



Andrew's love for Pakistani cuisine

Acting British High Commissioner Andrew Dagleish, Sunday, expressed his passion and love for special Pakistani food particularly lentils (daal) and rice cooked with chicken (biryani). In a tweet, he said, "I absolutely LOVE daal. But for lunch today it's chicken biryani. The rich, comforting warmth of the spices in #Pakistani cuisine is very special."



PML-N attempts to bridge PPP and MQM-P chasm

PML-N Sindh president Syed Shah Mohammad Shah on Sunday attempted to bridge the fissures between the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P). Jamaat-i-Islami Karachi chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman called on Mr Shah at his residence, during which the PML-N leader stressed the need for alliance between the PPP and MQM-P sooner.

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March Past

SANGHAR Cadets performing march past during 26th parent's day of Cadet College.



Photo: APP

Imran urges PTI stalwarts to speed up election campaign

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan urged on Sunday his party members to speed up the electoral campaign, which he regard as "Election karaa, mulk bachao" campaign.

The deposed premier prepared a strategy to react to the acceptance of the PTI lawmakers' resignation in the National Assembly. Mr Khan said once the PTI will complete the process of resignations, he will "pour onto the streets" himself to give tough time to the coalition government.

Mr Khan also directed his stalwarts to prepare a schedule for the public gatherings. The sources privy to the development said the PTI will under-



score the issues of "regime change and the government's economic policies" in its election campaign. To take the country out of the quagmire and economic woes, Mr Khan will give his supporters, road-map.

After the NA speaker accepted the resignations of 70 PTI lawmakers, Mr Khan handed over the task to the party leaders of getting the resignations of the rest of the PTI lawmakers accepted, under the supervision of former NA speaker Asad Qaiser.

Nawaz to return home before PA election: Javed Latif

News Desk

LAHORE: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif said on Sunday that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Mian Nawaz Sharif would announce the date of his return to the country after the election schedule for two provincial assemblies, Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, would be finalised.

Talking to the media at Model Town here, he said: "We are going into elections amidst innumerable crises, including the financial challenges, facing the country." He said that PML-N Senior Vice-President Maryam Nawaz, who's chief organiser of the party, would return to Pakistan on January 28.

The minister said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government was making all-out efforts



to improve the economy and streamline the system for better governance, adding that the PML-N was taking tough decisions in the large interest of the country.

Mian Javed Latif said his party had rendered unmatched sacrifices for protecting interests of the state and it would never allow anyone to cause any harm to the country or its institutions.

He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was exploiting his supporters and wasting the time of the nation, adding that Imran Khan and his party was responsible for the current

'Sadiq, Amin' confesses to investing \$3 mln charity funds in housing society: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that so-called "Sadiq and Amin" had admitted to investing Shaukat Khanam Cancer Hospital's \$3 million charity fund in a housing society.

While taking a jibe at Imran Khan, in a statement she said that "Saquib Nisar's 'Sadiq aur Amin' admits to investing Shaukat Khanum's \$3 million charity fund in a housing society".

The minister said that the



people of Pakistan had given Zakat funds for Shaukat Khanum Hospital, not for the private housing society.

Referring to double standards of Imran, she said he accused others of theft but now himself confessed to stealing

and misuse of charity money.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Imran did not even get approval from the board of directors of the hospital while investing millions of dollars of charity money.

She termed Imran a swindler and fraud who had stolen Toshakhana gifts and misappropriated Zakat funds.

She said that Imran did not consider the plunder of Toshakhana gifts and misappropriation of £ 190 million any issue.

For him 5-carat diamond or getting foreign funding against

the national interests was not a crime, she maintained.

She said that 458 Kanal land was taken as a bribe in the name of Al-Qadir Trust, and Bushra Bibi sold every job and every appointment in Punjab.

On the contrary, she said against his political opponents whom he called thieves he could not prove false accusations in any court in Pakistan or in Britain.

She opined that this was the reason Imran Khan did not appear in courts because he would have to confess to all the crimes he had committed.

Iranian Navy visits Pakistan



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Iranian Navy ships and submarine on Sunday visited Karachi port and participated in a naval exercise with Pakistan Navy (PN).

Upon arrival at Karachi port, the PN officials along with the Iranian consulate Staff warmly welcomed the visiting flotilla and national anthems tunes of both countries were played as a mark of respect, a Pakistan Navy media release said.

The recent visit of the Iranian Navy to Pakistan reaffirms joint efforts to promote regional stability and maritime security for the protection of Sea Lines of Communication and Seafarers in the region.

During stay at port, both navies held mutually rewarding professional interactions, exchange visits, and tabletop discussions on matters of mutual interest.

OIC SG, PM, Senate Chairman, Ashrafi and OIC UNA strongly condemns sacrilegious act in Stockholm

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hissein Ibrahim Taha on Sunday condemned in the strongest terms the vile act of desecration of the Holy Quran by far-right activists in front of the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden.

"The OIC Secretary-General urges the Swedish authorities to take necessary measures against the perpetrators of this hate crime. He calls for increased international efforts to prevent the re-occurrence of such acts and for solidarity to fight Islamophobia," a press release of the OIC Secretariat in Jeddah quoted the secretary-general as saying.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the despicable act of desecration of the Holy Quran by a right-wing extremist in Sweden

the other day.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that no words were enough to adequately condemn the abhorable act of desecration of the Holy Quran by a right-wing extremist in Sweden.

"The garb of the freedom of expression cannot be used to hurt the religious emotions of 1.5 billion Muslims across the world. This is unacceptable," he added.

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has strongly condemned the incident of burning a copy of the Holy Quran during a protest in Sweden, describing it as the worst example of religious intolerance and desecration.

Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said the abhorrent act of the Holy Quran's desecration in Sweden badly hurt the religious sentiments of 1.5 billion Muslims

on the globe.

The Union of Organization of Islamic Cooperation News Agencies (UNA) also strongly condemned the vile act of desecration of the Holy Quran by far-right activists in front of the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden.

"UNA warns that this provocative action, which is considered a hate crime and has been committed repeatedly by far-right extremists, targets Muslims, insults their sacred values, and serves as a further example of the alarming level reached by Islamophobia, hate, intolerance, and xenophobia," a press release quoting the UNA said.

The UNA further urged the Swedish authorities to take necessary measures against the perpetrators of this hate crime and called for increased international efforts to prevent the re-occurrence of such acts and for solidarity to fight Islamophobia.

Imran Khan attack probe: Punjab govt changes JIT

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Home Department has once again changed the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the November 3 attack on former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

According to the notification issued by Home Additional Chief Secretary Capt (retired) Asadullah Khan, three key committee members, who had been probing the case for the past two months, had been replaced.

The provincial government did not change the JIT head, Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mehmood Dogar.

The new JIT members include District Police Officer (DPO) Dera Ghazi Khan Muhammad Akmal, SP Anjum Kamal, and Jhang Crime Investigation Agency DSP Nasir Nawaz.

ECP Names Mohsin Naqvi as Caretaker Punjab CM

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has named Mohsin Naqvi as the caretaker Punjab Chief Minister (CM).

The election commission also notified the appointment of Mohsin Naqvi for the caretaker Punjab CM's slot.

The matter of the appointment of the Punjab caretaker chief minister reached the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after the parliamentary committee failed to reach a consensus.

The chief election commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja held the key meeting of the ECP senior officials today to decide on the name for the caretaker Punjab CM.



The PTI-PML-Q alliance had suggested Naveed Akram Cheema and Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera's names for the caretaker CM's slot, whereas, the opposition tabled the names of Mohsin Naqvi and Ahad Cheema.

The parliamentary committee comprises of the government and the opposition members, failed to reach a consensus on the name for the caretaker Punjab chief minister slot on Friday.

PTI rejects Mohsin Naqvi's appointment as Punjab caretaker CM

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry took a jibe at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to appoint PML-N's nominee Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi as Punjab

caretaker chief minister saying that the electoral watchdog never failed to disappoint.

Taking to Twitter, the PTI leader penned, "We reject the decision to appoint a controversial person such as Mohsin Naqvi as the chief minister."

Public Issues

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif is listening to the people's issues at UC Ahmed pura.

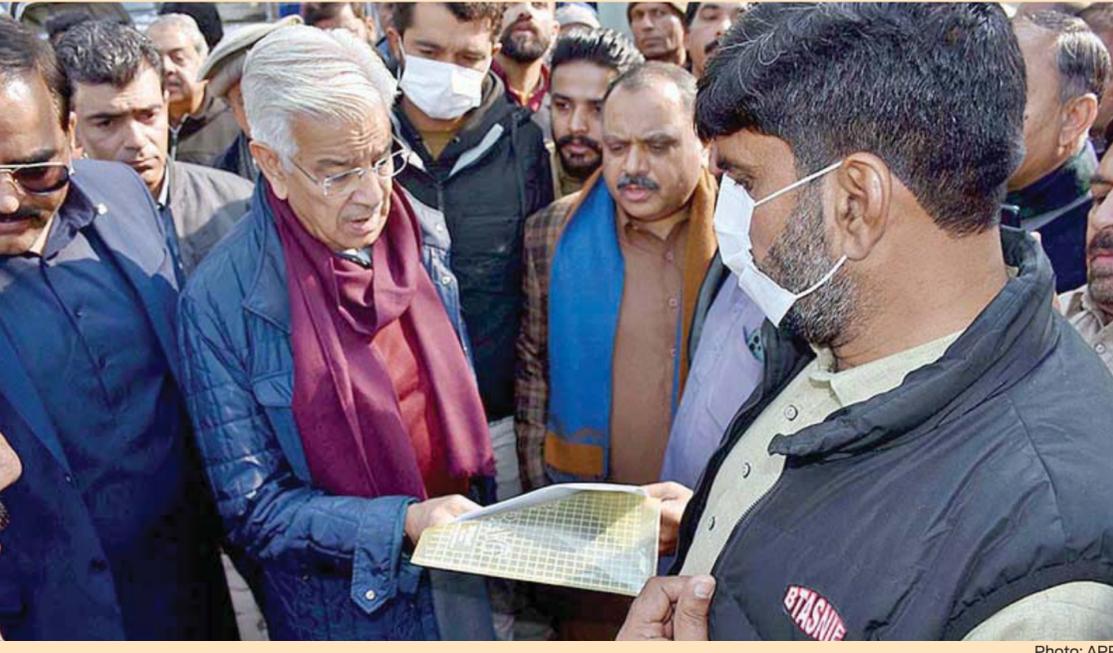


Photo: APP

Pakistan needs tough decisions for political and economic stability: Shahid Khaqan

News Desk

QUETTA : Former prime minister and PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Sunday said the solution to all problems lied in the Constitution of Pakistan as there was no miracle-based solution to such problems.

"Political stability in the country is now inevitable and difficult decisions will have to be made to stabilise the country's economy. It is time to shun politics of hatred, accusations and backbiting," he said while speaking at a press conference in Quetta.

PML-N leaders Miftah Ismail, former senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, and Baloch leader Lashkari Raisani were



also present.

Abbasi has been holding a series of non-partisan talks along with other renowned political bigwigs like former finance minister Miftah Ismail and former senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar on the current economic and political issues in the country.

He said the economic crisis had reached its extreme, and the problems of the people had been left aside.

"The time has come to give the people of Pakistan their due rights, he said adding the solution to all problems was in the constitution. "If the constitution is not accepted, the prob-

lems will not be solved."

The PML-N stalwart further said the country's problems must be discussed at a non-partisan forum. The main reason for the problems of Balochistan are unrepresented people.

"We [PML-N] don't claim to solve all the problems. Are the people sitting in the parlia-

ment solving the problems of Balochistan? They all need to sweep before their own door as no one is free from the accusation."

He said the forum was being held in Quetta to discuss and address all such problems.

Abbasi said the judiciary should review its past decisions, urging it "rectify the injustices" done to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Speaking on the occasion, PML-N leader and former finance minister Miftah Ismail said Pakistan had been facing increase in debt for the last 20 years or so and that ongoing political instability and culture of abuse couldn't give the people of Pakistan of their due rights.

32 UN peacekeepers, including seven Pakistani, killed in wanton attacks in 2022: UN Staff Union

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS:) At least 32 UN peacekeeping personnel, including seven from Pakistan, were killed in deliberate attacks against them last year, according to the UN Staff Union.

For the ninth year in a row, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was the deadliest for peacekeepers with 14 fatalities, followed by 13 fatalities in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(MONUSCO), four fatalities in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and one fatality in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Among the 32 fatalities were 28 military and 4 police personnel, including a woman police officer, the press release said.

The UN Staff Union said that the 32 killed in 2022 bring to 494 UN and associated personnel killed in deliberate attacks in the past 13 years from improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled



grenades, artillery fire, mortar rounds, landmines, armed and successive ambushes, convoy attacks, suicide attacks and targeted assassinations.

It said the peacekeepers who died in 2022, by country, were 7 from Pakistan, 7 from Egypt, 4 from Chad, 3 from Bangladesh, 2 from India, 2 from Nigeria, 1 each from Guinea, Ireland, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Russia and

Serbia.

Among the Pakistani peacekeepers, six — Muhammad Ismail, Faizan Ali, Asif Ali Awan, Samiullah Khan, Muhammad Saad Nomani and Muhammad Jamil Khan — serving MONUSCO, were killed in a helicopter crash in east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The MONUSCO helicopter that crashed in the Tshanzu area, 20 kilometres south of Rutshuru, in North Kivu, was part of a surveillance and reconnaissance mission, carried out in an area where clashes had taken place between the M23 militia and

the armed forces of the DRC.

Another Pakistani peacekeeper Babar Siddique, serving with MONUSCO, was killed in an attack on the Mission's operational base in Minembwe, South Kivu, by suspected members of the Twirwano armed group, the press release added.

Pakistan has been one of the largest contributors of uniformed personnel to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Since the 1960s, Pakistan has contributed over 200,000 troops to 43 missions. In its service to the cause of peace, Pakistan lost 157 of its bravest who made the ultimate

AIMS Education System celebrates Annual Sports Day

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: AIMS Education System has celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great passion and enthusiasm. The students and staff prepared the day despite the overcast sky and chilling cold windy weather that could not even undermine their efforts.

The Chief Guest Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Irfan Nawaz Memon and the guest of honour, Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI / Chairman D Watson Group were graced the occasion.

The celebrations begin with Tilawat-e-Kalam-e-Pak & Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (S.A.W). Later, the existing crowd with a standing ovation gave tribute to the School Anthem followed by a grand Walk Past performed by the participating students of the day. Flag hoisting was as always, a strong depiction of Unity, Faith, Discipline and



sovereignty of Islamic republic of Pakistan and releasing of colorful balloons and birds was a message of peace, prosperity and freedom. The Torching of sports Cauldron was the next striking memorable moment followed by a magnificent Drill performance of the students.

Deputy Commissioner Islama-

bad Irfan Nawaz Memon said on the occasion that sports activities were essential for children's physical and mental growth.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the annual sports gala of Aims education system at Pakistan Sports Complex, he said that sports activities significantly boost the mental and physi-

cal strength of youngsters which can later help them achieve their dreams in every field of life.

He said the parents should encourage their children to participate in sports activities at younger age which would help them in promoting their morale and mutual confidence.

Earlier, Mr Zafar Bakhtawari shared his views about the vision of the school and encouraged the parents to work along the school in providing conducive facilities to the students who are active in sports and urged the guests to mentor them as and when required. Mr. Bakhtawari lauded the efforts of the school for providing a plethora of sports activities. He also stressed on the need to maintain a balance between academics and sports activities and highlighted the achievements and received a loud round of applause. He also admired the school's efforts in Character building and exclu-



sive training for the parents and teachers is very rare, which AIMS Education System has adopted as a permanent part of its system.

Chairman of AIMS Education

System, Mr. Almas Ayoub Sabir has handed over souvenirs to the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour. Mr. Almas Ayoub Sabir whose brainchild is AIMS Educa-

tion System that has a history of

long efforts stretched over more than 20 years and now growing to a bigger frame of educational network.

Football exports witness 53.58 percent increase: PBS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Football exports during the first six months of the fiscal year of 2022-23 increased by 53.58 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July 22 to December 22, footballs worth US\$120,893,000 were exported as compared to the exports of US\$63,671,000, during the same period of last year.

According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Sports goods increased by 27.40 percent, worth US\$208,674,000 as compared to exports of US\$163,797,000 during the same period, last year.



Meanwhile, other exports also increased by 5.33 percent as the exports recorded during the current fiscal year were US\$50,077,000 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which were US\$47,544,000.

During the period under review, gloves exports decreased by 0.45 percent, worth US\$37,704,000 in the current fiscal year, as compared to the exports of US\$37,536,000 during the same period of last year.

Pakistan Railways arrested 3,189 accused over violations

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Railways Police claimed to have arrested a total of 3,189 accused due to their involvement in violations of rules and laws and also registered some 3,111 cases against them in eight Railways divisions during the year 2022.

"Around 534 cases were registered in Peshawar Division, 502 in Rawalpindi, 994 in Lahore, 122 in Mughalpur workshops, 373 in Multan, 186 in Sukkur, 340 in Karachi and 60 in Quetta Division," official sources in the Ministry told APP.

They said the Railways Police Help

Desks had established at all the major railway stations across the country and the performance of Railways Police is quite satisfactory during the year 2022.

The Railways Police has handed over 177 missing boys and 57 girls to their heirs and 242 boys, 134 girls and 22 women who ran away from home to their parents/siblings and the welfare organizations, they added.

The sources said the lost luggage worth about Rs10.76 million of 2,081 passengers were handed over to them. Besides, 8,979 passengers were also provided with other facilities like first aid, wheelchairs and stretchers.

Gas supply to Quetta restored after five days

Web Desk

QUETTA: Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) restored the gas supply to Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, after five days of suspension.

According to the SSGC spokesperson, the gas supply was resumed to Quetta and nearby towns which was suspended after some unidentified individuals blew up a 12-inch pipeline

in Bolan district.

The spokesperson said that the reparation of pipeline was delayed due to bad weather conditions. However, the technical team managed to repair the pipeline after five days of struggle and resumed the gas supply to affected people.

The destruction of the pipeline cut off gas supply to Quetta including Mach, Mastung, Kalat other areas.

Gujarat Riots: India Blocks BBC Documentary on PM Modi from Airing

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: India has blocked the airing of a BBC documentary which questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership during the 2002 Gujarat riots, saying that even sharing of any clips via social media is barred.

Directions to block the clips from being shared have been issued using emergency powers available to the government under the country's information technology rules, said Kanchan Gupta, an adviser to the government, on his Twitter handle on Saturday.

While the BBC has not aired the

documentary in India, the video was uploaded on some YouTube channels, Gupta said.

The government has issued orders to Twitter to block over 50 tweets linking to the video of the documentary and YouTube has been instructed to block any uploads of the video, Gupta said. Both YouTube and Twitter have complied with the directions, he added.

Modi was the chief minister of the western state of Gujarat when it was gripped by communal riots that left more than 1,000 people dead, by government count – most of them Muslims.

Sindh govt striving hard to provide quality education to young generation: Shazia Marri

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri has said that the Sindh Government was striving hard to provide quality education to the future generation of the province.

The minister expressed these remarks while speaking as a chief guest at the 26th annual parents' day of the Cadet College Sanghar here on Saturday.

She informed that the provincial government has also been engaged in establishing quality education institutions in far-flung areas of the province including Achro Thar. Sincere efforts are also being made to improve the living standard of the poor people by providing all basic facilities including electricity and safe drinking water, she added.

The minister said that the Pakistan



Peoples Party (PPP) was fully committed to developing the country and improving the socio-economic condition of the masses. This was the reason why the PPP became a part of the federal government, she added.

The minister said the recent unprecedented heavy rains and floods had badly hit the country, particularly Sindh damaging the infrastructure and severely affecting around 30 million people.

After rescue and relief operations, the government is making all-out efforts

for the rehabilitation of the rains and floods-affected people, she said and highly appreciated the role of the Pakistan Navy in its rescue and relief measures for rains and floods-affected people of the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have been striving hard to resolve the issues of flood affectees, she said and added that it was because of their efforts that the world community had agreed to set up loss and damage fund for the affected people of the climate change. The minister eulogized the role of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for taking notice of the catastrophe in Pakistan caused by the unprecedented heavy rains and flood and invited the attention of the world community over the heavy loss of life and properties in Pakistan. Foreign Minister Bilawal also played

a vital role in highlighting the issue of climate change, she said.

About the issues being faced by the management of Cadet College Sanghar, the minister assured that she will approach Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for resolving the genuine issues of the college.

The minister, who earlier performed the groundbreaking of setting up 100 watts power plant of the college, has assured that with the cooperation of the Sindh Government, the capacity of 100 watts power plant would be enhanced up to 400 watts.

She also congratulated the cadets for their outstanding performance in curricular and extra-curricular activities and hoped that after passing out from college, they will play a pivotal role in the progress and prosperity of the country.

Zoha Rahman's short film acquired by Disney+



News Desk

KARACHI: Zoha Rahman, an accomplished and talented actress, has recently achieved a major milestone in her career. Her latest short film, Eid Mubarak, has been acquired by Disney+ for their 'Flip the Script' Short Film Fund. This is a significant achievement as it means that the film will be featured on a popular international platform and have the opportunity to reach a wide audience.

Directed by Mahnoor Euceph, Eid Mubarak is a live-action short film based on the real childhood experience of the writer and director. With this film, the team hopes to bring into the Western mainstream an experience that is universal in the Muslim world, and create bridges of understanding across cultures. From color to composition, every frame of Eid Mubarak will be a testament to the creativity and hard work of the entire team, which includes not only Americans, but also the artisans of Pakistan who need a spotlight to showcase their unique talents to the world. The film was shot in Karachi, Pakistan over the course of five 12-hour days in May 2022, and completed post-production in the summer in Los Angeles, California.

The film is set to premiere at the Children's Film Festival in Seattle, February 2023, providing a platform for Zoha's work to be seen by a diverse and engaged audience. Zoha made a name for herself after starring in 'Spider-Man: Far From Home' as the Marvel universe's first hijab wearing character. She has featured in Netflix's 'Young Wallander' and Apple TV's 'Foundation'. Her acting abilities have stretched across the pond to Bollywood as well, where we saw her in the mega biographical sports feature '83. Zoha will also star in Anshuman Jha's 'Lord Curzo

PRCS Chairman calls on Prime Minister AJK



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Laghari met Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan at Kashmir House Islamabad here on Saturday.

In the meeting Prime Minister AJK Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan appreciated the role and services of Red Crescent in dealing with climate change and natural calamities in Azad Kashmir. He said that there is a dire need for the role of Red Crescent in many issues including health, welfare of migrants, LoC victims in Azad Kashmir.

On this occasion, Prime Minister AJK also invited Chairman Red Crescent to visit Azad Kashmir.

Speaking on this occasion, PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari said that Red Crescent is in the forefront of serving the suffering humanity in Azad Kashmir. Through its programs, PRCS is spreading awareness about health and cleanliness, welfare and safe living among the people along with the humanitarian assistance and support to the deserving. He said that Red Crescent will expand the scope of its welfare projects in Azad Kashmir.

AJK Most Senior Minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Education Minister Colleges Zafar Iqbal Malik and others were also present on this occasion.

Mercury in Karachi likely to drop to 6-8°C from tomorrow

KARACHI: Karachiites will have to layer themselves for the upcoming bone-chilling cold as the weather is about to get colder with the cold wave starting to affect upper Sindh and likely to grip the remaining areas from tomorrow, the weather department said Sunday.

As per the forecast by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the mercury in the port city is expected to drop to 6°C-8°C from tomorrow (Monday). Meanwhile, in other cities in Sindh, the minimum temperature may drop to 2°C-4°C in Sukkur, Ghotki, Larkana, Qambar Shahdadkot, Kashmir, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Jamshoro, Dadu, Khairpur, Tharparker, Umerkot, districts.

Shortage of Wheat

Lahore: A large number of people standing in queue to get wheat flour bags at Wahdat road model bazaar.

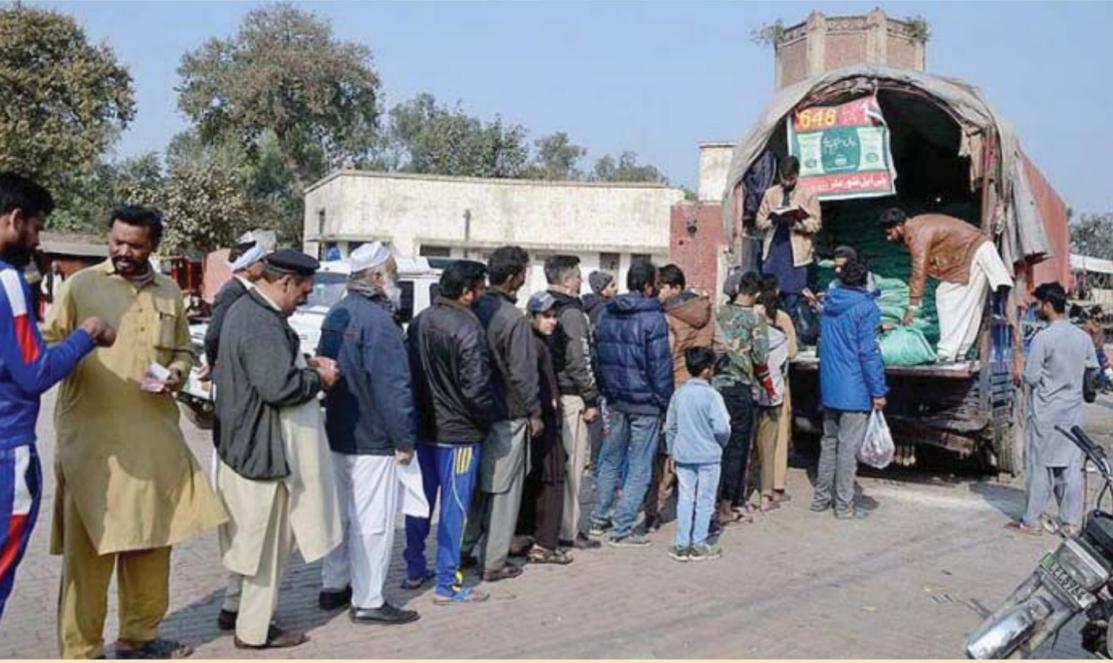


Photo: APP

Charter of democracy demands public interests on priority

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: JI nominated candidate MPA, PP- 115 Mian Ejaz Hussain has expressed that, trying to associate with such politics and political parties, whose leaders & candidates always have their own interests in their hearts, is like missing one's precious time.

The charter of democracy demands public thought with public interests and such schema is the guarantor of the development of the country and the nation.

That's why, now the people are seeing every face , who has been pinching & drowning them ?

Quoting the poetic lines: he further said, Neither God met nor Wasal Sanam.

Neither here nor there to stay, Let this sorrow and pain remain in our hearts, Neither here nor there to stay!



Mian Ejaz Hussain further said that the leadership of Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have left nothing but helplessness & anarchy in the people of this constituency. If any model work has been given by these political parties, should it not be presented in front of the people? Poor sewage system, broken roads, non-availability of clean drinking water

and grounds for sports have been made a destiny of the people, he further said and added.

He exclaimed with sorrows, the area that gives the highest revenue has been suffering from deprivation for a long time. He has demanded the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner Faisalabad to start construction of Nawabanwala Road and Eidgah Road immediately. He expressed these views during the corner meeting in Muzaffar Colony and Mahmood Town. Mian Altaf Hussain, Tahir Ansari, Sanaullah Ansari and Rana Nazir Ahmed were also with him.

He further said that how long can anyone see the series of hurting public trust?

That's why the institutions will have to always realize their responsibilities and solve the problems of the poor people on a priority basis.

The imported govt destroyed the stable economy in just nine months, ex NA Speaker

Correspondent

SWABI: Former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that the imported government destroyed stable economy in just 9 months. He said that despite the Corona epidemic PTI previous government has given incentives to industrial zones while now industrial zones of the whole country including Faisalabad zone is shutting down. He expressed these views while addressing the public gathering in Thandkoi Swabi

Former Speaker said the country's economy strengthened despite the Corona epidemic in our era. He said that our government had left 17 billion \$ in the country's treasury while the country's foreign exchange reserves have now reached the lowest level of history.

Millennium Education hosts Pakistan's largest teacher development conference

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Keeping its legacy, Millennium Education organized Pakistan's largest Teacher Development Conference TDC 2023 on the visionary theme- "Futurist-Quests-Challenges - Journey" at Pak-China Friendship Center, Islamabad last day says a press release. Keeping in view the accelerated pace at which changes are occurring in teaching and learning, the conference endeavoured to preserve the finest and most worthy means of talent development, while at the same time looking to the future of education and talent pedagogy for sustainable growth. Nearly 1000 teachers from The Millennium Education Group nationwide and organizers were enthusiastic and highly motivated to take the learning initiatives and training ahead to their classrooms. This year's conference brought together leading national and

international speakers including Mr. Abbas Husain, Director Teachers Development Centre, Dr. Mariam Chugatai, Director National Curriculum Council of Pakistan, Yousaf Bashir Qureshi , actor and social worker, Fahd Husain , Special assistant to the Prime Minister on Public Policy and Strategic Communications, Shireen Naqvi Founder School of Leadership, Dr Moiz Hussain, Founder Institute of Mind Sciences, Amir Ramzan Country Director British Council and Faisal Aftab, Founder BitRate Digital, who motivated and injected new ideas into the conference delegates comprising the Millennium Education Founder & CEO Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Executive Director Anna Faisal, Academic Director Errum Atif, Director Communication Sabina Zakir,

and General Manager Ayesha Aamir.

Dr. Musadiq Malik, Minister of State (Petroleum Division), graced this auspicious occasion as the worthy Chief Guest, who presented awards and certificates to teachers who had completed their Cambridge Professional development qualifications, foundation courses and Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert certificates. The respectable Minister appreciated Millennium Education commitment to the overall development of learners who, alongside academics, are seen in the forefront in all the international and national mega events.

H.E. Andreas Ferrarese, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, President RCCI Mr. Saqib Rafiq and President ICCI Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari were the Guests of honour on this famed conference. The worthy ambassador highlighted the multifari-



ous responsibility of teachers in an era of interconnected dimensions and emphasized that it has become imperative to transform our schools from centers of teaching and learning to hubs of innovation, creativity, and excellence.

Mr. Abbas Husain, the founder of SPELT (Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers), enlightened the delegates about the significance of Asking the right

questions" in classroom situations. He alluded to different factors that contribute to classroom complexities and suggested many strategies for resolution. He urged the audience to "Let the questions turn into a quest" to ensure futurist classroom.

Dr. Mariam Chughtai, Yousaf Bashir Qureshi , Fahd Hussain, Ms. Shireen Naqvi and Dr. Moiz Hussain educated the audience on

strategies to 'unleash the genius' in a learner. He explained three faculties of mind: visualization, creative visualization and imagination as vital in this context. Identifying various learning styles based on emotional intelligence, trusting a child and showing empathy will help teachers in creating a genius.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Founder & CEO The Millennium Education Group, while addressing the

session, talked about the underlying objective of the conference. His discourse revolved around creating classroom as a learning studio and to replace the standard lecture approach, for intellectual growth of our futurists by urging teachers, "Give your room some class". He reiterated the importance of teachers as "Vehicle of Change" and motivated them to create their potential as futurists. In the end, Mr. Abbas Hussain glossed the learning outcomes of the training and presented the closing remarks.

This Teacher's Development Conference 2023 was all about providing word class learning opportunities to the teachers. This conference aimed to provide the teachers with a platform to express themselves not only as educators, but also to discover the hidden potential in each one of them that leads to the discovery of their ultimate identity.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr5: 44 am
Zohr12: 19 pm
Asr3: 51 pm
Maghrib5: 29 pm
Isha6: 55 pm

EMERGENCY

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& Rescue Services 4451122
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Significance of moral values is superior to anything: Sultan Ahmed Ali

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD : Today, we need to understand the peculiar point preached by Sufis that how they build our special relationship with Holy Prophet (PBUH). Teachings of Sufis stressed the need to include the love and respect of the Holy Prophet (PHUH) in every walk of life. Respect for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was the most loving aspect of the lives of the companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The presence of such respect in an individual's life becomes the source of salvation in one's life and the life hereafter. These were the remarks shared by the Secretary-General Islahi Jamat and Aalimi Tanzeem ul Arifeen from the shrine of Sultan-ul-Arifeen Hadhrat Sultan Bahoo at the Annual Milad e Mustafa and Haq Bahoo conference organized under the auspices of Islahi Jamaat and Aalimi



Tanzeem-ul-Arifeen at Convention Center Islamabad. The Jamat is aimed at disseminating the teachings of the Sufis in the light of the Quran and Sunnah. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali

addresses a thoughtful address at the conference and said that one must prepare himself for the life hereafter as well along with these worldly affairs. Such practice succeeds man not only

in his worldly life but in his life hereafter. Unfortunately, today economy is being prioritized over humanity.

Human blood is being ignored for material gains. Allama Iqbal

has stated that the purpose of spiritual teachings is the chastity of the heart and eyes. Therefore, principles of Sufism should be taught along with other sciences in schools and universities. Zikr of Allah Almighty is inevitable for the purification of one's soul and blessing one with farsightedness. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali further said that the importance of the belly has its place but it is not superior to morality in any way. Everything can be tolerated in society, but the denial of justice and the generalization of cruelty is highly unacceptable. It is not accepted and such societies are destroyed where tyranny crosses the line. A nation that is honest in its ideals will rise even after drowning.

We need to re-adopt the sincerity and ethics adopted by our ancestors in our society. Allah Almighty emphasizes the rights of people more than his glory so that people can treat

each other with kindness and love. The Holy Qur'an enjoins justice and fairness and forbids Muslims from getting involved in disputes among themselves. Human nature includes loving the morals of Prophethood. Loving the Ummah of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is a blessed Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and no political interest can prevail over it.

The one who learns and teaches the Qur'an is the best, so we should learn this book of guidance and teach it to others. The teachings of the saints are the teachings of wisdom. He further said that Pakistan is God's gift and we cannot express our gratitude for it. Love for Pakistan is an eternal blessing for us. Following the end of the session, Chief Patron Islahi Jamat and Aalimi Tanzeem ul Arifin prayed for the progress and prosperity of the country.

Sixth spell of heavy snowfall continues in Hazara division

News Desk

ABBOTTABAD: The sixth spell of heavy intermittent snowfall and rain continued on the third consecutive day in the hilly areas of the upper Hazara division, including Abbottabad, Mansehra and Battagram.

Heavy snowfall once again on Sunday blanketed the tourist attractions of the upper Hazara division where Shogran, Kaghan and Naran have received up to 2.5 feet of snow, Galyat and Thandyani more than two feet while Chhatra Plain, Konish Valley and mountains in the upper areas of Siran Valley received up to six inches of snow. The severity of the winter increased many folds due to heavy snowfall.

Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) officials, along with heavy machinery and other equipment, are present at various places to remove snow from the roads and guide tourists and local people while, on the CPEC, an additional police force has been deployed between Kadamang Bala and Koza Banda to tackle any emergency situation during the snowfall.

To enjoy the live snowfall, a large number of tourists are coming to Thandyani, Galyat, Shogran and Chhatra Plain.

GDA spokesperson Ahsan Hameed told that the workers are rendering duty for 24 hours with the help of heavy machinery for the snow clearance operation. He also directed tourists and locals to remain in touch with the control room during movement and avoid travelling after sunset as extremely low temperatures make the movement of vehicles more difficult.

Enjoying the Sunday

RAWALPINDI: Children are enjoying seesaw swing at Shahbaz Sharif park on Sunday in the city.



Photo: Online

Younger generations are our valuable asset: Aasma Butt

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Aasma Ismail Butt, President of the All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, said that the younger generation are our valuable asset. Those who are rich in abilities, whose education has to work together on a priority basis. Our dearest friend China supported us in every moment of hardship. In the joy of the New Year, China always remember our children and the younger generation.

She said this during a visit to the Holy Help Welfare School System, a poor children's education institution. On the occasion, school chairman Abdullah Sabir, teachers and students welcomed Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt. President Federation Aasma Ismail Butt distributed school bags and gifts to children, and encouraging to them. She greatly appreciated the efforts of the chairman and teachers.

Later, Aasma Ismail Butt said in her address to students and teachers that China is a very sincere friend of Pakistan. Which is taking steps to encourage and promote education of the younger



generation of Pakistan. Due to limited resources in Pakistan, a large number of children are deprived of education. Our Federation is working with China Embassy to educate the younger generation of Pakistan. The efforts of the Holy Help School System are commendable. Aasma Ismail Butt appealed to China to help us to educate children who are deprived of education. Speaking on the

occasion, Chairman Abdullah Sabir said, "We are priding free education to 200 poor children. Our resources are limited. We are very grateful to Aasma Ismail Butt who supported needy children. Hopefully, their cooperation will also be involved in the future. At that moment The children chanted slogans of happiness-free China friendship and thanked Aasma Ismail Butt.

A delegation comprising of youth met with IGFC



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A delegation comprising of youth met with IGFC South Major General Haroon Hameed at SWS Camp, a detailed discussion on the issues of peace, development and prosperity.

Addressing the youth, IGFC South Major General Haroon Hameed highlighted the role of the youth in the development and prosperity of the country and said that every society in the world benefits from the talents of the youth.

He said that uneducated youth get involved in unhealthy activities, therefore every youth needs to do his work honestly and use his skills in a positive direction.

He said that a comprehensive youth development program based on technical education is being organized and that short computer courses for online business are being planned, to provide employment to the youth.

The IGFC added that a talent hunt program would soon be organized for the talented youth. Similarly, a comprehensive solution will also be found for the provision of transport for schools/colleges.

Major General Haroon Hameed urged the police authorities to ensure strict action against the drug dealers.

Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan (Lower) Muhammad Nasir Khan and DPO South Waziristan Shabir Hussain were also present in the special event.

Around 47,441 SRCLs students passed out since inception

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A total of 47,441 students have been passed out so far under the Schools for Rehabilitation of Child Labor (SRCLs), an initiative of the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), since the inception of this project.

According to an official source, the SRCLs is a PBM initiative to pull out children from labor and to impart them education, in line with the United Nations and other International Labor Organization Conventions. At present, 18,488 children are enrolled in these schools.

So far, 159 SRCLs are functional all over the country including 46 in Regional Office-Lahore, 20 in Regional Office Multan, 37 in Sindh, 24 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 14 in Balochistan, 13 in Islamabad Capital Territory and Azad Jammu Kashmir and five in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The children involved in child labor are enrolled in these schools and free education is imparted up to the primary level.

They are provided free books, stationery, uniform, shoes, stipend of Rs 10 per day and parents' subsistence allowance of Rs. 300 per month.

Candle Making Workshop by Anita Nadeem at PNCA

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts hosted an exciting one day Candle Making Workshop, conducted by Ms. Anita Nadeem, a professional interior designer, architect and candle making is one of her many skills today at the PNCA, Islamabad. The workshop was a huge success and was attended by more than 20 participants from different walks of life. This workshop was an incredible opportunity for the youth to learn from a master in the field.

The workshop began with an overview of different wax types used in candle making and detailed information on



soy wax. Participants discovered its properties from heating temperature to its pouring temperature. The participants got to learn mixing of color dyes and fragrances to develop unique and customized scented candles. By the

end of the workshop everyone has the necessary skill and knowledge to decorate and design their own scented candle with a creative touch. Anita developed a passion for candle making and it works as a creative therapy for her. She

experiments with fragrances, colors and also the containers.

She is an architect by profession and loves to design meaningful spaces and objects which led her to design unique containers for her candles. Recently she set up Kororo, a furniture design studio which explores innovative and environmentally conscious approaches to furniture design. She believes the act of candle making brings a sense of joy and calmness to our chaotic lives. Ms. Anita gave a demo before the commencement of the workshop and guided the participants throughout.

The event was heavily covered by media and press and the workshop

was followed by refreshments for the participants and media. PNCA is dedicated to promote Pakistani Art on local and international scale. Our elevate and unique programs that present the traditional and contemporary art practices reflect upon the excellence and cultural diversity of Pakistan as well as support professional development of the artist. PNCA is committed to promoting significant aspects of the country and encourages community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice to artist's own understanding of their work and encouraging a healthy and sustainable local arts industry.

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The International Islamic University, Islamabad invites sealed tenders on items rates basis from well reputed established contractors registered with PEC (C-6) to undertake following jobs: -

S. No.	Description	Tender cost	Completion Period	Earnest Money
1.	Repair & Renovation of IIIRD Guest House at Faisal	Rs. 3,000	90 Days	2% of the bid cost in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of International Islamic University, Islamabad

Complete set of Tender Documents may be purchased by interested firms on submission of a written application along with a copy of valid certificate of registration of firm with PEC, certificate of registration with Income Tax Department, and upon payment of a nonrefundable cost of tender documents as mentioned above. Tenderer may acquire the Tender Documents from the office of the undersigned, (Telephone No.051-9019525/9019531) at New Campus, Sector H-10, Islamabad during office hours on all working days. No tender will be issued on the day of opening of the bids. The tenders shall remain valid for a period of six calendar months after the date of opening of tender.

The bid will be received in the office of the undersigned on or before **February 7, 2023** up to 1100 hours and will be opened on the same day at 1130 hours in presence of the bidders or their representatives. In case of holiday on the day of opening of the bid, the next working day will be considered as receipt & opening of the bid. The University reserve the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason as per PPRA Rule.

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Empowering women - a key to societal transformation

Sadia Kamal

Women's economic empowerment in any society is central to realizing their rights and enabling them to equally participate in businesses, setting up entrepreneur, control over productive resources and economic decision-making.

As the world changes from conventional to digital mode, imparting them training on the latest techniques can also have a trickle-down effect on our younger generation making it healthier, more sensible and more productive for a secure future.

Acknowledged internationally this priority is at the heart of the policies of all important institutions including the World Bank as mentioned in its report "Women, Business and the Law 2022."

"Punjab government took number of initiatives for legal and economic empowerment of women," said former spokesperson for Punjab Government, Mussarat JamshaidCheema. "Punjab Women Development Department had embarked on initiatives like women employment, entrepreneurship, decision-making, property ownership, education and vocational training."

Since implementation of decision relates to government departments, therefore despite dissolution, the Women Development Department (WDD) is

carrying forward the agenda of enhanced women participation in different arena of life.

"Women participation is imperative for nation building and prosperity of our country. Therefore, keeping aloof half of country's population from this process would be no service to nation," she stated.

Women Development Department (WDD) of the Punjab government in recent years took number of initiatives to ensure adequate and considerable representation of women in the government service.

"Presently, 14 percent women are working in provincial government departments," said an official at WDD. "The government has also made it mandatory to ensure presence of at least one woman in selection committees in all departments."

The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) has also acknowledged that the provincial government was ensuring women empowerment and protection of their rights through capacity building of all local government incumbents regarding new laws about women.

With a cost of Rs. 87,937 million, PCSW had initiated training sessions for Nikah Registrars to train them on legal drafts, amendments, policies, registration, rights and proper filling of Nikah Nama.

These Master Trainers have imparted training to Nikah Registrars and Local Government Officials in respective districts also providing them copies of

28,000 manuals during training sessions.

The training session also covered topics about important amendments in laws related to Birth Registration, Muslim Family Laws, Inheritance and Marriage Restraint Act, Child Marriage Act and Women Protection Act.

"This activity would ensure protection of women rights and their safety against exploitation and discrimination at the time of Nikah and in case of divorce," said Mufki Zubair Ahmad from Jamia Ashrafiya.

The provincial administration has also envisioned a residency program across the province named "Transitional Housing" (Second-Stage Housing) - for women who are victims of violence. This project would provide support services to victims or affected women and is designed as a bridge to self-sufficiency.

Despite all these initiatives, some of the human rights activists have strongly advocated to protect rights of female agriculture workers.

"Agricultural sector bears pivotal importance in our economy and employs millions of female workers. Therefore, it may be given the status of an industry to ensure better wages to female workers," said Bushra Khaliq, Executive Director at an NGO 'Women in Struggle for Empowerment (WISE)'.
 "Since women are key contributors in the progress of agricultural economy, food security and overall economic growth, therefore rights of female agrarian work-

ers must be protected on priority," she said. "Household workers and agrarian work-women are the most vulnerable segments and deserve immediate attention."

Although different projects are underway, the experts still believe that educating women to certain level can be the best service for protecting their rights.

"Education is a key to empowerment. Educated women and girls can better contribute in national development as well as effectively protect their rights," said noted educationist Professor Dr. Fakhar-ul-Haq Noori.

"No nation can progress by confining its half of the population at home," she said. "Women must be equipped with modern education, ensured equal rights and provided unbiased opportunities to excel in all walks of life," Noori said.

She also underlined the need for creating an encouraging environment especially for rural women to participate in decision-making, trade unions, public speaking, cooperatives and related associations.

Since a lot Hinduism era practices still reflect in our societal behaviors, therefore it is shared responsibility of clerics and religious scholars to promote Islamic concepts especially those related to women rights as no other religion gives more rights to women than Islam.

As a second step, concerned authorities must diligently pursue women empowerment agenda ensuring that all laws framed in this regard are fully implemented to generate desired results.

Tourists advised to be extra cautious during snowy area's visit

Tourists visiting hilly areas of the country to enjoy snowy season during the current rain spell have been advised by the concerned authorities to take extra precautionary measures to avoid any untoward situation.

Every year, a large number of local and international tourists plan to visit the hilly areas of the country to enjoy the picturesque beauty of natural scenes including lush green valleys, beautiful mountains, snow peaks, meadows, lakes and waterfalls.

Taking advantage of the of the weekly offs as well as snow fall forecast by the weather experts, this year too, a number of tourists are rushing towards the various hilly spots offering great fun opportunities for the nature lovers.

The concerned authorities including Pakistan metrological department (PMD), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Pakistan Tourism Development Cooperation (PTDC) issued a guideline for the tourists of northern areas to take timely precautions to ensure personal and collective safety in extreme weather conditions.

The guideline issued by the concerned underlined that the cold-wave-like conditions and extremely low temperatures were being experienced in northern part of the country which could further accentuate in the coming days.

It is guided to the visitors to dress in layers, wear a warm hat or cap, scarf and gloves or mittens to protect body heat from windchill or extreme cold.

The travelers were guided that before going out, check for the latest weather or travel advisories issued for your area and take appropriate pre-cautionary measures.

It is added to avoid travelling in low visibility conditions and during icy road conditions when possible. Before travelling ensure your vehicle is properly serviced, including heater, brakes, radiator and replacing worn out tyres," it said.

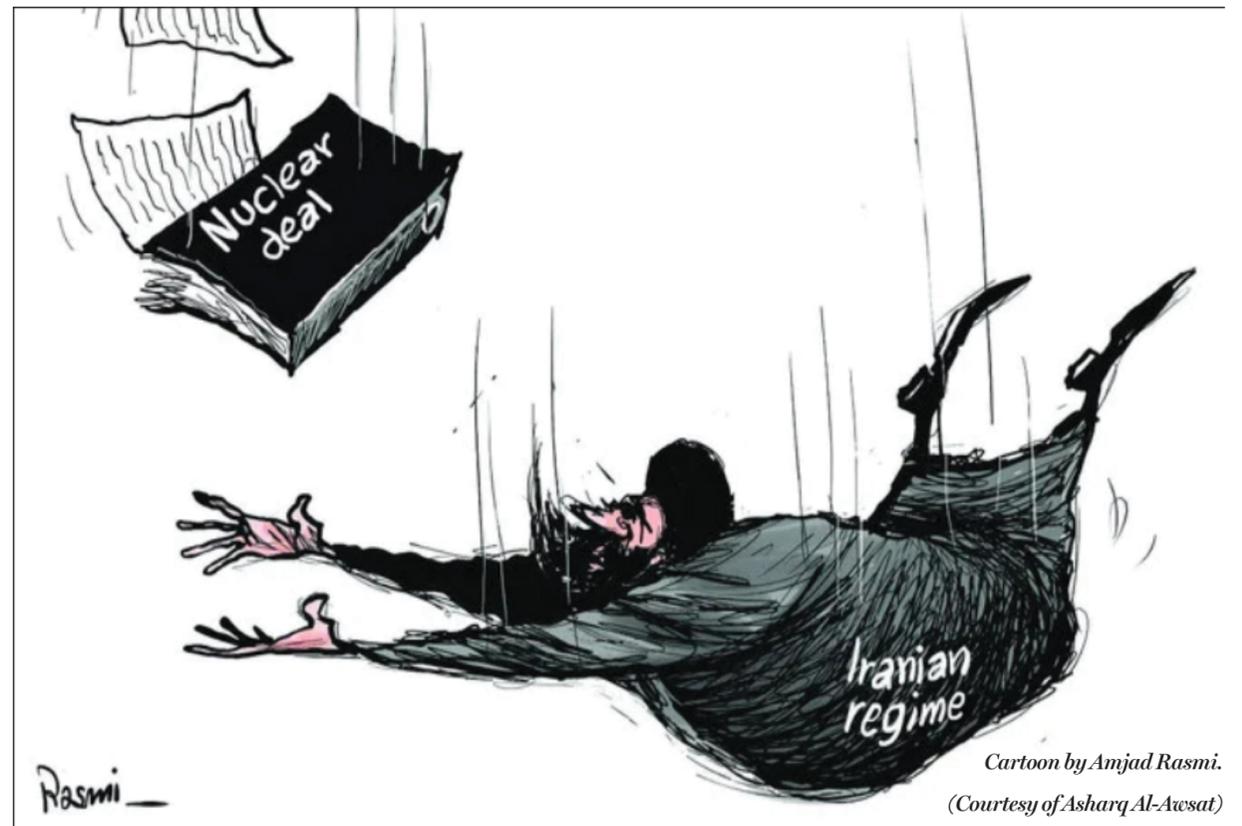
The guideline exhorted to keep essential supplies in your vehicle when travelling for use in emergencies including additional warm clothing, warm blankets, first aid kit, water-proof matches or lighter, windshield ice-scraper, booster cables, basic toolkit, bag of sand or cat litter (to provide traction on ice or snow), wheel chains, spare wheel or repair kit, dry food or fruits and drinking water.

The guidelines noted that in-case vehicle stranded or one was forced to pull over due to weather conditions, following measures should be considered including contact National Highway and Motorway Police Helpline at 130 if travelling on a National Highway or Motorway for assistance.

The guideline urged the travelers to keep vehicle windows slightly open for fresh air or ventilation and ensure that vehicle's exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, ice or debris and in snowy conditions, make sure to check once every hour to keep your exhaust cleared," it said.

It underlined that special focus must be given to elderly and children.

"They must be kept warm through layers of dressing and may even be huddled in case of exposure to extreme temperatures."



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī.

(Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Waste disposal - an uphill task for garrison city managers

Qasim Zaidi

The garrison city, once reckoned among the cleanest cities in the country, is fast losing its beauty due to rising pollution and uncollected solid waste with majority of its population exposed to serious health hazards.

With more than half of daily generated solid waste remaining uncollected, the chunk lifted by the city managers is also dumped in open in city's vicinity since no proper waste segregation or treatment mechanism is in place.

As the figure of waste generation varies between 3000 to 4000 tonne daily, the concerned departments can lift only 1000 tonne randomly with remaining waste either moving to sewage or lies at streets in small heaps.

The existing workforce, machinery, vehicles and non-availability of modern dumping sites are the main reasons behind the city managers' inability to keep roads and residential areas clean.

Rapid urbanization due to massive population influx from other cities and adjoining rural areas resulting in mushroom growth of new housing societies in the outskirts of Rawalpindi, is another challenge for authorities.

The CEO informed that RWMC also carries out solid waste management services at 24 Metro Bus Stations including mechanical washing of Metro Bus track, stairs and escalators, platform, pedestrian bridge, auxiliary areas and washrooms.

He said improper dumping of waste by

citizens was the biggest problem for RWMC and urged the residents to throw garbage in waste containers instead of drains, open plots and roads.

A recent study conducted by School of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) has revealed that waste collected across Rawalpindi is dumped in open without any gas collection or leachate management system for the safety of ground and surface water resources.

Environmentalists and health experts have described burning or dumping solid waste in open as hazardous for human health and environment calling upon authorities to put in place a proper mechanism of disposal.

"A landfill site and state-of-the-art disposal plants were essential for solid waste management as per international standards to mitigate environmental pollution and avert hazards to human health," remarked Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Deputy Director Muhammad Rafique.

He said the World Health Organization (WHO) has also termed open sewage channel of Nullah Leh in Rawalpindi a significant cause of pollution stating, "installation of waste disposal plant had become inevitable for Rawalpindi."

"We are already paying a heavy price of environmental degradation in terms of resources damage and human ailment," Rafique said. "Therefore, we direly need to focus this issue for environmental protection and lessen healthcare burden on our economy."

As all of daily generated waste is seldom collected by authorities due to insufficient infrastructure, its sizeable amount flow into

Soan river or Nullah Lai, posing serious health hazards as both run through thickly populated areas.

There is also a behavioral tendency of the citizens not to throw their randomly in streets dispose of waste containers, least caring for their own and other's health.

"Improper solid waste management and its dumping in open poses health hazards like cough, bronchitis, congestion, skin and liver diseases, asthma and even cancer," said District Health Officer Dr Waqar Ahmed.

"Households closer to dumpsites were more vulnerable to various risk factors like foul smelling, air pollution, water contamination, mosquitoes and rodents," Dr Waqar said. "The number of patients suffering from air and water pollution is rising with more people suffering from liver, lungs and stomach diseases."

He called for devising a comprehensive strategy involving concerned civic authorities, citizens, environmental and health experts. "If we continue to shy away from this challenge, more and more people will be falling ill." In this situation, the experts have also suggested public consultation and household involvement for promoting the method of 3 R's; reduction, reuse and recycling of solid waste.

But by the time, even at major cities the waste is jumbled in a single container and this non-segregated openly dumped waste triggers highest volume of leachate especially during monsoon, polluting the vicinities.

Therefore, since the country lags far behind in mechanized waste collection, segregation and recycling, there is dire need for putting in place a proper mechanism to tackle this issue.

Foreign Ministry responds to claims of Armenian FM against Azerbaijan - I

AZERTAC Report

Head of the Press Service Department of Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry Aykhan Hajizada has responded to the media question regarding the views expressed by Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, during his interview to the "Armenpress" News Agency on January 20, 2023.

"The claims by Ararat Mirzoyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, during the interview to the "Armenpress" news agency dated January 20, 2023 are completely baseless and unacceptable.

The claims that Armenia did not disrupt the negotiations is hypocrisy, since it was Armenian Foreign Minister, who refused to participate in the third meeting with Azerbaijani side scheduled in Moscow, as a continuation of Geneva and Washington meetings, and thus spoiled the process.

The claims by the Armenian side that their goal is a peace and security in the region are ludicrous, since Armenia up until now creates obstacles against the proposals put forward by Azerbaijan in the direction of ensuring peace and security in the region, including the opening of all communications, the advancement of the delimitation process, the signing of a peace agreement in a short period of time, as well as continues provocations against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by all means.

Expressions uttered by the Armenian Foreign Minister during an interview such as "the authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh" demonstrates that this country has not yet given up its territorial claims against Azerbaijan, contrary to the norms and principles of international law, as well as the Prague and Sochi agreements. At the same time, meddling in the

functioning of the Lachin road, a sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, is an indication that Armenia has not yet forgotten the policy of occupation carried out for 30 years. However, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has several times stated that Karabakh is recognized by the whole world as the territory of Azerbaijan.

Instead of expressing opinions that Azerbaijan has not yet responded to Armenia's proposals and creating confusion among the international community, Armenian Foreign Minister should clarify where the first proposal for the preparation of the peace treaty came from, who presented the basic principles for the first time, and who provided the first draft of the elements of the peace treaty at the Geneva meeting, as well as the issue of how long it took for both Azerbaijan and Armenia to comment on each proposals. The declaration by Armenia about the readiness for signing the treaty immediately after their latest proposals were submitted in December of last year, showed that this country does not take the negotiation process on the treaty seriously. Instead of manipulating the process, the Armenian side should declare whether it is ready for a meeting. We would like to emphasize once again that the Azerbaijani side is in favor of conducting negotiations on a peace treaty in a short period of time, and is always ready to it.

At the same time, it is well-known to Foreign Minister Mirzoyan how the planned meeting in Tbilisi between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia was obstructed by all efforts, and that Armenia since the beginning of December has not yet responded to the proposals to the draft statement of such a possible meeting, presented by Azerbaijan as a sign of constructive approach.

To be concluded

CEO NYE calls on PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by CEO National Youth Empowerment Rana Ghulam Muzaffar called on Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan here on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion Prime

Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while terming the educated and skilled youth as an important part of any society or a state said that "There is a vast potential for youth in Azad Kashmir". He said, "Our youth have proved their metal in every sphere of life all across the world".

The PM said that the government was working at different levels

to provide proper counseling to the educated youth so that they could be able to lead a successful life, stand on their own feet and support their families.

He was of the view that despite huge youth potential the career counseling opportunities in the region was almost non-existent. The PM while stressing

the need for working for the development and welfare of the society said that development of the state and society was not possible without the participation of the youth.

Senior minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Education Minister for Higher Education Malik Zafar Iqbal and others were present on the occasion.

Indian atrocities are on the rise in Occupied Kashmir: Sardar Atiq

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan has said that the Indian Army is often martyring innocent Kashmiris in fake encounters during the so-called search operations. Indian atrocities are on the rise in Occupied Kashmir. Kashmiri youth detained in jails are also being martyred extrajudicially by bringing them to the operation areas, which is condemnable. Despite the worst atrocities of India, Kashmiris have proved their determination and independence.

That they do not accept the illegal domination of India in any way and will continue their struggle until the impure feet of India are removed from the pure



land of occupied Kashmir. He expressed these views while talking to the Muslim Conference delegates. He said that the RSS-led Modi government has broken all previous records of atrocities on innocent Kashmiris after August 5, 2019. They are the Israelis to deprive Kashmiris of their land and impose their evil Hindutva agenda in the occupied territory.

He said that issuance

of domicile to thousands of Hindus, giving them lands in occupied territory and implementation of other anti-Kashmir laws have made clear the nefarious intentions of Hindutva forces to make Kashmiris their own. They want to take away their identity, culture and land. He said that India has turned Kashmir into a huge prison by deploying more than 1 million brutal soldiers. He further said

that Indian soldiers have been given a license to kill Kashmiris and they are trampling humanity under their boots in the occupied area. Destruction, desecration of more than 13 thousand Kashmiri women is a clear proof of the brutal way India is bent on exterminating Kashmiris and occupying their land. He also urged the international community, especially the United Nations. That he should take concrete steps to solve the Kashmir problem. He said that he demands the international community, international organizations and international human rights organizations to play their role in giving the people of Occupied Kashmir the basic right of self-determination. If the Kashmir issue is not resolved immediately, the peace of the region may be in jeopardy.

Azerbaijan joins international tourism fair in Spain

News Desk

BAKU: Azerbaijan has presented its tourism potential at the FITUR international tourism fair in Madrid, Spain.

Azerbaijan's pavilion features the presentation of the country's tourism potential, including must-see places, samples of national cuisine, winemaking, golf, health, cultural and mountain opportunities for winter tourism and ski centers.

As a part of the fair, the national stand of Azerbaijan was attended by Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Zurab Pololikashvili, as well as ambassador of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Spain and the Principality of Andorra, Permanent Representative to the UNWTO Ramiz Hasanov.

FITUR, the international tourism fair, ranks as one of the chief tourism sector



trade events in Spain. Tour and travel agency services, hotels and resorts, coach facilities and a host of other tourist destinations are showcased during the FITUR Show.

Sustainability, innovation and cutting-edge trends is

the core themes of FITUR's content, in line with the fair's objective of contributing to the revitalisation and growth of tourism activity. Besides, FITUR have a strong business focus during its first three days dedicated exclusively to B2B and a B2C

proposal during the weekend.

More than 8,000 companies from 131 countries are taking part in the 43rd FITUR exhibition this year, and more than 120,000 people are expected to visit the fair.

UAE intends to become one of the leaders in the green hydrogen market

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) intends to become one of the leaders in the production of green hydrogen.

Abu Dhabi hosted the first Green Hydrogen Summit this week. The summit was organized as part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Week, hosted by Masdar.

Mohammad El Ramahi, Executive Director of Masdar for Hydrogen, noted during the summit breakfast that green hydrogen is already a reality. Green hydrogen is the fuel of the future. Green hydrogen will decarbonize hard-to-abate industries that cannot be decarbonized by other energy resources, he added. Masdar plans to become one of the world's leading green hydrogen companies.

Dr Faye Al Hersh, Head of Business Development for Green Hydrogen at Masdar, clarified that some industries cannot be directly decarbonized through electrification. Green hydrogen and its



derivative products can help in this matter. For example, hydrogen could help decarbonize aviation and shipping and meet their emission reduction targets.

According to Mohammad El Ramahi, company from the UAE plan to produce 1 million tons of green hydrogen per annum by 2030. At the same time, the company intends to produce half of this volume in Abu Dhabi. Also, part of the volume of green hydrogen will be supplied to foreign markets, including Europe, the USA, Asia, etc.

Masdar also plans to produce derivatives from green hydrogen to meet the needs of various sectors of the economy.

Dr. Faye Al Hersh said that Masdar intends to supply consumers not only with green hydrogen, but also with derivatives such as green ammonia, e-methanol, etc.

IRENA Deputy Chief Director Gauri Singh noted that the green hydrogen trade will be regional, with only a portion of green hydrogen being supplied to global markets. This is

cost-effective.

Faye Al Hersh stressed that several factors play an important role in making green hydrogen economically viable.

The first factor, she says, is the availability of generating capacity from renewable energy sources. Other factors are the availability of electrolyzers and facilities for the production of derivatives of green hydrogen. The availability of financial resources is also an important factor.

The regions that will have these resources will also lead the green hydrogen market.

Building collapse in war-damaged Syria city kills 16



ALEPPO: A building collapsed Sunday in Syria's war-damaged second city of Aleppo, killing 16 people including children, with the search for survivors extending into the night.

Much of Aleppo was destroyed during Syria's conflict that began nearly 12 years ago and left many of the remaining structures in a decrepit state.

"The number of victims of the residential building collapse... has risen to 16 dead," said state news agency SANA. A war monitor said they were Syrians who had been displaced during the war.

Four people were rescued alive from the rubble, SANA reported, saying they were injured.

It gave earlier on Sunday an initial death toll of 10 people that increased throughout the day.

Dozens of rescue workers toiled at the site as darkness fell, an AFP correspondent said, and some used their bare hands to dig into the grey rubble.

Earth movers scooped up the pieces of building material, sending dust into the air, the correspondent added.

A Kurdish news agency reported five children were among the dead. One of them was an infant, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

According to the interior ministry, the five-storey building was home to seven families. Locals told that about 35 people lived there.

Buildings in Aleppo, Syria's pre-war commercial hub, often collapse due to the dilapidated infrastructure as well as little oversight to ensure the safety of new construction projects, some built illegally.

SANA quoted a police source as saying that the building, in the city's Sheikh Maksud neighbourhood, had collapsed "due to a water leak" in the foundations.

The neighbourhood is predominantly inhabited by Syrian Kurds who are under the authority of the People's Protection Units (YPG) militia, part of the Kurdish authorities' de facto army.

Aleppo itself is, however, under the control of the government which took it back from rebels during devastating urban combat.

British Sea King helicopter arrives in Ukraine: Reznikov



News Desk

BAKU: British Sea King helicopter has arrived in Ukraine, according to Ukrinform news agency. The Sea King was primarily designed for performing anti-submarine warfare, Ukrainian Defense Minister wrote this on Twitter, Ukrinform reports.

"Sea King from the UK has arrived in its new kingdom near the Black Sea in Ukraine! It is a strong reinforcement for the Ukrainian Navy. Our cooperation will continue to increase," he wrote.

Reznikov thanked British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, noting "together, we will secure the seas and lands across all of Europe".

Uzbekistan Airways orders 12 A320neo Family aircraft

News Desk

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan Airways, the national carrier of the Republic of Uzbekistan, has placed a firm order with Airbus for 12 A320neo Family aircraft (eight A320neo and four A321neo). The new aircraft will join the carrier's current fleet of 17 Airbus A320 Family aircraft. The choice of the engines will be made by the airline at a later stage.

The A320neo Family aircraft will feature the new Airbus Airspace cabin, bringing premium comfort to the single aisle market. The airline is planning to operate its new aircraft to further develop its domestic and international route network.

"The contract signed with Airbus is a new step in our fleet modernization strategy aimed at offering our passengers the most modern and comfortable aircraft. At the same time these new fuel efficient A320neo Family aircraft will help us to further expand and strengthen our footprint in Central Asia as well as develop our domestic and international network", said Ilhom Makhkamov, Chairman of the Board of Uzbekistan Airways.

"Our cooperation with Uzbekistan Airways dates back to 1993. It is an honor that the A320neo Family has now again been chosen. We see good potential for growth in the Central Asia region in the years to come. The modern and efficient A320neo will enable Uzbekistan Airways to benefit from this growth and play a leading role in this region", said Christian Scherer, Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International at Airbus.

The A320neo Family incorporates the very latest technologies including new generation engines and Sharklets, which together deliver at least 20 percent fuel saving and CO2 emissions. With over 8,600 orders from more than 130 customers, the A320neo Family is the world's most popular aircraft.

Ten killed in mass shooting in Los Angeles area, police say

LOS ANGELES: Ten people were killed in a mass shooting in the city of Monterey Park, California, at a ballroom dance venue late on Saturday, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said.

The suspected gunman fled the scene, and police were still trying to find him, the department said early on Sunday morning.

The shooter, still at large 12 hours after the attack in the city of Monterey Park, was believed to be an Asian man between 30 and 50 years old based on descriptions from eyewitnesses, law enforcement officials said. There was no information yet about a motive for the attack, the department added.

Another 10 people were taken to local hospitals to be treated for injuries, and at least one was in critical condition.

The shooting took place after 10 pm around the location of a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration held in Monterey Park, US media reported.

Footage posted on social media showed injured people on stretchers being taken to ambulances by emergency staff. Around the scene of the shooting — reported to have been at a dance club — police guarded cordoned-off streets, the video showed.

Bali welcomes back first flight from China after Covid-19 rules ease

Spokesman Report

BADUNG (ANTARA): A total of 210 Chinese tourists getting on board a chartered plane arrived at I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport in the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Sunday.

The Chinese nationals are allowed to travel abroad for the first time in almost three years following Beijing ease of restrictions of its COVID-19 measures. "This is officially first flight (from China). It is a good momentum to bring back the Chinese tourists to Bali," Deputy for Marketing of the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy Ni Made Ayu Marthini said in Bali on Sunday.

The 210 tourists who departed from Shengzhen, China, by getting on board Indonesia's Lion Air were greeted with a garland of flowers, traditional Balinese dances and the traditional lion dance or barongsai.

Marthini hoped that after the first flight, there would be more Chinese tourists coming to Bali.

"The Indonesian Government has set a target of attracting 255,300 tourists from China coming to Indonesia



this year. However, the targeted number of Chinese visitors can hopefully be exceeded, and if possible, it can be similar to that of 2019," she said.

According to the information she received, the Government of People's Republic of China would also allow group tours to visit several countries, including Indonesia, starting from February 6.

Bali Governor Wayan Koster said he believes that the returns of tourists from China will help Bali's tourism get back to normal.

"We hope our tourism will return to normal like before the pandemic. At that time, it drew 6.3 million foreign

visitors a year. However, we hope, this year, it can reach at least 4.5 million visitors," he remarked.

Meanwhile, China's Consul General in Denpasar Zhu Xinglong said before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were around 1.3 million Chinese citizens traveling to Bali in 2019.

After this first flight, there would be a number of direct flights from China arriving in Bali in the very near future.

"We will also encourage other cities in China such as Beijing and Shanghai to make more direct flights to Bali. In February, there will be more flights from China coming to Bali," Xinglong said.

The business community will strongly protest against the non-opening of LCs today: Mian Anjum

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's former president Mian Anjum Nisar has said that the business community across the country has decided to come to the streets against the anti-industry policies of the government on Monday, 23rd Jan 2023 (today), lodging a massive and strong protest demonstration, especially against the non-opening of LCs (Letter of Credits) to import industry raw material for the smooth running of business activities in the country.

Mian Anjum Nisar, who is the chairman of FPCCI's ruling group of Businessmen Panel (BMP) and also patron-in-chief of the PIAF, which is presently ruling at LCCI, threatened the government of continuing this protest across Pakistan until the clearance of their containers of imported goods, stuck up at ports for a long time, as the economy is presently in a standstill position owing to this unfortunate attitude of the authorities.

Mina Anjum Nisar urged the government for immediate restoration of the opening of letters of credit with the availability of foreign exchange for the import of raw materials putting industries into gear. He said that representatives of all trade bodies, industrial associations, markets and bazaars would participate in this protest, in the lead of BMP and PIAF, being held in front of Lahore Press Club today (Monday) to give a strong message to the government, telling them that every sector of trade and industry is severely affected due to stoppage of imported goods, as a result the economy is going towards a total closure and default.

Musk says higher priced Twitter subscription won't carry ads

Twitter owner Elon Musk tweeted on Saturday that a higher-priced subscription of the social media platform will not carry advertisements.

Twitter did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Twitter earns nearly 90% of its revenue from selling digital ads and Musk recently attributed a "massive drop in revenue" to rights organizations that have pressured brands to pause their Twitter ads.

Earlier in December, Musk announced that Twitter's Basic blue tick will have half the number of advertisements and that it will offer a higher tier with no advertisements by 2023.

Revenue drop after Musk takeover
Top advertisers on Twitter slashed their spending after Elon Musk's takeover, according to estimates compiled for Reuters by research firm Pathmatics, in the latest shock to the company's dominant revenue source.

Fourteen of the top 30 advertisers on Twitter stopped all advertising on the platform after Musk took charge on October 27, according to Pathmatics estimates. Four advertisers reduced spending between 92% and 98.7% from the week before Musk's acquisition through the end of the year.

Overall, advertising spending by the top 30 companies fell by 42% to an estimated \$53.8 million for November and December combined, according to Pathmatics, despite an increase in spending by six of them.

But the company said those estimates do not account for deals advertisers may receive from Twitter, or promoted trends and accounts. "It is possible the spending data could be higher for some brands" if Twitter is offering incentives, Pathmatics said in an email.

Twitter posted a loss of \$270 million in the three months that ended June 30, on total revenue of about \$1.18 billion.

Trade Ministry prepares 4 flagship events for ASEAN Chairmanship 2023

News Desk

JAKARTA (ANTARA): Deputy Minister of Trade Jerry Sambuaga stated that the ministry is preparing four flagship events for Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023.

"The plan is that Indonesia will hold eight flagship events, four of which will be under the Ministry of Trade," Sambuaga remarked here on Saturday.

The four events prepared by the ministry are the launch of the ASEAN Online Sale Day (AOSD), ceremony of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) full implementation after the Philippines completes its ratification process.

The other two are the launch of the New ASEAN Tariff Finder and

the study completion and launch of the Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) negotiations.

The series of events align with President Joko Widodo's (Jokowi's) statement conveyed at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2022 that ASEAN must play a role as the main engine of regional growth.

"The first step is to strengthen ASEAN's role as a regional production hub that is an integral part of the highly competitive global value chain. The next way is to encourage energy transition for sustainable energy security to prevent energy crisis due to conflict," Sambuaga explained.

President Jokowi also called on the private sector to accelerate economic recovery, strengthen ASEAN's position as a competitive



production hub, and speed up the generation of reliable and affordable clean energy.
Meanwhile, Sambuaga proposed priority economic deliverables (PED) under Indonesia's chair-

PM's decision on resumption of IMF programme lauded

Tariq Khattaq

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday lauded the decision of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif to resume the stalled IMF programme which is necessary to improve limping economy and infuse confidence in the jittery investors.

After an unnecessary delay, the government has decided to step back from its rigid position on the IMF's bailout conditions and lean towards an early resumption of the stalled loan programme which is a very sensible choice, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that the government has invited the lender to start negotiations to sort out all outstanding issues.

These issues have impeded the IMF's ninth review for almost four months and delayed the disbursement of the next loan tranche which has destabilised the economy, he said.

It is said that the government has completed its workings and now it should waste no time to close the deal that is central to stabilising Paki-



stan's weakening external sector.

The acceptance of IMF conditions will be against the wishes of some economic managers who oppose the free float of the rupee but they have never realised the gravity of the situation, he observed.

The value of dollar is hardly a convincing

reason to delay action on the IMF's demands, especially in a situation when the lender is the last option.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that it remained to be seen whether the IMF will send its team by the end of next week or if it will wait for Pakistan to execute the actions needed to meet its conditions before the formal meeting.

Implementation of the IMF conditions including a market-based exchange rate, increase in electricity and gas rates, additional taxes to contain the budget deficit within the original programme targets, removal of import curbs, etc. will further make life difficult for the masses and damage PML-N's political capital ahead of polls in Punjab and KP, as well as the approaching general elections but there is no other option, he observed.

Further delay in repairing the relationship with the IMF will only worsen the political price his party will have to pay.

Pakistan has a poor record with low credibility therefore the onus falls on adjustment first and then staggered financing. The three-year programme would have 12 reviews and the

successful completion of a review can trigger the release of a tranche.

But our economic managers want to get financing first and delay some conditionalities. Seeking financing from friendly countries and then approaching the IMF board to relax timelines for implementing prior actions is an attempt to ease the liquidity pressure.

The cost of postponing the adjustment measures is increased uncertainty and distortions which may lead to even tougher policy actions. We are already witnessing the hoarding of dollars, and parallel markets are the inflow of export proceeds and remittances through hundi, decreased supply to the inter-bank market and widening the spread between the official and unofficial markets.

The Saudi finance minister's statement that support to allies would be aligned with multilateral agencies, and would also depend on the countries' willingness to revamp their economy indicates that the investment and other financial support plans announced recently by friendly countries for Pakistan will not materialise without an IMF programme.

Protest against privatization

HYDERABAD: Workers of Pakistan Trade Union Defense Campaign hold a protest rally against inflation and privatization of units, outside press club.



Photo: Online

Politics is being prioritised over the country

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said the government has completely failed in the economic field and it has disappointed people and the business community.

Government is more concerned about politics instead of the country which is against national interests and open violation of promises, it said.

The disappointing economic performance of the government is having an impact on 220 million people and national defence as well, said Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that at that time all the important circles of the country are frustrated over bad governance.

At this critical juncture, the priority should be the economy, but the government's priorities are something else, due to which the economic crisis despair and anxiety are increasing.

Aslam Khan said that the people hoped that the economic situation would improve by removing Miftah Ismail and appointing Ishaq Dar as the finance minister, but the idea proved wrong.

Economic managers continue to stick to their wrong policies and important decisions are not being made according to the country's conditions and the requirements of the IMF, due to which the situation



is rapidly deteriorating, he added.

He noted that apart from the economic field, the government is performing worst in the political pitch as well. Neither the investment environment has been improved, nor has the law and order situation improved.

He said that the government has not been able to defend its policies nor has there been any interest in countering the misguided youth attacking institutions through social media.

PDM leaders unite only to get benefits and settle their cases, but there is no agreement among them to save the country due to which their popularity continues to decrease rapidly, he observed.

The partners of PML-N are not cooperating with it even after getting more than their due share and in this situation, PML-N is trying to gain cheap fame by targeting the establishment, he said.

Aslam Khan said that in the current situation, the champions of democracy have become a major threat to democracy.

Business community hails govt's decision to buy oil from Russia

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis Sunday hails the government's wise decision to buy crude oil from Russia in currencies of friendly countries as announced by Russia's Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov on Friday.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Faran Shahid here today he said it's a good omen that Pakistan will pay in the currencies of friendly countries which he added will definitely ease dollars pressure on either side and help pave way for further strengthening of existing economic cooperation and bilateral relations.

Meher Kashif Younis who also attended some meetings with visiting Russian delegation said agreements between both sides will pay dividends



in the days to come.

He appreciated that Islamabad wants to import 35% of its total crude oil requirement from Russia. He said historically the South Asian country has had no major commercial relations with Moscow, unlike neighbouring India. He said Pakistan depends on oil from Gulf countries, mainly due to close political and friendly ties, which often extend facilities like deferred payments, and

that route is cheaper logistically given its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz.

Meher Kashif Younis said the earlier recent decision of the government was also a good one for direct settlement and clearing in RMB between China and Pakistan which will help balance greatly the possible trade fluctuations caused by changes in US dollars.

He said moreover, RMB clearing can be a fast track for

two countries to further deepen industrial cooperation in financing and purchasing. He said the trade volume of Belt and Road countries has reached 11.6 trillion Yuan last year.

If RMB clearing and settlement is fully encouraged, trade efficiency in countries along the Belt and Road will improve, as will more extensive financial cooperation, he added.

He said as inflation and the energy crisis in Europe and the United States have eroded market confidence and China's economy is the same size as the EU's, the RMB may become a future safe haven for investors. He said since 2006, annual trade between Pakistan and China has averaged 17.61 billion US dollars. He said the Bank of China and State Bank of Pakistan ink accord will support cross-border transactions.

FPCCI calls for simplification of tax system

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Regional Coordinator, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Sartaj Ahmad Khan has called for the simplification of the tax system to enable the business community and others to file their taxes through online procedure.

He said that the reform and simplification of the tax system will not only enhance the national tax net rather will also promote business activities in the country.

Addressing a joint meeting of the FPCCI and Pakistan Academy for Rural Development, he urged the KP Revenue Authority to take the business community into confidence regarding taxation and hold awareness sessions like seminars and workshops regarding benefits of tax depositing.

He further urged KPRA to introduce a one-window operation and make online payment of taxes high-



ly simple, so the business community could not face any hardships in depositing their taxes.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA), Minhajuddin said that all businessmen are keen on depositing of their taxes, but due to lack of facilitation they are facing hardships in this regard.

He urged the management of KPRA to make its online portal simplified and easily accessible for trading community.

On this occasion, the representatives of Pakistan Academy for Rural Development assured the trading community for redressal of their tax-related issues and said that the state machinery is working through trade and business activities.

20-K Cup 2023: Cricket Centre beat City Gymkhana to reach semifinals

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Cricket Centre Club reached the semifinals of the 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament after beating City Gymkhana Cricket Club by 5 wickets in the first quarterfinal, played here at the Pindi Gymkhana Cricket Ground on a bright sunny Sunday in front of a good holiday crowd.

City Gymkhana, batting first, posted 182 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 20 overs. Opener Rizwan emerged as top scorer as he smashed superb 70 runs off 40 balls with the help of 8 fours and 5 sixes while another opener Muaz Zahid scored 52-ball 57 runs, hitting 7 boundaries and 3 sixes.

Muhammad Bilal remained unbeaten for 25 runs. Muhammad Ali's excellent



spell of 4-24 restricted their opponents from piling up 200 plus target. Bilawal Iqbal also secured one scalp for 41 runs.

Cricket Centre successfully chased the target of 183 runs in 19 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Muhammad Waheed played impressive knock of 58 runs off 36 balls while Ameer Hamza hammered 38, Imran Butt 29 and Ali Zafar unbeaten 29 runs. Abdul Rehman bowled well for City Gymkhana and bagged 2 wickets for 29.

For his outstanding bowling performance, Test cricketer Muhammad Ali was named player of the match.

Tomorrow, Monday the second quarterfinal will be played between Ali Garh Cricket Club and Ludhiana Gymkhana Cricket Club here at the Model Town Greens ground at 11: 00 am.



Under the auspices of Jinnah Polo Fields Club Major General Saeed-U- Zaman Janjua Memorial Polo Cup, Winner Team Wallington Pharma group photo with General Jehangir Karam Retd) Majid Qureshi and other dignitaries.

Waheed wins second straight Rashid D. Habib golf championship

Sports Desk

KARACHI: After a stellar comeback on the final day, holder Waheed Baloch defended his title at the 12th Rashid D. Habib Memorial National Professional Golf at Karachi Golf Club on Sunday.

Waheed, who was trailing by two-under-par to Muhammad Zubair at the conclusion of day 3, scored 11-under-par on the final day to lift the trophy for the second time in a row and claim PKR928,000 as his share out of the total prize money of PKR10 million.

Whereas, Karachi's Muhammad Shahzad finished as runner-up with ten-under-par followed by Shabbir Iqbal of Islamabad in third with eight-under-par.

Chief Guest on the occasion, Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi appreciated the efforts of Abbas D Habib, Managing Director of a private bank, in the promotion of golf in Pakistan. Admiral Niazi distributed prizes among the winners.

Meanwhile, 14-year-old Ashas Amjad won a brand-new car for his hole-in-one in the junior professional category.



Indonesia to organize 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup opening ceremony

Sports Desk

JAKARTA (ANTARA): Minister of Youth and Sports Zainudin Amali stated that as the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup host, Indonesia would start the championship with a rousing opening ceremony for the audience.

Amali noted that the opening ceremony will be directed by media persons and former tourism and creative economy minister Wishnutama Kusubandio, who directed the 2018 Asian Games opening and closing ceremonies.

Wishnutama also directed the much-lauded heads of state banquet at the Garuda Wisnu Kencana Cultural Park during the G20 Summit last November.

"Mr Wishnutama is the expert in his field, and it has been proven, but we are still waiting for the next limit-



ed meeting," the minister remarked here, Thursday. Amali, who is serving as the Indonesia FIFA U-20 2023 World Cup Organizing Committee (INAFOC) chief, said that while unusual, FIFA allowed Indonesia to organize an opening ceremony for the championship. As President Joko Widodo personally suggested the opening ceremony, it was decided to propose the opening ceremony to FIFA

before the championship, Amali noted.

"The series of events will start from February 2023, but I still have no information about the exact date," the minister stated.

Indonesia will host the U-20 FIFA World Cup from May 20 to June 11. Some 24 countries, including Indonesia, which automatically gained a place for being the host, are expected to participate in the championship. The organizing committee planned to use six stadiums in Java, Bali, and Sumatra for the matches. Those stadiums are Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta, Jakabaring Stadium in Palembang, Si Jalak Harupat Stadium in Bandung, Manahan Stadium in Surakarta, Gelora Bung Tomo Stadium in Surabaya, and Kapten I Wayan Dipta Stadium in Bali.

Bowlers star as MI Cape Town edge Paarl Royals



A Sports -

PAARL: MI Cape Town bowlers kept things tight for Paarl Royals as they restrict the home side to 129/6 despite Jos Buttler's 68 to power their side to a 13-run victory in the ongoing SA20.

Set to chase 143, the Capitals could accumulate 129/6 in their set of 20 overs despite a gritty half-century by Buttler as he received no support from the other end.

The wicketkeeper batter top-scored for his side with 68 off 58 deliveries and carried his bat all the way till the 19th over before Jofra Archer barred him from propelling his side to glory by dismissing him.

Besides Buttler, only skipper David Miller (26) could contribute significantly, while the rest of the batters failed to impress in the run chase. George Linde and Kagiso Rabada bagged two wickets each, while Rashid Khan and Archer made one scalp each. Put into bat first, MI Cape Town posted 142/9 on the scoreboard; courtesy of a combined effort from their batters, led by Rassie van der Dussen.

The right-handed batter played an anchoring knock for his side in the middle before falling just one short of his half-century as he scored 49 off 42 deliveries, hitting four boundaries and a six.

First AFC Futsal Referee MA Course concludes*

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The first Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Futsal Referee MA Course has concluded at Football House Lahore under the supervision of Porferio J. Barlas, the AFC Futsal Referee Instructor.

A total of 25 participants across Pakistan took part in the course.

Sharing his views, AFC Futsal Referee Instructor Porferio J. Barlas, JR said: "The participants have been trained well and they learned a lot, the response from the participants was also phenomenal. Hopefully, they will perform well in their respective areas."

"PFF held 1st Referee seminar for futsal that reflected the efforts to promote the sport in the region and I was happy to be a part of this initiative", he added.

Plooy propels Super Kings to thrilling win over Sunrisers in SA20

A Sports -

GQEBERHA: Leus du Plooy held his nerves strong to steer Joburg Super Kings to a thrilling five-wicket win over Sunrisers Eastern Cape in a low-scoring SA20 game, here on Saturday.

Batting at number 4, Plooy made an unbeaten 47 from 40 balls and sailed his team to victory in the final over while it was chasing a paltry total of 128.

Faf du Plessis's side went through a few hiccups during the chase after it bundled out the Sunrisers to 127 thanks to sensational bowling by Aaron Phangiso and Gerald Coetzee. The two shared eight wickets between them to put Super Kings in command after they elected to field first.

Phangiso (4 for 20) wreaked havoc in the middle overs as he dismissed Adam Rossington, Tristan



Stubbs, Marco Jansen and JJ Smuts before Coetzee (4 for 24) stormed through the tailenders.

Rossington top-scored for his side with a cautious 31-ball 40 while all-rounder James Fuller and Smut

scored 27 and 22, respectively in an otherwise deplorable batting display.

Super Kings, in reply also went through a dismal start as Sisanda Magala removed opener Reeza Hendrick cheaply in the 3rd over.

Skipper du Plessis, however, made a solid 37 from 38 balls before falling prey to Smuts in the 13th over. Two more jolts in quick succession slid his side to 100/5 before Plooy did the repair work.

ICC to announce winners of 2022 Awards next week

A Sports -

DUBAI: The winners of the 2022 ICC Awards will be announced next week in sequence, starting from Monday (January 23)

As per the International Cricket Council's schedule, the winners of coveted players' awards across different formats will be named on Wednesday and Thursday.

The top performers from the previous year will be recognised in 13 different award categories. Meanwhile, five Teams of the Year – three Men and two Women – will also be named by the ICC.

The Performance Period for the awards runs from January 1 to December 31 2022.

Full Schedule:
Monday, January 23:
ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year
ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year
Tuesday, January 24:
ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year
ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year
ICC Men's Test Team of the Year
Wednesday, January 25:
ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year
ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year
ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year
ICC Emerging Women's Crick-

eter of the Year
Thursday, January 26
ICC Umpire of the Year
ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year
Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year
ICC Spirit of Cricket Award
Nominees for ICC Awards 2022
Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year:
Babar Azam (Pakistan)
Ben Stokes (England)
Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe)
Tim Southee (New Zealand)
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year:
Nat Sciver (England)
Smriti Mandhana (India)
Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)
Beth Mooney (Australia)
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year:
Ben Stokes (England)
Jonny Bairstow (England)
Usman Khawaja (Australia)
Kagiso Rabada (South Africa)
ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year:
Babar Azam (Pakistan)
Adam Zampa (Australia)
Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe)
Shai Hope (West Indies)
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year:
Shabnim Ismail (South Africa)
Amelia Kerr (New Zealand)
Nat Sciver (England)
Alyssa Healy (Australia)
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year:
Suryakumar Yadav (India)

Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe)
Sam Curran (England)
Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year:
Smriti Mandhana (India)
Nida Dar (Pakistan)
Sophie Devine (New Zealand)
Tahlia McGrath (Australia)
ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year
Marco Jansen (South Africa)
Ibrahim Zadran (Afghanistan)
Finn Allen (New Zealand)
Arshdeep Singh (India)
ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year
Renuka Singh (India)
Darcie Brown (Australia)
Alice Capsey (England)
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