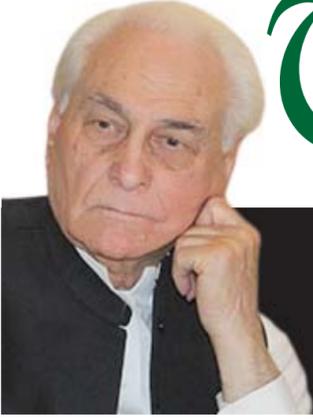


Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے مسودین مسودے بیان کیا کہ
کہ ہم سے بشر بن مفضل نے بیان کیا کہ
کہ ہم سے عبد اللہ بن عمر رضی اللہ عنہما
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نے کہا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم (ﷺ)
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(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 928)
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Azam Khan to be appointed as Caretaker KP CM

The government and the opposition have reached a consensus on the name of Azam Khan for the caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chief minister (CM) slot. The consensus was reached in a meeting between KP CM Mahmood Khan and the Opposition Leader Akram Khan Durrani at the Speaker's House today. (Report on Page 8)



BISP Cash Disbursement through Bank Account: Faisal Kundi

Faisal Karim Kundi, SAPM/MOS on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety said that Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is introducing new cash disbursement mechanism through individual Bank account of the beneficiary. He stated that this initiative is a vital step towards financial autonomy of the women. This he stated while appraising a women delegation from Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa on various initiative of BISP. (Report on Page 3)

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National Mourning Day

BAKU: President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited the Alley of Martyrs on the 33rd anniversary of the bloodshed which was committed by the Soviet empire in Baku. The head of state paid tribute to those who gave their lives for the country's freedom. President Ilham Aliyev laid a wreath at the "Eternal Flame" monument.



Photo: Online

Nation may experience Sri Lanka-like situation, fears Imran

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Friday the world believed Pakistan was heading towards a Sri Lanka-like situation.

The deposed prime minister flayed the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leadership while addressing a Rule of Law conference. He said, "for 30 years, the two families—Sharif and Zardari—helped India and Bangladesh develop more than our country. They are developing faster than our country. The bigwigs of two families kept growing whereas the nation frequently suffered

losses." Continuing his broadside against his opponents, Mr Khan said, "Name any other world leader who secured NRO after looting the country."

Mr Khan recalled the PTI-led government's contributions, saying, "During our tenure, the industries and agriculture sectors saw growth." He said, "there has never been such a big crisis in the history of the country, that Pakistan is stuck in a quagmire."

As for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr Khan said the organisation would give loans only when its conditions would be met.

Ridding country of 'Project Imran' biggest achievement of coalition govt: Marriyum

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said the biggest achievement of the coalition government was to rid the country of "Project Imran".

In her reaction to Imran Khan's statement, she said the incumbent government freed the country from "the biggest foreign agent 'fitnah' and mafia".

She said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had always steered the country and its economy out of crises.

"The 'Project Imran' pushed the country towards economic bankruptcy," she added.

The minister said by the end of its previous tenure in 2018, PML-N had brought about historic economic stability in the country. During its era, prices of edible items, electricity, gas, and petrol were also affordable, she added.

PML-N had created employment opportunities for



the youth besides the initiative of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the generation of 14,000 megawatts of additional electricity.

Above all, the minister added, PML-N had made Pakistan a terrorism-free country.

Moreover, she went on to say, the country was given a historic 6.2 percent growth and the IMF programme was completed successfully.

Taking a jibe at Imran Khan, she said Imran's four-year regime made the youth unemployed and pushed the country into a quagmire of poverty and inflation. Today, the high rates of wheat, electricity, gas, flour, and other commodities in the country were due to Imran's inefficiency.

PM urges UAE businessmen to exploit immense business opportunities in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged the businessmen of the United Arab Emirates to utilise the immense opportunities in Pakistan—a market of over 220 million people—offering its investors a strong and large consumer market.

"Energy, infrastructure, e-commerce, agro-based industry, and IT sectors are up for grabs," he said in an interview with Khaleej Times during his visit to the UAE last week and published on Thursday.

Besides meeting the UAE leadership, the prime minister also witnessed the signing of three memoranda of understanding in the fields of combat-



ing human trafficking, information exchange, and cooperation between the diplomatic academies of both countries.

Asked about the UAE and Pakistan trade relations, Prime Minister Shehbaz pointed out that the bilateral trade with the UAE had increased by 25.40%

during 2021-22 as compared to the previous year, amounting to US\$10.60 billion.

However, he said, "the current level of bilateral trade is still not a true reflection."

"We are looking to further strengthen our existing economic, trade and investment ties."

He said the average annual trade between the two countries stood at US\$8 billion making the UAE the largest trading partner of Pakistan in the MENA region.

Responding to another query on new areas of cooperation, the prime minister said, "We find new avenues of economic cooperation to take our economic relations at par with our excellent political relations."

He described Information Technology (IT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Financial Technology (Fintech) as new areas of collaboration with much greater potential.

About the UAE humanitarian aid to flood victims in Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz thanked the UAE for its "valuable and timely" humanitarian support

for flood-affected people.

"The day floods hit Pakistan I received a call from His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, who said, 'we will immediately start sending relief goods for the flood-affected areas,'" he recalled.

And then, he said, an air bridge was established between Abu Dhabi and Pakistan, and relief goods were sent to Islamabad, and different cities of Sindh including Karachi, Badin and Shikarpur.

On the UAE and Pakistan friendship, the prime minister explained that the foundation of these relations was laid by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who wanted Pakistan to be among the leading, prosperous and progressive countries.

NA Speaker accepts resignations of 35 more PTI MNAs



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday accepted the resignations of 35 more Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNAs.

After the announcement of PTI MNAs' return to the National Assembly, the federal government made a motion to accept their resignations in an apparent bid to reduce the number of opposition lawmakers.

Civil-military leadership on same page for not holding talks with TTP: Bilawal Bhutto

News Desk

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari says Pakistan's new leadership, both political and military, will have no talks with terrorist organisations that don't respect the country's laws and constitution.

"I am confident that if we can work with the Afghan interim government, which has influence over these groups, we will be successful in maintaining our security," he said in a wide-ranging interview with The Washington Post's senior Associate Editor, Lally Weymouth, in Davos, Switzerland where he is attending the World Economic Forum.

The foreign minister said Imran Khan gave the TTP a place to hide;



not only did he release their prisoners who were in Pakistan's custody, but also engaged in a dialogue with them. "He (Imran Khan) has always been ideologically sympathetic to their point of view," he added.

To a question whether Pakistan had hoped that the new Afghan government would act against the TTP, FM Bilawal said, "Our hope, and in fact their agreement, was that their soil would not be used for terrorism. We do hope to cooperate

with them to deal with terrorists that are a concern to us."

"We are both victims of terrorism. I don't believe that the Afghanistan government will be successful on their own against terrorism, and neither will we be successful on our own against terrorism. We have to work together."

Responding to a question, he agreed that if Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated in 2007, had lived, not only Pakistan would have been a different place, but the region would have gone in a different direction. "The entire purpose of the Pakistan Peoples Party has been for Pakistan to be a democratic country. We believe that democracy is the only way to take on extremism and terrorism."

Also asked whether he could

Court defers indictment of Shahbaz Gill

Court Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Friday once again deferred Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former SAPM Dr Shahbaz Gill's indictment in a sedition case.

Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Supra heard the case while prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi and Shahbaz Gill's lawyer Burhan Moazzam appeared before the district and sessions court.

Gill's lawyer told the court that his client was sick and cannot attend court proceedings.

To this, Judge Tahir Abbas Supra directed to ensure Shahbaz Gill's presence in the case via online.

Govt determined to introduce reforms to achieve economic stability: Dar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that despite inheriting a weak economic legacy, the government is determined to set the economy in the right direction and introduce reforms in various sectors to achieve economic stability and growth.

Chairing the inaugural meeting of the Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission (RRMC) here at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), he highlighted the importance of the Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission in identifying issues and difficulties in the existing taxation system and suggesting reforms in existing revenue policies for resource mobilization, ease of doing business and tax payer facilitation to achieve sustainable economic growth.

Caretaker Punjab CM: Govt, Opposition fail to reach consensus

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The parliamentary committees of the government and the opposition have failed to reach a consensus on the name for the caretaker Punjab chief minister (CM) slot.

Earlier, Punjab Assembly Speaker Sibtain Khan confirmed that he has received four names from the government and the opposition for the caretaker CM slot. He reached both sides to reach a consensus on the name for the caretaker Punjab CM.

While talking to the media, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Raja Basharat said that the opposition lawmakers did not show agreement with the names recommended by the government. He said that PTI lawmakers raised objections to the opposition's names of those people who are facing high-profile cases. Basharat said that the matter related to the appointment of the caretaker CM will now be referred to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with a delegation of M/s Nestle Pakistan & Afghanistan led by its CEO Mr. Samer Chedid, at Finance Division on Friday.



Photo: PID

President for adopting green and sustainable building practices

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for adopting green and sustainable building practices in the country's housing and construction sector, promoting sustainable living and moderate consumption to conserve energy and limited natural resources.

Rethinking, redesigning, rebuilding and reusing materials and resources had become critical for promoting climate-friendly and resilient infrastructure in the country, he added.

The President expressed these views while addressing inaugural ceremony of

the Building Materials Exhibition 2023 organized here by the Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP's) Rawalpindi Chapter.

Chairman IAP, Architect Saad Mehmood Khan, Chairman IAP Rawalpindi/Islamabad Chapter, Architect Fawad Suhail Malik, architects, graduates, and members of the housing and construction industry attended the ceremony.

Earlier, the President also inaugurated the Building Materials.

The President said that the discipline of architecture was important as it provided the basis for the construction industry and provided qual-



ity and aesthetically pleasing accommodations to the people.

He said that the buildings should be designed with in-built mechanisms to make them differently-abled person friendly as well as by making

rooftops usable by growing vegetables and greenery, besides installing solar panels to provide green and clean energy.

The President said that

the trend of parking money

in buying plots and buildings prevented its circulation for promoting business, trade and investment, and contributed to slowing down the economic and financial activities in the country.

Architect Saad Mehmood Khan, on the occasion, said that IAP had been very active in organizing events in different cities, including hosting conferences, symposia, workshops and lectures, and international architectural exhibitions, to sensitize the governments and the public on issues of environment, architectural education, sustainable building practices, building bye-laws, and city planning.

Pak, Russia agree to establish working groups to enhance cooperation

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development at the second round of talks of Pakistan-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission session in Islamabad on second consecutive day, the two countries have agreed to form a working group for bilateral cooperation.

The 8th three-day meeting of the IGC, which started here on Wednesday, reviewed the areas of cooperation and looked into ways and means of exploring new opportunities for strengthening the bilateral relations.

Experts of the two countries held technical sessions and debated on possibilities to further deepen bilateral cooperation in trade and investment; agriculture;



energy; industry; education; science and technology; information and communication technologies; finance, customs and communication, besides

roads, postal service and railways.

The Russian side observed that the energy sector was the main focus because its Ener-

gy Minister Nikolai Shulginov was himself leading the negotiations.

The two sides have decided to move forward together in

the field of energy, and Pakistan would get the benefit of Russian expertise in the oil and gas sector.

The visiting delegation also suggested Pakistan take benefit of Russia's expertise in the field of science & technology and research.

On the last day of the meeting on Friday, there would be a main discussion on the implementation of the gas pipeline construction project titled "the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline (PSGP)," oil and petroleum products delivery to Pakistan, Russian-Pakistani financial cooperation, implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the seventh meeting of the commission, besides cooperation in different sectors, before signing of the final protocol, as per the shared schedule.

IHC instructs FO to provide legal assistance for Dr Afia's release

Court Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday instructed the Foreign Office (FO) to provide legal assistance to petitioner Dr Fauzia Saddiqui in a case seeking measures for release of her sister Dr Afia Saddiqui from a United States jail.

Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan heard the petition filed by Dr Fauzia Saddiqui. The Additional Attorney General informed the court that the matter had been taken up at the diplomatic and government officials had a meeting with the acting US ambassador in that regard.

The court remarked that it was seventh or eighth hearing, but nothing had been done.

Azam Khan to be appointed as Caretaker KP CM

Bureau Report

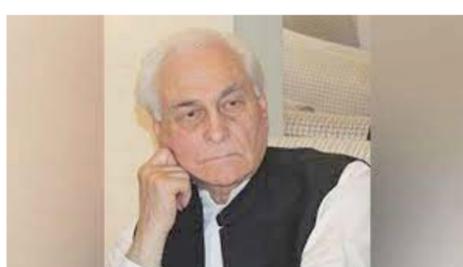
PESHAWAR: The government and the opposition have reached a consensus on the name of Azam Khan for the caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chief minister (CM) slot.

The consensus was reached in a meeting between KP CM Mahmood Khan and the Opposition Leader Akram Khan Durrani at the Speaker's House today.

While talking to the journalists, Akram Khan Durrani said that the opposition and the government agreed on the name of Azam Khan for caretaker KP CM.

He said that Azam Khan is a retired bureaucrat and former chief secretary besides having a good reputation in the province.

Earlier in the day, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan invited the



Opposition Leader Akram Khan Durrani to hold a discussion on the names for the caretaker KP CM today.

KP CM Mahmood Khan held a telephonic conversation with Opposition Leader Akram Khan Durrani and invited him to hold a meeting at Speaker's House at 7:00 pm today. Durrani accepted the invitation of the KP chief minister, sources said.

On January 18, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly had been dissolved on

the advice of Chief Minister Mahmood Khan.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali had signed the advice for the dissolution of the provincial assembly sent to him by Chief Minister Mahmood Khan. The decision to dissolve the KP Assembly was taken in the last cabinet meeting of the provincial government, held on Tuesday.

The parliamentary committees of the government and the opposition have failed to reach a consensus on the name for

the caretaker Punjab chief minister (CM) slot.

While talking to the media, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Raja Basharat said that the opposition lawmakers did not show agreement with the names recommended by the government.

While addressing a press conference, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Malik Ahmed Khan said that the persons recommended by the government are ineligible for the caretaker Punjab CM's slot.

He expressed sorrow that the matter related to the caretaker Punjab CM cannot be resolved on the political level as the government and the opposition failed to reach a consensus.

After failing to reach consensus, the matter related to the nomination of Punjab's caretaker CM will be referred to the election commission.

Chief Justice of Pakistan visit to Central Jail Adiala



News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial visited the Central Jail Adiala, Rawalpindi today, on 20th January, 2023 along with Mr. Justice Athar Minallah. The representatives of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) were in attendance. The Secretary Home, Special Secretary Home, Inspector General Prisons, DIG Prisons, Chief Commissioner ICT and D&S Judges (Rawalpindi and Islamabad) were also present.

The Inspector General Prisons gave a detailed presentation regarding the prison population and available facilities. He informed about the provision of vocational trainings, medical facilities and psychological therapy to the inmates. The hon'ble Chief Justice inquired about the training programs imparted to the jail staff in order to improve the overall jail atmosphere

while directing them to emulate the same programs in other prisons as well.

The hon'ble Chief Justice and Justice Minallah visited the different barracks of the undertrial, convicted, juvenile and women prisoners. He interacted with the inmates of these barracks and heard their problems about the jail conditions and the legal process. He played with the toddler children of the female prisoners and distributed gifts among them. The IG Prison was directed to solve the prison issues highlighted and told the Secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan to pursue the early submission of challans in court by the police authorities in Punjab and other provinces.

The main focus of the hon'ble Chief Justice was the provision of a speedy legal aid facility to the prisoners and directed the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) to initiate the facility, terming the same as the fundamental right of the prison population.

Nawaz directs party leaders to vigorously contest Punjab, KP elections: Rana Sana

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Friday said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif had directed the party leaders to vigorously contest the election for the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies with complete preparations.

PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz would soon return to Pakistan to assume her new responsibilities as

chief organizer and lead the party's election campaign, he said while talking to a private news channel.

Rana Sana said political stability in the country was not possible in the presence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan, who was pursuing the "politics of hate".

He termed the PTI leaders "hypocrites", as they wanted to enter the National Assembly while they had dissolved the provincial assemblies.

One-day 'Gandhara Citrus Festival 2023' to be held on Jan 22

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The first annual one-day 'Gandhara Citrus Festival 2023' to be held on January 22 (Sunday) will help mobilize the community to explore Pakistan as best citrus-growing country in the world and develop linkages between the stakeholders of the industry.

The event is being organized by the Agri Tourism Development Corporation of Pakistan (ATDC) along with the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Gandhara Resource Center and local farmers community at Pind Gakhra Khanpur to celebrate the National Orange Day 2023, which is declared on the third Sunday of January every year.

The event which is being arranged under the theme "Explore the Gandhara Civilization and its agriculture field products" aimed to provide a

platform for citrus growers, exporters, importers and its value addition companies to share ideas for increasing and improving the production of citrus as well as for promoting value additions of citrus fruit.

It will also be aimed at making a way forward to improve the production of crops and encourage the growers to adopt the latest technologies to improve the production of the crop.

The event will provide a tourism activity which will include an Orange show, Gandhara art display, lecture on successful citrus growing on a domestic and commercial scale and suggestions on value-added products of orange fruit. Orange products will also be available on-site farm.

The event will also be a fun activity for the families as they can pick the fruits of their choice with an opportunity to pay for how much you will pick.

Govt revises up Naya Pakistan Certificates' rates of return

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday revised up the rates of return for various currencies denominated Naya Pakistan Certificates over different maturities for the resident Pakistanis who have a Foreign Currency Roshan Digital Account.

According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, the rate of return for US dollar denominated Naya Pakistan Certificates (NPCs) with maturity of three months has been revised up from previous 5.5% to 7.00% while that with maturity period of six month has been raised from 6.00% to 7.20%.

Pak-China crossing at Khunjrab Pass to be open from Jan 30 to Feb 10

Web Desk

BEIJING: The Pak-China border crossing at Khunjrab Pass will be temporarily open for trade from January 30 to February 10 to facilitate crossing of important Pakistani supplies stuck on the Chinese side.

In the first phase, the Khunjrab Pass was temporarily opened on Tuesday and Wednesday to facilitate local trade and key hydropower projects.

During the said two days, heavy machinery required for development work on Diamar Bhasha Dam was passed through Khunjrab border to Sost.

Solar Power Day

PML-N Senator assures early resolution of LC issue to help solar companies in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt hoped that Letters of Credit (LCs) for imports will be opened soon, which will help facilitate the solar energy sector in the country.

"Clean energy is absolutely vital not just for the environment but because it's cost effective for the consumers. In this context, I talked to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, and they expressed the hope that the government would soon be able to open LCs for imports as soon as the economy's stabilization is ensured," said the Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt while talking to journalists at a launch ceremony of 3-Phase Hybrid 30KW solar power equipment by Goodwe, solar inverter manufacturing company, on Solar Power Day at a local hotel. The solar inverter company also signed MoUs for 400MW power products with three different investment companies for import of solar energy goods.

The solar energy sector has been under a lot of stress after LCs were stopped with effect from July 2022, which not just hampered promotion of the solar energy sector but also created a backlog of warranty claims.



Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt said that solar power was a very clean and efficient energy source, which must be tapped to optimum level to protect the environment. "Pakistan has suffered a great deal in the form of devastating floods due to global carbon emissions despite contributing very little towards greenhouse gases," he said, adding that the West, especially the European countries must compensate for the loss incurred by Pakistan due to global warming. "The recent \$10 billion to \$11 billion pledges by the world community

for rehabilitation of flood victims were nothing compared to the colossal loss of life and property suffered by the Pakistanis," he added.

He said the Pakistan government must help and facilitate the renewable energy sector, which is the answer to Pakistan's energy woes in the future. "Everyone, including the country and the people, will benefit from solar energy," he said, therefore the government must patronize the renewable energy sector as the US government also helped manufacturers, policymakers

and the consumers. "The consumers can also sell out surplus energy in excess to their own usage through net-metering," he said and proposed that the government should launch a one-window operation to facilitate the manufacturers and the public in installation of solar energy products.

Earlier, speaking on the occasion, Goodwe country manager Syed Salman Mohiuddin said that LCs closure had caused significant damage to the solar energy sector, while the widening gap between supply and demand had also raised prices of products up to three times in the consumer market to the detriment of the public.

He said that Pakistan's oil bill has gone up to 65 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). "If the Pakistan government supports the solar energy sector for 4 to 5 years, it can reduce Pakistan's forex oil bill substantially," he added.

Ahmad Rafay Asad, Head of Operations and Technical Services, Goodwe, said that the company had launched a new energy storage product—ET 30KW—and a single-Phase high ampere—G2—product, which are efficient, environment-friendly, digitally controlled easy-to-use and cost-effective products.

Protest

LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Rabta Committee shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Youth Festival 2023

News Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, organized a press conference regarding the 7-day Pakistan Youth Festival in Hascena Moin Hall, in which renowned intellectual and humorist Anwar Maqsood, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah and Secretary Arts Council Prof. Ijaz Farooqi briefed the media. President Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Muhammad Ahmad Shah has said that Arts Council Karachi organizes 550 programs in a year. Arts Council Karachi is starting Pakistan Youth Festival from 23rd January which will continue till 29th January. The successful youth will be awarded two lakh rupees.



He said that due to Covid-19, the continuation of the youth festival was broken, which is being restarted on January 23. Fifty thousand youth participated in the last youth festival. Youth are the future of this country Arts Council Karachi

diploma for free.

Ahmad Shah said that all the students of the city Students of Universities and Colleges are invited to participate in this festival to participate in the field of their choice, but such a talented youth who is not studying in any institution and wants to participate in any field will also be allowed. He said that from January 23, auditions will be started in the following fields, which include essay writing, Declamation Urdu & workshop, painting, photography, dance, singing and acting. Various bands and singers including Asim Azhar, Ahmed Jahanzeb, Kaifi Khalil, Wahab Bugti, Natasha Baig, Sahir Ali Baga, Arman Rahim, Afaq Adnan, AUJ and Kashmir Band will perform in the Paki-

stan Youth Festival.

Anwar Maqsood said that this is the first competition in which migrant youths are also participating, Karachi is a city of three crores, no matter what the situation is in the city, the Arts Council continues its work, Pakistan Youth Festival belongs to the youth. It includes painting, photography, dance, essay writing, acting and theatre, this festival can only be controlled by one person and that is Ahmad Shah. Ejaz Farooqi said that the youth festivals held in the Arts Council are very well organized. Till date, no one can say that anyone has been abused. The skills of the youth emerge, time will tell how useful this youth festival is in the artistic life of the youth

APHC-AJK chapter, paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the Gaw Kadal tragedy

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: APHC-AJK chapter Convener, Mahmood Ahmed Saghar, General Secretary Sheikh Abdul Mateen and Information Secretary Intiaz Wani in a joint statement issued in Islamabad said that the unprecedented sacrifices of the Kashmiri people would surely bring positive results.

They said that the Indian soldiers had martyred over fifty innocent Kashmiris by firing indiscriminately on the peaceful protesters in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on

January 21, 1990, and hundreds of people were injured. They were protesting against the molestation of several women by the Indian troops in the area.

The Hurriyat leaders said that India had occupied Jammu and Kashmir by force and had given a licence to its forces to kill the Kashmiri people. They deplored that Gaw Kadal, Aali Kadal, Bijbehara, Sopore and Handwara tragedies and many other massacres took place at the hands of Indian troops in the occupied territory, which are a stain on the so-called big democracy of India. They said that it was the indifference

of the international community that till now India had not been questioned about the tragedies and it is committing the worst kind of human rights violations in the occupied territory.

The APHC-AJK leaders appealed to the United Nations and other international rights organizations to conduct an impartial investigation into the massacre of the Kashmiris in IIOJK and take strict action against Indian soldiers involved in war crimes.

Meanwhile, the Hurriyat leaders also expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir



Major General (Retd) Sardar Anwar Khan and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family.

Maria Unera Announced as EQUAL Pakistan's first Ambassador for 2023

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Making waves with her stunning vocals and sensational compositions, Maria Fatima Unera Qureshi, has been announced as Spotify's EQUAL Pakistan Ambassador for the month of January. She has become the latest female artist from the country to grace a digital billboard in the iconic Times Square NYC with her track 'Feel' being selected as the featured song on EQUAL Pakistan's playlist this month.

Carrying a unique mix of musical genes from a Pakistani father and Filipina mother, Maria Unera made her debut with Pakistan's first and only all-girls musical group performing an astounding cover for John Newman's 'Love Me Again'. Ever since, Maria's vocal prowess continues to turn heads allowing her to make a lasting mark in the country's musical landscape. Her track 'Strong', a stirring ode to her mother who passed away after battling cancer, is a showcase of her diverse vocal range and stunning command over the art of strewing lyrics together like pearls in a bead.

Maria Unera, ecstatic over the announcement, expressed her feelings stating: "Super grateful and thrilled to be Spotify's EQUAL ambassador for this month. This program is exactly what women artists need around the world and I look forward to sharing my voice through EQUAL."

Maria Unera is a young powerhouse who continues to defy industry norms, belting one exceptional track after the other. Her announcement as the EQUAL Pakistan Ambassador for the month of January serves as a segway and a symbol of inspiration for aspiring female voices across Pakistan.

Listen to Maria Unera's tracks on Spotify here.

UAE medical practitioner visits The Diabetes Centre



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Globally renowned senior media practitioner Dr. Javed Ahmed Raza, Director Metabolic Surgical Unit, Cleveland Abudhabi visited The Diabetes Centre here today. On arrival, he was given a warm welcome by MS, Brig "Dr Muhammad Ajmal Khan along with the team

Dr Javed Ahmed Raza who runs a charitable Institute in Muzaffarabad as well, met Chair TDC, Dr Asjad Hameed and shared views of mutual interest.

Chairman briefed the guest about future plans of the Hospital and urged collaborations in this regard.

The guest was taken on a round of the hospital wherein he was shown various departments and their operations.

Dr Javed Raza lauded TDC's relentless efforts in creating awareness and simultaneously combating diabetes thus saving precious lives of innumerable patients.

Management of TDC thanked Dr Javed Raza for coming down to the hospital and his resolve to work together for a diabetes free Pakistan.

Sardar Anwar Khan laid to eternal rest with full state honor

Bureau Report



RAWALPINDI: Former President Azad Jammu Kashmir Major General (R) Sardar Anwar Khan was laid to eternal rest with full state honour after his funeral prayers were held at the Rawalpindi Race Course Ground.

On behalf of the Azad Kashmir government, the police force and the Pakistan Army also presented the guard of honor while the funeral prayers were attended amongst others included Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Ilyas Khan, Acting President Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haque, Chief Justice Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan.

The Prime Minister laid a floral wreath on the grave of the deceased and prayed for the elevation of his ranks.

The PM said that the deceased was a strong voice of the state, his professional services on the military front were unparalleled.

The PM said that his services for the state and it's people would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir history.

"Sardar Anwar Khan made himself a national leader by his personality and principles and his actions", the PM said.

Deputy Speaker Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Intiaz Shaheen, Political Advisor Sardar Ifikhar and others were present on the occasion.

Meeting of the representative delegation of KP DIPR with DC Lower Waziristan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Deputy Commissioner of South Waziristan Lower Muhammad Nasir Khan met with the representative delegation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Information and Public Relations.

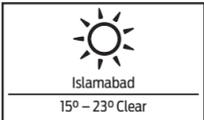
The team of Information and Broadcasting Department included Regional Information Officer DI Khan Sana Ullah Khan, Senior Engineer Pakhtunkhwa Radio, Muhammad Athar Suri, Station Manager Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana Zahid Wazir and Accountant Muhammad Dawood.

The team of Information Department briefed the Deputy Commissioner regarding the functioning, programs and issues of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Nasir Khan expressed happiness over the activity of Pakhtunkhwa Radio in Wana and said that with this initiative, access to information has become easier for the people of Waziristan, And given the best opportunity to keep abreast of the activities of the government, the Deputy Commissioner also assured to solve the problems of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana on priority basis.

On this occasion, he expressed hope that after getting the status of a separate district to Lower Waziristan, along with significant and positive change in the lives of the people here, the region will set new goals of development and prosperity.

Earlier, the team of Information and Broadcasting Department made a detailed visit and inspection of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:44 am
Zohr 12:19 pm
Asr 3:49 pm
Maghrib 5:27 pm
Isha 6:54 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service 9204654
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9203883
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9266316
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9217579-80
Wapda Islamabad 119, 9272249

BISP Cash Disbursement through Bank Account: Faisal Kundi

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Faisal Karim Kundi, SAPM/MOS on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety said that Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is introducing new cash disbursement mechanism through individual Bank account of the beneficiary. He stated that this initiative is a vital step towards financial autonomy of the women. This he stated while appraising a women delegation from Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa on various initiative of BISP. The delegations were led by Senator Ms. Rubina Khalid, comprised women from different walks of life.

Kundi informed the delegation that BISP's cash disbursement mechanism is



digitized and transparent and constant efforts are being made to make it more users friendly and modern. He further informed that BISP is also initiating dynamic registry survey soon to assess the socio-economic status of households on real time basis. He said that new Dynamic Registry data will have the capacity to incorporate changes that occurred in the socio economic situation of a household.

Dynamic Registry desks have been established all across the country to process the new survey of the households, he continued.

The Minister of State highlighted that more than 8 million households have benefited so far from BISP various initiatives which include Benazir Kafalat Programme, Benazir Naushonama Program, Taleemi Wazaif and Undergraduate Scholarship Programmes. While responding to the queries of the members of visiting delegation he informed them that beneficiary in KP, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir can withdraw their cash from Bank Al-Falah while in the rest of the country Habib Bank Limited (HBL) disburses the cash to beneficiaries.

Pak- US Relations

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Ambassador of United States Mr. Donald Blome on promoting Pak-US relations during a meeting on Friday.



SECP issues Master Circular for Mutual Funds, CISs, and IASs

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: In order to facilitate the asset management industry and to ensure compliance with statutory/regulatory requirements in an efficient manner, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued an updated Master Circular for Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Investment Advisors (IAs).

The Master Circular is a compilation of all applicable circulars, directions and clarifications issued by the SECP from time to time for regulation of collective investment schemes (CIS) / mutual funds/ investment advisory services (IASs).

The Master circular covers matters related to digitization, advertisements, categorization of CIS and investment avenues, disclosure requirements, Constant Proportion Portfolio Insurance (CPPI) based schemes, exchange traded funds (ETFs), performance benchmarks for CIS, and selling and marketing of CIS.

3.m displaced students require support to resume education: PCE

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The civil society of Pakistan welcomed the pledges of more than \$9 billion made by the international community for flood recovery efforts in a recent UN conference and urged for swift action to rehabilitate those affected by the floods. This was said in a joint statement issued by the civil society here in Islamabad. Special emphasis was laid on prioritizing education in the distribution of disaster aid to support the swift recovery of the education system in the affected areas. The press statement was jointly issued by the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE), an initiative of the Society For Access to Quality Education, Centre for Peace and Development Initiative (CPDI), Pakitan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA), United Global Organization of Development (UGOOD), and renowned educationist, Dr.A.H. Nayyar.

The statement was accompanied by a joint call to action asking state and non-state actors to take immediate measures to bring the displaced children back to school. This entails diverting sufficient disaster aid towards education as well as providing conditional cash transfers to the affected households to facilitate the education of their children. "The 3.5 million students who were displaced as a result of last year's floods in Pakistan belong to the same group of marginalized children whose education was most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, there were an estimated 22.8 million out-of-school children (OOSC) in Pakistan. The majority, or 77% of these OOSC, hailed from rural areas and 54% of them were girls," shared Zehra Arshad, the National Coordinator for PCE. "It is also important to highlight here that 96% of all the children living with various forms of disabilities in Pakistan have no access to education at all." She also added that a significant portion of these funds should be allocated towards providing resilient education in flood-affected areas to ensure that children could continue their education and rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the floods.

The statement stressed for the disaster aid to be used effectively, and efficiently and called for its equitable distribution among the most vulnerable communities. The CSOs also called for proper monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure across-the-board transparency.

The statement highlighted that an estimated 930,000 school-going students in Pakistan dropped out as a direct consequence of prolonged school closures after the pandemic, spiking the percentage of out-of-school children by 4.5%. "As per data emerging from Pakistan, a dramatic fall in enrollment was observed among 14-16-year-olds in the poorest households. The

loss of learning was also 50% worse for children belonging to underserved socio-economic backgrounds," shared Areebah Shahid, Executive Director of PYCA.

If the COVID-19 pandemic wasn't sufficient to reveal the inadequacies of our education system, the 2022 floods have laid them bare. Shedding light on the crisis emanating from the floods, Mukhtar Ahmed Ali, Executive Director of CPDI said, "Over 25,000 schools have been fully destroyed or partially damaged and about 7,500 functional schools are being used as temporary shelters. This has deprived over 3.5 million students of accessing formal education in the affected areas."

"For any of this to materialize, it is important that the government does not compromise on investment in education and at least 4 to 6 percent of the GDP is diverted towards the education system," said Zehra Arshad.

Maroof Int'l Hospital opens Urgent Care Centre



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Maroof International Hospital (MIH) on Friday launched Urgent Care Centre in Top City Islamabad, to serve the nearby population and provide them standard medical services on nominal rates.

Addressing the launching ceremony, Chairman Maroof Int'l Hospital, Ch. Naseer Ahmed urged his team to arrange free medical camps in the vicinity so that the marginalized community without access to quality healthcare may benefit from Maroof urgent care center.

He said that the hospital administration is committed to provide the best possible health care in the region with an aim to ensure a standard of care which is world class. He added the hospital is striving to remain a state of the art facility and to provide a congenial and pleasant environment for staff, patients and their relatives.

CEO of Maroof Int'l Hospital, Haroon Naseer said, there are plans to further develop the center to include a vast range of on spot diagnostic services and the capability to deal with most emergency cases.

He appreciated that services are provided as per the same quality standards as in the big hospitals but at very subsidized rates.

He stated that the MIH's ICU is one of the basic necessities of the hospital both in the public and private set up. He added MIH has state of the art ICU which is fully equipped with all the required specialized equipment to be used for the critical care of the patients.

Medical Director of Maroof Int'l Hospital, Dr. Mir Whaced Medical highlighted the services offered which included first aid care, fracture and light trauma care, lab facility and general practitioner's availability.

He said that residents of the societies, laborers working on developing the area and indigenous people of the vicinity will have all benefit from the subsidized medical services available at the center.

AIOU creating archives of intellectuals



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University is creating intellectual archives to guide the new generation and connect them with history, in this context interviews of Ifitikhar Arif, Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik and Kishwar Naheed will be recorded in first spell, said senior advisor, Centre of Excellence, Muhammad Rafiq Tahir in a meeting of "Review and Publication Committee" of Iqbal Chair on Tasawwuf and Muslim Thoughts.

The meeting was chaired by the head Iqbal Chair, Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik and other members of the meeting included Dr. Yusuf Khushk, Khurshid Nadeem, Hameed Shahid, Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Prof. Dr. Shafiq Ahmed, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir. Muhammad Rafiq Tahir said that 7 books of Sirat-ul-Nabi have been published. He further added that the initiative of publishing books and recording interviews of intellectuals will continue till the largest archives of Pakistan are established in the AIOU.

The draft of two books of Iqbal Chair on Tasawwuf and Muslim Thoughts, "Tasawwur e Pakistan" and "Rast Iqdaam" was presented in the meeting, members formed a review committee based on three experts to review the draft of the two books by consensus. The committee includes Nadeem Khurshid, Hameed Shahid, and Prof. Dr. Salim Mazhar.

It was decided that the books would be published after revising both drafts. Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik said that the topics of both books were chosen keeping in mind the journey to the creation of Pakistan. The book "Tasawwur e Pakistan" is written by Fateh Muhammad Malik while the other book "Rast Iqdaam" is written by Dr. Moinuddin Aqeel.

NUST wins conduct of advanced Artificial Intelligence and Block chain courses

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD:

Having won a highly competitive process, involving several universities and organizations, the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) has earned the mandate to conduct 6-month Advanced Certification Courses in the domains of AI/Data Science & Block Chain for Gilgit Baltistan. A total of 1,000 applicants will be enrolled in these courses both in Gilgit and Skardu. "Today marks a new beginning in the history of Gilgit Baltistan—a beginning powered by advanced learning in Artificial Intelligence/Data Science & Block Chain," remarked Prof Dr Faisal Shafait, Associate Dean, Department of Computing at NUST School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science and Director of Deep Learning Laboratory, National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAL).

Highly accomplished NUST faculty in the aforementioned fields along with associates will visit Gilgit Baltistan to impart training in these cutting-edge technologies. The learning will be both theoretical as well as hands-on to develop the expertise of the enrolled students in these high-paying, highly employable skills. Blended Learning will also be a part of the programme, wherein, experts from the industry will guide and teach the students. This programme will in Shaa Allah lay the foundations for transforming GB into a knowledge hub by producing self-sufficient and skilled human capital.

Tools such as PyTorch, Tensor Flow, Keras, Apache Hadoop, Polkadot, IPFS, Ethereum will be comprehensively covered to develop skilled manpower in Python, Data Visualisation, Big Data Analysis, Deep Learning & Machine Learning. The programme, being led by NUST in collaboration with its international partners such as Microsoft, IBM, CISCO, etc., will be a great value addition towards capacity building of people of GB, and help enhance employment opportunities in the region.

Youth can play an important role for social and economic development: IK

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and former Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that the youth are the future of Pakistan and can play an important role for social and economic development.

"Former PTI government has announced IT Scholarship, Youth Loan, and Youth Internship, Ehsaas Scholarship, Digital Pakistan Vision, Kamyab Naujwan, Digital Skills and other youth related programs for the youth of the country. Youth should not be disappointed, solid plans will be brought forward with more facilities if PTI comes in power again. The institutions related to skills are playing an important role in the country's development and they will continue to be supported," he said.

Former Prime Minister expressed these views on the occasion of a meeting with the founder and president of eSkillVisor, an international organiza-



tion that provides modern education of technical skills in Pakistan.

The one-on-one meeting discussed ways to empower youth through digital skills and leverage local resources to help more youth to gain online employment. Imran Khan appreciated the efforts of

Dr. Nauman for the implementation of this unique program of youth development, skill and employment provision, he also encouraged other professional Pakistanis to follow Dr. Nauman's good example to help the country's youth and improve the future of Pakistan.

The former prime minister further said, "the future of Pakistan is digital. He assured his full support for all the youth oriented digital skills initiatives and directed the concerned to support such Pakistanis in future as well as their respective governments to eradicate unemployment from the country and Youth can be supported in bringing in valuable foreign exchange." He said.

On this occasion, Dr. Nauman said "that 1,037 students were successfully supported through ESV last year in 2022. Attracting China to direct investment of US\$ 20 million in Digital Pakistan, 278 Pakistani students were also supported in their own country. Helped them launch startups while awarding more than 350 scholarships to deserving youth. Due to the efforts of the institution, an average ESV student is currently earning more than \$380 per month online. All possible help will be provided to the youth to earn respectable employment."

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
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 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: **Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.**
 Karachi office: **Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.**
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: **7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.**
 Email: **spokesmanislambad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Catering 'Higher Education' needs in South Punjab

Tooba Khan

Quality education is a globally known best tool for creating a responsible society and a squad of professionals that takes any nation to new horizons of research and development.

However, in the countries where this tool is used discriminately, it creates a clear division of "the rulers and the ruled," widening gaps between urban and rural communities and the rich and the poor.

As it is a general tendency that the best educational institutions are situated in metropolitans or mega-developed cities, the potential in rural or remote areas remains untapped.

Although rural areas institutes also produce some shining students yet their ratio is "too minimal" when compared with those in the developed districts. With the affluent affording quality and costly education for their children, the shining poor students lose the race of higher education due to paucity of funds.

Like remote areas of Sindh, Balochistan and KPK provinces, the situation is not differ-

ent in South Punjab where a few renowned universities fall too short to meet the growing need for higher education in the region.

If we see the population proportion, South Punjab is home to 32 percent (34.7 million) people residing in its three divisions of Multan, Bahawalpur and DG Khan. Presently, nine public and two private sector universities are imparting education to only 132,461 and 7,463 students respectively as thousands other prefer to study at known universities in Lahore and Islamabad due to varying education quality at respective institutions.

"Bettering education standards is a continuous process and we are putting in maximum to bring our major universities at par with international standards," remarked Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr Mukhtar Ahmed.

"The HEC has asked varsities to adopt best-ever techniques to produce graduates keeping in view the market demand," Dr Mukhtar said. "We have arranged 200,000 online courses of Microsoft and are on way to establish a Regional Centre in South Punjab soon."

Bahauddin Zakariya Univer-

sity (BZU) Multan, Islamia University Bahawalpur (IUB), Khawaja Ghulam Fared University of Engineering and Information Technology (KFUEIT) Rahim Yar Khan, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture (MNSUA) are working on several HEC funded projects and the ongoing Sufism department at BZU is one of them.

"The HEC is ensuring that National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) trained teachers and master trainers impart training at campuses for imparting quality education," Dr Mukhtar highlighted.

He said as Nishtar Medical University (NMU) - the one and only in South Punjab is going to complete three years, it would now be regularly funded by the HEC.

As the voyage of educating our youth continues, some educationists plead more funding for the education sector to improve quality of education as by the time Pakistan stands too low on the international list of best universities.

"Some of the institutions in South Punjab are offering good learning opportunities. However, these institutions often face the challenge of paucity of funds," said Ex-Dean Social Science

Women University (WUM) Multan, Dr Asmat Naz.

"Building of WUM in Multan some 10 years back opened avenues for girls' education, especially for those not interested in co-education. But, funding is a real issue," she added.

She pleaded to allocate sufficient funding, increase number of seats at girls' hostels and improve transport facilities for female students pouring in for higher studies from remote areas.

Some critics of the rapid expansion of higher educational institutions have argued that quality has been compromised, as instructors with better academic achievements generally refuse to relocate to far-off places.

As setting up of universities in the public sector had engendered a big and invisible social revolution in terms of enrolling girls who could not go to major cities due to lack of finances or parental approval, there is still a need to fully cater to this potential by establishing more institutions.

Similarly, as public sector universities receive only about 40 percent of their current budget with 34 percent from federal and 6-8 percent from provincial

governments, they have to meet 60 percent expenses by generating revenues through student fees. It means an extra burden on the lower middle class, squeezing the poor out of the system as UNESCO reveals that only 1.5 percent of the poor can complete their tertiary education.

Khawaja Ghulam Fared University of Engineering and Information Technology (KFUEIT) Rahim Yar Khan Vice Chancellor, Dr Muhammad Suleman Tahir believes that without a knowledge-based economy, socio-economic development of a country is impossible.

"Universities pave the way towards evolving a better society and focusing on this sector can win more laurels for Pakistan," he said and mentioned that Pakistan's students topped strength-wise across the world this year for seeking scholarships.

"This is unprecedented and for sure an outcome of the services rendered by the HEC during last 20 years in imparting quality education across the country," he remarked. "We need to continue with this struggle to compete internationally and produce a squad of learned people to take the nation to new destinations of progress and prosperity."

Financial architecture of 20th century cannot meet today's challenges

The financial architecture of the 20th century can no longer meet the needs and challenges of today," said Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman during the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"It's high time we address this because the established boundaries and frameworks are now outdated, and there is a need to revisit them and prepare for the challenges of this century which requires a collective approach at a global scale," she stated.

According to a news release received here on Friday, the minister was speaking at a panel discussion titled "How to Turbocharge Development Finance" where she highlighted the need for reorienting and expanding the role played by IFIs to bridge the financing gaps.

"The global warming that triggers our heatwaves will not go away whatever actions Pakistan takes, because we are a one percent polluter, so we must act to adapt. The Living Indus Initiative is conceived as a veritable axis of adaptation, and it is a cohesive and collective effort to reverse the ecological degradation of the Indus basin. This initiative is Pakistan's largest adaptation project, and out of the 25 interventions, 15 of them will directly or indirectly address the flooding that happens along the Indus Basin. Right now, the river is under deep stress, and rejuvenating this lifeline of Pakistan will go a long way in our fight against climate change," she highlighted.

Sherry Rehman also spoke about her political and public service journey at the Women Leaders' Dinner where she was joined by Christine Lagarde, President, European Central Bank, Angela Williams, President and CEO, United Way Worldwide, Christiana Riley, CEO, Deutsche Bank (USA), Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union, Oleksandra Matviichuk, Chair, Civic Liberties Ukraine, and Anjali Sud, CEO, Vimeo. The session was facilitated by Francine Lacqua, Editor-at-Large and Presenter, Bloomberg Television.

The minister also led the discussion at the Forest and Land Use Investment Packages (FLIP) Initiative meeting on the invitation of US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry.

She appreciated the leadership of the US Envoy for climate and highlighted that such initiatives are extremely useful for countries that are in debt.

"Pakistan is facing a severe debt crisis, and it's encouraging to see packages being put together that are not going to burden our economies and allow us to fulfill our forest regeneration goals without putting additional stress on the public sector for regeneration of natural capital," she stated.

The minister also met with the Saudi climate envoy and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, and discussed further collaboration between the two countries on tackling the adverse impacts of climate change.

Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi.
(Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)



Give Respect to the Elders

Javed Ullah Raja

Where can the aged, helpless, and old retired employees of society go for their legitimate rights? While the biggest courts of the country are established to provide justice and deliver justice decisions. These high courts have to give decisions in favor of the retired employees of various institutions of the country. They paid the right of their decisions against those who suppress the rights. And pay attention to the interest of those who raise their voice for justice the rights decisions have been written down. There has been issued a decree by the High Court in favor of the retired employees of Allied Bank. While the Supreme Court of Pakistan has also rejected the appeal of the bank. The court upholds the decision of the High court. Now it is the responsibility of the government to implement the decisions of the high court and the Supreme court. So that, the justice of the retired employees can be redressed. These people have been suffering from mental torture given by the institutions for years. In this part of the age, this section can do nothing but raise its voice. However, the same statements are always made that the government is obliged to implement the decisions of the courts. The concerned bank has been busy prolonging the matter instead of implementing the decisions for many years. The most eligible senior citizens in society are the senior citizens, who are enduring the hardships of their 60s and 70s today. Retired employees from various institutions request the Government of Pakistan and implementing agencies to issue immediate orders to grant them their rights.

This step on the part of the present government of Pakistan is very welcome that a 13-member committee has been set up to get the affected employees of various institutions their rights from the institutions. Their efforts and meetings are ongoing. They are requested to pay special attention to the retired employees of the Banks. The orders of the courts have also been issued in their favor. Immediate implementation should be

And thus the decision of the highest court of the country was also in favor of the Allied Bank employees. Even after a long period of time, non-implementation is a cause of great hardship and suffering. Hundreds of old retired employees have lost their lives in the justice delivery system. It is the legitimate right of the elderly people of society that the decisions of the courts should be implemented instead of prolonging them



done by the concerned banks. As because the retired employees have no other option. In this regard, it is submitted that in favor of the retired employees of Allied Bank, the Peshawar High Court issued a decision in favor of the employees on 22 January 2015. When the bank appealed in the Supreme Court against the decision, the Supreme Court on 17 January 2020, the decision of the Peshawar High Court was upheld.

further. According to the decisions of the courts, pensions and arrears should be paid to the employees based on their last salary drawn. The bank did not pay the pension and pension arrears to the retired employees based on their last salary. Senior citizens are suffering from the mental problem of where to go after the decisions of the courts.

Writer reached on javedullahraja@gmail.com

The Tragedy of 20th of January in Azerbaijan

In the highest part of the city of Baku? The capital of Azerbaijan, there is a place whose former name was Mountain Park, and now is called Martyrs Alley. Citizens who died for the independence and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan were buried there. Every year on January 20, millions of Azerbaijanis visit that alley and the martyrs are buried there. It may be asked: Why on January 20?

January 20 is the date of a bloody tragedy written in black letters in the history of the Azerbaijani people. It was on that day in 1990 that the troops of the former Soviet empire, the empire called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), entered the territory of Azerbaijan and carried out massacres against our citizens in a number of regions of the republic, including the capital city of Baku. It would be better to remind that at that time Azerbaijan was a part of the so-called USSR.

Thus, during the Russia-Iranian war covering the years 1826-1828, Azerbaijani territories (khanates) were occupied by Russia and Iran. In 1828, Russia and Iran signed the Treaty of Turkmenchay, which divided the territories of Azerbaijan. According to that agreement, northern Azerbaijan was given to Russia and southern Azerbaijan was given to Iran. In 1918-1920, northern Azerbaijan regained its independence, albeit for a short time, but in April 1920, it was again occupied by Soviet Russia and remained part of the empire until 1991.

At the end of the 80s of the 20th century, the process of disintegration began in the USSR. At that time, Armenian separatists became active in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and began activities for the occupation of that region by

Armenia. The leadership of the USSR did not prevent it. In such a situation, the Azerbaijani population rose up in different areas of Azerbaijan, including capital Baku, and expressed their protest.

This protest later expanded into a movement for independence. The population protested the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia, and raised slogans against it. In such a situation, the USSR leadership used the method implemented in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

In January 1990, they deployed troops (more than 35,000 soldiers) into the territory of Azerbaijan, especially the capital Baku, and carried out a bloody massacre against the unarmed civilian population.

As a result of those events called January 20 tragedy, 134 civilians-women, children, old people, etc. killed, more than 700 people were injured, and more than 800 were arrested and tortured. About 20 of the martyrs were women and children. The youngest of them was a 12-year-old girl (Larisa Mammadova), and the oldest was a 77-year-old woman (Surayya Babayeva).

Although the events of January 20 were a bloody tragedy that left a deep mark on the history of Azerbaijan, they are also remembered by all Azerbaijanis as a page of heroism.

The victims of the tragedy are considered martyrs who died for the freedom of our motherland, the integrity and indivisibility of our territory and their memory is always cherished. May God protect Azerbaijan and its independence.



Namig Mammadov

Analysis

Writer is a leading researcher of ANAS, The Institute of Oriental Studies, PhD in History.

Plug and Play Technology Center Delegation Visits STZA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the US-based Plug and Play Technology Center recently visited the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) office in Islamabad to engage with local founders and entrepreneurs. The delegation, led by Mr Dylan Palladino, Program Manager at Plug and Play, presented their plans for Pakistan and discussed potential collaborations and opportunities for growth in the technology sector.

"We are excited to engage with the Pakistani Startup community and explore the potential for growth in the technology sector. Pakistan has a wealth of talent, and we believe that with the right resources and support, Pakistani entrepreneurs can become global innovation leaders," said Dylan



Palladino, Program Manager at Plug and Play Technology Center.

The Special Technology Zones Authority is a government organization responsible for promoting and

developing and licensing Special Technology Zones (STZs) in Pakistan. The visit by the Plug and Play delegation is part of the STZA's efforts to attract foreign investment and support the

growth of the technology sector in Pakistan.

"We welcome the visit by the Plug and Play delegation and look forward to working together to support the growth of the technology sector in Pakistan. We believe that collaborations with leading technology centres such as Plug and Play will play a vital role in creating a conducive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan," said Mr Javaid Iqbal, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO), Special Technology Zones Authority.

This visit is a positive step towards fostering an environment for innovation and technology in Pakistan. STZA remains committed to creating international partnerships to enable and support Pakistan's technology sector - to facilitate rapid economic growth in the country.

Pakistani students explore Chinese traditional culture by Spring Festival

Xinhua

LANZHOU: As the Chinese New Year approaches, Aman Khan, an international Pakistani student at Lanzhou University in northwest China's Gansu Province, decorated his dorm with festive elements such as red lanterns to greet the upcoming Spring Festival, the biggest celebration for most Chinese in a year.

Aman, 36, has spent about seven years at the university's school of life sciences, where he earned his doctoral degree in microbiology in 2019 and began his postdoctoral research in 2021.

Since he has lived in China for so long and celebrated the Spring Festival with Chinese friends, he is quite familiar with the traditional customs surrounding the holiday. This year, he chose to celebrate it in China like last year.

Before the festival, the school where he is studying sent international students gift packages containing chocolate and Spring Festival couplets, ect.

According to Aman, it is customary for Chinese people to write couplets, a two-sentence poetry written on red paper that wishes for a prosperous Lunar New Year. During the holiday, they gather to prepare a feast, visit their families and friends, and go outing. Aman added that regardless of how individuals spend the holiday, the fami-



ly reunion will offer them happiness.

He also told Xinhua that the Spring Festival and Pakistani Eid-al-Adha festival share some similarities. "On Eid al-Adha, we visit relatives and exchange red packets, same as Chinese people do during the Spring Festival. The Spring Festival will always remind me of my family's reunion."

China continuously optimized COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control policies. For Aman, China has made significant measures to manage the disease and safeguard human lives. Since the implementation of the new regulation, he is both appreciative of the Chinese government's protection and looking forward to traveling.

One of his Pakistani friends went from south China's Shenzhen City to Lanzhou to visit Aman. Aman chooses to celebrate the event with him and other friends by preparing a feast.

Salamat Ali, another Pakistani student at Lanzhou University, anticipates gathering with his Chinese friends and Pakistani fellows as the Spring Festival approaches.

In their eyes, China is already their second home, and they have the opportunity to understand the Spring Festival's cultural traditions, taste authentic Chinese cuisine and study Chinese culture. It is also their honor to learn more about the unique charm of the Chinese New Year.

Political interests more important than country for leaders



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said packages are given to the poor in western countries but billionaires get support packages in Pakistan.

The sole purpose of packages doled out to the rich is to increase their fortunes on the cost of the poor, it said.

Masses are always told that packages given to industrial, agricultural, stock market or real estate sectors are necessary for national development which is contrary to the facts, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that there is no concept of tax amnesty schemes in civilized countries, but every government in Pakistan provides an opportunity for the rich to whiten their black money.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the former government announced the construction package by promising affordable housing for the poor but not a single house could be built for the poor.

AJK welcomes formation of Kashmir committee in Turkish parliament



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ANKARA: On the proposal of President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, the Turkish parliamentarians of the ruling party has agreed in principle to form a Kashmir Committee and present a resolution in favor of Kashmiris in the Turkish parliament.

The announcement in this regard was made today during an extra-ordinary meeting between Ali Shahin, a member of Turkey's ruling party. The Turkish MP also hosted a dinner at the Parliament House in honor of the President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry.

Later on the AJK President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, held a detailed meeting with Turkish MPs, which took place in the Turkish Parliament. The meeting was attended by Turkish Member of Parliament and Deputy Chairperson AK Party and Chairperson Foreign Affairs Committee Efkân ALA, Ahmet Yildiz, Ephif Demir Kiran, Fevzi Sanverdi, Memet Aslan and Ibrahim Anoor and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Chaudhry said, "We are very grateful to the ruling party of Turkey, especially Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for openly supporting the Kashmir cause". He expressed the hope that the Turkish government would further intensify its efforts to raise the voice in favour of the Kashmiri people at every important forum.

Referring to the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir, he said that since Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir were on the rise there was a urgent need to galvanize international support to seek an immediate end to the vicious cycle of violence and continued bloodshed in the region.

Barrister Chaudhry further said that the principle decision of the formation of Kashmir Committee in the Turkish parliament was a positive development that would go a long way to promote Kashmir cause effectively.

Meanwhile, president Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry after completing his visit to Ankara left for UK.

Impossible to stabilize rupee in presence of a broken economy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said it is impossible to stabilize the rupee in the presence of a broken economy.

Oil price freeze by the former government and efforts to stabilize the rupee and bring down the value of the dollar by the incumbent government has damaged the economy and annoyed the IMF, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that even after the failure of the experiment to bring down the value of dollar artificially, the same policy is being followed which is surprising.

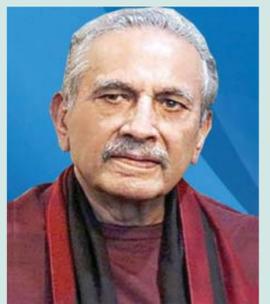
How the country's condition can change when there is no change in the important economic policies, he said, adding that IMF is being annoyed which can jeopardise the disbursement of approved loans and grants by other institutions that Pakistan cannot afford.

The business leader noted that the focus of policymakers is on reducing the current account deficit by holding back imports but they are forgetting that exports also require imports.

The economy cannot improve unless the exports grow otherwise the government will have to repay the loans through fresh borrowing, he added.

He said that the former rulers damaged the economy by freezing the price of fuel for the sake of popularity and now the current rulers are busy trying to destroy the country's economy by freezing the price of the dollar while the people are suffering the consequences of both policies.

Many politicians are neither willing to give importance to the country's interest nor to the economy, but focusing on their ego which is damaging the country, he observed.



Pak-Saudi Relations

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi visited Saudi Arabia to promote bilateral relations.



Photo: PID

'Every year 3000 women die of cervical cancer'

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, the Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, has stressed the need for launching country-wide awareness campaigns to bust the myths regarding female cancer and how to prevent it.

She was speaking at a panel discussion on "Screening and Prevention of Female Cancer" organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute here.

Dr Soomro said that several health campaigns were launched in Pakistan, but they failed due to a negative and false propaganda orchestrated against them. She stressed on targeting the youth

in academic institutions and engaging with teachers to raise awareness for the prevention of cancers in women. She said our healthcare officials not only lack new skills and trainings to diagnose and treat such diseases but also are unaware of doing proper counselling of women to get treatment after diagnosis. She suggested increasing engagement with ulema and religious scholars in addition to conducting robust media campaigns to promote awareness about the prevention and treatment of female cancer.

Prof. Dr Sayeda Batool said that Pakistan has less prevalence of cervical cancer compared to India, but despite this 6000 cases of cervical cancer are reported each year in Pakistan causing about 3000 deaths. She stressed

that the basic treatment options are crucial to prevent prevalence in adult women while vaccinations are a more futuristic approach and would bear fruit after a few decades.

Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice-Chancellor, Health Services Academy, said that "early screening and early detection is the optimal solution" to prevent the prevalence of various kinds of cancers. He said targeted awareness campaigns can play a critical role in this regard. Delay in diagnosis is not merely due to lack of awareness about diseases but it is also caused due to lack of awareness as to how the patients can have access to adequate healthcare centers. He stressed on equipping primary healthcare systems with adequate diagno-

sis and treatment facilities and training and capacity building for eradicating system delays.

Dr Rubina Mushtaq elucidated that rampant poverty in many parts of the country has created barriers in access to even basic healthcare facilities. She highlighted that 14 million new cases of infection due to Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) are reported annually the world over and 79 million men and women are infected with HPV at any given time, making it the most common sexually transmitted diseases. She further said that cervical cancer related to HPV is the second most prevalent cancer among women. She stressed on educating and empowering women to prioritize their health and informing and educating



their families on importance of protective screening.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, SDPI Executive Director, said in our

battle against cancer, awareness about availability of vaccine for cervical cancer and making their administration mandatory and

effective is crucial. He called for increasing the frequency of debate and discussion about early detection and screening of cancer.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
38,407.98	38,831.58
Day's High	Day's Low:
38,982.16	38,291.70
Index Value	Change
3,080,219,687	-423.60
Percentage	Time
-1.09%	Jan 20, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,770.59	+23.30
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	20 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,154.17	+109.61
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	20 Jan, 12:42 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
26,553.53	+148.30
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	20 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	174	175.25
Bahrain Dinar	613	617.5
Canadian Dollar	186	187.35
China Yuan	34.02	34.27
Danish Krone	33.42	33.77
Euro	270	272.5
Hong Kong Dollar	29.36	29.71
Indian Rupee	2.81	2.89
Japanese Yen	2.51	2.55
Kuwaiti Dinar	750.3	755.3
Malaysian Ringgit	52.59	53.04
New Zealand \$	148.33	149.53
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	596.4	600.9
Qatari Riyal	63.08	63.58
Saudi Riyal	66.4	67.1
Singapore Dollar	178	179.3
Swedish Korona	21.78	22.08
Swiss Franc	250.23	251.98
Thai Bhat	6.98	7.08
U.A.E Dirham	68.8	69.5
UK Pound Sterling	308	311
US Dollar	237.75	240

Poor political, economic governance bankrupted country: 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 Friday said Saudi Arabia has asked Pakistan to initiate reforms before obtaining a loan that has sounded an alarm bell for Pakistan.

Pakistan urgently needs loans to run its economy but the need for economic reforms to achieve self-reliance cannot be denied, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the policy of overdependence on imports has played a major role in the devastation of the economy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that people should not be deceived by policymakers who put the blame for the economic disaster on external factors.



Attributing the events happening in different parts of the world cannot absolve the policymakers of their responsibility.

He said that the reason for Pakistan's recent problems is the pandemic followed a super cycle in prices and Russia's attack on Ukraine and recent floods.

However, nothing was as damaging for the country as the endless greed of nobility which has pushed the country to the brink, he added.

Pakistan has taken loans from the IMF 23 times and the country is facing difficulties in payments for the thirteenth time since 1988, but despite this, there has been no clear change in policies.

PPP has knocked on the doors of the IMF six times, PML-N has borrowed from IMF four times, General Musharraf twice and PTI has done this once and this process continues.

The country has been suffering from the worst political and economic governance for decades, power theft, line losses, gas theft, nurturing of failed government institutions,

circular debt, agriculture crisis, energy policy, export neglect and dependence on imports has bankrupted a prosperous country, he observed.

The business leader noted that the elite who are busy plundering the country's resources with both hands are strongly opposed to reforms in any sector including the economy and no government has the courage to challenge them.

Billions of rupees were wasted in the name of reforming the tax system in the last 70 years, but still, the tax collection is hardly ten percent of the GDP, which is shameful.

The situation of health, education, energy, production and other important sectors are not different.

He warned that if the policies are not fundamentally changed and they are not aligned with the ground realities, then we should be prepared for any economic disaster.

We have planned to introduce an app for real estate consultants: Adil Bhatti

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Secretary of Real Estate Consultants Association (RICA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that to restore the declining economy, it is necessary to take practical steps to facilitate business, to make decisions in consultation with stakeholders. If we get a good environment, we can do better work, the body sitting above us includes builders and developers who have their own interests, while we have small problems with the authorities, the police will immediately file an FIR against our people.

Debar arrests them, the Chamber can help us in this regard, this problem can be controlled by meeting the IG, the police should first listen to the position of Navy and DHA and then listen to us, he said. Expressing these views while addressing the joint meeting of the Standing Committee for Construction, Real Estate, Property and Development in Rawalpindi Chamber, Adil Nawaz Bhatti further said that we have planned to introduce an app for real estate consultants.

There will be an app that you can download, from our people Q have come, some people have submitted them, they have again received notices to submit the details to describe the business, most of our people



are not educated due to which they are confused, so such Steps should be taken on this occasion, Chamber President Sajib Rafiq said that more than seventy allied industries are associated with the construction sector, the employment of millions of people is connected with this sector, he welcomed the recommendations of the committee and assured that the plate of the chamber Form these recommendations will be conveyed to the stakeholders, group leader RCCI Sohail Altaf said that the deemed rental income tax should be withdrawn immediately.

It is important, it should be noted that the meeting was attended by officials of

Olpindi Chamber, Chairman Advisory Council and senior members, officials of Islamabad Estate Agents, officials of Valley Welfare Association and Realtors of Bahria Town, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Deputy President Faisal Shahzad, along with Chairman Realtors All Pakistan Musrat Ejaz Khan and President Realtor Islamabad Sardar Tahir Mahmood also participated. On this occasion Chairman Committee Sardar Tanveer Sarwar and Asif Iqbal Khan Vice Chairman Adil Nawaz Bhatti and Najibur Rehman Abbasi, Executive Committee. Members and other members were also present.

Introducing YourChamp-A Microsite to Unleash Your Social Brand!

News Desk

LAHORE: Since its launch, Social Champ has been aiming to revolutionize the Martech industry. The Pakistani SaaS startup has now launched a disruptive tool, "Yourchamp". On January 12th, 2023, the company announced their all-new marketing platform, YourChamp. It is a one-stop solution to bring together your cumulative reach from all social media accounts.

With every digital innovation, data is also increasing exponentially. Marketing has a unique duty to embrace its role as a facilitator of meaningful experiences and a driver of value exchanges between brands and people. Business and Martech startups like Social Champ aim to add this value to the industry. YourChamp is a one-of-



a-kind platform. When agencies and individual public figures use this platform, they can easily find each other using the said link. It would display users' social presence, the account where they are most active, their highest following, their niche, and their other social profiles.

Speaking on the launch of YourChamp, the company's founder, Sameer Ahmed, said, "Today's marketing has evolved, and Pakistani brands are embarking on digital journeys that will help them provide accurate and real-time data that will aid them in fulfilling their KPIs. Brands have realized that digital is the future."

Tough Job

KARACHI: Labourers are busy in work in a iron factory at Garden area in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Alibaba.com Gathers Exporters at "B2B E-Commerce Summit"



News Desk

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) trade, hosted "B2B E-COMMERCE SUMMIT - Bhano Digital Export ki Nayi Uraan - Lahore Se" to facilitate Pakistani exporters' understanding of and access to the global B2B market.

The event featured a lineup of speakers from Alibaba.com as well as prominent industry leaders from

Laure, including Miss Amy Li, Marketing Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan; Mr Rana Mansoor Qadir, Former Executive Member-PAAPAM, Mr. Hafiz Ahmed, Ecommerce Influencer and CEO of Ecomrades, and Mr. Shahbaz Siddique, Alibaba.com Certified Trainer.

During the event, global consumer trends in the food and agricultural sectors which have an implication on export from Pakistan were discussed.

ICCI calls for sale of subsidized flour through markets to facilitate people

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that flour is the staple food of the people, but due to the wheat and flour crisis, the prices of flour have increased manifold in Islamabad like the whole country due to which the common man is facing great problems. He said that the strategy of providing subsidized flour from specific points has not delivered the desired results as many people have to go without buying flour despite standing in long queues. He stressed that the subsidized flour should be provided to the people through shops in markets to ease the troubles of people. He said this while talking to Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon during a meeting with him along with a dele-

gation including the representatives of Flour Mills. ICCI Senior Vice President Faad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Muhammad Azharul Islam Zafar, representatives of flour mills including Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhry Mukhtar Ahmad, Dr. Muhammad Usman, Chaudhry Muhammad Ali, Ameer Hamza, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rahman Khan and others were in the delegation.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the government should make all possible efforts to stabilize the prices of flour. He said that the flour mills of Islamabad are facing difficulties in procuring wheat from Punjab because sometimes their quota is reduced which not only makes the flour expensive but also affects the business of the flour mills.

ICCI Senior Vice President Faad Waheed emphasized that instead

of Punjab, the government should supply wheat to the flour mills of Islamabad through Passco to save any flour crisis in the federal capital and keep the prices stable.

ICCI Vice President Engineer Muhammad Azharul Islam Zafar said that supply of required quantity of wheat to the flour mills is an important responsibility of the government and stressed that the government should evolve a system in consultation with the flour mills to ensure them regular supply of what in order to avoid any flour crisis in future.

Addressing the delegation, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon said that the flour crisis has been overcome in Islamabad due to the better efforts of the administration. He said that in order to improve the supply of flour to the people, 50% of the quota is



being given to the shops, while 50% will be provided through specific points, while the ban on the supply of flour would be lifted soon after the improvement of the wheat supply system. He assured that efforts will be made to supply wheat to flour mills in Islamabad through Passco so that they do not face any short-

age of wheat. Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Abdul Rahman Khan, Ch. Mukhtar Ahmed, Dr. Muhammad Usman, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Ameer Hamza, Khalid Chaudhry, Sai fur Rehman Khan and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful proposals to overcome the flour crisis in the city.

Mondelez Pakistan Becomes the Top Employer for 2023



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mondelez Pakistan, one of the country's largest confectionary and beverage manufacturer, has been announced as the Top Employer for the year 2023. Owing to industry-best practices in creating an exceptional work environment and company culture for employees, the organization has been awarded this distinction adding another feather to its hat.

Mondelez Pakistan is amongst the most prestigious entities that fall under Mondelez International, a global brand that has a footprint over 150 countries. This distinction for Mondelez Pakistan is a huge accomplishment for the local arm and a reflection of the culture and environment that the cross-functional teams have fostered. Mondelez Pakistan remains dedicated to developing a top talent agenda with a growth mindset, best-in-class people practices, policies, and ways of working, all of which contributed to the organization receiving this prestigious accolade.

Commenting on the development, Ms. Syeda Khadija Khan People Lead, Mondelez Pakistan, added: "We at Mondelez Pakistan always strive to build the most productive and welcoming environments for our employees. These team members are the foundation of what makes this organization one of the best. It is a great honor for us to be recognized for the efforts that we make and it will motivate us further to make greater improvements to existing infrastructures." Mondelez Pakistan continuously makes efforts to excel in various functional capacities and has been acknowledged on various fronts in this regard.

20-K Cup 2023: Cricket Center, City Gymkhana, Ludhiana Club record wins

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Cricket Center Club, City Gymkhana Cricket Club and Ludhiana Gymkhana Club recorded contrasting wins in the 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament here at various venues on Friday.

Superb all-round performance of Bilal Asif (37 runs & 2-17) helped Cricket Center Club defeat Shinning Club by 3 wickets in the 37th match of the tournament. Shinning Club, batting first, scored 131-9 in 20 overs. Umar Dar and Ali Raza hammered 36 runs each while Zain Bin Farooq hit 20 runs. Bilal Asif and M Waheed bagged 2 wickets each.

Cricket Center replied strongly and chased the target in 18.3 overs, losing 7 wickets. Bilal Asif slammed 37 runs while Ali Zafar hit 28 and Tariq Nawaz 20. Usman Ali took 2 wickets and Hammad Ali and Ali Hamza got one wicket each.

All-rounder Jahangir Mirza (33 runs & 2-14) steered City Gymkhana to a thrashing 72-run triumph over Prince



Club in the 38th match of the tournament. City Gymkhana, batting first, posted a huge total of 180-8 in 20 overs with Jahangir Mirza smashing superb 33 runs

while Rana Arslan and Waseem Akram contributed with 25 and 21 runs respectively. Zeerak Ghazi and Ammar Tariq grabbed 2 wickets each.

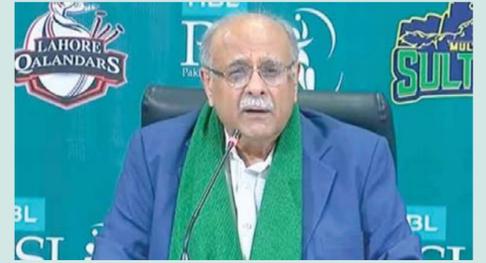
Prince Club failed to chase the target and could score 108-8 in 20 overs. Only Shoaib Arshad (24) and Shams ud Din (28) batted sensibly. Jahangir Mirza claimed 2-14 while Rana Arslan and Usama Tariq got one wicket each.

Fahad Munir (39 runs) batted Ludhiana Gymkhana to a convincing 6-wicket victory over Shah Faisal Club in a low-scoring 39th match of the tournament. Shah Faisal, batting first, could score 94 runs in 20 overs. Ali Manzoor cracked unbeaten 32 runs while Muhammad Ilyas hit 32. Imran Ali clinched 5-1 while Tanveer Aslam and Kashif Siddique took one wicket each.

Ludhiana Gymkhana comfortably chased the target in 10.4 overs for the loss of 4 wickets. Fahad Munir thrashed tremendous 39 runs while M Waqas scored 26 runs and Asim Ali Nasir unbeaten 22. Subhan Malik bagged 2 wickets for 10 runs.

The only match of Saturday (January 21, 2023) will be played between Pindi Gymkhana and Pak Lions.

No sifarish on PSL tickets, player selection': Najam Sethi requests friends, higher-ups



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management committee chairman Najam Sethi requested on Friday that friends and higher-ups should not ask for favours for the tickets of the Pakistan Super League's (PSL) eighth edition.

Taking to Twitter, Mr Sethi opted for "interesting words" to pen his request. "I am making a personal request to all friends and high-ups NOT to ask for free tickets/passes to PSL matches starting next month. The Public Accounts Committee of National Assembly that audits PCB has warned us to desist from this practise!"

"I am also requesting friends and high-ups not to do sifarish for selection of any player or coach, etc, or to give employment or facilitation to any undeserving person. PCB competes with top professional organisations in the world and cannot afford to be inefficient," he maintained.

Mr Sethi also spoke at a press conference about the Pakistan Super League (PSL), saying the last year was "great" for the PSL and that, after the IPL, the PSL was the biggest cricket brand. As for Balochistan's cricket future, Mr Sethi stated that the exhibition match would be held in the province, but it would be difficult to hold a match in Balochistan for the eighth edition of the PSL.

Medvedev latest to exit Australian Open but Swiatek charges on

Sports Desk

MELBOURNE: Daniil Medvedev on Friday became the latest title contender to crash out of the men's draw at the Australian Open, but Iga Swiatek led a charge of the women's seeds into the last 16.

Russia's Medvedev was runner-up at the last two Grand Slams in Melbourne but his tournament ended with a whimper in round three at the hands of Sebastian Korda.

The American, son of 1998 Australian Open champion Petr Korda, won 7-6 (9/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) as seventh seed Medvedev followed defending champion Rafael Nadal and Casper Ruud in exiting in the first week.

Korda, who faces 10th



seed Hubert Hurkacz of Poland next, told Rod Laver Arena: "An unbelievable match.

"I sort of knew what I had to do and I stuck with it even when I was going up and down with the emotions.

"I'm thrilled right now, I played amazing," said the 22-year-old.

With world number one Carlos Alcaraz not involved

because of injury, Medvedev's surprise defeat to the 29th seed is another boost to nine-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic.

The hot favourite, who is nursing a hamstring problem, plays 27th seed Grigor Dimitrov on Saturday.

Stefanos Tsitsipas is now the highest remaining seed at three and the Greek star stretched his unbeaten

streak this year to set up a last-16 clash with Italian Jannik Sinner.

The 24-year-old Tsitsipas, who is yet to drop a set, clinched his seventh straight win of 2023 by beating Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 6-2, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3.

Tsitsipas is refusing to get carried away as he chases a first major title.

"There are no presents," he warned.

"You should be going after it, you should be creating those opportunities and aiming big within yourself, sometimes surpass your own abilities."

Also into the last 16 are sixth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime and 18th seed Karen Khachanov.

The Russian defeated 16th-seeded American Frances Tiafoe in four sets.

PSL 8 Replacement Draft to take place on January 24



A Sports

LAHORE: The Replacement Draft for the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 8 will take place on January 24, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Friday.

After analyzing the international cricket schedule, the PCB management committee decided to hold the replacement draft on Tuesday, January 24.

Meanwhile, PCB also revealed that the franchises had also requested the cricket governing body to increase the pool of players. PCB, consequently, approved their proposal and the franchises will now add two more players in the supplementary category to complete a squad of 20.

"Meanwhile, on the request of the franchises, the PCB has agreed to increase the number of players per side to 20, allowing each franchise to pick two additional Supplementary players," said PCB in a statement.

"The Supplementary players will be picked in the Replacement Draft, which will take place on Tuesday, 24 January," the statement added.

Earlier, the chairman of PCB Najam Sethi held a press conference here and unveiled the complete schedule of the PSL 8.

The extravaganza will be held from February 13 to March 19 across four different venues - Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi - with Multan getting the opportunity to host the opening ceremony of the marquee league for the first time.

Furthermore, the eighth edition of the PSL will be held in two different phases with Karachi and Multan splitting up matches from 13-26 February before the action shifts to Lahore and Rawalpindi.

The two cities - Rawalpindi and Lahore - will then host 20 matches from February 26 to March 19 while the latter will host the final of the event.

Bowlers star as Pretoria Capitals thump Durban's Super Giants

DURBAN: Pretoria Capitals' opener Will Jacks struck a quickfire half-century after bowlers booked Durban's Super Giants for a mere 80 in the 15th fixture of the ongoing SA20.

After opting to bat first, the Super Giants' batting lineup failed completely and bundled out for a paltry 80 runs in the 19th over.

The home side lost wickets at regular intervals that halted their expedition towards a big total.

Amid a frustrating show with the bat, Henrich Klaassen fought back with a gritty 31-run knock after captain Quinton de Kock (13) and Jason Holder (10) put on a brief fight.

Besides them, none of their batters could amass double figures as they seemed clueless against the Capitals' bowling attack.

Senuran Muthusamy led the bowling attack for the Capitals with 3/12, while Wayne Parnell, Anrich Nortje and Eathan Bosch bagged two wickets each. Set to chase a skimpy total, Jacks'



quickfire half-century led the Capitals to victory in just the eighth over with eight wickets to spare.

The right-handed batter scored a quick 56 off just 25 deliveries, hitting five boundaries and four sixes and put on an important 78-run partnership with

Theunis de Bruyn (21) before perishing in the seventh over. For the Super Giants, only Keshav Maharaj and Kyle Mayers struck out a batter each.

READ: Saengkham stuns Williams to book World Grand Prix semi-final berth

Wahab Riaz achieves landmark in T20 cricket

A Sports

CHITTAGONG: Pakistan's experienced pacer Wahab Riaz achieved a historic feat in the recently-concluded Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) as he completed 400 wickets in T20 cricket.

Wahab, who is currently representing Khulna Tigers in the ongoing edition of the BPL, shone with the ball in his side's fixture against Chattogram Challengers and played a pivotal role in the touring side's triumph.

The left-arm pacer picked up four wickets for a mere 36 runs in his quota of four overs.

With his splendid bowling figures, Wahab also breached the 400-wicket mark and became only the sixth bowler to do so.

He is only the second pacer after Dwayne Bravo while also becoming the only Pakistani to reach the landmark.

Furthermore, with this, Wahab also became the third-fastest bowler to pick 400 wickets after Afghanistan's Rashid Khan and South Africa's Imran Tahir respectively.

List of bowlers with most wickets in T20 cricket:
Dwayne Bravo, 614 wickets
Rashid Khan, 496 wickets
Sunil Narine, 474 wickets
Imran Tahir, 466 wickets
Shakib-al-Hasan, 436 wickets
Wahab Riaz, 401 wickets



Woman footballer Maira Khan in limelight following her heroic effort save Pakistan



Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The goal of Pakistan's women football team captain Maira Khan has become popular because it saved Pakistan from defeat.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia teams played the match on Thursday in which KSA was leading by 1-0. However, Pakistan got the free kick at the end of the match. And that opportunity was utilised to its perfection by Pakistan's team captain. The ball crossed the line of the goal after hitting the goalkeeper's hand and the match was tied by 1-1.

She received adulation and praise from the crowd and was adjudged the player of the match.

Ronaldo punched but scores twice in Saudi reunion with Messi

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RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo recovered from a punch in the face to score twice against Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday in a lively reunion with his great rival Lionel Messi.

Ronaldo, 37, was decked by PSG 'keeper Kelyor Navas's flailing fist but he drilled the resulting penalty and then added another in a 5-4 exhibition defeat, his first appearance since moving to Saudi Arabia in a deal said to total more than 400 million euros.

For Qatar-owned PSG, Messi and Kylian Mbappe both scored and Neymar missed a penalty before they withdrew on the hour-mark alongside Ronaldo, who was representing a composite Saudi side, to play the world's four best-paid players watching

from the bench in Riyadh.

Hundreds of millions of euros worth of footballers were on view for the exhibition game in the Saudi capital, which comes just weeks after neighbouring Qatar spent lavishly on the first World Cup on Arab soil, won by Messi's Argentina.

Among the packed crowd at the 69,000-seat King Fahd Stadium was a Saudi real estate mogul who paid \$2.6 million at auction for a ticket giving him dressing-room access to the players.

After Ronaldo led out the Riyadh Season Team, drawn from his new club Al Nassr and Saudi rivals Al Hilal, to flame-throwers and tickertape, Messi opened the scoring after just three minutes when he was fed by the livewire Mbappe.

Flush on the cheekbone

Ronaldo's first touch in Saudi football was a throw-in but he had a shot saved and a penalty appeal waved away before Navas caught him flush on the cheekbone as they challenged for a high ball.

Ronaldo, still rubbing the red mark on his face and grimacing, fired past Navas to make it 1-1 on 34 minutes.

Five minutes later, PSG's Juan Bernat was given a straight red card for a foul on Salem Al-Dawsari - Saudi Arabia's match-winner in their famous group-stage World Cup victory over Argentina.

Messi, perhaps irritated by the intensity of the mid-season friendly, aimed a reproachful look at Ronaldo, has sparring partner in their days playing for Barcelona and Real Madrid.

PSG were soon back in front

thanks to Marquinhos's delicate finish before Neymar missed his spot-kick, shooting tamely after a trademark stutter run-up.

Minutes later, Ronaldo hit his second equaliser deep into first-half injury time, heading against the post and then burying the rebound to make it 2-2 at half-time.

Mbappe put PSG back in front shortly after the break, turning his marker inside-out and laying on an easy finish for Sergio Ramos, before Hyun-soo Jang found a third equaliser for the hosts.

But Mbappe thumped home a penalty and Hugo Ekitike scored to make it 5-3 before Brazilian striker Talisca grabbed the Riyadh team's fourth goal at the death.

It was the first outing in oil-rich Saudi for Ronaldo, who



will make his Saudi Pro League debut for Al Nassr on Sunday after signing for more than 200 million euros, according to a

source close to the club.

The veteran Portuguese star will be paid an additional 200 million euros, the source told

AFP, to be an ambassador for Saudi Arabia's expected 2030 World Cup joint hosting bid with Egypt and Greece.