



Export industry a top priority of government: Dar

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Monday that export industry was one of the highest priorities of the govt. In a tweet, the federal minister said, five previously zero rated export oriented sectors and all other exporters would be given complete facilitation for import of raw material, parts and accessories to meet their export requirements.



Uri, Pulwama attacks 'orchestrated' by Modi government: NC leader

Brother of Jammu and Kashmir's former chief minister Farooq Abdullah and National Conference (NC) leader Sheikh Mustafa Kamal on Monday revealed that both the 2016 Uri attack and 2019 Pulwama attack were "orchestrated" by the Narendra Modi-led Indian government. Talking to the Indian media, he said that there were no photos or bodies of the soldiers and that all those who lost their lives were from the Scheduled Caste (SC).

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Polio vaccination kickoff

RAWALPINDI: A health worker administers polio vaccine drops to a child during door to door polio vaccination campaign in the city on Monday.



Photo: Online

Abdul Moeed Khan & Ghulam Abbas Ghumman promoted as Air Marshal

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday promoted Air Vice Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan and Air Vice Marshal Ghulam Abbas Ghumman to the rank of Air Marshal, a PAF news release said.

Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan was commissioned in the General Duty Pilot (GD-P) Branch of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) in December 1989. During his illustrious career, he commanded a Fighter Squadron, Military Training Wing PAF Academy, Asghar Khan and Combat Commanders School, Mushaf.

He also served as Commandant College of Flying Training and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans).

He held different portfolios as Principle Staff Officer, which included Director General (Security), Director General (Welfare & Rehabilitation), Director General (Operations) and Air Officer Commanding,

Northern Air Command.

Presently, he was serving as Deputy Chief of Air Staff (Air Defence) at Air Headquarters, Islamabad.

He is a graduate of Combat Commanders' School, Air War College, Karachi, National Defence University and Air War College, Alabama United States.

He holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies and a Bachelor's degree in War Studies.

He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Air Marshal Ghulam Abbas Ghumman was commissioned in the PAF's GD(P) Branch in June 1990. During his illustrious career, he commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing and an Operational Air Base.

He served as Director Human Resource Induction as well as Director Plans at Air Headquarters, Peshawar & Islamabad respectively and also rendered his services as Defence & Air Attache in Turkey.

Former SCBA President Latif Afridi shot dead

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Latif Afridi was shot dead by a man on the Peshawar High Court premises on Monday. Sources said the suspect opened fire at Mr Afridi when he was sitting with other lawyers in the bar room of the court. He was injured and taken to the Lady Reading Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police arrested the suspect and



launched a probe into the incident. Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect fired nine bullets, six of which hit the advocate.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah condemned the killing of former SCBA president who succumbed to his injuries earlier. He said lawlessness had become the order of the day in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while mentioning the situation turned worse after the provincial government's callous approach in dealing with

the law and order situation.

He added two lawyers were targeted on the same day in Peshawar and Rawalpindi in which PTI was ruling. "Abdul Latif Afridi was the representative of constitution, democracy and the downtrodden," Mr Sanaullah added.

The KP bar while condemning the attack had called for three days mourning. The bar council had also demanded the high-level investigation over the failure of security.

President, PM and Interior Minister condemns murder of Latif Afridi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday condemned the killing of former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Abdul Latif Afridi.

Expressing deep grief over the incident, the president sympathised with the bereaved family, a President House statement said.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace to the departed soul and strength to the grieved family to

bear the loss with fortitude

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan strongly condemned the murder of former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president and senior lawyer Abdul Latif Afridi.

The minister expressed deep sorrow and grief over the brutal killing of the senior lawyer Abul Latif Afridi, who was shot dead inside the Peshawar High Court. He prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved

family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

He said the worsening law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was alarming. "If the KP government had focused on peace instead of political manipulation, this situation would not have happened," he added.

The minister said Afridi was a strong supporter of democracy and a staunch opponent of extremism. Speaking the truth bravely and courageously was his style, Rana Sanaullah said and

prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the deceased a high rank in Jannah.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb also strongly condemned the killing of ex-president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Abdul Latif Afridi inside a bar room of the court in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"(The commission of) such a brutal act inside the bar room of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the manifestation of serious law and order situation in the province," the minister said in a news statement.

PML-Q suspends Parvez Elahi's party membership, issues notices to others

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Monday suspended the party membership of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Parvez Elahi while seeking explanation from him over the possibility of merger with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Mr Hussain has also served a show-cause notice on Mr Elahi and sought an explanation within seven days. The notice stated that a provincial president was not authorised to merge the party with another party. "Therefore, you are asked to submit your response over this unconstitutional act," the notice added.

On the other hand, the president also issued show-cause notices to PML-Q leaders Moonis Elahi, Hussain Elahi and PML-Q parliamentary party leader in the Punjab Assembly Kamil Ali Agha.

PTI can return to National Assembly for interim govt's sake, says Imran

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan said on Monday the PTI could opt for the returning to the National Assembly (NA) for interim government. Speaking to journalists, he said the party had completed the consultations over the matter. "We are in contact with some of the

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) members in the NA, however, we would offer them the PTI membership after a test," he added. He said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was in hot waters. "The PTI-PML-Q's nominations for Punjab caretaker chief minister would be acceptable to the PML-N", he added. He was sure, he reiterated, that the gener-

al election would be held in April. Commenting on the local government polls in Sindh, he said the PTI's weak organisation in Karachi compounded by rigging by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in the election led to the PTI's defeat. Know More: Political parties trade blame as PPP grabs most seats in Sindh LG polls. Responding to a question on the offer of

merger of the PTI and the PML-Q, he said the PML-Q could shine in future with the PTI. "If the PML-Q merges with the PTI, it will stay successful," he added.

Earlier, the PTI had decided to test Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's nerves in the NA after Punjab CM Parvez Elahi advised Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman to dissolve the Punjab Assembly.

Political party's trade blame as PPP grabs most seats in Sindh LG polls

Bureau Reports

KARACHI/HYDERABAD: The local government elections in 16 districts including those of Karachi and Hyderabad became controversial as delayed results prompted the political parties to blame each other for rigging.

Though the elections were largely held in a peaceful manner, the PTI and the JI accused the PPP of vote rigging and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for acting as a silent spectator.

On the other hand, the ruling PPP blamed its rivals, mainly the PTI, for deliberately sabotaging the peaceful process after sensing defeat in most parts of the province, including its stronghold Karachi.

The situation emerged hours after polling ended at 5pm on Sunday, with parties alleging that the results of the second phase of the local government elections in Sindh were deliberately being delayed in Karachi.

Apart from Karachi and Hyderabad city, votes will also be cast in Jamshoro, Matiari, Tandu Muhammad Khan, Tandwala Yar, Dadu, Thatta, Sajawal and Badin areas.

Unofficial results

According to the unofficial results in Hyderabad and Karachi divisions, PPP is in the driving seat by securing 498 seats, followed by Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) which has won 59 seats so far. PTI has won 58 seats, independent candidates with 25 seats whereas Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) bagged 10 seats and Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan could only secure 8 seats for now.

Delay in results

Polling results could not be compiled on 1,200 seats of seven districts of Karachi division as results from most of the districts of the city stopped. On the other hand, the JI claimed to have won more than 100 union council seats, the PPP claimed victory in more than 80 UCs, while the PTI in 50 UCs.

Senate passes resolutions for imparting compulsory Islamic education to students

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Monday unanimously passed two resolutions, recommending attaining knowledge of the Holy Qura'an, the Sunnah, and the Seerat of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) at educational institutes from primary to a higher level.

Both resolutions were moved by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed of Jamaat-e-Islami, saying the two were in line with the constitutional provisions.

Moving the first resolution, he said it was a fact that in-depth knowledge of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah was mandatory for attaining religious, political, economic, social, and other facets of an ideal society.

He said universities and colleges were the nurseries for preparing committed, productive, and good human beings, who "eventually contribute towards attaining healthy,

progressive and moral social order in a society."

The resolution reiterated, "An individual harnessed with the divine knowledge of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah can play a pivotal role in the progress and development of Pakistan in its true sense."

It appreciated the initiative taken in the Punjab province where education of the Holy Quran with translation had been made mandatory in all public sector universities purely for knowledge and learning purposes.

The House recommended, "Teaching of (the) Holy Quran with translation, Tajweed and Tafseer should be made compulsory in all universities of Pakistan for students of all disciplines, without making it part of examinations or provision of additional marks so that focus should remain on (an) acquisition of learning and knowledge of (the) Holy Quran."

Protest

HYDERABAD: Workers of All Pakistan Clerks Association Mirpur Khas hold a protest in the favor of their demands, outside press club in the city.



Photo: Online

Tumult in PM house amid calls for vote of confidence against Shehbaz Sharif

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Secretariat contacted the National Assembly Secretariat to demand the latest lists of parliamentarians.

As per the assembly sources, the total number of parliamentarians is 331 and the government has 181 members – Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz has 85 MNAs, Pakistan Peoples Party has 58 MNAs, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal has 14 MNAs, while four MNAs each belong to Balochistan Awami Party and Balochistan National

Party, three are from Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid, one MNA each from Jamhouri Watan Party and Awami National Party. Besides, there are four independents with the government.

On the contrary, the opposition has 150 members in which Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has 121 MNAs while 21 are dissident lawmakers. Besides, Grand Democratic Alliance has three MNAs, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid two lawmakers and one member each from Balochistan Awami Party, Jamaat-i-Islami and Awami Muslim League.

Imran Khan did not take oath after winning on the seven seats and on one seat he was disqualified. Mahmood Maulvi, Nadeem Khan and Roheela Hamid also did not take oath. One seat remained vacant after Jaffer Laghari's death. The cases of Shakoor Shad and Mian Muhammad Somroo are pending in court.

about opting for the PTI's returning to the NA for interim government. The former PM was reported to have said so in a meeting at his residence at Zaman Park in Lahore.

France provides € 120 MLN for Keyal Khuwar Hydropower Project



ISLAMABAD: The government of France would provide soft loans of € 120 million for Keyal Khuwar 128 MW Hydropower Project located in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

According to press release issued by Economic Affairs Division, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA), Dr. Kazim Niaz and Country Director, French Agency for Development, Philippe Steinmetz signed an agreement in this regard here on Monday.

The French loan assistance will support 128 MW facility, located near the city of Pattan in KPK, the statement said adding the loans would support the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) in its mandate of hydroelectricity sector development in Pakistan.

The funding would also help enhance the competitiveness of renewable power generation thus

promoting affordability and scaling up the energy supply.

According to the statement, the project would contribute to the government's strategy to develop green energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate-friendly projects, in line with the French pledge and commitments announced at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan, which took place in Geneva on January 9, 2023.

The France government through French Agency for Development has been working in Pakistan, providing technical and financial support in the energy and urban development sector aiming at green investment in Pakistan.

On the occasion, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs thanked the French government and AFD for extending this financial assistance to Pakistan. APP

We'll welcome back PTI to National Assembly: Rana Sanaullah

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Monday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would be welcomed back to the National Assembly (NA) but there would be no discussion over interim government set-up before the government's term expires in August.

His statement comes in response to the PTI chief Imran Khan's remarks

about opting for the PTI's returning to the NA for interim government. The former PM was reported to have said so in a meeting at his residence at Zaman Park in Lahore.

Speaking to TV, Mr Sana said he had been asking the PTI to come and sit in the Assembly for a long time but they would have to withdraw their resignations before that. "Speaker NA Raja Pervaiz Ashraf could return their resignations", he added.

Uri, Pulwama attacks 'orchestrated' by Modi government: NC leader

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Brother of Jammu and Kashmir's former chief minister Farooq Abdullah and National Conference (NC) leader Sheikh Mustafa Kamal on Monday revealed that both the 2016 Uri attack and 2019 Pulwama attack were "orchestrated" by the Narendra Modi-led Indian government.

Talking to the Indian media, Mustafa Kamal said that there were no photos or bodies of the soldiers and that all those who lost their lives were from the Scheduled Caste (SC) categories.

Lashing out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kamal said five fingers



were pointing at the Central Government till it was made clear who was at fault.

"Almost clear that it was planned by Government of India. We didn't see their photos or bodies. Until it's clear as to who's the killer, all fingers point toward agencies of the Government of India," Kamal said.

The National Conference Additional General Secretary alleged that the "government and its lopsided policies" were responsible for the situation at

the borders with neighbouring countries. "The government should form a truth reconciliation commission of inquiry into the Uri and Pulwama terror attacks and it should be made clear whom to blame. Until and unless it is clear, the blame will be on the Government of India agency," he added.

Referring to the relationship with the bordering countries, Mustafa Kamal added that peace talks and meetings with the ministers could solve a lot of issues.

Moreover, Kamal, who is also uncle to former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah said "Jammu and Kashmir has had no democracy for the past four years. Rule of the people, by the people and of the people does not exist here."

Pro Vice-Chancellor, NEDUET, Prof Dr Muhammad Tufail welcomed the participants and the PAIDAR team and said that the NED university is happy to collaborate with UNIDO for this training and other initiatives that can help reduce poverty in Sindh. He informed that the National Incubation Center, housed at NED has enabled some well-known startups and the university looks forward to success stories from the communities that Cluster Development Agents will be engaging with through PAIDAR

selected districts of Sindh. Badr Ul Islam, National Programme Coordinator PAIDAR while introducing the programme and training to the participants said the Cluster Development Initiative is a successful approach developed by UNIDO that has seen international success and impact as it follows a pro-poor economic growth model that creates opportunities for poor and supports broad-based

and inclusive development. He urged the participants to make maximum use of the expertise of the trainers to imbibe knowledge and skills to engage communities better.

Dr Kaiser Bengali, senior economist and advisor on poverty reduction remarked that the training is a good opportunity for all participants to learn the methodology that will enable them to become a link to the commu-

Alleged audio tape: Wajahat Hussain, Hussain Elahi discuss plan to abduct 80-year-old woman MNA

News Desk

LAHORE :Yet another audio of politicians has surfaced and unmasks the ruthlessness generally associated with public representatives in the country. Dunya News reported

The purported audio of Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain and his son Hussain Elahi surfaced on Monday and the discussion is ostensibly to give Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif a tough time in the possible vote of confidence.

The two leaders allegedly talked about the vote of confidence in the National Assembly and they seemed to be planning to kidnap 80-year-old MNA Ms Farrukh. Hussain Elahi can be heard saying, "our parliamentary leader is Moonis Bhai."

UNIDO begins Cluster Development Agents training at NIC, NEDUET Karachi

Spokesman Report

KARACHI :The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) initiated a six-week Cluster Development Agents training activity under the Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development Across Rural Sindh (PAIDAR) programme funded by the European Union (EU). The training at the National Incubation Center (NIC) housed at the NED University of Engineering and Technology (NEDUET) has 30 participants from five selected districts of Sindh (Thatta, Sujawal, Larkana, Tharparkar and Badin) representing community organisations, government representatives and academia.

UNIDO international and national trainers/experts will be carrying out the training sessions at NEDUET for a week before the participants start their fieldwork in the



and inclusive development. He urged the participants to make maximum use of the expertise of the trainers to imbibe knowledge and skills to engage communities better.

Dr Kaiser Bengali, senior economist and advisor on poverty reduction remarked that the training is a good opportunity for all participants to learn the methodology that will enable them to become a link to the commu-

nity and the programme and help the community to benefit from the programme interventions on poverty reduction. He said that Sindh, through various poverty reduction and business development initiatives, is working to enable economic growth and improve the livelihoods of the people.

Pro Vice-Chancellor, NEDUET, Prof Dr Muhammad Tufail welcomed the participants and the PAIDAR team and said that the NED university is happy to collaborate with UNIDO for this training and other initiatives that can help reduce poverty in Sindh. He informed that the National Incubation Center, housed at NED has enabled some well-known startups and the university looks forward to success stories from the communities that Cluster Development Agents will be engaging with through PAIDAR

Highly qualified candidate can't be recruited for low-scale job: Supreme Court

Court Reporter

ISLAMABAD : The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) on Monday ruled that a highly qualified candidate could not be recruited for a low-scale job.

The apex court announced the verdict on a plea filed by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (Lesco) which challenged the Lahore High Court's (LHC) decision directing Lesco to hire Engineer Waqas against the post of line superintendent in 2015. Mr Waqas had moved the LHC after Lesco rejected his application for the post.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked that the recruitment of an engineer to the post of line superintendent would affect the organisation's hierarchy and functionality. "Despite being highly qualified, an

applicant not complying with the recruiter's policy could not be hired, and it was not a discriminatory decision on part of the organisation," the verdict added.

The ruling stated that it was not court's responsibility to assess a candidate's eligibility and decide his recruitment. "The recruitment of highly-qualified candidates to a low-scale posts have social repercussions as well, as it deprives low-qualified individuals of their due right of employment," the ruling added.

Lesco maintained that as Mr Waqas had been working for the organisation since 2015, therefore, the organisation did not oppose him. "The organisation could relax a little in this case, however, this practice should not be allowed to repeat in future," the Lesco lawyer added.

Governor Sindh Inaugurates FPCCI-backed Pak-Iran Expo

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that being neighboring countries and having a shared border of 909 kilometers, Pakistan & Iran can take their bilateral trade to \$5 billion within a short span of 2-3 years; through creating interdependencies and complementarities in their trade & economics.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh apprised that regional trade accounts for up to 75 percent among regional and geographically-contiguous economic & trade blocs around the world; and, that is a time-tested key to the regional prosperity. It is cost-competitive in not only in product pricing; but, also saves shipping costs; time-saving and creates healthy economic cooperation.

It is pertinent to note that Pakistan-Iran solo exhibition kick-started in Expo Centre Karachi on Monday, January 16, 2023; whereas, Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh & Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, inaugurated the expo - along with top Iranian diplomats. 75 Iranian companies



are showcasing their competencies in varied products and services; as diverse as, oil & gas, petrochemical industries, water & electricity industries, foods (dairy, milk, sweets and chocolates), barbed wires, polymer products, tiles & ceramics, galvanized wires, mining, steel & allied industries, construction materials, agricultural products, various machineries, packaging products, home appliances,

carpets, etc.

Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, stressed that Pakistan needs Iran more than Iran does; and, the reason is their vast fossil fuel resource. We can import fossil fuels through land; which is considered the cheapest route for imports, he added.

Suleman Chawla informed that, as a matter of fact, Pakistan's natural gas reserves are depleting; and, we have

started importing RLNG. In 2011, we were 100 percent self-sufficient in gas and, in 2021, our self-sufficiency has been reduced to 82.3 percent.

Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh, emphasized that his office will not leave any stone unturned to make Sindh a business, investment, industrialization and trade friendly province. The only way forward for Sindh is industrialization and social uplift, he added.

Tessori maintained that FPCCI is the right partner for such single-country exhibitions; and, FPCCI's network in all parts & industries of the country can make bilateral trade with Iran grow to its true potential.

Hassan Nourian, Consul General of Iran in Karachi, thanked the Governor of Sindh & FPCCI for their full support in making the trade exhibition a reality; and, ensuring a forthcoming attitude of the Pakistani business, industry and trade community towards the Iranian products, companies, businessmen and Iranian embassy's endeavors to forge trade & commercial alliances between the two countries.

The coils of the transformer of the residential block of paramedical staff

Adam Khan Wazir

WANNA: Unidentified thieves took out the coils of the electricity transformer in the darkness of Paramedical Staff Residential Block of District Headquarters

Hospital Wana in South Waziristan Lower, the reason is still unknown. Thieves skillfully took out the coils of the transformer installed in the residential block of the District Headquarter Hospital, Wana.

No one was aware of it and the thief easily took advantage of the darkness of the night and pushed the entire residential block of the hospital into darkness.

After this incident, doctors and paramedical staff have expressed serious concerns and said, That the government and the local administration should make full proof arrangements for the security of the hospital, track down the criminals involved in this incident and bring them to book, so that such incidents do not occur in the future.

On the other hand, MS/HM Hammad Mahmood of DHQ Hospital Wana gave his stance and said that security in the hospital is the biggest problem for us, DC South Waziristan Lower and DPO have been informed about this situation.

DC called on the UNICEF team and discussed ongoing anti-polio campaign

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh called on the UNICEF team and discussed about the ongoing anti-polio campaign and the routine vaccination campaign to protect children from various epidemic diseases. In the UNICEF team, M&E specialist Zainab Suliman, National M&E Officer Hayat Mohammad Khan, Divisional Communication Officer Abdul Rahim Cheema and District Communication Officer Tayyab Rafiq were present on the occasion. While welcoming the UNICEF team, the Deputy Commissioner said that responsible implementation of the anti-polio campaign in the district is ongoing and the campaign is being closely monitored. He said that all advertising means are being used to inform the parents.

Apart from this, there has also been implemented the vaccination campaign to protect the children from various diseases in the district and he is also reviewing the goals by holding monthly meetings.

The UNICEF team expressed satisfaction over the micro plan formulated for the ongoing anti-polio campaign & also appreciating the implementation of the EPI campaign.

Thousands of people came out on the roads against the disturbing situation of peace

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Thousands of citizens came out on the roads against the disturbing situation of peace, law and order, the protection of life and property of citizens is the primary responsibility of the state, for what sin we are being punished by killing every day, we should not be forced to take up arms for our protection.

The address of the speakers from the "Shaheed Peace Conference" organized regarding the martyrdom of Martyr Dilnawaz Kundi Advocate, Kashmir Chowk was closed for several hours, the roads remained blocked.

A grand meeting of all the tribes living in Tank and people of every school of thought has been called at the town hall ground on next Sunday.

According to the details, against the deteriorating law and order situation in Tank district and the day-to-day theft, robbery and killing of innocent citizens and the brutal murder of Dilnawaz Kundi advocate, All Nazmeen alliance on January 16 called "Shaheed peace Conference". The conference was announced.

In which thousands of citizens participated, citizens protested against the bad law and order situation at Kashmir Chowk.

The leaders of the protestors were Khalid Mehmood Kundi, Shah Fahad Ansari Advocate, Fazal Karim, Tator Touseef Kundi, Ali Jan Kundi, Muhammad Bakhs, Sanam Gul Tator, Nadeem Mehsud, Hidayatullah Mehsud, Heshmat Arain, Umar Burki, Rahmat Khan, Kundi, Farooq Khan Arain, Rahmat Shah, Saddam Betney, Malik Rafatullah Betney, Ismail Marwat, Sheikh Naseer, Malik Faizullah Bettani and Kaleem Ullah Mehsud Advocate and other leaders were doing it. Speaking on this occasion, the speakers said that the peace, law and order situation in Tank is deteriorating day by day, fear and panic has spread among the people due to the killing of innocent and innocent citizens day by day.

Preparing fish

KARACHI: A vendor is preparing fish for selling purpose at his workplace at Bangalipara area, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

CBD Punjab started slabbing for Kalma Chowk underpass remodeling

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab), has completed the excavation and started slabbing barrels for CBD Punjab Boulevard and Kalma Chowk Underpass Remodeling project.

As per the instructions of the CEO of PCBDDA, Mr. Imran Amin, the development pace is at full throttle. Out of 2000 retaining piles 1840 have been completed. CBD Punjab's technical

team has also started construction of a Rainwater Harvesting Tank at Saint Marry Park and the sump pump/water well for the sewerage water disposal station at Centre Point is also near completion. The authority has closed the service lane in front of CBD Punjab and has started its upgradation whereas, the shifting of pipelines and electric cables will be completed soon by the concerned authorities.

CEO CBD Punjab Mr. Imran Amin has ensured that the project will be completed within the prescribed

time and all the closed roads will be functional before Pakistan Super League (PSL), for the convenience of cricket fans and residents of Lahore.

CBD Punjab and City Traffic Police (CTP) Lahore have issued an updated traffic advisory as the authority has opened one lane of Kalma Chowk Underpass for the convenience of commuters traveling from Liberty Market towards Barket Market. All the contractors and employees of CBD Punjab are performing their duties efficiently to complete the project within the stipulated time.

DC visited the monumental buildings in different areas of Jaranwala

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Shaikh has said that under the arrangements of Lyallpur Heritage Foundation, all-round planning is being done for the protection and restoration of historical buildings and cultural heritage in the district so that future generations are familiar with the history, culture and lifestyle of this area. He visited the monumental buildings in different areas of Jaranwala Tehsil and reviewed their architectural maintenance issues.

Additional Deputy Commissioner General Faisal Sultan, Assistant Commissioner Jaranwala Nauman Ali and other officers were also present.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the shrine of Mirza Sahiba and offered Fateha. He saw the historic status of the shrine and said that steps are being taken to restore it.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Gangapur and saw different parts of Sir Gangaram Haveli and said that efforts are on to maintain the identity of the historical haveli. He also saw the old clock tower in Gangapur and immediately removed the banners and posters installed on it. The famous clock tower was ordered to be restored.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the issues of re-running the unique horse tram train and urged immediate removal of encroachments on the way of this monumental service. Deputy Commissioner also visited the historic mansion of freedom war hero Sardar Bhagat Singh in Bagewal and see different parts of the mansion and get information about the historical status of the mansion.

He praised the initiatives taken by the administrator of the haveli and paid tribute to the services of Sardar Bhagat Singh, the hero of the freedom movement.

Peeru's Café opens second branch of Experiential Restaurant in Lahore

News Desk

LAHORE: Peeru's Café's second branch is now open on the rooftop of CSD Shopping Mall, Cavalry Ground in Lahore. It is a one-of-a-kind experiential performing arts cafe, nurturing Pakistan's art and culinary traditions, all under one roof.

The cafe is the brainchild of the Rafi Peer family, who have dedicated their lives to promoting art, celebrating Pakistan's diverse culture, and nurturing a culture of edutainment through festivals, puppet shows, dance, and music. Indeed, the Rafi Peer legacy, spanning some 50 years, has also seen the family conceive and execute cross-cultural mega events across the world, around these themes, projecting Pakistan's true face: of harmony, tolerance and diversity.

Peeru's Café in Cavalry Ground is designed as a space where food meets art. Combining great Pakistani food with live music all week, all under a canopy of vibrant art as created by the



late Faizan Peerzada, paying tribute to his artistic legacy.

"We have brought the Peeru's Café experience to the center of Lahore, as a space for all generations to come and enjoy the artistic diversity that our country has to offer, while sharing a meal with family and friends. Indeed, there are generations of Lahoris who grew up with our festivals and we hope, with our new café, we bring that same cultural

flavour to our new generations, celebrating Pakistan's rich heritage," said Saadaan Peerzada, Co-owner and Curator at Peeru's Cafe.

From the artistic décor, to the weekly musical roster, and the addition of their signature puppet show every Sunday, Peeru's Café has something for everyone.

Peeru's Cafe is now open at Green Acres, Raiwind Road, and CSD Shopping Mall, Cavalry Ground, Lahore.

Kohinoor Textile Mills delegation visit the Diabetes Centre



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by GM Ali Nawaz Chaudhry of Kohinoor Textile Mills Limited (KTML) visited The Diabetes Centre here today in a bid to discuss ways for collaboration between the two entities under the umbrella of KTML's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.

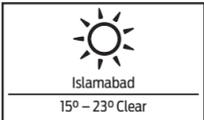
GM Ali Nawaz Chaudhry was accompanied by Manager HR Rashid Iqbal, AM Rabia and AM Madiha. On arrival at the Hospital, guests were given a warm welcome by Team TDC.

Soon after arrival, delegation was given a round of hospital wherein they witnessed working of various departments. They also

held meetings with the Chair, TDC, Dr. Asjad Hameed and CEO Mr. Tahir M. Abbasi who briefed them about vision, operations and future plans of the hospital.

Welcoming prospective collaboration with TDC and KTML, GM Ali Nawaz Chaudhry on behalf of KTML lauded TDC's relentless efforts for making Pakistan a Diabetes's free country.

Both Chair and CEO of TDC thanked GM KTML Ali Nawaz Chaudhry along with his team for taking the initiative of assisting the hospital in noble cause of creating awareness about diabetes and treating the deserving patients free of cost thus saving lives of innumerable number of beloved countrymen.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5:45 am
Zohr12:17 pm
Asr3:45 pm
Maghrib5:23 pm
Isha6:50 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-89203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-89266316
Wapda Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

Promoting education indispensable for the development of the country, says Raja Pervez

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed called on National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House on Monday. The matter regarding establishment of University in Gujjar Khan and initiation of early classes were discussed in the meeting.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that the promoting education is indispensable for the development of the country. He also said there is a need of apolitical approach for development of education and

health sector. He said that the youth of Pakistan has been blessed by Allah Almighty with immense abilities.

He stressed upon the need for provision of education, especially technical education to youth for their development and employment. He emphasized for the early establishment of University in Gujjar Khan and said that the establishment of state of art university in Gujjar Khan is inevitable not only for Gujjar Khan youth but for also for youth surrounding districts. He said that as a public representative, it is their common responsibility to provide education facilities



to the youth. Chairman Higher Education Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, admired

the efforts of the Speaker National Assembly for the development of the education sector. He informed

the Speaker that he had issued instructions to the concerned authorities for prioritizing the

establishment of university in Gujjar Khan.

He said establishment of state of art university in Gujjar Khan will provide quality education to the youth of whole Potohar region, Azad Kashmir and other adjoining areas. He said that development of the country is interlinked with the development of education, health and social sectors. He said that for the development of these sectors, politicians as a whole have to think beyond party affiliation. He assured that all possible resources will be utilized for the establishment of a university in Gujjar Khan on priority bases.

BISP Grants

ISLAMABAD: A large number of deserving people waiting for their turn for receiving cash under Benazir Income Support Program, at Sector G-7 in Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

In-House Meeting with Mr. Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad held an In-House meeting with Mr. Ubaid Ur Rehman Nizamani, Pakistan's Head of Mission in Afghanistan. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, ISSI. Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA and members of the CAMEA research team participated.

During the meeting, the myriad dimensions of the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan-Afghanistan relations were discussed.

Ms. Amina Khan also apprised the Head of Mission of the various research and outreach activities undertaken by CAMEA relating to Afghanistan and the adjoining regions.



Govt committed to provide flour to masses on subsidized rates



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/ISLAMABAD: Amidst skyrocketing flour prices the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has decided to take concrete measures to provide cheap flour to masses. According to the data presented by the government, flour was available in the remote and snowy areas in abundance and efforts were being taken to ensure its delivery to the people. The problem is not the shortage of flour but the existing price difference.

The price of government flour in the market is 2500 rupees while flour in the market is sold at 6200 rupees per forty KG. Those who used to buy private flour have started buying government flour, as a result the demand for government flour has increased manifold. The subsidized flour provided by the government is three lakh tons which constitutes 60 percent of total requirement.

The total requirement of flour in Azad Kashmir is 520 thousand tons. 10 percent of the requirement is met by local production while 30 percent is met by the private sector. Due to the increase in the price of imported wheat this year, the government is providing a total subsidy of 14 billion rupees.

During the past couple of months the AJK has witnessed a significant increase in the number of buyers of subsidized flour and people who used to buy one bag of flour are buying five extra bags due to the rising inflation and fear of shortage of food commodities. On the one hand recommendations related to setting up a mechanism to limit the subsidy of flour to the deserving people are under consideration while on the other hand, the prime minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has asked the federal government for a supplementary grant for the payment of bill to the PASCO and releasing of the share of money the federal government had slashed by imposing budgetary cuts. So far no response has been received due to which the government is trying to continue the supply of wheat by paying PASCO on one hand and making a policy of providing targeted subsidized flour on the other hand in view of the hardships of the public.

Hattar Industrial Estate has play important role in rehabilitation in Afghanistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD :MA Steel Casting, Farid Holding Group hosted a luncheon in honor of Khyber KPKEconomic Zone Development Authority CEO Javed Khattak, speaking at the luncheon. CSO Javed Khattak said that the 40 megawatt grid station for Hattar Industrial Estate will be made functional for a week, which was a late demand of the industrialists here, with the approval of which the power requirements of the industry will be met. More He said that the Hattar Industrial Estate is being expanded to 100 acres and the land will be acquired soon. Capital Mian Akram Farid, Chairman of Employers Federation of Pakistan while addressing the lunch said that the industrialists of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar Mardan have made investments in Hattar Industrial Estate.

Hattar Industrial Estate has an important role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and goods are being produced and supplied to Afghanistan and other countries from here. The needs will be met better than before and goods can be exported to foreign countries, and this will provide more employment opportunities to the people of the area and reduce unemployment. He further said that the industry All the problems of the estate should be solved on a priority basis and all the problems and needs of the industries should be completed in time, he added that wherever new industrial zones are created, export processing zones should also be created so that locally manufactured goods can be exported.

Pakistani rupee freefall continues against USD in interbank



News Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee's downward slide continued against the US dollar in the interbank market on Monday.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency plunged by Rs0.19 against the US dollar to close at Rs228.34. This equates to an appreciation of 0.08 per cent from yesterday's close of Rs228.15.

The dollar is being sold between Rs235 to 240 in the open market, the forex dealers said. The local unit had depreciated by Rs49 in the outgoing year, according to forex dealers.

City School System Signs MoU with Pearson-Edexcel

Spokesman Report

LAHORE : To support students' learning by offering world-class qualifications, and to ensure the provision of assessment services and international academic qualifications, Pearson-Edexcel and The City School, Pakistan's largest network of private educational institutions, have come together and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU signing ceremony was held at The City School, Head Office, and was signed by Mr. Shahzad Muhammad Khan, Chief Operating Officer (COO) The City School, and Ms. Kathryn booth, Director of Pearson Schools Qualifications, Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan/Turkey. The ceremony was attended by the senior leadership from both



organizations.

Under the MoU, Pearson, and City school will collaborate to introduce Pearson Edexcel qualifications supporting resources and professional development courses to the selective branches of City

school starting from South region schools in Pakistan. Pearson will provide online teacher training courses to prepare teachers for the relevant Pearson Edexcel exam syllabus.

Speaking on the occasion,

Ms. Kathryn Booth, Director of Pearson Schools Qualifications, said that The City School is the flag bearer in the education sector and that the collaboration would usher in a new era of learning. She further said that this MoU will serve as a milestone towards students' advanced learning opportunities in Pakistan.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, COO The City School, Mr. Shahzad Khan stated, "I congratulate my team at The City School and everyone at Pearson Education for this partnership and am confident that this collaboration will be beneficial in bringing educational excellence to our schools. At the City School, providing better academic opportunities and exposure to international qualifications has always been our priority."

Mashreq Bank to greatly enhance customer banking experience in Pakistan: Group CEO

News Desk

KARACHI : Mashreq, one of the leading financial institutions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), announced today, the acquisition of a Digital Banking license, under the Digital Regulatory Framework issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Mashreq's intention is to bring their digital expertise to Pakistan and further the interests of the SBP in the digital arena. With the commencement of digital banking operations, Mashreq will usher in a team of bankers and engineers with multicultural experience as well as its proven Neo banking capabilities and world class technology to address the evolving customers' needs in Pakistan.

With over five decades of expertise, Mashreq is one of MENA's best performing banks with an expanding presence in Europe, Asia, and the US. Mashreq has always considered Pakistan to be an attractive financial destination owing to the unprecedented growth and turnaround of the country's banking sector in recent years.

Ahmed Abdelal – Group Chief Executive Officer, Mashreq said: "Our ingress into Pakistan's banking sector with the digital banking solu-



tions is indeed a seminal moment in Mashreq's strategic expansion plans. I strongly believe we can capitalize on Pakistan's existing robust financial infrastructure to greatly enhance the banking experience by delivering customer centric solutions through our products and services."

He further added: "Mashreq will, without a doubt, prove to be a catalyst in leading the evolution of digital finance and the wider digital economy in Pakistan through the deployment of

truly transformational banking platforms and solutions.

Fernando Morillo – Group Head of Retail Bank, Mashreq said: "We look forward to exploring a new Pakistan chapter in our strategic expansion road map. I believe that Mashreq's vision is in tandem with the country's Digital Pakistan Initiative. At Mashreq, we applaud the efforts of SBP in laying down the foundation that has catalyzed the digitization of the country's banking sector, transforming it as a

whole. "As for the country's flourishing banking sector, Mashreq underpinned with the Digital Banking license, remains committed to deliver its promise of customer value creation and financial inclusion", he added.

Mashreq's comprehensive suite of digital banking products like Mashreq Neo, NeoPay and NeoBiz firmly positions it to become one of the most progressive banks in the country.

Pakistan has the third largest unbanked adult population globally with about 100 million adults without a bank account and 82% women without any access to financial services. According to the World Bank, 63% of population of the country comprises youth aged 15 and 33 years of age making it an important market for Mashreq. With financial inclusion and customer convenience at the centre, Mashreq is set to bring its premium offerings to provide innovative possibilities and empower customers in rural areas and underserved markets. Mashreq plans to contribute to the economic activity by increasing lending to small businesses and providing consumer loans to low-income households, especially women entrepreneurs and the youth.

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Library thrives in Pakistan's 'wild west' gun market town

AFP Report

When the din of Pakistan's most notorious weapons market becomes overwhelming, arms dealer Muhammad Jahanzeb slinks away from his stall, past colleagues test-firing machine guns, to read in the hush of the local library.

"It's my hobby, my favourite hobby, so sometimes I sneak off," the 28-year-old told AFP after showing off his inventory of vintage rifles, forged assault weapons and a menacing array of burnished flick-knives.

"I've always wished that we would have a library here, and my wish has come true."

The town of Darra Adamkhel is part of the deeply conservative tribal belt where decades of militancy and drug-running in the surrounding mountains earned it a reputation as a "wild west" waypoint between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It has long been known for its black market bazaars stocked with forged American

rifles, replica revolvers and rip-off AK-47s.

But a short walk away a town library is thriving by offering titles including Virginia Woolf's classic "Mrs Dalloway", instalments in the teenage vampire romance series "Twilight", and "Life, Speeches and Letters" by Abraham Lincoln.

"Initially we were discouraged. People asked, 'What is the use of books in a place like Darra Adamkhel? Who would ever read here?'" recalled 36-year-old founder Raj Muhammad.

"We now have more than 500 members."

Literacy rates in the tribal areas, which were semi-autonomous until 2018 when they merged with the neighbouring province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, are among the lowest in Pakistan as a result of poverty, patriarchal values, inter-clan conflicts and a lack of schools.

But attitudes are slowly changing, believes soft-spoken 33-year-old volunteer librarian Shafiqullah Afridi: "Especially among the younger generation who are now interested in education instead of weapons."

Despite the background noise of gunsmiths testing

weapons and hammering bullets into dusty patches of earth nearby, the atmosphere is genteel as readers sip endless rounds of green tea while they muse over texts.

However, Afridi struggles to

"You could say we planted the library on a pile of weapons," said Muhammad — a prominent local academic, poet and teacher hailing from a long line of gunsmiths.

strictly enforce a "no weapons allowed" policy during his shift.

One young arms dealer saunters up to the pristinely painted salmon-coloured library, leaving his AK-47 at the door but keeping his side-arm strapped on his waist, and joins a gaggle of bookworms browsing the shelves.

Alongside tattered Tom Clancy, Stephen King and Michael Crichton paperbacks,

there are more weighty tomes detailing the history of Pakistan and India and guides for civil service entrance exams, as well as a wide selection of Islamic teachings.

"Education not arms": Libraries are rare in Pakistan's rural areas, and the few that exist in urban centres are often poorly stocked and infrequently used.

In Darra Adamkhel, it began as a solitary reading room in 2018 stocked with Muhammad's personal collection, above one of the hundreds of gun shops in the central bazaar.

"You could say we planted the library on a pile of weapons," said Muhammad — a prominent local academic, poet and teacher hailing from a long line of gunsmiths.

Muhammad paid 2,500 rupees (\$11) for the monthly rent, but bibliophiles struggled to concentrate amidst the whirring of lathes and hammering of metal as bootleg armourers plied their trade downstairs.

The project swiftly outgrew the confines of a single room and was shifted a year later to a purpose-built single-storey building funded by the local community on donated land.

"There was once a time when our young men adorned themselves with weapons like a kind of jewellery," said Irfanullah Khan, 65, patriarch of the family who gifted the plot.

"But men look beautiful with the jewel of knowledge, beauty lies not in arms but in education," said Khan, who also donates his time alongside his son Afridi.

For the general public a library card costs 150 rupees (\$0.66) a year, while students enjoy a discount rate of 100 rupees (\$0.44), and youngsters flit in and out of the library even during school breaks.

One in 10 members are female — a figure remarkably high for the tribal areas — though once they reach their teenage years and are sequestered in the home male family members collect books on their behalf.

Nevertheless, on their mid-morning break schoolgirls Manahil Jahangir, nine, and Hareem Saeed, five, join the men towering over them as they pore over books.

"My mother's dream is for me to become a doctor," Saeed says shyly. "If I study here I can make her dream come true."



Ahsan

Winter a sobering time for West's political elites - I

Veniamin Popov

Germany and urgently requested a truce — and the so-called Minsk agreements were signed, which provided a significant degree of autonomy for the Donbas within Ukraine.

A lengthy negotiating marathon had begun.

However, Kyiv, as it turned out later, was not going to accept the Minsk agreements, which former German Chancellor Angela Merkel recently admitted no one was going to fulfill and that they were needed only to accumulate Ukraine's weapons with the help of the West and to train military personnel.

We have evidence from Ukrainian defectors that Kyiv was preparing a powerful military offensive against the Donbas, which they called a separatist entity.

As a result, on Feb. 24, 2022, we were forced to launch a special military operation. For Russia, the deployment of NATO military bases in Ukraine is completely unacceptable, because then the flight time of missiles to Moscow is reduced to five to seven minutes. This means that we will not be able to strike back, since the flight of intercontinental missiles takes at least 20 minutes.

The military doctrine of Russia does not provide for a nuclear strike first — we use these weapons only for a retaliatory strike.

As a result, Western states began pumping into Ukraine a variety of weapons on an unprecedented scale; in addition, they are constantly introducing new sanctions against Moscow (the ninth package of EU sanctions was agreed last month).

In total, more than 11,000 sanctions by Western countries have been imposed against us over the past year — this is the largest number of restrictions that have ever been imposed on one country.

To be concluded

It is vital for Europe that Ukraine prevails - I

Col. Taras Dzuba

It is a well-known fact that climatic conditions affect the pace of hostilities, and they affect both sides. The winner is always the one that is more ready to act in these climatic conditions.

We can say straight away that the winter months in the Ukraine-Russia war will be challenging from a military point of view. Low temperatures, limited duration of daylight, the need to create proper conditions for the presence of military personnel, the increased load on medical services and units typical for this time of year, etc., are added to the high dynamics of fire strikes. The combination of these factors reduces the pace of active offensive actions, but Ukraine has two significant advantages. The first is that we protect our homeland from the invaders, i.e., we fight on our territory with the full support of our population. The second is the real and effective support of the international community.

As for the enemy's actions, we expect a possible continuation of missile strikes on the territory of Ukraine, in particular on civilian infrastructure.

The success of the Russian occupying forces on the battlefield is unlikely. Still, they can continue offensive actions to fulfill the orders of their military-political leadership, which does not count on losses and often does not recognize the realities of war.

We are preparing for any possible scenario and will do everything to liberate the territory of Ukraine from the occupiers, regardless of the season, weather conditions or anything else. It is essential to understand the motivation of the opposing sides to assess the chances of one side or the other.

If we do not repeat the clichés of official Russian propaganda, which even the most ardent supporters of Vladimir Putin already doubt, the main motives of the servicemen of the Russian occupation army are the fear of disobeying orders and the desire to improve their material condition at the expense of participating in the war. Some of them are still hoping for a "trophy."

To be concluded

tion or forces would not move an inch to the east." He repeated this promise three times.

And in a conversation between German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his British counterpart Douglas Hurd on Feb. 6, 1990, declassified by the British Foreign Office, Genscher said: "The Russians should have some confidence that if, for example, today the Polish government withdrew from the Warsaw Pact then tomorrow it will not join NATO."

However, in 1999, Poland, together with the Czech Republic and Hungary, joined NATO over Russian objections. Five years later, on March 29, 2004, the gates of the alliance opened even wider: NATO included Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

As you know, in 2014, a coup d'état took place in Ukraine and the legitimately elected president was overthrown, although the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Poland guaranteed a peaceful settlement of differences.

The people who came to power in Kyiv immediately banned the Russian language, although it is spoken by about 80 percent of the population of Ukraine. This caused legitimate protests from predominantly Russian-speaking regions, primarily Crimea and Donbas. The population of Crimea almost unanimously voted in a referendum to join Russia. As for the Donbas, the leaders of Ukraine at the time immediately began shelling its cities and towns in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. The indignation of the Donetsk people was so great that, having mobilized a significant part of the male population, they proceeded to retaliatory actions and defeated the Ukrainian troops. Then Kyiv turned to France and

Elimination of polio in Balochistan

Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili said that keeping the province free from infectious diseases like polio was the top priority of the provincial government.

He expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion of the inauguration of the 7-day anti-polio campaign in Quetta, said a press release issued here on Monday.

On this occasion, he inaugurated a seven-day anti-polio campaign across Balochistan by administering polio drops to children.

The Chief Secretary said that Balochistan has been polio-free for 2 years due to parents, people, and especially the front-line workers serving in the anti-polio campaign.

Despite being a victim of terrorism, the front-line workers did not back down from this national duty. The polio workers whose houses were destroyed by the flood in the past few days will be compensated very soon, he added.

He said that during the campaign more than 2.599 million children will be vaccinated, and more than 11 thousand teams would participate in the polio campaign. He said that the campaign is conducted several times a year in specific districts but this time the campaign has been planned for the whole of Balochistan.

He said that despite the attacks of miscreants, the front-line workers did not retreat from the polio campaign and with the efforts of the police, FC, and other officials, the polio teams were provided with the best security.

Abdul Aziz Uqaili said that the organization which attacked the polio workers did not want Balochistan to be polio-free, and the attackers did not want to let Balochistan become polio-free saying that the security alert would provide full security to the polio workers. He said that the best measures were taken for rehabilitation in the flood-affected areas including Naseerabad where PDMA and NDMA provided tents and other necessary equipment for the rehabilitation of the victims.

He said that the process of providing 21,000 sacks of wheat from the Punjab government was underway. He said that the flour shortage has been controlled to a great extent.

He said that for the last 60 to 70 years gas requirements were being met from Balochistan. He said Pakistan needed 12 billion dollars for the rehabilitation of the recent floods, while 2.3 billion dollars were needed for the rehabilitation of flood victims in Balochistan. Steps will be taken for rehabilitation in Balochistan with the amount announced in the Geneva conference, he underlined.

Winter a sobering time for West's political elites - I

Veniamin Popov

The special military operation in Ukraine has been ongoing for nearly 11 months. Such a long delay is due to some mistakes by our generals in military planning, however, the goals of this operation are natural and justified.

Back in December 2021, the Russian Federation invited the NATO countries to sign a security treaty, which would have excluded the further expansion of the alliance and the accession of Ukraine to it.

In addition, Russia and NATO would undertake to refrain from deploying weapons and forces in areas that would be perceived by the other side as a threat to national security, and also to confirm that they do not consider each other as adversaries. The parties would exclude the use of ground-based intermediate and shorter-range missiles in areas from which they are capable of hitting targets on the territory of other participants.

The US and other NATO countries rudely rejected our proposal.

Unfortunately, Western states constantly resort to deception and backtracking on their commitments, even though they made a clear commitment in 1990 not to expand NATO eastwards.

US Secretary of State James Baker, during a meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on Feb. 9, 1990, assured that the proposed unification of Germany would not become a catalyst for NATO expansion in Eastern Europe. In exchange for the unification of Germany, Baker offered Gorbachev "iron-clad guarantees that NATO's jurisdic-

Relations between Pakistan and Belgium founded on shared ideals of democracy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Raja Pervez Ashraf, Speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly, stated today that Belgium and Pakistan had warm relations based on a common commitment to democracy, pluralism, and trust. Pakistan had consistently demonstrated its readiness and commitment to upholding both its constitutional and international commitments for a more secure, environmentally friendly, peaceful, and progressive world. According to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, Pakistan had always supported the peaceful and diplomatic settlement of all international problems. He made these remarks while speaking with Belgian legislative representatives during a meeting in Parliament, today.

The parliamentary delegation from Belgium Parliamentary Delegation comprised of Ms.

Allessia Claes, Senator /Chairperson of the Belgium-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, Mr. Karl Vanlourve, State Senator Mr. Philippe Courard, PS, State Senator , Mr. Georges Dallemagne, Les Engages, Member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives and Senior officers of Belgium Parliament has come to Pakistan on a week-long visit at the special invitation of the Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf. The visit was intended to further promote parliamentary cooperation between the two sides in a bid to provide all necessary support to maximize gains in trade and promote people-to-people contacts.

The Speaker also emphasised Pakistan's desire to advance its blue economy with the help of the EU and its technical and financial support. Despite producing less than 1% of the world's greenhouse gases, he highlighted that Pakistan was at the epicentre of the global



climate issue. Ms. Alessia Claes thanked the Speaker profusely for the invitation and offered sympathy for the flood victims. She underlined the importance of letting the world know the real narrative of Pakistan, which battled

valiantly against all odds to become a stable, tranquil, and peaceful nation. She and her colleagues would unquestionably serve as Pakistan's ambassadors in Europe and work to promote the nation as much as possible.

The meeting between the visiting delegation and the National Assembly's Pakistan-Belgium Parliamentary Friendship Group earlier today was quite fruitful. The meeting was significant because it covered a wide range of topics, including human rights, terrorism, and climate change.

Later in the day, the delegation also paid a visit to the Women Parliamentary Caucus, where they were informed about the steps the Caucus had taken to empower Pakistani women through appropriate legislation and to use its influence to ensure that the country's existing laws were implemented aptly for the benefit of more than half of its population.

The Japanese government extended the utilization of Project loan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Japanese government extended the project loan effective period upto 31 December 2024 of ongoing loan project "Punjab Transmission and Grid Stations Project (1). The loan agreement was signed on 3rd May 2008 under which JICA provided project-based loan of Japanese Yen 11,943,000,000/.

In this regard, the letter of amendment of loan agreement has been signed between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Headquarter, Tokyo, Japan and Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government



of Pakistan. Additionally, JICA also accepted the utilization of remaining project loan amount for flood response.

The extension of loan utilization

period will enable National Transmission and Dispatch Co Ltd (NTDC) to utilize remaining balance for the procurement of necessary materials as replenishment of essential materials in NTDC Warehouses which were urgently utilized for repair and maintenance of national transmission lines affected in the devastated flood 2022 across Pakistan.

The main objectives of these projects were to improve the reliability and quality of power supply through the reduction of outages and voltage fluctuation and to meet the fast-growing load demand by strengthening transmission systems in Punjab province.

Through JICA support, NTDC has built one 500 kV Grid Station Rahim Yar Khan, 500/220 kV grid station at Faisalabad West along with associated transmission line, 220kV GIS grid station at Shalamar, Lahore along with associated transmission lines. The newly constructed 500/220 kV grid station at Faisalabad West along with associated transmission line will be expected to be operationalized soon.

Furthermore, the sub-stations and transmission lines constructed under JICA supported project contributed to mitigating the capacity ratio of neighboring substations and transmission system.

China successfully tests ultra-high-speed maglev trains

News Desk

BELJING: China has successfully carried out a systematic test on a cutting-edge transportation system involving an ultra-high-speed maglev train running in a low vacuum pipeline.

Three navigation tests have been completed in accordance with the test procedures thanks to the use of a super-navigation vehicle, and all systems work normally when the speed exceeds 50 km per hour on the 210-meter test route, according to Global Times on Monday.

Researchers working on the project

in Datong, Central China's Shanxi Province indicate that they aim to build an ultra high-speed mega transport system running in low vacuum pipelines by combining railway and aerospace technology, read an earlier report.

The team from the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC) hopes they will eventually be able to operate maglev trains in a tube with extremely thin air — meaning they would "fly on the ground" at speeds that rival planes.

The technology of maglev (also known as magnetic levitation) successfully eliminates friction, while operating the train in



a low-vacuum pipeline reduces resistance and noise, which are two main problems in train transportation.

The experiment successfully completed at the beginning of 2023 is the first full-scale super-navigation experiment

in China and has verified a series of key technologies, preliminarily verifying the correctness of the high-speed vehicle system and related coordination work.

Currently, China only has one maglev line in commercial use, connecting Shanghai's Pudong Airport with the Longyang Road station in the city. The 30 km (19 miles) journey takes about seven and a half minutes, with the train hitting speeds of 430 kph (267 mph).

Several new maglev networks are reportedly under construction, including one linking Shanghai and Hangzhou and another connecting Chengdu and Chongqing.

Searchers find black boxes of aircraft in deadly Nepal crash



KATHMANDU: Searchers on Monday found both the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder from a passenger flight that crashed on Sunday, killing at least 68 people in Nepal's deadliest plane crash in 30 years, officials said.

The data on the recorders may help investigators determine what caused the ATR 72 aircraft, carrying 72 people, to crash in clear weather just before landing in the tourist city of Pokhara.

Teknath Sitaula, a Kathmandu Airport official, said the so-called black boxes "are in a good condition now. They look good from outside."

Rescuers were battling cloudy weather and poor visibility as they scoured the river gorge for passengers who are unaccounted for, more than 24 hours after the crash. Sixty-eight bodies have been recovered.

The plane, on a scheduled flight from Kathmandu to Pokhara, gateway to the scenic Annapurna mountain range, was carrying 57 Nepalis, five Indians, four Russians, two South Koreans, and one person each from Argentina, Ireland, Australia and France.

Pokhara police official Ajay KC said the search-and-rescue operation, which stopped because of darkness on Sunday, had resumed.

"We will take out the five bodies from the gorge and search for the remaining four that are still missing," he told Reuters. "It is cloudy now... causing a problem in the search."

The other 63 bodies had been sent to a hospital, he said. A spokesperson for Pokhara airport also said that the weather was hampering rescue efforts, but that clouds were expected to clear later in the day.

Nearly 350 people have died since 2000 in plane or helicopter crashes in Nepal—home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains, including Everest—where sudden weather changes can make for hazardous conditions.

Experts say air accidents are usually caused by a combination of factors, and investigations can take months or longer.

The potential for genocide is real in Kashmir: Dr. Fai

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice said during an All-Parties Jirga (Assembly), organized by Shamsuz Zaman, a young enthusiastic community leader and President of Pak-American Society, USA, "If we were to judge the UN based upon its history of involvement in efforts to resolve international conflicts, the simplest answer is that it has been an enormous failure. The fact that fundamental mission in being created the United Nations was to be a means of preventing global catastrophes like the Second World War. In this context, Kashmir cannot be ignored, perhaps for no other reason than the conflict there has gone on for 76 years and seems destined to continue as long as the Indian armed forces continue to occupy the region.

"The potential for genocide is very real and massive killings have already occurred in the past in Kashmir. The tens of thousands who have been killed along with vast human rights abuses seem to go on without an end. Dr. Gregory Stanton, Chairman, Genocide Watch is on record to have said during a Congressional hearing at the Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. in January 2022 that Kashmir was at the brink of genocide. The UN high Commissioner on Human Rights who spoke on September 13, 2016 during the opening of the Human Rights Council in

Geneva, said in response, 'We had previously received reports, and still continue to do so, claiming the Indian authorities had used force excessively against the civilian population under its administration...I believe an independent, impartial and international mission is now needed crucially and that it should be given free and complete access to establish an objective assessment of the claims made by the two sides.' Of course, Dr. Fai added that the Indian government continues to ignore such calls for investigation, because it believes that such ruthless tactics are the only way to deal with opposition to its policies. Such policies are almost a guarantee that yet another great tragedy in the UN's history will occur."

Dr. Fai added that India's image suffers far more from the obvious duplicity and an incorrigible unwillingness to confront openly its wrong-headed policies in Kashmir than it would if it just laid its cards on the table. The flaunting of its inhumanity — as if to say, we're going to do it and you can't do anything about it" — is only deepening its commitment to permanent conflict and suffering in Kashmir.

"It does not bode well for anyone looking for U.S. support for human rights causes, particularly in Kashmir. The bipartisan support that Kashmir issue was given by the United States Administration at the United Nations since 1948 seem to be disappearing. Is it because the



United States was wrong then or is it because United States policy towards international legality and morality has changed, Fai continued?"

Fai reiterated that trade and commercial deals are important but it should not be at the expense of the high moral ground American exceptionalism has always claimed. Moral values and human rights are the very essence of even being called civilized. Let us remind President Biden the promising words he said that American values are that we must not lead with the example

of power but the powers of example. Can President Biden tell his friend Prime Minister Modi to lead in Kashmir with the power of example and fulfill his promise that he gave to the people of Kashmir at the United Nations and allow them to exercise the right of self-determination, Dr. Fai asked?

Shamsuz Zaman, President, Pak-American Society, USA explained that the purpose of the Jirga was to deliberate freely the internal and external compulsions of the nation of Pakistan. But we cannot afford to ignore

strategizing in the United States to help the oppressed people of Kashmir. In particular, when we know that the Kashmir dispute has an international dimension because it has the sanctity of the UN Charter and UN Security Council resolutions and has become a big hurdle or obstacle in the growth and stability of both India and Pakistan.

Moulana Sirajul Haq, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan in his keynote address explained the background of the backwardness of the nation of Pakistan within the past 7 years. Pakistan

needs an honest leadership which must rise above petty politics and always thinks about the future and prosperity of the nation and not about their own families.

Moulana Sirajul Haq added that we as a nation has failed our brethren in occupied Kashmir. The people of occupied Kashmir are giving sacrifices beyond imagination, and they need out full diplomatic support which unfortunately is missing. How long can the people of Kashmir live under the clutches of Indian occupation, Moulana Sirajul Haq asked?

Sardar Sawar Khan, former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir said that the unresolved conflict over Kashmir threatens the international peace and security of the world. It is far past time for the UN to take forceful action in order to restore peace to Kashmir. Perhaps Resolution 2098 ought to be reviewed as an option to consider in dealing with this problem, because nothing else to date has worked. It's time for the UN to restore the faith of common people that it is an agency that can live up to its bold charter and mission of bringing peace and stability to the world.

Mr. Sarwar Choudhary, leader of Kashmiri American community said India's occupation of Kashmir has been left undisturbed by the international community, even though its validity has never been accepted. At no stage, however, have the people of Kashmir shown themselves to be reconciled to it.

Sardar Taj, young Kashmiri American leader said, "I believe that it is not the inherent difficulties of a solution, but the lack of the will to implement a solution, that has caused the prolonged deadlock over the Kashmir dispute. The deadlock has meant indescribable agony for the people of Kashmir and incalculable loss for both India and Pakistan."

Sardar Imtiaz Khan Garalvi said that the Kashmiri diaspora bears the responsibility to come to the rescue of the oppressed people of Kashmir. We should be willing to participate whether it is a seminar, a conference or a rally at the Times Square to high light the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir.

Raja Mokhtar another young Kashmiri leader said that world powers need to understand that it is ultimately the aspirations and wishes of the people of Kashmir that have to be respected and ascertained.

Other people who spoke included: Ms. Amber Adler candidate, New York City Council; Mr. Mark Meyer Appel, Chairman, The Bridge Multicultural Advocacy Project; Mr. Lester Chang, New York State Representative; Dr. Shafiq; Mohammad Hussain; Barrister Saghir Khan; Syed Mazhar; Choudhary Ashraf; Umar Bhat; Moulana Sakhawat Sundarwali; Fatimah Saleh; Shahnaz Attia; Vakil Ansari; Arsdhad Khan, Haji Shafi; Zaman Afridi; Sardar Wajid Sawar Khan.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
39,720.75	40,323.45
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,354.72	39,660.75
Index Value	Change
2,738,450,318	-602.70
Percentage	Time
-1.49%	Jan 16, 2023 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,861.43	+17.36
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	16 Jan, 3:39 pm GMT
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,302.61	+112.64
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	13 Jan, 4:56 pm GMT-5
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
25,822.32	-297.20
Percentage	Time
-1.14%	16 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	170.5	171.75
Bahrain Dinar	606.76	611.26
Canadian Dollar	185	186.35
China Yuan	34.03	34.28
Danish Krone	33.23	33.58
Euro	268.5	271
Hong Kong Dollar	29.09	29.44
Indian Rupee	2.81	2.89
Japanese Yen	2.43	2.47
Kuwaiti Dinar	745.07	750.07
Malaysian Ringgit	52.59	53.04
New Zealand \$	145.67	146.87
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	592.57	597.07
Qatari Riyal	62.26	62.76
Saudi Riyal	66	66.7
Singapore Dollar	171.42	172.72
Swedish Korona	21.78	22.08
Swiss Franc	246.08	247.83
Thai Bhat	6.95	7.05
U.A.E Dirham	68	68.65
UK Pound Sterling	303	306
US Dollar	236.25	238.5

CDA asked to start development works in G-9 Markaz on priority

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that G-9 Markaz Karachi Company is one of the largest commercial centers of the federal capital, but due to lack of development works, it is facing multiple problems. He stressed that CDA should start the development works in G-9 Markaz on priority including carpeting of roads, construction of a parking plaza, repair of footpaths, construction of filtration plan and restoration of streetlights. He said that the 40 years old sewerage system in Karachi Company has deteriorated and is leaking from various places. He urged that the CDA should replace the old sewerage system with a new one. He said this while addressing a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, G-9 Markaz, Islamabad that visited ICCI led by its President Raja Javed Iqbal. Haji Zafar Secretary General, Ch. Abdul Ghaffar Senior Vice President, Ch Anam Saeed, Sherzada Kakakhail, Javed Khan and Sheikh Alamgir Vice Presidents, Fida Hussain Abbasi Group Chairman, Rohail Anwar Butt and others were in the delegation.



Speaking on 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. They said that G-9 Markaz is generating the largest chunk of revenue for CDA, but CDA is not doing any development works in Karachi Company, which is unfortunate. They urged that CDA should focus on better development of this one of the important business centres of the federal capital to facilitate

the trading community in promoting business activities. They assured that they would work with ICCI for the welfare of the trading community of Islamabad.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari former President, Khalid Chaudhry

Convener ICCI Traders Committee, Ch. Abdul Ghaffar SVP Karachi Company, Fida Hussain Abbasi Group Chairman Karachi Company, Ashfaq Chatha, Rohail Anwar Butt and others also spoke at the occasion and emphasized that CDA should start development works in G-9 Markaz without wasting further time.

Expensive will make roti more costly. Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said some politicians are destroying the country for the sake of power.

He said that people facing record inflation are fed up with political tussles between different political parties.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that increasing the price of gas will have a negative impact on the country's economy and production will be affected, while bread will become more expensive.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that will increase with the new gas tariff as they are already facing 25% general and 35% food inflation.

He said that failed politicians want to get power at any cost for which they are staking the future of the country and there is no one to stop them.

At present, people are running after flour, there is no milk for infants, people are deprived of electricity and gas in winter, there is no medicine in hospitals and there is a scarcity of many items including food



items, medical equipment, spare parts and industrial machinery etc.

The containers having essential items are stuck at the port the government does not have the dollars to redeem them, he said, adding that the country's population is rapidly falling below the poverty line, Pakistan ranks 99 out of 121 countries in the global hunger index, while terrorism has again become a serious problem.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the efforts of the current government, the confidence of international institutions and friendly countries has started to recover due

to which the Geneva Conference and friendly countries have expressed their willingness to give more loans, but the problems with the IMF are still unresolved.

Pakistan has to pay twenty-one billion dollars this year and a total of seventy billion dollars in the next three years, the rollover of which is impossible without going into IMF discipline, he observed.

Due to the coronavirus and the subsequent war between Russia and Ukraine, the world economy is shrinking continuously and many countries are not able to help Pakistan enough, even if they want to, because these countries are more focused on providing relief to their own people.

The business leader said that Pakistan's economy was much better than India's till 1980, but due to the losses of state-run companies, lack of focus on agriculture and industry, the lowest tax to GDP in the region and circular debt, etc., the treasury has become empty.

While India has almost six hundred billion dollars in foreign exchange. The government needs political stability to change harmful policies and ensure development.

If the economy is not prioritized over politics, then the dream of a prosperous country will not be fulfilled, he warned.

Careem partners with Gas and Oil Pakistan to offer subsidized rates to Captains



Spokesman Report

KARACHI : Careem, the pioneer of ride-hailing in Pakistan, has achieved yet another milestone by partnering with Gas and Oil Pakistan Limited (GOPL), the country's fastest growing oil and marketing company, to provide lucrative discounts on fuel and lubricant products to its Captains operating in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, and Peshawar where GOPL stations are located.

This initiative will assist Careem Captains to reduce their operational costs and, in turn, provide relief to

their pockets so that they are able to manage their finances better. Given the unprecedented economic outlook of the country, Careem is on a mission to simplify and improve the lives of the people who are facing hardships due to the fuel crisis by initiating various agreements with renowned organizations.

Commenting on the partnership, Feroz Jaleel, Country Head at Careem Pakistan stated: "We are always aiming to simplify and improve the lives of our Captains by providing them with additional benefits that can help them in their daily lives.

Easypaisa Launches Visa Debit Card

News Desk

LAHORE : Easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital payments platform has launched a Visa Debit Card for their millions of customers across Pakistan.

This Visa Debit Card is linked directly to the customer's easypaisa account and enables the user to make payments at any of the 90,000+ card accepting POS merchants in the country or withdraw funds from any of the 16,000 ATMs nationwide.

Commenting on the occasion, M. Mudassar Aqil, CEO easypaisa/ Telenor Microfinance Bank, said: "At easypaisa, we are constantly working on adding new

features on our platform to enable all Pakistanis to take charge of their financial decisions with ease and convenience. With the launch of the new Visa Debit Card, we continue to provide millions of customers the added convenience and flexibility to use their debit cards at 90,000+ POS touchpoints and 16,000 ATMs across the country for seamless payments with greater security, reducing dependency on cash. Driven by our mission of a financially inclusive Pakistan, we remain committed to deliver convenient and hassle-free digital payments experience to our customers and also develop a digital ecosystem that is beneficial for all."

Omar Moeen Malik, Head of easypaisa/TMB (Branchless Banking) Business, said: "At easypaisa, we understand the importance of retail payment transactions towards financial inclusion. With the launch of the easypaisa Visa Debit Card we have entered into a partnership with a major international payment scheme to enable QR, and Contactless Debit Cards and are working on introducing Virtual Cards as well. With an eye-catching distinctive design, our marketing campaign will especially focus on empowering the female segment of our society to move away from cash payments towards easy, convenient, and secure digital payments."



Dry fruits

KARACHI: A vendor is selling dry fruits outside his shop in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

HBL and NayaPay collaborate to boost international remittances to Pakistan



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: HBL, the largest and best bank in Pakistan, has partnered with NayaPay to facilitate real-time cross-border transaction flows into Pakistan. Customers can now receive foreign remittances through HBL's partnering money transfer agents (MTOs) directly into their NayaPay account.

NayaPay, a leading E-Money Institution in Paki-

stan, enables users to open E-money accounts on their smartphones in a few simple steps and take control of their finances. With the strategic partnership between HBL and NayaPay, people across the globe can now remit funds with speed and ease to NayaPay users, who then enjoy the convenience of making all their everyday payments from the comfort of their homes through the NayaPay app and associated Visa debit card.

Registration now open for 30th edition of Arabian Travel Market

News Desk

DUBAI: Tourism and hospitality professionals from around the world can now register to attend Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023, which will take place at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from 1-4 May.

In line with its theme of "Working Towards Net Zero", the 30th edition of ATM will offer a forum for industry leaders and policymakers from across the Middle East and beyond to explore challenges and opportunities related to the future of sustainable travel.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Direc-

tor ME, Arabian Travel Market, said: "We are excited to officially open registration for the 30th edition of ATM, which will shine a spotlight on sustainability within our sector and how regional decision-makers are driving decarbonisation while maximising profitability and enhancing customer experiences."

"This year's conference programme will feature a huge range of sessions that will explore innovation and best practice related to environmental, social and governance (ESG)," Curtis added. "We expect to welcome more than 34,000 public

and private sector travel, tourism and hospitality experts from around the world to ATM 2023—including over 1,500 exhibitors and representatives from over 150 destinations—making it the perfect platform for relationship-building and knowledge-sharing that will drive tangible, sustainable change."

The ATM 2023 conference programme is being specifically developed to address sustainability issues across the travel and tourism industry, with commentary from leadership figures representing a variety of sectors such as Destinations, Travel Technology, Aviation,

Cruise, Investment, Recruitment, Hotels and Hospitality.

To mark its 30th annual event, ATM and its organiser RX Global will unveil a dedicated sustainability pledge comprising 30 goals that will inform the show's journey towards decarbonisation. In conjunction with sustainability guidelines developed for exhibitors and delegates, this pledge will also help to ensure that this year's edition of ATM is the most sustainable in history.

The Best Stand Awards will also feature a sustainability category for the first time. Exhibiting organisations will be recognised based on the

extent to which they have considered the environmental impact of their stands, as well as their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint.

ATM 2023 is held in conjunction with Dubai World Trade Centre and its strategic partners include Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) as the Destination Partner, Emirates as the Official Airline Partner, IHG Hotels & Resorts as the Official Hotel Partner and Al Rais Travel as the Official DMC Partner. The show forms an integral part of Arabian Travel Week, a 10-day-long festival of travel and tourism events.

20-K Cup 2023: MT Club, Shahkamal, Ludhiana register victories

Sports Report

LAHORE: Model Town Club, Shahkamal Club and Ludhiana Club registered victories in the 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament matches played here at different venues on Monday.

Model Town Club outwitted City Gymkhana by 88 runs in the 23rd match of the tournament here at the Moden Town Club Ground. Model Town Club, batting first, scored 168 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the allotted 20 overs.

Arslan Bajwa played a superb knock of 45 runs off 30 balls while his teammates Irfan Rasheed (26), Danyal Ahmed (24) and Umaid Asif (12) also contributed significant runs in their team's total. For City Gymkhana, Saad Athar bowled brilliantly and grabbed 3-29, Usama Tariq 2-18 and Jahangir Mirza 1-40.

City Gymkhana's run-chase was badly hampered by outstanding bowling by Irfan Rasheed (3-22), Umaid Asif (3-15) and Hassan Rizwan (2-27) as they were bunted out for 80 runs in 17 overs. Hussain Ali scored 13 and Usama Tariq 12. For his all-round performance, Irfan Rasheed was



declared player of the match.

Shah Kamal Cricket Club defeated Model Town Whites by 32 runs in 22nd match here at the Ittefaq Cricket Ground. Shahkamal Club, batting first, posted 188-8 in the allotted 20 overs.

M Abdullah played sensational knock of 82 runs off 44 balls while Imran Nazir Jr cracked 33 and Hamza Ahmed 23 runs. Shamas Khan bowled well for MT Whites by claiming 4-28.

Model Town Whites replied well

but they couldn't finish well, thus losing the match by 32 runs as they could score 156-10 in 19.1 overs.

M Nouman and Aon Shahzad batted well and scored 43 and 40 runs respectively. Outstanding bowling by Faheem Faisal (3-24) and M Arslan (3-19) made things easy for Shahkamal Club and helped them score an easy victory. M Abdullah was name man of the match.

Ludhiana Club toppled Valencia Gymkhana Cricket Club by 7 wickets in the 24th match of the tournament

here at Model Town Greens Ground. Valencia Gymkhana, batting first, could score 132-6 in 20 overs. Former Test cricketer Azhar Ali played an impressive unbeaten knock of 77 while Hassan Hameed struck 33 runs. For Ludhiana Club, Saeed Ullah, Imran Ali and M Junaid bagged 2 wickets each.

Ludhiana Club were off to a flying start and comfortably chased the target, losing just 3 wickets in 16.2 overs.

Fahad Munir hammered convincing unbeaten 71 while Ahmer Ashfaq scored unbeaten 25 and M Waqas 24. For Valencia Gymkhana, Ismael, Hassan and Ibtisam got one wicket apiece.

Fahad Munir was adjudged as player of the match.

On Tuesday (January 17), four matches will be contested.

Prince Club will take on Township Whites at Cricket Center Club, Model Town Greens will play against Golden Star Club at Model Town Greens ground, Apollo Club will compete against Ali Garh Club at Ali Garh ground and Model Town Whites will vie against Shinning Club at Model Town Club.

Coach Conrad tasked with restoring South African Test fortunes

News Desk

JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa on Monday announced Shukri Conrad and Rob Walter as coaches of the country's Test and limited overs teams respectively.

Conrad, 55, a former first-class cricketer, has worked with many of South Africa's leading players as head coach of the South African Academy since 2014. He also coached the South African Under-19 team.

He has experience at senior domestic level with the Cape Cobras and Lions franchises and had a brief spell as head coach of the Uganda national team.

He takes over a Test side that has slumped to heavy defeats in recent away series against England and Australia



and which has a severely curtailed programme over the next four years.

The Proteas play a two-match series against the West Indies at the end of February and do not play another Test until India tour South Africa at the end of the year.

But CSA chief executive Pholetsi Moseki said the appointment of a special-

ist Test coach was an indication of the importance of Test cricket despite CSA having reduced the number of fixtures in order to accommodate a new T20 league.

"We haven't relegated Test cricket to the margins," said Moseki. "We want to invest to get Test cricket back to the standard we expect."

CSA director of cricket Enoch Nkwe said a "massive

goal" for Walter was to work towards the 2027 Cricket World Cup which South Africa will co-host with Zimbabwe and Namibia.

His first task, though, will be to ensure South Africa qualify for this year's World Cup and to "do our utmost best" at the tournament in India.

Walter was the South African team's strength and conditioning coach between 2009 and 2013 before becoming head coach of the Titans franchise.

He guided them to three titles in three seasons before moving to New Zealand in 2016, where he coached Otago and more recently Central Districts.

Both coaches will only start their jobs in February -- which means Walter will

Afghanistan invite Pakistan for ODI series after Australia snub

News Desk

LAHORE: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) contacted the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday after Cricket Australia (CA) cancelled the three-match ODI series.

According to reports, Afghanistan have expressed their desire to play three ODIs against Pakistan in UAE in March.

The PCB is considering the option of the three-match series after the eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) concludes and before the New Zealand series.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are also scheduled to play three Super League matches in August.

It must be noted that Cricket Australia on Thursday pulled out of the three-match one-day International (ODI) series in March, citing Taliban moves to further restrict women's rights.

Due to restrictions placed by the Taliban-led government, Afghanistan is the only full-member country without a functioning women's team. Girls are officially prohibited from attending universities, gymnasiums, middle and high schools, and parks.

"Afghanistan Cricket Board is extremely disappointed and saddened by the pathetic statement of Cricket Australia to withdraw from Afghanistan's home three-match ODI series in March and will officially write to the International Cricket Council about the issue," an ACB statement read.



World's top skateboarders head to UAE qualifiers for Paris 2024 Olympics

Nida Dar's efforts in vain as Australia beat Pakistan by eight wickets

Web Desk

BRISBANE: Australia beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the first One-Day International (ODI) of the three-match series in Brisbane.

Returning captain Meg Lanning and teenaged debutant Phoebe Litchfield struck half-centuries in Australia's comfortable eight-wicket victory over Pakistan in a truncated women's ODI series opener at Allan Border Field.

Chasing a revised target of 158 in 40 overs, Lanning made 67 off 76 balls after coming to the crease in the first over following the dismissal of opener Beth Mooney.

There had been much anticipation over the return of Lanning from a five-month hiatus—she hadn't played since the Commonwealth Games after taking personal leave. She was made



to work early against probing bowling from quicks Diana Baig and Fatima Sana as Pakistan eyed a first-ever victory over Australia.

Lanning had a reprieve on six when Muneeba Ali dropped a straightforward chance at point off the bowling of Sana and she made them pay almost

immediately with a boundary.

She was in command from there on, back to her belligerent best as she unleashed sweep shots to effectively thwart the spin, and looked good for more before falling with victory in sight. Having survived a near run-out, Lanning was dismissed in tame fashion,

caught down the leg side off spinner Omaid Sohail.

Lanning had combined well in a century partnership with 19-year-old Litchfield, who impressed with a slew of thunderous boundaries in her 92-ball 78 not out.

After Lanning's dismissal, she smashed Sohail for two boundaries and then a six before hitting the winning runs in the 29th over to cap a stellar performance.

A 90-minute rain break shortly after play started reduced the contest to 40 overs per side with bowlers able to bowl a maximum of eight overs each.

Australia's spinners papered over a patchy bowling effort to restrict Pakistan to a modest total of 160 for 8. Lanning used eight bowlers with Australia's quicks loose at times in an attempt to conjure swing.

DG Sports inaugurated PFF Club Registration Mobile Unit

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi inaugurated Pakistan Football Federation's (PFF) Club Registration Mobile Unit under Pakistan Football Connect Programme at a colourful ceremony at PFF head office on Monday.

Members of AFC delegation, FIFA-nominated Normalization Committee (NC) Chairman Haroon Malik, Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Talking to media, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that PFF's Club Registration Mobile Unit will visit throughout the country to trace fresh talented football players. "Football is world's most popular game and definitely the launching of Club Registration Mobile Unit is a wonderful effort to find young potential football players from across the country," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi further said that football has also been included in the country's biggest talent hunt programme and annual calendar of Sports Board Punjab. "Sports Board Punjab is also working on setting up a Football Academy to train and groom budding football players. We will also work together with Pakistan Football Federation for the promotion of football in the province".

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that Talent Hunt Programme Olympic Dream is the biggest Talent Hunt Programme in the history of Punjab. "We have set a target to register 10 lakh children of Punjab in this grand programme. The trials of Under 16 boys and girls from different schools will be completed at the division level by January 31," he added.

Earlier, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi had a meeting with FIFA-nominated Normalization Committee (NC) Chairman Haroon Malik at PFF Office. Both the dignitaries discussed the promotion of sports, particularly football among the younger generation during their meeting. They also agreed to put up combined efforts to unearth fresh football talent.

PCB decides to separate Women's League from PSL



Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The management committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), led by Najam Sethi, has decided to separate the Women's League from the upcoming Pakistan Super League.

The PCB has allocated the window of September this year for the first Women's Super League, which will be held as a separate event from the PSL.

The women's league will have five franchise teams and there will be separate bidding for franchise rights.

The PCB has already received expressions of interest from women cricketers from around the world to participate.

It should be noted that earlier, under the leadership of former chairman Ramiz Raja, the PCB had intended to hold the women's league alongside the eighth edition of the PSL.

The reports say that the national cricket governing body plans to keep international women's organisations associated with the United Nations, including the Malala Foundation, on board for the women's league so that the positive image of Pakistan can be highlighted through the tournament.

Meanwhile, the PSL 8 is expected to take place from February 13 to March 19 in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan.

After Test retirement, Azhar Ali to play county cricket

LAHORE: Azhar Ali, who retired from Test cricket last year in December, is committed to playing county cricket.

The right-handed batter was signed by Worcestershire County Club for the 2023 season after he led them well in the last edition.

Azhar scored 656 runs in 11 matches in LV — Insurance County Championship. The former international cricketer also scored 185 runs in the Royal London Cup including his innings of 130 runs against Northamptonshire.

While talking about his county cricket future after Test retirement, Azhar said he "is really looking forward" to it.

"I enjoy playing cricket, I will go and play for Worcestershire this year and try to give my best," said Azhar who is currently busy playing club cricket in Lahore.

Last December, Azhar announced his retirement from Test cricket just three matches short of 100. The third Test between Pakistan and England in Karachi was his career's 97th Test. Had he played three more matches, he would have become only the sixth Pakistani player to play 100 Tests.

Javed Miandad has played the most (124) Tests followed by Inzamam Ul Haq (119), Younis Khan (118), Wasim Akram (104) and Saleem Malik (103).

PUBLIC NOTICE PHATA

"SA RESIDENCIA" Mouza Dhoke Awan & Mari Bangail, Mari Jabbar Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi Comprising an area 138.98-Kanal. Public is hereby informed that Muhammad Fazeel son of Muhammad Munir Khan CNIC#42301-0735941-5 Resident of House No.34, Street No.1 Sector "C" Mohallah Akhtar Colony Karachi South. Office # HAAD Developers (Pvt) Ltd, Office No.4, 2nd Floor, Plaza 2000, Sector#1-8 Markaz Islamabad has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Housing Scheme located at Mouza Dhoke Awan & Mari Bangail, Mari Jabbar Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi under Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020. The detail of area is as under:-

Name of Owner	Mouza	Khasra No.	Area		
			Kanal	Marla	Sft
Muhammad Fazeel S/o Muhammad Munir Khan CNIC#42301-0735941-5	Mouza Mari Bangail	1285, 723, 724, 725, 731, 737, 738, 739, 779, 800, 1003, 1005, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1166, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1178, 1180, 1183, 1185, 1186, 1189, 1198, 1284, 471, 476, 487, 488, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 498, 500, 501, 502, 512, 523, 665, 666, 672, 673, 789, 792, 796, 797, 798, 801, 802, 803, 804, 811, 813, 826, 829, 837, 845, 846, 847, 940, 998	90	-	-
HAAD Developers (Pvt) Ltd etc Abrar Hussain CNIC#37203-1520802-9	Awan	1463, 1715/1716, 1716/606, 604, 608, 609, 611, 613, 620, 714/606, 612, 1707/559, 1790/706/759, 508, 572, 631, 632, 716, 754, 514, 561, 571, 630, 734, 1795/560, 479, 545, 570, 722, 753, 512, 567, 568, 569, 569/1, 573, 584, 585, 586/2, 751, 755, 757, 758, 763	49	-	-
Total			139	-	-

"SA RESIDENCIA" Mouza Dhoke Awan & Mari Bangail, Mari Jabbar Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi Comprising an area 138.98-Kanal or ownership/title documents of land mentioned above may, within FIFTEEN DAYS of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained.

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