provide global financial institutions with a reliable, transformational tool with which to assess where the need is greatest.

And recently, Commonwealth FMs discussed the need for institutional financing to prioritise vulnerability. This vulnerability dialogue overlaps with a vital debate around perceived injustices — both current and historical — which sits at the heart of global climate politics and links the global finance agenda, as we observed at the COP27 in Egypt.

Many developing nations are asking the developed world to satisfy their demand for more urgent action: both by keeping promises made on climate finance for adaptation and mitigation, and by compensating the most vulnerable countries which did nothing to cause anthropogenic climate change, but which have already suffered damage which cannot be undone.

Inertia, both in real-world climate action and in negotiations around finance which could unlock political progress, works for no-one. The situation in Pakistan has been both heart-breaking and urgent. It has also been another wake-up call: a call which asks us what kind of world we are, and what kind of world we want.

In a just world, where solidarity and empathy are active values, we would respond to such emergencies with the pace and urgency required, and we would be honest with ourselves about the need for a more term finance mechanisms, based on a hard-headed complete, more compassionate overall approach."

China strongly condemns bombing outside Afghan Foreign Ministry

15 International Desk

BEIJING: China on Thursday strongly condemned bombing outside the Afghan Foreign Ministry in Kabul and extended sympathies to the people whose family members were killed and those who were injured in the incident.

"We noted relevant reports. China firmly opposes all acts of violent terrorism. We strongly condemn this incident, mourn for the victims and extend sympathies to the people whose family members were killed and those who were injured in the incident," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokes-



person Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing.

Responding to a question about safety of the Chinese nationals in Kabul, he said,"As far as we have learned, there have been no Chinese casualties in this terrorist attack"

He hoped that Afghanistan would take resolute and effective measures to protect the safety of the people and institutions of China and all other countries in Afghanistan.

As per media reports, at least five persons were killed and about 40 others were wounded in a bombing outside the Afghan foreign ministry in Kabul on Wednesday.

JICA sends 8 trainees for a training on Digital Transformation Through ICT

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) dispatches 08 members group for "Digital Transformation Through ICT Course" to Japan under the "Training Programme for Young Leaders". For this 18 days course, a sendoff ceremony was organized today in JICA Pakistan Office, Islam-

Mr. Yasumitsu Kinoshita, in his comments said to the participants that "This Program provides an opportunity to the young professionals belong to different fields / sections for Government to learn and share variable experiences in the respective areas. The knowledge gained from this program and lessons learnt from Japan can further be cal cooperation scheme for cultural sites which adopted disseminated to the governstan".



Programme for Young ICT promotion activities Leaders of Pakistan" is initi- of the provincial and federated by the Government algovernment in Pakistan. of Japan under techni- The trainees will visit agri-Pakistan. The forthcoming ICT into their industry, and "Training ing officials who engage in improved in Japan. The for training in various fields.

"Training Programme for Young Leaders" was started by JICA in 1991 and till date around 600 government officials of various ministries and departments ment and people of Paki- course has been designed will have a series of lectures of the Government of Pakiessentially for young lead- how ICT industry has been stan have been sent to Japan

Situation on China border 'unpredictable': Indian army chief

NEW DELHI: The situation along the border with China is "stable but unpredictable", Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande said on Thursday.

However, he assured that India has maintained adequate force deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, and is ready to deal with any situation".

The Chief of Army Staff was speaking during the annual pre-Army Day address to the media, according to The Times of India.

Gen Pande said India and China continued to hold talks at military and diplomatic levels to resolve border row.

"We have been able to resolve five of the seven issues that were on the table. We continue to talk both at the military and diplomatic levels. We've enough reserves to deal with any contingency."

All attempts to change the status quo at the LAC have been prevented, he added, without naming China.

Gen Pande said, "At least 25 army buildings have developed minor cracks due to the subsidence in Uttarakhand's Joshimath town, and some troops relocated. If needed they will be permanently relocated to Auli," he added.

Rochdale Council awarded Javed Akhtar



Sohail Anjum Malik

ROCHDALE: Javed Akhtar, a social figure who has provided outstanding services to the community in Rochdale, UK, was awarded the highest honor of the borough in the hall, the Freedom of Borough (FREE-DOM OF BOROUGH) by the community of Rochdale at Anco Coco Grill in Rochdale. A reception was given in which Mayor Rochdale Councilor Syed Ali Ahmed Deputy Leader Ali Adalat Nominated Deputy Mayor Councilor Shakeel Ahmed Cabinet Member Councilor Professor Iftikhar Ahmed Councilor Syed Shah Wazir Councilor Aftab Hussain Councilor Samina Zaheer Former Mayor Muhammad Zaman-Syed Maqsood Bukhari-Farooq Qureshi-Raja Apart from Sagheer Ahmed Maulana Haji Farooq, other community leaders participated on this occasion, Mayor Rochdale Syed Ali Ahmed said that for the first time in Rochdale, members of the minority community were given this honor, it is a matter of pride for us. Serving the Rochdale community from Deputy Leader Rochdale Council Councilor Ali Adalat said that Javed Akhtar not only in Britain but also in Azad Kashmir's homeland water supply project besides orphans and destitutes. and financial support for education and other projects. The community is proud to receive this honor-Cabinet Member Councilor Prof. İftikhar Ahmed and Councilor Aftab said that we are very happy that Javed Akhtar's community has been given the highest honor by Rochdale Council. Appreciating his services, this honor was his right. Naslar Samina Zaheer and Councilor Aftab Hussain also congratulated Javed Akhtar on receiving the honor for his valuable services to the community. It was said that Javed Akhtar received the award for community volunteering, which is a matter of pride for us. Ali Ahmed Cabinet Member Councilor Prof. Iftikhar Ahmed Deputy Leader Councilor Ali thanked the court and the community and reiterated their continued participation in welfare works-Maulana Haji Farooq Accountant Faruk Qureshi Community Leader Syed Maqsood Bukhari and Muhammad Zahid-Zafar Iqbal by Javed Akhtar Muko Farid Heartfelt congratulations on receiving the honor of M of Baru

Peru families mourn protest dead after worst violence in decades

LIMA: Peruvians in the southern region of Puno carried coffins through the streets on Wednesday of the 17 civilians who died in protests in the area earlier this week, the worst outbreak of violence the Andean country has seen in over 20 years

Even as families mourned their dead, the country's ombudsman reported another death in clashes in the Andean city of Cusco, that of local community leader Remo Candia Guevara.

"We demand an immediate investigation to find those responsible for the death and proceed to the respective sanctions," it said in a statement.

The country has been roiled by protests since the abrupt ouster of leftist President Pedro Castillo in early December, with a total of 41 people killed, almost half of them in the city of Juliaca on Monday, including one police officer. Thousands of people in Juliaca paid tribute to the dead by carrying coffins through the streets before their burial along with photos of the faces of the victims, flowers, Peruvian flags, and banners blaming the new government for the violence.

Ukraine's ten steps for peace

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ukraine's battlefield victories, strong stance by international community and Russia's depleting military capabilities force Kremlin to seek for operational pause at any cost.

Russian occupier forces would then use it to re-group, replenish supplies and relaunch the armed attack against Ukraine on an even wider scale.

All the calls by Russia, either directly or through the third countries, to start peace negotiations serve to that goal.

Kremlin does not want peace. It needs instead a respite.

Russia continues blackmailing Ukraine and the world to reach its goals and to deny Ukraine from its sovereignty and state-

Ukraine, to the contrary, is very precise in our vision of future just and sustainable peace.

On 15 November, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented Ukraine's position on this issue at the G20 summit.

He proposed a clear plan of ten steps to peace that should end

These steps, implemented one by one, or simultaneously, will bring long-awaited and long-lasting peace to Ukraine, Europe and entire world.

The first step is radiation and nuclear safety.

We emphasize that any form of nuclear blackmail is unacceptable. Russia's aggressive rhetoric and actions in the territory of Ukraine threaten the global nuclear security.

Russian leaders must stop their threats of use of nuclear weapons.

Russia must immediately withdraw all its military from the territory of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The station must be transferred to the control of the IAEA and the Ukrainian personnel. The normal connection of the station to the power grid must be restored immediately so that nothing threatens the stability of the reactors.



Ukraine proposed that IAEA missions are sent to all Ukrainian active nuclear plants and to the Chornobyl plant, which has been shut down and is under conservation. Such missions can verify that any hostile activity against Ukrainian nuclear facilities has indeed ceased.

The second challenge is food

The right to food is a fundamental right of every person in the world.

We are grateful to Türkiye, the UN and other partners for their support of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which was extended for a further 120 days period on November 19. It helped to improve situation with the global food security.

Since July, Ukraine has exported over 10 million tons of food by sea. We can increase exports - Ukraine can export 45 million tons of food this year, including to the countries which have problems with food security.

Russia must refrain from attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure and grain initiative should be expanded to Ukrainian ports in the Mykolaiv region.

The third issue is energy secu-

Russia carries out terrorist attacksagainst Ukrainian critical infrastructure, blowing up power plants, transformers, and electricity supply lines. It is trying to deprive millions of Ukrainians of electricity, heating, water and communication.

Russia wants to turn the cold into a weapon during the winter

Another goal of this terror is to prevent the export of Ukrainian electricity to neighboring countries, as Russia is interested in the energy crisis. One of the key tasks for

Ukraine is to protect our territory from these attacks. We are grateful to our partners for the supply of air defence and missile defence systems. We insist that Russia must stop its terror campaign in order to prove that it is interested in the peace process. At the same time Russia must abandon the use of energy factor as a tool of hybrid aggression against

The fourth challenge is the release of all prisoners and deported persons.

Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians arebeing held in the Russian captivity. They are being tortured and executed - such policy of Russia is illustrated by the terrorist act in Olenivka and mass graves, which we have found on the liberated territories near Kyiv, in Kherson and Kharkhiv regions.

More than 11 thousand children, whom we know by name, were forcibly deported to Russia.

Ukrainian citizens are being held as political prisoners in Russia and in the temporarily occupied territory, in particular We will never leave our people

to suffer in aggressor's hands, and we demand the release of all of The fifth point is the imple-

mentation of the UN Charter and restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the world order. are contaminated with mines

Russia mustrespect the Article 2 of this document and refrain from use of force against

It must reaffirm the territorial integrity of Ukraine within the framework of the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the applicable international legally binding documents.

The sixth challenge is withdrawal of Russian troops and cessation of hostilities.

Russia must withdraw all its troops and armed formations from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Ukraine's control over all sections of state border with Russia must be restored.

The crimes of the aggressor, discovered in the liberated territories, demonstrate threats which our people face under occupation. Ukraine will not leave them alone: we have an absolute consensus on this issue in Ukrainian society.

The seventh point is restoration of justice.

Russian political and military leaders committed the crime of aggression against a sovereign state. Russian soldiers committed countless atrocities and war crimes in the territory of Ukraine. Thousands of civilians were killed by Russia's rocket strikes and artillery fire. tortured and executed in the temporarily occupied territories. Russian aggression brings not only death to Ukrainian people, but the destruction to Ukrainian economy and infrastructure. That was the reason why we proposed establishment of the Special Tribunal on the crime of Russia's aggression against Ukraine and creation of an international mechanism to compensate for all the damages

caused by this war. The eighth challenge is coun-

Russian aggression caused large-scale destruction of Ukrainian nature. Almost two hundred thousand hectares of our land

of coal mines in the territories of Ukraine, which have been under occupation since 2014, are flooded, including the mine in which an underground nuclear test explosion was carried out

We must find common responses to all environmental threats created by the war, war measures are implementwhich is a challenge for the whole world. Ukraine needs support

signing of the "Kyiv Security

The tenth point is the confirmation of the end of the war. In the end, we need an official

document signed by the parties. This will become possible after all above mentioned antied, and when security and justice

start to be restored.

and unexploded shells. Dozens for Ukraine. The main outcome openly admitted that its missile of the conference should be the attacks on critical infrastructure of Ukraine are carried out with the aim of forcing our country to negotiations. But Putin's regime miscalculated-it will not force Ukrainians to give up their freedom and independence.

Ukraine is ready to continue fighting until victory.

Only Ukrainians will determine when and how to negotiate with the aggressor.



from our partners to solve this

problem. The ninth step is the prevent-

We need effective security guarantees. On 30 September, Ukraine signed an application for accelerated accession to NATO. Ukraine also suggests implementing our proposals on the security guarantees ("Kyiv Security Compact") aimed at mobilizing necessary political, financial, military, and diplomatic resources for Ukraine's self-defense. We propose to hold an international conference to agree upon the key elements of the post-war security architecture in the Euro-Atlantic space, including guarantees

Summing up.

Ukraine is not ready for "peace at any price".

We will not make any conces sions or compromises that would involve the continuation of the occupation of Ukrainian territories. This is our unequivocal position and we expect Russia to fulfill the announced conditions.

Only real actions-the cessation of terrorist attacks on Ukrainian of troops from Ukrainian territory, the release of all prisoners and deportees-can open the way to peace.

Currently, we do not see such readiness from the Russian side. Moreover, it has already

We are grateful to our partners for repeatedly confirming their agreement with this position and demonstrating unity. We hope for continued support of Ukraine and increased pressure on Russia. This is the only way to force the Kremlin to end the war and restore peace. If anyone is tempted to try

to force us to negotiate on the basis of compromises regardinfrastructure, the withdrawal ing our territorial integrity and sovereignty, they should immediately tell their societies that at the same time they are offering compromises regarding their own security. Any concessions to Russia will definitely encourage aggressor to the next steps.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
40,803.89	40,758.20	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,219.67	40,668.95	
Index Value	Change	
4,924,400,254	+45.69	
Percentage	Time	
+0.11%	Jan 12, 2023 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
7,799.02	+74.04	
Percentage	Time	
+0.96%	12 Jan, 3:43 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
34,051.62	+78.61	

0 .,00		
Percentage	Time	
+0.23%	12 Jan, 10:48 ar GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Avera		
Index Value	Change	
26,449.82	+3.82	
Percentage	Time	

Open Market Forex Rates

+0.014%

12 Jan, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	170	171.25
Bahrain Dinar	607.43	611.93
Canadian Dollar	183	184.35
China Yuan	33.73	33.98
Danish Krone	32.96	33.31
Euro	269	271
Hong Kong Dollar	29.09	29.44
Indian Rupee	2.76	2.84
Japanese Yen	2.44	2.49
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	66.4	67.1
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	68.5	69.1
UK Pound Sterling	304	307
US Dollar	235.6	237.9

Secretary BOI chaired 8th e-kachehry

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary briefed the participants about BOI's role in facilitating and attracting local and foreign investment in the country and addressed their queries during the session. He highlighted the steps made after the new government took control especially, signing of the MoU between the Board of Investment (BOI) Pakistan and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) for enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Japan, initiation of talks with 48 partner countries for signing of Bilateral Investment Treaties to promote foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country. and reforms implementation under the Pakistan Modernization & Regulatory

In this regard, he informed that the government is focused on reducing the regulations and inspections on the businesses to introduce an inspection less environment. Secretary BOI was also accompanied by senior officers of BOI during the Kachehri, who gave briefing on the initiatives being taken up by the government for offering lucrative projects for foreign investment, progress on the Special Economic Zones as well as the services being rendered by the Board for investment facilitation.

Through this platform, several investors and members of business fraternity reached out to BOI with their queries regarding investment opportunities in Pakistan and put forward recommendations to overcome challenges pertaining to doing business in the country.

Balance of payment, Barter Trade, Special Economic Zones, issuance of visas, and issues in registration of companies were the main areas of discussion during the session.

During the session, BOI assured the participants for taking up their queries with other departments.

The participants were appreciative of BOI team for facilitating investors in Pakistan especially in visa issuance and company registration besides creating a conducive business environment in the

The session continued for two hours and was a successful feat in regards to public outreach.

CDA asked to construct Parking Plaza in G-9 Markaz

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation visited Karachi Company and congratulated Raja Javed Iqbal on being elected as President and Haji Zafar as Secretary General of the Traders Welfare Association of G-9 Markaz, Islamabad. The other Office Bearers included Fida Hussain Abbasi Chairman, Farooq Mughal Patron-in-Chief, Sardar Saeed Senior Vice Patron-in-Chief, Ch. Abdul Ghaffar Senior Vice President, Raja Pervez Senior Vice Chairman, Sheikh Muhammad Riaz Vice Chairman, Ch Anam Saeed, Sherzada Kakakhail, Javed Khan and Sheik Alamgir Vice Presidents.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtari said that G-9 Markaz is one of the largest commercial centers of the federal capi-



already allocated a space for a parking plaza in G-9 Markaz and stressed that it should paths, carpeting of roads, restoration of street Hashmi, Nisar Mirza and Malik Mohsin were construct this facility as soon as possible to lights etc. He said that the issue of encroachin the ICCI delegation.

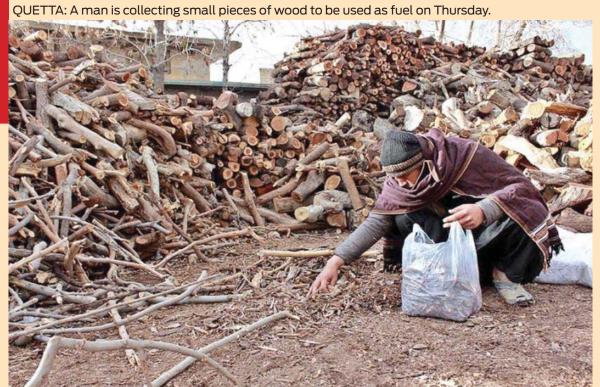
 $tal, but \, due \, to \, lack \, of \, parking \, facilities \, the \, trad-\\ address \, this \, major \, issue \, of \, the \, traders. \, He \, said$ ers are facing problems. He said that CDA has that CDA should focus on the development works in G-9 Markaz including repair of foot-

ments in the market should be addressed in consultation with the Traders Welfare Association of G-9 Markaz. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with TWA, G-9 Markaz in resolving the issues of the traders.

Speaking at the occasion, Raja Javed Iqbal, President and Haji Zafar Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association, G-9 Markaz, Islamabad shared the major issues of their market including need of parking plaza, development works in markets and hoped that ICCI would cooperate in resolving them. They thanked the ICCI delegation for visiting their market to congratulate them and assured that they would work with ICCI for the welfare of the trading community of Islamabad.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Ashfaq Chatha, Abbas

Shortage of Fuel



First Alibaba.com Multan Seller Summit held with focus on boosting e-commerce exports

MULTAN: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) trade, successfully hosted its first seller summit in Multan to highlight export opportunities available to local businesses from online commerce, reaffirming its commitment to helping exporters in the region enter the global market. The event was attended by more than 250 participants including over 100 participants who tuned in online.

The Alibaba.com seller summit, titled "Multan Seller Summit- Export! KYA? KYUN? AUR KAISE- Alibaba.com ke saath", discussed various aspects of B2B e-commerce in the global market and how Pakistani exporters can tap the opportunity. Alibaba.com representatives also provided the participants with tips and advice on equipping themselves with the necessary skills and tools to thrive as sellers on Alibaba.com.

The event featured a line-up of speakers from Alibaba.com as well as prominent industry leaders from Multan, including Ms. Amy Li, Marketing Head at Alib-



Saeed, Vice President, Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industries; Mr. Malik Junaid Ashraf, Alibaba.com Certified Trainer: MD. Shazil Majeed, Co-Founder, Epic Crafting; and Mr. Tanveer Nandla, Founder of

aba.com Pakistan; Mr. Sheikh M. Asim "We are overwhelmed to visit Multan as B2B e-commerce businesses here.

this region has huge untapped potential for e-commerce export development. Addressing the audience, Mr. Sheikh M. Asim Saeed, Vice President, Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industries, said, "The Multan business community is excited to work with Talking on the event Ms. Amy Li said, a global player like Alibaba.com to support

Tetra Pak supports Islamabad United as nutrition partner for the fifth year

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Tetra Pak Pakistan announced the renewal of their partnership with Islamabad United as its official nutrition partner during the upcoming season 8 of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), scheduled to kick off on February 13. The agreement was signed during a special ceremony hosted by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in Lahore on January 12, 2023. Since 2019, Tetra Pak has remained the official nutrition partner of Islamabad United for PSL making it the fifth time this year for this continued partnership. The ceremony was attended by top officials from both sides.

Through this collaboration, Tetra Pak aims to raise awareness about the nutritional benefits of consuming safe and healthy packaged milk and its importance to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Milk contains high-quality proteins which help to repair and rebuild muscles after strenuous exercise. However, the consumed milk has to be safe from all forms of bacteria or adulteration. Islamabad United play-



ers will certainly benefit from the nutritious power of safe and healthy packaged milk during their PSL games and practice

While commenting on this partnership, Awais Bin Nasim, Managing Director of Tetra Pak Pakistan said, "Safe and healthy milk is the most ideal form of nourishment especially to regain lost energy after a vigorous activity or exercise.

Ali Naqvi, the Owner of Islamabad United, said, "As always, we are excited to have Tetra Pak on board as valued partners of the Team; in our 5th year of the partnership they are an integral part of the ISLU family.

While the entire nation looks forward to a thrilling season 8 of PSL, Tetra Pak also plans to gear up on its safe and healthy milk awareness drive to make this PSL more resounding and purposeful.

Descon partners with US firm to provide engineering services in Gulf countries

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Descon Engineering, a leading Engineering enterprise in the region, has joined hands with KBR, a leading Global Engineering and Project company, to extend the scope of their joint pursuit of outsourced maintenance and turnaround management opportunities across the Gulf coun-

Taimur Dawood, Chairman of Descon, and Jay Ibrahim, President of KBR's Sustainable Technology Solutions, inked a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Dubai in this regard, extending their mutual area of expertise to the Gulf countries.

This strategic alliance will leverage both KBR and Descon's combined strength as leaders of industrial services in the market to optimize client OPEX, improve asset availability and reliability through KBR's

Commenting on this momentous development, industry sectors.

Taimur Dawood, Chairman of Descon, observed. "Descon holds great stature in the engineering sector of Gulf countries and is playing a pivotal role in the industrial growth of the region. This accord with KBR will allow us to extend our already existing skillset and expertise, and implement mutual learnings to achieve exponential growth."

Jay Ibrahim, President of KBR's Sustainable Technology Solutions, said, "This agreement signals our confidence in this alliance following our success in the delivery of outsourced maintenance services in Qatar since 2021, and maps out the foundation for future growth of this strategic partnership."

Descon is committed to delivering quality services with safety and is determined to continue being a reliable partner in progress for KBR.

Engineering, Descon having completed 40 years portfolio of advanced digital in the Gulf region, continues solutions, and Descon's pres- to strengthen its strong footence across the Gulf coun- hold in the region and build on its customer base, adding value to the regions multiple

BGP (Pakistan) Int'l participated 28th ATC on oil



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: BGP (Pakistan) International-a world reputed Chinese Multinational actively participated in the 2-day 28th Annual Technical Conference (ATC) on Oil Sector with carefully prepared technical publicity and informative material to showcase BGP Group. The two days 28th ATC successfully attracted the participation of leading Petroleum related enterprises from across Pakistan. The participants included petroleum equipment manufacturing and leasing, software development services, UAV application, and other related materials.

BGP, being one of the world's leading Chinese having multinationals completely integrated geophysical companies, delivers a full spectrum of geophysical products and services while its state-ofthe-art R&D facility is staffed with outstanding personnel that is unrivaled in the industry. BGP has served more than 300 energy companies during the last few decades with a remarkable footprint in over 70 countries, enabling BGP to become one of the leading geophysical contractors in the world today.

BGP carries out publicity work in seismic acquisition, tional.

tation, equipment manufacturing, optical fiber intelligence reservoir geophysics, Non-seismic surveys, Klseis and Geoeast software, new energy business, and other fields, attracting strong attention from the oil industry.

28th ATC Annual Meeting came to a successful conclusion. The annual meeting is a stage to fully demonstrate the company's technical strength, a platform to communicate with many major management and technical personnel of oil companies, a stage to gather with old friends of oil companies, and a feast to make new friends. We look forward to further cooperation with oil companies in the geophysical exploration field in the New Year and continue the brilliant success of BGP in the geophysical exploration market in Pakistan.

This very important 28th ATC on Oil was attended by BGP (Pakistan) International's Country General Manager for Pakistan Mr. Zheng Zhenqiang, Party Chief Mr. Ma Huiming, Chief Geophysicist Mr. Zheng Jie, Party Chief Mr. Liu Hui and Operation Manager Mr. Muhammad Rizwan apart from a dedicated team from BGP (Pakistan) Interna-

City Gymkhana, Pak Lions, Shinning Club score wins in K-20 Cup 2023

Sports Report

LAHORE: City Gymkhana, Pak Lions and Shinning Club scored contrasting wins in the K-20 Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament matches, played here on

Pak Lions thrashed P&T Gymkhana by 10 wickets in the 15th match of the tournament, here at Model Town Greens ground. P&T Gymkhana, batting first, gathered 131-8 in the allotted 20 overs. Karamat Ali (36) and Saad Najam (32) batted well. Niaz Khan, Umar Farooq and Afzal Tahiri captured two scalps

Helped by clinical performances of openers Hassan Nawaz (105 off 35 balls) and Afzal Tahiri (27 of 11 balls) guided Pak Lions to a thrashing 10-wicket triumph. For his outstanding batting performance, Hassan Nawaz was named player of the match.

Slim Cricket Club in the 16th match of the tournament by 62 runs here at Model Town Club ground. Batting first, Shinning Club posted 169-10 in 20 overs. Rao Khayyam was top scorer with 56 107-6 in 20 overs. Safeer Azam (29), ship Whites Club in the 17th match of stani, Nabeel Ahmad.



Zain Bin Farooq hit 23. Mohsin Nadeem claimed 3-31, Awais Munir 2-20 and Haider Butt 2-28.

Yu Slim Club, in reply, could score

Shinning Cricket Club defeated Yu runs while Ulfat Rasool struck 24 and Majid Majeed (23) and Arslana Sajid (22) played well. Hammad Ali clinched 3-15 while Rao Khayyam, Ali Hamza and Zahir got one wicket each.

City Gymkhana overpowered Town-

the tournament here at Pindi Gymkhana Cricket ground. Township Whites, batting first, posted a good total of 192-8 in 20 over with Shahrukh Ali scoring 61, M Faiq 41 and Rana Ayan Ali 40. Abdul Rehman and Usama Tariq bagged 2 wickets each.

City Gymkhana replied strongly and chased the required target losing just four wickets in 19.1 overs. Rizwan played the hero's knock of 90 runs of 39 balls to emerge as player of the match. He was ably assisted by Saad Athar (32) and Jahangir Mirza (23). For Township Whites, Ammar Yousaf took 2-4.

On Friday (January 13, 2023), two matches will be played. Cricket Center will vie against Shahkamal Cricket Club in the 18th match of the tournament at Cricket Center ground while Model Town Club will play against Lucky Star Club in the 19th match of the tournament at Model Town Greens ground.

The event is organized on regular annual basis

The tournament is being played to pay homage to Col Fateh Sher Khan and is sponsored by a former American Paki-

Pakistan and New Zealand to face off in series decider on Friday



Sports Reporter

KARACHI: The third and the final One-Day International (ODI) match between Pakistan and New Zealand will be played on Friday in Karachi stadium.

New Zealand levelled the series by winning the second ODI on Wednesday by 79 runs and Pakistan would be looking to bounce back strongly.

Pakistan had won the ODI series against Australia, West Indies and Netherlands last year so they would be looking to keep the streak going.

On the other hand, New Zealand will be trying to end their losing streak in Pakistan, as they won an ODI in Pakistan after 26 years in the previous match.

Pakistan's best bowler from the second ODI, Muhammad Nawaz had admitted that New Zealand outclassed them in the

Pakistan's skipper Babar Azam scored half-centuries in both matches of the series and would be looking to play a match

winning innings in the decider.

Babar Azam continues to reign in ODIs



Sports Desk

DUBAI: Pakistan captain Babar Azam, who scored back-to-back half-centuries in the ongoing series against New Zealand, continues to top the batting charts in ODIs, with 891 ranking points. India's Virat Kohli has moved up two spots to go sixth in the

ICC men's ODI batters' rankings after scoring his 45th century in the format in the first game against Sri Lanka. Kohli's 113 saw him overtake Jonny Bairstow and Steven Smith in the rankings. India captain Rohit Sharma, who scored 83 off 67 in the same match, also moved up a spot to eighth rank.

Usman Khawaja jumped four spots to break back into the top 10. His unbeaten 195 in the drawn Sydney Test against South Africa saw him jump to eighth place in the rankings. He is currently one of four Australians in the top 10 in the Test batting charts, along with Marnus Labuschagne at the top, Smith at No 2 and Travis Head ranked fourth.

Josh Hazlewood returned to the Australia XI in the third Test after a side strain kept him out of action, and grabbed five wickets to move up six spots to No 10 among the bowlers. All of Australia's premier pace trio of Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc are now in the top 10 in the Test rankings.

Afghanistan legspinner Rashid Khan replaced Wanindu Hasaranga on top of the T20I bowlers' rankings after the Sri Lankan star failed to fire in the three-match series in India. Hasaranga took three wickets while conceding 99 runs in the series at an economy rate of 9.00 an over. Rashid, meanwhile, hasn't played a T20I in over two months since the World Cup in Australia in

Shaheen Afridi fit to lead Lahore Qalandars in PSL 8

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Lahore Qalandar's COO Sameen Rana has said pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi is completely fit to lead the defending champions in the eighth season of the Pakistan's biggest cricketing event.

Sameen Rana said the team is excited to participate in the event under Shaheen's leadership. He also stated that the star bowler is currently training with the national team and is in complete rhythm. Sameen further added that the team has no pressure and never takes pressure as the team has also seen a bad time and also hoped they will defend the title. He shared that it is his wish to become first team of PSL to defend the title.

He shared that they have tried to make a balanced combination. "Bowling is our strength but we also have world class batters. Instead of Samit Patel, we have picked Liam Dawson and replaced Mohammad Hafeez with Sinkander Raza," he said.

He also lauded Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Najam Sethi and hoped the league will be more successful in his leadership. "He started PSL in tough times and PSL needs an administrator like him," he added.

Interactive meeting with Punjab Minister

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The 32-member delegation from Balochistan Youth Affairs Department had an interactive meeting with Punjab Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Malik Taimoor Masood at the National Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan and other officials were also present on this occasion. All the male and female members of Balochistan delegation introduced themselves to Punjab Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Malik Taimoor Masood.

It may be noted here that Balochistan delegation which also includes seven male and female national level karate, cricket and wushu players and 21 students from different colleges and universities is on a 4-day visit of provincial metropolis on the invitation of Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab under Youth Exchange Programme.

Talking to guest Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports valuable potential," he added. Malik Taimoor Masood welcomed



ed. "The basic purpose of visit of ment Punjab is organizing a Nation-Balochistan students under Youth

Punjab Minister for Youth Affairs and the guest delegation and said that Sports Malik Taimoor Masood informed Balochistan youth are very talent- that Youth Affairs and Sports Depart- Sports Malik Taimoor Masood further Tariq Qureshi on this occasion.

al Youth Summit in February to bring Exchange Programme is to bring together the youth of the country. "The sion presented beautiful souvenirs youth of the country at one platform. youth of the four provinces, Gilgit-Baltito Director General Sports Punjab Our country has been blessed with plenstan and Azad Kashmir will participate Muhammad Tariq Qureshi and Directy of talent. We just need to polish this in the 3-day National Youth Summit where they will share their valuable Director Youth Affairs Balochistan Ejaz

said that Punjab will continue to play a role of elder brother to all other provinces. "We want to extend every kind of cooperation and assistance to all provinces practically. We are formulating a concrete policy for youth so that their useful ideas could be given material

Director General Sports Punjab M Tariq Qureshi on this occasion said that the guest delegation is being provide complete awareness about history of Lahore and other achievements during their trip. "The visit of Balochistan students under Youth Exchange Programme will help a lot in promoting national solidarity and brotherhood among the people of both provinces".

Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan in his address said that Punjab govt is taking effective steps for the development of Balochistan youth.

Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Musarrat Jabeen on this occator Youth Affairs Balochistan Fiaz Ali Ali also gave away a souvenir to Direc-Punjab Minister for Youth Affairs and tor General Sports Punjab Muhammad

The Urdu version of the IOC Olympic Solidarity Sports Administration Manual unveiled

₿ Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lt. Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan, President of POA, has emphasized the educational value of sports for broader community development.

Speaking at the grand unveiling ceremony of the Urdu version of the IOC Olympic Solidarity Sports Administration Manual here in Lahore, Gen Arif also presented to the audience the idea of strength-

Directors of Sports Departments of Educational Institutions, and dignitaries from other sections of



ening the governance of sports in tional Institutions with support of Gen Arif thanked the Chief Guest which sports can be optimally used "POA is truly thankful to the to trigger a positive Social Change. honourable Vice Chancellors, POA shall continue in its endeavour to promote and develop the Olympic Movement of Pakistan."

Recognizing the exceptionsociety for their presence at the al services of Chief Guest Dr. occasion", he said adding, "POA Muhammad Amjad Saqib, believes that it will be the Educa- Founder of Akhuwat Foundation, young enthusiasts who wish to

for gracing the occasion with his presence which is an honour for the POA

Gen Arif Hasan informed the gathering that the Urdu version of the Book comprises 295 pages and it would benefit thousands of individuals and foremost the

join sports as managers, coaches, support personnel, and leaders.

One of the basic aims of the Urdu version of the Manual would be to standardize the management and governance of sports organizations. The Book will enable all to understand how the Organizations belonging to the Olympic Movement are required to oper-

Later the Chief Guest, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib, Founder Akhuwat Foundation, stressed the need to utilize sports as a tool for positive Social Change

in society.

ate and what their objectives are.

Dr Sagib also assured his all-out support and help to POA in its initiative of establishing the Olympic Academy for the sake of sports promotion. "We will also support other endeavours and projects of POA as we believe that POA is rendering valuable services in the arena of sports and promoting the same as a tool of education in educational institutions, Dr Saqib added.

He lauded the role of the POA in the promotion of sports in the country and termed it a role model for others to emulate it.

Nadir, Asad, Mekaeel win in 11th Dr. Essa Lab National Seniors and **Juniors Tennis**

News Desk

KARACHI: Nadir Mirza of RMTA Academy beat Muhammad Salar of Islamabad in a well contested three setter in Under 18 Singles match at Modern Club and then pairing wth Asad Zaman of Lahore beat Nabeel & Abdullah in the semi of Juniors Under 18 Doubles.

Results in brief: Juniors Under 18 Singles Pre Quarters:

Asad Zaman (Lahore) beat Amir Mazari (Lahore) by 4-6, 6-2, 6-3

Juniors Under 18 Singles Quarter: Nadir Mirza beat Muham-

mad Salar (Islamabad) by 4-6,

Under 16 Singles Quarter: Mikaeel Ali Baig beat Amir Mazari (Lahore) by 6-0, 6-4. **Boys Under 14 Singles Pre Quar-**

Abdullah Razzaq defeated Nibras Malik by 4-1, 4-0. Muzammil Bhand (Hydera-

bad) beat Hamadan Nauman by **Boys Under 14 Singles Quarter:** Miakeel Ali Baig beat Ruhab Faisal by 4-0, 4-0.

Under 12 Singles Quarters: Essa Fahad (ISL) beat Rahim Junaid Meher beat Zayd

Faisal by 4-2, 2-4 4-0. Zaman by 4-2, 4-2. Rashid Ali (Hyd) beat Nabeel

Bhand (Hyd)by 4-0, 4-0 Hajra Suhail (Lahore) beat Mustafa Naveed 4-0, 5-3 **Under 12 Singles Quarter:**

Abdul Rehman (Lahore) beat Ali Bachani (Hyderabad) by 4-1, Men's singles Pre Quarter:

Adnan Khan beat Zeeshan Vazeer by 6-0, 6-0 Under 10 Singles Quarter: Muhammad Ibrahim Gill beat

Arsh Imran by 4-0, 4-1 **Under 18 Doubles Semi:** Nadir Mirza and Asad Zaman beat Abdullah and Razzaq by 6-2,

Under 14 Doubles Quarter: Mikaeel Ali Baig / Nabeel Qayyum beat Syed Mahad / **Men's Doubles Quarters:**

Shehzer Ali 4-0, 4-0 **Under 12 Doubles Quarter:**

Abdul Wahab (Hyderabad)/ Muhammad ahmed Sheikh beat Aman sheikh / Nayyel Sohaib 4-0,5-3

Girls Singles Quarter: Zainab Ali beat Zunaira 6-0, Eshal Zain beat Nabiha 6-2,

Aiman Haris beat Haya 6-0, 6-0 Eschelle Asif beat Hibah

Rizwan 6-0, 6-1 **Men's Singles Quarters:** Bilal Soomro beat Noor e Mustafa 6-3, 6-7, 10-6 Shahab Khan beat Vinod.



Nameer Shamsi / Baqir beat Shahab Khan / Adnan Khan 8-3 55 Plus Doubles Semi:

/ Shuja Pasha 8-4

Rashid Malik / Imran Siddiqui beat Razi Nawab 8-4.