



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جب نام «آئین» کے تو تم بھی «آئین» کہو۔ کیونکہ جس کی «آئین» ملائکہ کے آئین کے ساتھ ہوگی اس کے پچھلے تمام گناہ معاف کر دیئے جائیں گے۔ ان شہاب نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم «آئین» کہتے تھے۔ (کنز العمال: حدیث نمبر 780)
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Sacred life of holy Prophet (PBUH) beacon for entire humanity

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Monday that Muslims had to meet their challenges by seeking guidance from the sacred life of Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) which was a beacon for entire humanity. (Report on Page 8)



Dr Musaddik advises Imran to shrug off egoistic politics

Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musaddik Malik said on Monday PTI chairman Imran Khan was a narcissist and he should shrug off egoistic politics. Speaking to TV, he said Mr Imran was hellbent on destroying democracy as he wished no one played if he did not play. Commenting on power breakdown, he said our government had improved transmission lines during its previous tenure adding the process of electricity resumption had been started.

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Major power failure

ISLAMABAD-Jan23: A view of Capital city look dark during major power outage in Federal Capital, A major power breakdown hit the country early Monday morning, affecting multiple cities, such as, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Quetta and Karachi, due to a failure in the national grid for the second time in the last three months.

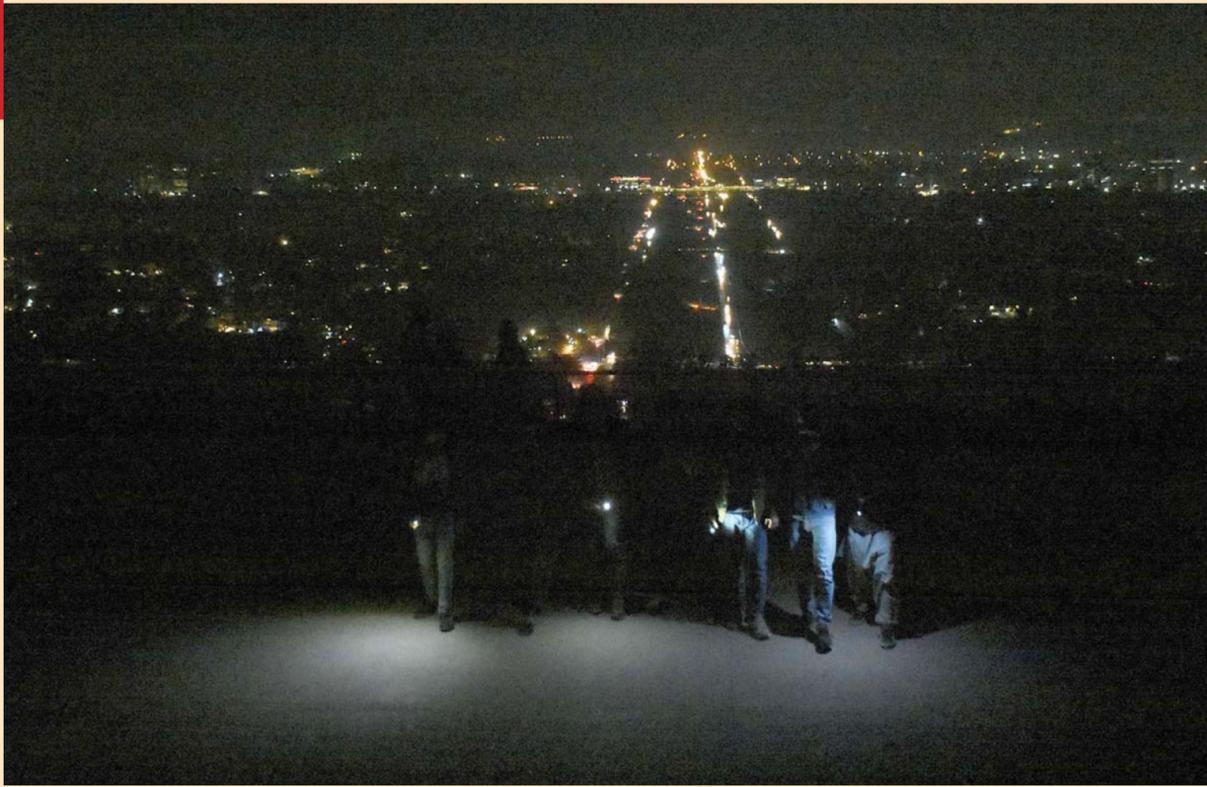


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Authorities fail to restore electricity

Millions in Pakistan in nationwide blackout as grid fails

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Parts of the country including Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Quetta plunged into darkness as a high-tension electricity supply line between Quetta and Guddu caused a major power breakdown.

A power outage hit 22 districts of Balochistan, including Quetta, Islamabad, Lahore, cities in Multan region, Karachi and others around 7:35 am.

In Islamabad, the electricity supply to 117 grid stations has been suspended. The Islamabad Electric Supply Company said they are in contact with the regional control centre.

In Lahore, consumers in areas of Mall Road, Kanal Road and other areas are facing a disruption in power supply. Officials said they are investigating the matter.

People from different cities thronged to social media to report the electricity failure.

The extreme shortfall in electricity generation said to be major cause of the power breakdown that hit various parts of the country, citing sources, ARY News reported.

Power generation was lower than 7,000 megawatts, this morning, well-placed sources said. "There was upto 6,000 megawatts".

"Hydel power generation in the country goes down to 90 percent, while thermal power generation by 70 pct," according to sources.

Over 12 power plants have been already shutdown over various technical faults, sources shared. "Guddu, Jamshoro, Muzaffargarh power plants were not running". "Neelum-Jhelum power project of 969 megawatt, has been shut down for last eight months owing to technical problems," sources said.

Karachi's situation: Several areas of Karachi were plunged into darkness after a massive

PM Shehbaz orders probe into major power outage in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday formed a high-level committee to investigate the power breakdown in the country.

Taking notice of the blackout, the premier sought a report from Energy Minister Khurram Dastagir on reasons that led to the major electricity crisis in the country. He also asked him to pinpoint the officials who had showed negligence.

Ordering immediate restoration of power supply, he said such incidents would not be tolerated.



Pakistan's national grid suffered a major breakdown on Monday, the power ministry said, leaving millions of people without electricity for the second time in three months and highlighting the infrastructural weakness of this heavily indebted nation.

power breakdown hit the country due to "frequency variation" in the national grid. The areas affected included North Nazimabad,

New Karachi, North Karachi, Liaquatabad, Clifton, Korangi, Orangi, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Saddar, Old City Area, Landhi, Gulshan-e-

Jauhar, Malir, Gulshan-e-Hadeed, Site Industrial Zone, Pak Colony, Shah Faisal Colony, Model Colony and other areas.

Sepoy martyred in Bannu IED blast

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A soldier of the Pakistan Army on Monday embraced martyrdom as an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in general area Jani Khel of Bannu district. According to the Inter-Ser-

vices Public Relations (ISPR), the martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Gul Sher (age 24 years, resident of Khyber district).

It added that the sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists in the area.

Nepra takes notice of power breakdown

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has taken notice of the countrywide power breakdown.

The power regulator has directed the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) to submit a detailed report.

Most cities across the country were left with no electricity due to fault in high-tension transmission lines on Monday morning.

The electricity outage hit cities in Sindh, Khyber Pakh-



tunkhwa, Punjab and the federal capital after transmission lines from Guddu power station developed technical fault.

The Ministry of Energy, in a statement, said the decrease in system frequency of the national grid was reported at 7:34am, adding that efforts were under way to restore the power supply.

Blackout disrupts cellular services in various parts of country

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A massive power breakdown on Monday disrupted cellular services of telecommunication companies in various parts of the country.

The electricity supply is unavailable to people in various cities of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab since 7:34am today when transmission lines between Jamshoro and Dadu developed technical faults.

Talking to social media platforms, users have complained of receiving no or weak signals on their mobile phones as the



electricity could not be restored for the last eight hours. The cellular companies are yet to confirm the disruption in services.

The blackout has also affected operations at hospitals, courts and government offices.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Khurram Dastagir said it was not a major fault and the power supply across the country would be restored within 12 hours.

President calls for global resolve against Islamophobia



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday urged the international community to show a common resolve against Islamophobia and work towards consolidating the values of tolerance and coexistence.

Strongly condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, the president said the abhorrent incident insulted the holy scripture of Islam and hurt the feelings of billions of Muslims under the guise of freedom of expression.

He termed the act as senseless, provocative and Islamophobic which hurt the religious sensitivities of Muslims around the world.

PTA directs telecom operators to continue operations amid power outage

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Monday directed the telecom operators to continue operations of network sites as power outage has caused disruption in services provided by around 3200 telecom towers.

PTA spokesperson said that telecom operators should ensure the uninterrupted the supply of fuel for maximum sites and keep their consumers informed of the ongoing situation. "The services will restore as the country gets brighter again", he added.

Earlier, a massive power breakdown disrupted cellular services of telecommunication companies in various parts of the country.

The electricity supply is unavailable to people in various cities of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab since 7:34am today when transmission lines between Jamshoro and Dadu developed technical faults.

IHC rejects Asad Qaiser's plea seeking to quash FIR

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday rejected the request of former speaker National Assembly and PTI's leader Asad Qaiser seeking to quash an FIR against him registered under section 144 and misuse of a loudspeaker.

Justice Triq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the petition filed by the PTI's leader. The court said that the case challan had been presented and the matter was before the trial court now.

Asad Qaiser's lawyer read out the FIR content before the bench and said that his client was not present at the said place yet he was nominated in the FIR.

Amnesty schemes ruin country: SC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday remarked that it was the authority of Parliament alone or the provincial assembly to approve amnesty schemes, but here, every institution was introducing these schemes on its own.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that it was the amnesty schemes which had ruined the country in an organized way. One-time amnesty for the smuggled vehicles had been introduced for hundred times, he added.

The court also expressed annoyance over the non-appointment of the attorney general of Pakistan. Justice Faez Isa remarked that there were more than 5,000 lawyers of SC but the executive was still unable to choose the one for this post.

The court said that as per the law, this important slot couldn't be left vacant. Whether a bargain was being made on the appointment of the attorney general, it asked.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa dismissed the appeal of Pakistan customs against the decision of the appellate tribunal for de-seizing of a smuggled vehicle on payment of duties.

Justice Isa remarked that the customs office was incompetent to stop the smuggling of vehicles due to which it used to announce the schemes.

He further said that the court could summon record from Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) regarding the number of amnesties to date. How these schemes could be announced under the law of customs, he asked.

The court observed that the smuggling of gold and silver was understandable but how the vehicles could be smuggled. Vehicles with strange number plates could be witnessed on the roads of the federal capital, Justice Isa observed, adding that the owners of these vehicles might be very influential.

Justice Faez Isa noted that the Brit-

ish prime minister was fined for not fastening his seat belt and he also rendered an apology for the conduct. In Pakistan, the institution was not as powerful to fine even an ordinary officer of CDA on a violation, he said.

Expressing annoyance with the customs office, the court remarked that no one smuggles a vehicle by hiding it in his pocket. But once the vehicle reached here the department started to chase it, he said.

Justice Yahya Afridi said the customs department should end up the dispute after taking its duties. Customs' lawyer adopted the stance that if a vehicle was smuggled here, then it fell in the jurisdiction of this department. At this, Justice Isa said that there was no answer to the basic question that how the vehicle was smuggled into the country.

The court subsequently dismissed the appeal of Pakistan customs against de-seizing of a smuggled truck which was seized in 2018 by the department.

Maryam Nawaz to return home on Saturday evening: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that Pakistan Muslim League (N) Senior Vice President and Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz would leave London on January 26 and reach Lahore on January 28, Saturday night at 8 pm.

In a tweet, the minister said that with the prayers of the people, Maryam Nawaz Sharif was returning home after recovering from surgery.

FTO visit PTEA

FAISALABAD: Dr Asif Mahmood Jah Federal Tax Ombudsman is chairing a meeting during the visit of Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA).



Photo: APP

President for creative solutions to enroll 100pc children, promote preventive health treatment

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that creative and out-of-the-box solutions must be adopted to ensure 100% enrolment of children in schools.

In this regard, he also stressed upon promotion of preventive health mode of treatment for ensuring accelerated socio-economic uplift of the people and the progress and development of the country.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Chairman of the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Col (ret'd) Dr Amirullah Marwat,



who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Dr Nasim Ashraf, Chairman of the Pakistan Human Development Fund, and senior

members of the NCHD were also present during the meeting. Talking to NCHD chairman, the president said that as per estimates only 68% of the country's children

were enrolled in schools at the primary level, which was alarming and observed that 100% enrolment of children must be ensured by instituting out-of-box solutions like using mosques from Fajr to Zohar as schools and using hybrid modes of learning wherever possible.

He highlighted the need for adopting innovative Information and communication technology tools for imparting education at the grassroots level and imparting marketable skills to the youth through non-formal and formal education and skill development programs.

The president said that

there was a need of creating a comprehensive system in the country to retain professionals, which included doctors, engineers, IT specialists and persons with high levels of skills in other sectors, so as to utilize their intellect, knowledge and expertise within the country and take tangible steps to stop the brain drain of precious human resources.

He said that the Pakistani diaspora, which was contributing to the growth and development of their host countries, should be engaged to transfer their expertise, skills and knowledge to Pakistan through various online and hybrid platforms.

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SBP raises interest rate to 17pc

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan on Monday raised the interest rate by 100 basis points to 17 percent to counter soaring inflation in the country.

Addressing a presser, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad on the current inflation cycle across the country said that inflationary pressures are persisting and continue to be broad-based, and also warned that if these remain unchecked, the country could expect higher inflation over a longer than anticipated period.

He added that therefore the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) stressed that it is critical to anchor inflation expectations and achieve the objective of price stability to support sustainable growth in the

future.

The governor said that despite some moderation in November and December, inflation continues to remain elevated. Importantly, core inflation has been on a rising trend for the past 10 months, added Jameel.

Monetary policy: The central bank issued a statement which stated that "At today's meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to increase the policy rate by 100 basis points to 17 percent. The committee noted that inflationary pressures are persisting and continue to be broad-based. If these remain unchecked, they could feed into higher inflation expectations over a longer than anticipated period. The MPC stressed that it is critical to anchor infla-



tion expectations and achieve the objective of price stability to support sustainable growth in the future."

Since the last meeting, the MPC particularly noted three important economic developments. First, despite some moderation in November and December, inflation continues to remain elevated. Importantly, core inflation has been

on a rising trend for the past 10 months. Moreover, the recent pulse surveys show inching up of consumer and business inflation expectations. Second, near-term challenges for the external sector have increased despite the policy-induced contraction in the current account deficit.

The lack of fresh financial inflows and ongoing debt

repayments have led to a continuous drawdown in official reserves. Third, the global economic and financial conditions broadly remain uncertain in the near-to-short term, leading to mixed implications for the domestic economy, it added.

The SBP warned that the expected slowdown in global demand could negatively impact the outlook of exports and workers' remittances for emerging economies, including Pakistan. This would partly offset the gains from the import contraction. On the flip side, some moderation in international commodity prices may help reduce inflation, and the improvement in global financial conditions may also provide some relief to the external sector.

Earlier, Pakistan's national grid

Imran left 'no stone unturned' to harm country: Nawaz Sharif

Web Desk

LONDON: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif lambasted on Monday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, saying the latter left no stone unturned to harm the country.

Speaking to media, Mr Sharif hoped, "Allah Almighty will save the country from people like Imran Khan." Launching a broadside at Mr Khan, Mr Sharif said, "Imran was no less than a calamity for the country." Seeing Mr Khan presence in the country's political scenario 'a bad omen', Mr Sharif said, "Getting rid of people like Imran should be responsibility of every citizen."

Mohsin Naqvi involved in regime change conspiracy: Imran Khan

News Desk

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has rejected the appointment of Mohsin Naqvi as the caretaker Punjab chief minister (CM) and alleged that Naqvi had a big role in the 'regime change conspiracy' against his government.

Imran Khan conducted a press conference after Mohsin Naqvi was nominated and appointed as the caretaker Punjab CM following the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) yesterday.

He announced to approach the court against Naqvi's appointment and nationwide protests.

Khan said that a caretaker set-up was established to hold fair and free elections and PTI

recommended appropriate names for the non-partisan slot of the caretaker Punjab CM.

"We selected Nasir Khosa who served as the principal secretary of Nawaz Sharif, whereas, Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera is the cabinet secretary. We thought that no one will raise any objections over Sukhera's name. Naveed Akram Cheema had also served as the chief secretary of Nawaz Sharif. All of them were rejected and Naqvi was nominated for the post."

"In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) recommended Azam Khan for the caretaker CM's slot and we did not raise any objections over his name. I have never seen such a dishonest election commission in my life."

Khan criticised that the current election commission

always gives decisions against the PTI and its decision was always overturned by the courts. The courts had rejected the ECP's decisions eight to nine times, he added.

"The ECP had included an irrelevant paragraph in its verdict in the prohibited funding case. The case is currently under proceeding. The incumbent government publicised the Toshakhana details related to me but it did not provide the same details to the court regarding the current rulers."

"We had received IB [Intelligence Bureau] reports regarding the regime change conspiracy. Mohsin Naqvi was present on top of the list of the persons who made maximum efforts to topple the PTI government. Naqvi conveyed Asif Ali Zardari's messages to Nawaz Sharif. "Asif Ali Zardari called Naqvi like his son then everybody

should know about his character. Naqvi had also held meetings with the former army chief who was the mastermind."

"Everybody knows well about [General Retired] Qamar Javed Bajwa who gave NRO-2 to them. Naqvi was the one who returned the looted public money to the NAB [National Accountability Bureau] through a plea bargain."

Imran Khan termed Mohsin Naqvi the biggest enemy of PTI and alleged that the caretaker Punjab CM owned a TV channel which runs the worst propaganda against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

He announced that PTI will begin nationwide protests from Lahore tomorrow. On Wednesday, PTI will stage a protest in Rawalpindi. "We will stage protests on a daily basis in all cities of the country."

Sacred life of holy Prophet (PBUH) beacon for entire humanity: Ahsan Iqbal



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said on Monday that Muslims had to meet their challenges by seeking guidance from the sacred life of Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) which was a beacon for entire humanity.

Addressing an inaugural session of a two-day International Seerat Conference on 'Social Responsibilities of Women and Seerat-e-Tayyaba (PBUH)' here at Punjab University, he said the sacred life (Seerat-un-Nabi) of Holy Prophet (PBUH) had introduced those golden principles which had not only enlightened people in Arab but also Europe, Africa, Asia and Morocco to Indonesia.

Ahsan Iqbal said: "The glorious teachings of last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) are interpretation of the commandments of Allah Almighty." He said: "Our forefathers

had practiced the golden principles taught by our beloved Holy Prophet (PBUH) in letter and spirit which helped them in becoming world super-power."

He said non-Muslims deeply studied factors behind the power which Muslims experienced as a result of following the Holy Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH). The message and vision of social justice given by the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) was unprecedented and matchless that helped Islam to grow rapidly, he added.

He said that Seerat chairs were established in 2017 on contemporary issues with an objective to achieve success in different sectors of life. He said Islamic Seerat Centre on Gender Studies was being established which would soon be completed. He stressed the need for implementing knowledge to achieve desired results. Dr Shahida Parveen, Dr Muhammad Arif Khan and Prof Dr Muhammad Hammad also spoke.

Kuwait PM submits resignation of cabinet in tussle with parliament

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Sabah on Monday submitted the resignation of his cabinet to the country's crown prince, state news agency KUNA reported, in the latest standoff between government and the elected parliament.

Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, who has taken over most of the emir's duties, last year named Sheikh Ahmad as premier and called early legislative polls after dissolving the previous parliament to end feuding that impeded fiscal reforms.

Tensions recently resurfaced between parliament and the government, sworn in last October, as lawmakers pressed for a debt relief bill, under which the state would buy Kuwaiti citizen's personal loans, and



sought to question two ministers.

The prime minister submitted the government's resignation to the crown prince "as a result of what has become of the relationship between the executive and legislative authorities", KUNA cited a cabinet statement as saying.

Parliament had been scheduled to convene on Tuesday.

APTMA claims loss worth US\$70 million due to power outage

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) on Monday reported a loss worth US\$70 million to the country's textile industry as power outage darkens the nation.

APTMA spokesperson told that if the issue was not resolved, the loss would balloon to billions of dollars.

Earlier, Pakistan's national grid

suffered a major breakdown, the power ministry said, leaving millions of people without electricity for the second time in three months and highlighting the infrastructural weakness of this heavily indebted nation.

Power Minister Khurram Dastagir told Reuters the outage was caused by a large voltage surge in the south of the grid, which affected the entire network.

Commander US AFCENT calls on Air Chief



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Commander of Ninth Air Force (US Air Forces Central Command — AFCENT), Lieutenant General Alexis Grynkewich called on Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force (PAF), Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Monday.

According to a PAF news release, matters pertaining to the region-

al security situation, and enhanced bilateral and defence cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by the PAF over the years, especially through indigenization. He also appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting regional peace and vowed to enhance cooperation in various fields.

Rao Anwar, others walk free in landmark Nageebullah murder case

Furqan Ahmad

KARACHI : An anti-terrorism court on Monday acquitted Malir's former senior superintendent of police (SSP) Rao Anwar and his around two dozen subordinates in the high-profile Nageebullah Mehsud murder case five years after the gruesome killing.

On Jan 13, 2018, Mehsud, an aspiring model, was murdered in controversial circumstances which led to outpouring of condemnations on social media and countrywide protests by civil society against Rao Anwar and his team.

Earlier, as many as 60 witnesses including five eyewitnesses Muhammad Qasim, Hazrat Ali, Sharob Khan, Humayun and Afsar Khan recorded their testimonies during the prolonged trial. However, Rao and others, accused in the case on March 25, 2019, claimed their innocence and denied the charges.

The complainant's counsel, Advoca-



cate Sallahuddin Panhwar, stated in his closing arguments that the case involved three episodes, the abduction of Nageeb, his illegal detention and later, the extrajudicial killing. He said Nageeb and his friends Hazrat Ali and Qasim were captured in Gulsher Agha Hotel on Abul Hassan Isphani Road on Jan 3, 2018. He added that Anwar and other accused demanded Rs1 million ransom for the release, adding that Ali and Qasim were released from illegal detention on Jan 6 while Nageeb was handed over to the Shah Latif Town police.

Mr Panhwar added that on Jan 13, Nageeb and three others were shot

dead in a staged encounter in Usman Khaskheli Goth by the accused police officers who labelled the victim terrorist. He said, "geofencing, a technical analysis of call data records and circumstantial evidence suggested the involvement of Rao Anwar in the extrajudicial killings."

"Anwar in his statement recorded under Section 342 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) also admitted that he had knowledge of the matter and also led a convoy to the crime scene after being contacted by the Shah Latif Town SHO," the counsel added. He argued that the former SSP backed the kidnapping for ransom and murder of the victim. He pleaded with the court to punish the accused police officers according to the law.

On the other hand, defence lawyers Abid Zaman and Aamir Mansoob argued that there were differences in the statements of the witnesses and requested the judge to acquit their clients.

According to the prosecution, the call data record showed Rao Anwar's presence at the crime scene and near the New Sabzi Mandi on the Super Highway on Jan 4, 5, 8, 9 and 13. However, Rao Anwar, in his statement, had denied the allegations of being involved in the extrajudicial killings and affirmed that he was not present at the place of the occurrence at the time of the incident, nor did he ever visit the new Sabzi Mandi between Jan 4 and 6, 2018.

He claimed that he was implicated in the case based on "managed geo-fencing and call data record" at the behest of a senior police officer he had a professional rivalry with. The former SSP, eluding law enforcers for two months, had surrendered before the Supreme Court and was subsequently taken into custody. He was shifted to a house-turned-sub jail in the Malir Cantonment area instead of being kept in the central jail and finally released on bail in July 2018.

Arts council's youth festival 2023 kicked off

Bureau Report

KARACHI : Pakistan Youth Festival 2023 was grandly inaugurated by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi. A large number of youth participated in the Festival. Festival was inaugurated by the well-known intellectual and writer Anwar Maqsood. President of the Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah and Vice-Chancellor of University of Karachi Khalid Iraqi also accompanied him, the famous writer and intellectual Anwar Maqsood said that I have come here for you, you are the children of this land, find your own way, the destinations will come before you, President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah While addressing the opening ceremony, he said that due to Covid, the Youth Festival could not be held for the last five years. After five years, we are organizing this festival.



Thirty thousand students have registered in this festival. University of Karachi, from where Anwar Maqsood, Ahmed Shah, Huma Mir and many other personalities have passed out, you youths have to make your name bright, if your name is bright then the name of the country will be bright, this country has seen a lot of suffering, you students do not lose heart from anything, the conditions of the country We will change, you will all change, Vice Chancellor of University of Karachi, Khalid Iraqi, expressed his gratitude to the Arts Council for inviting him to the Youth Festival, he said Anwar Maqsood is a great name of Pakistan, he said that I have been listening and reading Anwar Maqsood since I was studying in matriculation. We often get afraid of difficulties while we should not be afraid. When you decide to do something, you can do it. On the opening day of the ongoing Pakistan Youth Festival, auditions of 4 different categories were held in which thousands of male and female students participated.

Audition of the remaining 6 categories will continue till 28 January. While the Closing ceremony of the festival will be held on 29th, the famous singer Asim Azhar, Kashmir Band, Jambrooz, Mustafa Baloch stole the festival with their performances

'Live in Concert' latest music platform launched in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD:: BBPR kicked off the New Year with its latest music platform, Live in Concert with the heartthrob Hasan Raheem. The event was hosted at District 19 and was nothing short of a star-studded event. The event was a trip into the world from the perspective of Hasan Raheem. Hasan Raheem launched his latest album. This song's music video was also premiered during the launch. The underlying notion and creative spin came from the concept that all creativity originates from the bathroom!

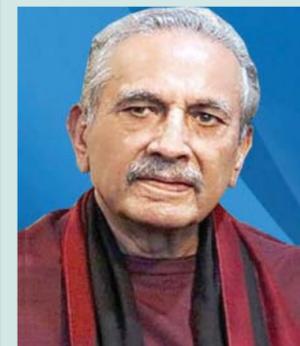
Talking to the occasion Hasan Raheem Said "I am ecstatic to perform my Nautanki album for the first time at the PR event with BBPR to launch their latest music platform Live in Concert. Each song recorded in Nautanki is for you to interpret. I hope that they remind you of love stories of your own. How does the concept of change relate to how we label love? We must be aware of our feelings and senses in order to truly offer our minds to one another. Many people and things move me. Therefore, I continue to create music."

'Live In Concert', a new and dynamic platform was launched by BBPR as an initiative to showcase phenomenal artists' experiences with the world with the sensational Hasan Raheem being the first spotlight talent. BBPR is the largest corporate PR agency in Pakistan. They celebrated their 15 years which was commemorated through the launch of this event as well as the attendance of Sanam Saeed, Mohib Mirza and Patangeer.

"We, as a nation, have immense talent and a long-standing connection with music. BBPR as a company wants to acknowledge these musicians, young and old, by promoting them and giving them a platform where they can showcase their talent to the rest of the world!" Hasan Rizvi regarding his new platform.

Tall claims of improving economy proved wrong

Commerce Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Monday said claims by some political parties to manage the country's shattered economy have proved wrong.

Both the government and the opposition are giving priority to politics over the state, which has brought the economy to the deathbed, he said.

The political coalition considers it an art to postpone important decisions, take reforms as a burden and cannot agree on matters of critical importance, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that due to the lack of good governance, the country is currently suffering from alarming economic and social stagnation and the trust of the international community has been lost, which is causing the entire system to collapse.

He said that the demands of the IMF are constantly being avoided while the policymakers know that short-term pain will lead to long-term relief but are not ready for it.

People will have to suffer in case of acceptance of the conditions of IMF but the country will be saved and if the demands are not accepted, the masses will have to suffer more, he added.

The government faces an uphill task on the economic front amid a devaluing currency, rising inflation, depleting forex reserves, and a stalled IMF programme.

Despite the repeated assurances that inflows would begin this month, their claims have not yet materialised, resulting in market turmoil.

The elites, who are the root of all the problems, are unlikely to share the slightest burden of painful adjustments masses will have to face.

Elites have played a significant role in the destruction of the country's economy, he said adding that the endless greed of aristocracy has proved a disaster for the country.

Pakistan has suffered decades of bad governance that has bankrupted a prosperous country. The elites who loot the country's resources are strongly opposed to reforms in any sector including the economy.

If the elites who are plundering this country for seven decades failed to play a positive role at this critical juncture, they would not be forgiven by the public, he warned.

Appreciations

Karachi: Noman Azhar, Chief Officer Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, was honored by Mr. Arif Alvi, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with the 'Excellence Award' for his unparalleled contribution to Pakistan's Digital Ecosystem at the CXO Global Digital Summit.



Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences has increased the number of students: VC

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Good news for Gomal University students, the efforts of Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah have paid off

Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council has given formal approval to increase the number of students in the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences of Gomal University.

According to the details, the day and night hard work and efforts of Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah and in-charge Veterinary Faculty Dr. Kamal Shah paid off.

On the occasion of the 52nd meeting to be held at the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council Secretariat Islamabad, the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council



has increased the number of students admitted to the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences of Gomal University

After which there was a wave of happiness among

Gomal University employees.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah thanked the Pakistan Medical Veterinary Council and said that all the employees of Gomal University including me are grateful to the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council who accepted our request and approved to increase the number of students taking admission in Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences of Gomal University.

On the one hand, the doors of education will be opened for students who are trying to acquire knowledge and on the other hand, Gomal University's deficit will also be removed. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakib Ullah also congratulated all Gomal University employees on this happy occasion

It should be noted that this will be applied to the current admissions in Gomal University.

Hundreds of students attended the AEO's 43rd Global Education

News Desk

LAHORE: With over 5000 alumni and 300,000+ IELTS registrations, AEO Pakistan over the past two decades has established itself as Australian & Global Education Specialists, the most trusted IELTS Official Test Centre and the preferred official OET Test Centre in Pakistan. AEO Pakistan operates as the official Liaison office for over 40 leading Australian Universities/Institutions and facilitates the enrolment of international students at these Universities/Institutions. Since 2002, AEO Pakistan has been conducting Australian Education Expos

providing an excellent opportunity to Pakistani students planning to Study in Australia. Over the years thousands of students have benefited from AEO expos held twice annually, across all major cities of Pakistan.

This January once again AEO's 43rd Global Education Expo is being organized across 10 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Bahawalpur and Hyderabad. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform for prospective students across the country, to get free expert advice and counselling about how to



apply to study in at top ranked international universities in Australia, USA, Canada and UK.

Representatives of more than 20 universities/institutes

are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and counseling for their future study endeavors. Information about IELTS

test and preparatory classes is also being provided at the expo.

The first exhibition of the series was successfully held today in Lahore at PC Hotel. Hundreds of students along with their parents participated at the expo with great interest and excitement to enroll for admissions at top ranked Australian and other leading International Universities. The participants appreciated AEO's effort in provision of a perfect platform offering free counselling sessions with official representatives of international universities to explore the options of enrolling for a degree of their choice.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:43 am
Zohr 12:19 pm
Asr 3:52 pm
Maghrib 5:30 pm
Isha 6:56 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883

Azam Swati appointed PTI's Additional Secretary General

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has appointed senior Senator Azam Swati as additional attorney general of the party.

PTI Secretary General Asad Umar has issued a notification, stating: "It is hereby notified that Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan Swati is appointed as Additional Secretary General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) with immediate effect."

It is pertinent to note here that on Nov 27 the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Senator Azam Swati, in a case related to controversial tweets against state institutions.

Earlier this month, he was granted bail by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the case of the controversial tweet after he remained in the custody of Balochistan and Sindh police in identical cases.

IHC approved the PTI leader Azam Swati's post-arrest bail and ordered to release him against surety bonds of Rs200,000.

SC expresses resentment over delay in appointment of AGP

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) while expressing resentment over the delay in the attorney general of Pakistan's (AGP) appointment, directed the federal government to fill the constitutional post.

Earlier, AGP Ashtar Ausaf tendered his resignation but he was asked by PM Shehbaz Sharif to continue till the appointment of his successor.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa, the next most senior judge of the Supreme Court, gave remarks on the lack of assistance from the attorney general in a case related to



tampered car. "Who is the attorney general in the country right now?" Justice Isa asked the deputy AGP, who failed to give a satisfactory answer. "We are asking you politely to appoint the attorney general," Justice Isa told the government during the hearing.

SC also asked if the government so incompetent that it cannot even appoint an attorney general from 5,500 Supreme Court lawyers.

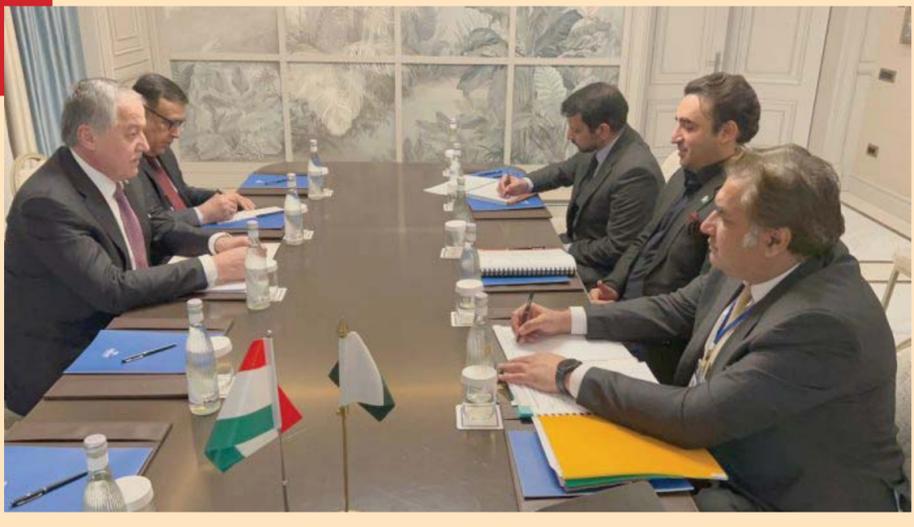
Justice Isa also questioned whether the government is bargaining with someone over the AGP's appointment.

Justice Isa said that the government is violating the Constitution by not appointing the AGP, adding that the orders given by the apex court were not followed either.

The court said that the additional attorney general and the deputy attorney general are bound to take instructions from the AGP only.

Bilawal, Tajik FM agree to enhance ties

TASHKENT: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin. During the meeting expressed satisfaction on recent high engagements and agreed to further enhance the existing excellent bilateral relations and economic cooperation especially in trade, energy and connectivity.



Unhealthy air quality in capital poses health risks for children, elderly

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The air quality in the federal capital was reported unhealthy on Monday amid dry weather putting vulnerable and sensitive age groups comprising children, women and the elderly at risk of contracting respiratory ailments.

Air pollution in the metropolis remained high since the onset of the fall season as prolonged dry weather, increased vehicular traffic, and garbage and wood burning continued to surge.

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) daily air quality report indicated a heightened ratio of air pollutants, recorded above permissible limits, and the air quality was unhealthy.

The agency is responsible to ensure the protection of the environment under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997.

The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5



microns (PM2.5), which was a hazardous atmospheric contaminant, remained at 44 micro grammes per cubic meter on average which was higher than the NEQS of 35 mic-programmes per cubic meter and denoted the air quality unhealthy.

PM2.5 is generated through the combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material and dust blown up by fast-moving cars plying on

non-cemented patches of the roads.

Senior Pulmonologist at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr Zia Ul Haq, told APP that dry and cold air was mainly the reason behind respiratory diseases during winter.

He said the respiratory tract of an individual, consisting of throat and lungs, has internal surfaces possessing normal bacteria and no breach in it.

However, he said, increased

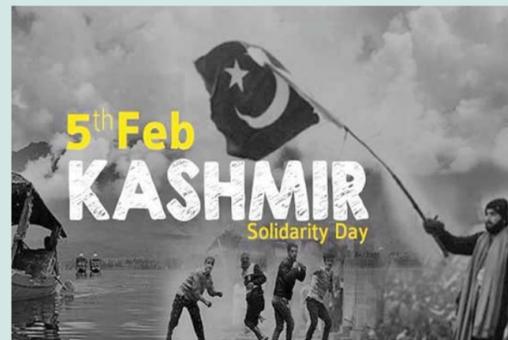
exposure of an individual to dry and cold air at different phases in outdoors causes breaches in the lining of the respiratory tract which leads to an infection and also damages the normal secretions taking place inside the breathing organs.

He said the pulmonologists usually advise the elderly above 50 years of age or patients of chronic heart, kidney, and lung diseases to get the flu vaccine during the peak winter season to avoid respiratory diseases.

The senior pulmonologists said the people were also advised to avoid unnecessary prolonged outdoor visits during the morning and evening timings of cold weather whereas in case of any visit, they should properly cover their eyes, and face by wearing face masks and coverings.

Moreover, he also directed the masses to ensure the intake of warm fluids as necessary beverages like warm water and hot tea, etc to control damage to the respiratory tract amid bad weather and air quality.

Cultural festival to mark 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' starting from Feb 3



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A three-day colorful Kashmir Cultural Festival will be held here at National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa from February 3-5, to mark 'Kashmir Solidarity Day'.

The festival is being organized in collaboration with Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and Federal Directorate of Education, at Shakarparian.

The main attractions of the festival include Kashmiri Artisans at Work, Kashmiri folk crafts, Kashmiri patriotic songs performance, Kashmiri folk musical performances, Kashmiri folk paintings by youth, Kashmiri cuisines, photographic exhibition on Kashmir, screening of video documentaries on Kashmir and many other attractions.

The event aimed to highlight the Kashmir issue, and to promote cultural heritage through soft expressions of art and crafts prepared by Kashmiri artisans, said the organizers.

The activities have been arranged to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people struggling for their right of self-determination in the Indian Occupied Kashmir through purely a cultural perspective. "A special exhibition of Kashmiri arts, crafts by master artisans in different specialized craft fields like papier mache, embroidery, namda, gabba, jewelry, weaving, etc. will be part of display while live folkloric performances by folk artistes, folk musicians and instrumentalists will also be presented through inspirational and national songs to project the Kashmir cause."

"Since music has no language, its melodious tones reach hearts and can convey any message effectively," said the organizers.

ECP prohibits transfers and new development projects in Punjab

News Desk

LAHORE: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday while issuing instructions to Punjab's caretaker set-up barred the caretaker government from notifying transfers and carrying out new development projects in the province.

Provincial Election Commissioner, on the other hand, also issued notification to Chief Secretary Punjab, Inspector General of Police Punjab, and other relevant officials. Meanwhile the caretaker government has been directed to take back public protocol cars from the outgoing Chief Minister and ensure vacation of government residence, hostels, and rest houses that were allotted to the previous administration.

WHO seeks \$2.5 billion to counter health emergencies like Pakistan's floods

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The World Health Organization (WHO), a Geneva-based UN agency, Monday launched a funding appeal for \$2.54 billion in 2023 to help people worldwide facing health emergencies such as last August's climate-induced floods in Pakistan.

The WHO, in its appeal, said a staggering 339 million people now needed humanitarian assistance globally.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the UN agency's Director-General, urged donors "to be generous" and help the WHO to save lives, prevent the spread of disease within and across borders, and support communities as they rebuild.

Today, he said, the WHO staff were providing assistance in 54 health crises around the world, 11 of which were classified as Grade 3, the WHO's highest level of emergency, requiring the most comprehensive response.

"As it is often the case, the most vulnerable are the worst-hit," the UN agency said in a statement.

The UN agency is already working in an "unprecedented" number of emergencies, from the fall-out of devastating flooding in Pakistan, to catastrophic food insecurity across the Sahel and in the greater Horn of Africa.

The WHO is also heavily involved in alleviating suffering in Ukraine following the Russian invasion and it continues to work in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and northern Ethiopia, where conflict, COVID-19 and climate change have dangerously disrupted health care access.

"This unprecedented convergence of crises demands an unprecedented response," Tedros said. "More people than ever before face the imminent risk of disease and starvation and need help now. The world cannot look away and hope these crises resolve themselves."

Islamabad witnesses four street crime incidents in 24 hours

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal capital Islamabad has witnessed four incidents of street crime in just 24 hours.

The capital city of Islamabad has seen a significant increase in street crime in the recent past.

In last 24 hours, four street crime incidents were reported where muggers snatched a citizen's phone in broad daylight in Faizabad.

In another incident, a man was mugged at a petrol pump in Iqbal town Islamabad and robbers snatched a woman's bag in Sector F-10 Markaz.

A case of auto theft was reported in Sector F-7/2 where thieves took the car from a citizen.

All these thief incidents were carried out by suspects riding a bike.

Earlier, a robber was killed and a police constable sustained injuries in an encounter near Islamabad's G-91 Karachi company area.

The federal capital police gunned down an alleged robber during a mugging incident near Islamabad's G-91 Karachi company area.

The police team responded to the complaint and started chasing the robbers. Later, an exchange of fire took place between the police and robbers, resulting in killing of a robber.

However, two of his accomplices managed to escape from the spot. During the exchange of fire, a police constable, named Kamran Uddin, sustained bullet injuries and was shifted to hospital.

Peshawar Serena Hotel hosts Mehfil-e-Samma

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Tourism Promotion Services (Limited) Pakistan hosted a Mehfil-e-Samma with the legendary Qawwal Imran Aziz Mian to celebrate its latest acquisition 'Peshawar Serena Hotel' to its portfolio of luxury hotels, resorts, forts, palaces in the south and central Asia.

According to a press release issued here on Monday, the beautifully organised musical evening began with a meet and greets that included prominent personalities from the corporate sector, the business community, and media houses.

The evening was an ode celebrating Serena Hotel's arrival in the oldest city of Pakistan, adds the press release.

The management of Serena believes that Peshawar has untapped potential for tourism and boasts a rich cultural heritage, which will help in extending the tourist circuit in the province but will also allow regional connectivity for tourists and business travelers through its vast portfolio of hotels in Islamabad,



Peshawar, Kabul, and Dushanbe.

The hotel shall serve as a gateway to central Asia, taking the brand portfolio to a whole new level, it remarked.

The management of Serena Hotel has retained the employees of Pearl Continental Hotel and has been working on the restoration and conservation of the existing 1970s building, with the intention to add to the existing structure.

Serena is well associated with conservation projects, with the Heritage Circuit being a part of the Serena Palaces and Forts that have been restored and renovated and are now being utilised as a historical hotel, the proceeds of which are handed back to the community in an annual ceremony.

A provincial job fair is planned to provide the youth with opportunities to become a part of the Serena fami-

ly, where internships, mentorship programs, and management training will be offered to the students of the region, showcasing Serena's ethos of community development, and capacity building.

The management has been actively engaged with the community, through the corporate social responsibility platform called 'Jazba-e-Khidmat', which is an initiative to provide donations and support to flood affectees of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region.

Now through the Peshawar Serena platform, the management will be distributing ration bags to the nearby areas affected by the catastrophic flooding of 2022.

The evening marked the beginning of many more events that are in the pipeline for Peshawar Serena Hotel and set the tone for the future.

Celebrating the rich cultural heritage and legacy of the city of flowers, through Serena Diplomacy initiatives i.e., public, cultural, sports, and adventure.

These initiatives by Serena Hotels

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 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
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Pakistan's Growing Water Crisis

Nazam Maqbool

Pakistan's economy is heavily dependent on the Indus Basin which is seasonal and depends on glacier melt, snow melt and rainfall runoff. The situation is risky and volatile, as Indus Basin accounts for 96% of total available freshwater resources in Pakistan and around 80% of the country's freshwater originates from outside the country.

With the fifth largest population in the world, Pakistan ranks 14 among the 17 'extremely high water risk' countries. Over the five decades, the country has drastically changed from being a water-abundant country to a water-stressed country mainly due to high population growth. By 2025, Pakistan could face droughts as its per capita water availability is going to become 'absolutely scarce' with less than 500 cubic metres.

The productivity and use of water are extremely unsustainable. In 2017, Pakistan ranked 8th lowest in the world, generating US\$1.4 per cubic meter of water withdrawn. Malaysia ranked 35th (US\$55.0/m³), Republic of Korea 37th (US\$52.4/m³),

China 71st (US\$ 21/m³) and Turkey 87th (US\$13.6/m³). Similarly, Pakistan ranks 160th in the ratio of water withdrawals to water resources (in 2017), performing better than 18 countries only. Agriculture is the largest water consumer, accounting for 94% of annual water withdrawals.

More worrying is that Pakistan's groundwater supplies, the last resort of water security, are also rapidly depleting. NASA's satellite data (released in 2015) of global underground water aquifers reveals that the underwater aquifer in the Indus Basin, whose rivers and tributaries constitute Pakistan's key water resource, is second-most stressed in the world.

Climate change is further exacerbating existing conditions, making the management of water availability and quality more difficult, and demanding new strategies for managing water resources. The country is already facing climate-related threats to water resources as is evident from the change in monsoon patterns, receding glaciers, rising temperatures and recurrence of floods and droughts. Since mid of June 2022, Pakistan has been affected by the worst floods caused by

record monsoon rains and melting glaciers, costing the economy over US\$30 billion. Over 33 million people have been affected out of a total population of 222 million, and around 1,400 people have been killed. One-third of the country is underwater, with over

of water in 21 cities of the country found the presence of bacterial contamination greater than 50% (of the permissible limits) in 17 cities and greater than 100% in 4 cities. About 60% of people in Pakistan are suffering from one or more of the main diseases associated with inadequate provision of drinking water and improved sanitation. The economic costs to Pakistan of poor water and sanitation, floods and droughts are estimated to be 4.0% of the GDP or about US\$ 12 billion per year.

Water demand is projected to reach 274 million acre-feet (MAF) by 2025 mainly due to increasing population, expanding cities and rising incomes, while supply is expected to remain stagnant at 193 MAF (143 MAF from river inflows plus 50 MAF from groundwater), resulting in a demand-supply gap of approximately 81 MAF.

In 2018, Pakistan formulated its first-ever National Water Policy. There are several shortcomings in the policy such as the absence of a scientific basis, the neglect of water quality issues, the absence of targets, and the lack of clear reference to SDGs and gender inclusion. There is a need for clear timelines, capacity, political will and provision of financial resources.

The solution requires efficient management and conservation of water and ownership to resolve the issue by the political leadership.

The solution requires efficient management and conservation of water and ownership to resolve the issue by the political leadership.

80 districts (out of 160 districts) in the country having been officially notified as 'calamity hit' - 31 in Balochistan, 23 in Sindh, 17 in KP, 06 in GB and 03 in Punjab.

Besides declining per capita water availability, the quality of the precious resource is also on the decline with implications for human health and economic development. Both surface and groundwater have become polluted mainly due to domestic sewage, industrial effluents and solid waste. A study on the quality

Electricity restoration

The electricity supply is being restored in a phased manner after a country-wide power breakdown at 07:34 a.m. Monday which was caused by an abrupt drop in the frequency system of the national grid.

The day-long power outages disrupted the routine public life across the country, with fluctuating Internet services and electricity generators fully exhausted by evening due to constant burden and functioning.

The electricity will hopefully be restored completely by tonight as the technical teams of the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and other experts are busy in rectifying the fault, which occurred in the North-South system earlier in the morning.

Taking a strong notice of the major electricity breakdown, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif set up a high-level committee to find out the overall reason, besides an urgent report from Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir on the matter.

He emphasized on finding the pitfalls that led to the power breakdown, with clearly fixing the responsibility.

PM Shehbaz Sharif ordered swift measures to restore electricity, saying inconvenience to the general public would not be tolerated.

Minister for Energy (Power Division) Engineer Khurram Dastgir, while addressing a televised news conference, said the transmission system had tripped due to unusual fluctuation in the voltage of the national grid.

However, he added, the electricity was being restored in different parts of the country in a gradual manner and "hopefully it will be fixed completely tonight".

Khurram Dastgir said the entire transmission system was safe despite such a massive power breakdown. A power plant located in the Uch area was functional, and power supply to some areas of Balochistan and Southern Punjab had already been restored.

The minister, who was personally supervising the restoration operation from the National Power Control Centre (NPCC), said partial power supply to Karachi had also been started through Thar Coal Power plants.

He said the NTDC had been given the instructions to freely switch on any power plant, if needed for meeting the electricity demand.

Meanwhile, an Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) spokesperson said the technical experts were busy in the complete restoration of power in the region, and they had so far managed to restore almost 50 per cent of the tripped grid stations.

"The feeders are being restored in a phased manner to protect the system from overloading," he said in a press statement.

The IESCO spokesperson advised the consumers to avoid excessive use of electricity, once it was fully restored, for uninterrupted transmission.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) also took serious notice of the countrywide power breakdown, directing the NTDC to submit a detailed report in that regard.

The Authority had previously imposed fines on similar tripping/outages, partial/full blackout(s), system collapse(s), tower collapse(s) in the years 2021 & 2022, and regularly issued directives/recommendations on averting such events as well.

Sharing the progress in the restoration of electricity, Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir on his Twitter handle posted that the restoration of power supply had started in Balochistan as the "Quetta city electricity is largely restored".

He said the electricity supply was improving gradually in the Islamabad region, including Jhelum, and Karachi as well.



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

AZERTAC Report

In response to a number of unfounded allegations regarding the situation around the Lachin road, we remind once again that according to paragraph 6 of the Trilateral Statement, the Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the safety of citizens, vehicles and goods traveling along the Lachin road in both directions. Safety also includes the prevention of misuse of the Lachin road. Armenia, instead of preventing the abuse of the Lachin road, contrary to the Trilateral Statement, brings newly manufactured landmines in large numbers and the areas, where the 2021-Armenia-produced landmines were planted to the commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces temporarily deployed in Azerbaijan, the leaders of the Turkish and Russian contingents of the Türkiye-Russia Joint Monitoring Center, as well as the military attachés and journalists of foreign countries accredited in Azerbaijan. These landmines were inspected by military personnel and specialists.

It is impossible to deny these facts. It is known that the statements about the non-production and non-export of landmines by Armenia during the last decades, and the claims about this in the reports submitted by Armenia to relevant international platforms, were only false. For instance, the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the OSCE declared that no mines are produced in Armenia during its speech at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation on October 5, 2022. Now, the Armenian Foreign Minister not only confirms that landmines were actually produced in Armenia in 2021, but at the same time, despite previous denials, he emphasizes that the mentioned landmines discovered in the territories of Azerbaijan were

manufactured by Armenia. In addition to what has been mentioned, the claims of the Armenian side in the interview that they placed landmines only in the territory of the Republic of Armenia is hypocrisy. During the occupation Armenia placed landmines in thousands of sq. km. areas within the territories of Azerbaijan, currently continues landmine threats, and only since the end of 44-day Patriotic war 282 Azerbaijanis became victims of landmine explosions.

Regarding the claims by Armenian Foreign Minister on opening of communications, we would like to remind once again that it is well known to the international community which party is obstructing the opening of communication lines and renouncing agreements in this direction. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Trilateral Statement, Azerbaijani side demands the establishment of a "transport links between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in order to organize an unimpeded movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions." Armenia, within the Trilateral Statement, has agreed to provide unimpeded movement through its territory and, indirectly, to remove all obstacles, and must comply with this commitment. The claim that Armenia, which has occupied the internationally recognized sovereign territories of Azerbaijan for nearly 30 years, thereby isolating itself from all transport projects, is allegedly promoting East-West and South-North transport routes, is surprising.

We once again remind the Armenian Foreign Minister, who wants to evade from obligations, that listed destructive activities and statements do not serve to restore peace in the region, and are primarily against Armenia," Aykhan Hajizade said.

Educating future generations

Sidra Riaz

International Day for Education is celebrated annually on January 24th, and is recognised by the United Nations as a day to promote access to education for all. The United Nations proclaims education as a human right, "a public good and a public responsibility". This year the global partners have gathered behind the theme, "to invest in people, prioritise education" to track and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals against the challenges of global economic recession and the climate crisis.

Globally, 224 million children are deprived of their basic human right to quality education and are missing out on the opportunities they deserve. In Pakistan, the International Day for Education serves as a grim reminder of the 22.8 million out of school (OOS) children (aged 5-16) which amounts to 44% of the population in that age-group. These OOS children in Pakistan represent the country's future workforce and leaving them behind means not only missing out on the opportunity to learn and develop the skills they need for future employment, but also on the chance to gain the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to be active and informed citizens.

Bringing out-of-school children back into the economic spectrum is a complex and multifaceted challenge that will require the collective efforts of the multiple stakeholders. With education being a provincial subject in Pakistan, and the federal government being the custodian of the overall education policy, the responsibility to lead this critical task rests on the government. Yet, there's only so much that the government can do with the limited resources and the economic pressures amounting.

In this context, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is working to build its future generation through supporting the government's mission to enable equitable access to education for the children in the disadvantaged rural areas, mainly through establishing a network of community schools. Since 2005, PPAF has established 411 community schools

in rural areas across Pakistan to send the OOS children back to schools. Most of these areas had no educational facility within a 2 km radius or an abandoned one which PPAF adopted to increase enrolment and retention of students, especially girls, in schools. Through various programmes, PPAF strengthened over 1,500 public schools, with an overall impact of over 60,000 OOS children enrolled back to schools.

Under one of the integrated Programmes, the Programme for Poverty Reduction, funded by the Italian Government through the Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), PPAF included a component to improve access to education in underserved districts in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. 813 schools including 619 government and 194 community institutions have been supported under the initiative, benefiting thousands of children to access quality education.

Another model programme which PPAF has implemented, the Chamalang Education Programme, provides education scholarships to invest in the future of the children of coal miners from Kohlu and Loralai. The project has supported over 3,000 underserved students, with most of the students now enrolled in secondary schools. Currently, PPAF is supporting over 1200 students including over 390 girls, till higher secondary level, in terms of their tuition fee, which is directly provided to 14 schools. PPAF also supports exposure visit of the students annually to boost their confidence to help them grow personally as well as academically.

While PPAF is proud of its investment in educating the future generation of Pakistan, a lot more needs to be done to leave an impact. It is high time we realise the cost of leaving millions of young people uneducated which leaves them susceptible to a lifetime of poverty and hardship, with little to no participation in the civic life. On this International Day for Education, let's all pledge to be louder and clearer in our voices for the underserved children who deserve the access to equitable education as their basic human right.

The writer is currently linked with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) as GM-Communications & Media

Ethiopia industrial sector attracting Pakistani investors

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The efforts of the Embassy of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Islamabad has started yielding results as a major business group from Pakistan has flown to Addis Ababa last week to explore investment opportunities in its industrial sector.

A high-level delegation of Arif Habib Group visited Addis Ababa where they met with business people and officials of the government of Ethiopia and discussed prospects of investing in the country's production sector.

On Tuesday, 17 January 2023 the delegation led by Arif Habib Group of Companies Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Muhammad Kashif met with Commissioner of Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) H.E Engineer Lelise Neme and expressed keen interest to invest in manufacturing of fertilizer, cement and steel in Ethiopia.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Bekir Abdula was also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, the EIC commissioner briefed the delegation on the ease of doing business, incentive packages, and investment climate in Ethiopia which was conducive and favorable for investment operations.

On the occasion, the ambassador extended gratitude to the



delegation for visiting his country and said it was high time for the foreign investors to invest in

Ethiopia which offered lucrative opportunities, business-friendly environment, cheap cost of

production as well as multiple incentives on foreign direct investment.

The ambassador said Ethiopia had undergone a lot of transformation since Prime Minister H.E. Dr Abiy Ahmed came into power who had a vision to transform the country into a major investment destination not in Africa but also in the world.

"We are committed to facilitating the investors in our country, that is why we have established a one-window operation for them," he added.

He assured the delegation of the government's support in starting and doing business in Ethiopia which had been producing 96.4 per cent electricity from water and geothermal sources that provided in cheap rate.

The delegation of Arif Habib

Group has held will a meeting with officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Mines in which they were briefed them about the policies, opportunities and commitment and support of government to harvest the availed opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, mines and services.

Arif Habib Group is a giant company with \$2.5 Billion net assets that has a diversified portfolio of investments ranging from financial services, industries and real estate development and advisory.

It has a history of building Joint Venture (JV) partnerships and is continuing to expand business collaborations with domestic as well as foreign entities.

Restoration of Power

Tashkent: Ministry of Energy, Uzbekistan acknowledged the suspension of power exports to Afghanistan and announced plans to resume supplies from January 25.



Grand Celebration of Chinese New Year 2023 by China Cultural Center in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Starting from 15th January, 2023, China Cultural Center in Pakistan has launched series of activities to grandly celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year.

2023 Chinese New Year falls on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023, and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 5th, 2023.

Chinese New Year is also known as Spring Festival. It is the most important festival of the year for the Chinese Nation. It is a time reserved for families. It is an important opportunity for families and friends to get together and celebrate the New Year.

Often, family members and relatives travel from all over the country to come together for the special event.

Chinese people strive to



make this event as special as possible, often spending hours preparing food and decorations for the events of the festival.

In order to celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, China Cultural Center in Pakistan is working with the Shanghai Municipality this year to promote the cultural and tourism resources of Shanghai in Pakistan. A wide range of exciting events, such as cultural performances,

exhibits, tourism promotion documentaries, and more, will be included.

China Cultural Center in Pakistan launched the musical concert "Our Common Homeland" by the Shanghai Chinese Orchestra online, and in the coming days, "Happy Chinese New Year-Pujiang Arts Collection" Online Performances & Exhibitions by the Center for China Shanghai International Arts Festival and more similar activities will be launched on various social media platforms run by China Cultural Center in Pakistan as well as the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan.

The Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan organized a cake-cutting ceremony with the renowned restaurant chain MONAL on the evening

of January 20, 2023, in Islamabad to kick off the upcoming celebration and to cordially invite all Chinese nationals living in Pakistan to take part.

Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and concurrently Director of China Cultural Center in Pakistan said that Happy Chinese New Year, an annual brand activity held to celebrate Spring Festival under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, has taken off in recent years and is increasingly becoming an important platform for China to share Chinese culture and concepts with shared future with people from all over the world.

Friend from Pakistan can visit our social media platform including Facebook and Wechat to witness the festive celebration of 2023 Happy Chinese New Year.

BARD Foundation's youngest beneficiary joins Adidas as Brand Ambassador



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Haniya Minhas has become the first youngest Pakistani to be appointed as the official brand ambassador of the leading global sportswear brand, Adidas. She is Pakistan's first teen athlete to accomplish this historic feat.

Haniya began training at IMG on August 22, 2022, and since then has had a string of remarkable accolades, including reaching Semi Finals in Orange Bowl International U12 Florida, USA, 3rd place in U12 Eddie Herr International, Florida, USA, Champion at Little Mo International Championship U12, Doubles and Mix Doubles in New York, USA, Champion at USTA National U14 Tennis Championship Final in Florida, USA, Champion at L5 U16 National Tennis Championship in the United States, Champion at U14 National Tennis Championships in Coral Springs, Florida, and the Champion at USTA U16 Girls National Championship Final in Florida, USA.

President of BARD Foundation, Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, expressed the pride BARD Foundation feels in its association with Haniya and said: "I'm delighted at this young talent. This is remarkable news and a great honor for Pakistan and all those with high aspirations, especially women.

Haniya's training at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, and tournaments' cost is being sponsored by the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation. The mission of foundation is to facilitate individuals who demonstrate the drive and determination to excel in their chosen field.

KC-EU to hold a protest camp on Thursday in Brussels

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) to hold a protest camp on the occasion of Indian Republic Day (26th January 2023) in front of EU External Action Service (EU foreign ministry) in Brussels, the capital of Belgium on Thursday.

It is important to mention that Kashmiris, who are suffering from Indian atrocities for last seven decades, observe the Indian Republic Day falling on 26th January as black day every year. The peaceful protest camp in Brussels would be started at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 26th January 23, 2023.

In a statement, Chairman KC-EU Ali Raza Syed said, India claims of being largest democracy of the world but it refuses the democratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir as atrocities against the people are continued. He said, peace in Kashmir is connected to the whole region. If Kashmir is witness of peace, the whole region would be witness of peace and prosperity.

Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed said that Kashmiri nation is not ready to compromise on their right to self determination.

On the Indian republic day, we simply want to convey a message to Indian government that there is no point in glorifying the democracy if people are living in miseries under the might of the gun, he said.

KC-EU's Chairman Ali Raza Syed demanded New Delhi to give right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that India should end brutalities against the Kashmiris and fulfil its promise for right of Self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

If democracy is all about justice, then we must say that our fellow Kashmiris are not getting the justice even after seven decades.

UK welfare organization distributed relief materials in flood victims in Dadu



Azad Baloch

DADU: A delegation of UK welfare organization reached Dadu, Nigel Harris, chief executive of Tearfund, Martin Leach, Regional Director of Tearfund-UK, Johnathan Johnson, Country Director, Tearfund UK, Funiyaz John, Flood Response Manager Tearfund UK, Khawar Gul partnerships engagement, Tearfund UK, Akhter Ali operations Managers Tearfund UK, visited the Dadu, Sindh on Monday.

The delegation met with its strategic partner, Rural Education & Economic Development Society (REEDS)-Pakistan, at REEDS provincial office in Dadu. Mr. Shahid Saleem, CEO-REEDS, shared the progress of the REEDS flood response. Mr. Nigel showed satisfaction towards REEDS efforts for the rehabilitation of flood victims.

After that, a meeting was held at the office of deputy commissioner Dadu and Dr. Zahid, the focal person of NGOsINGOs, presided over the meeting. He warmly thanked the honorable guests for their financial support in reaching District Dadu's most vulnerable flood-affected communities through REEDS Pakistan.

The delegation visited the villages of UC Kamal Khan, Gul Muhammad Rodrani, and Village Babu Channa. Nigel distributed micronutrients, food security, and livelihood packages to 50 small-holding farmers in Village Gul Muhammad Rodhrani. The delegation met with Tearfund beneficiaries in both villages and assured full financial support through REEDS Pakistan to rehabilitate the flood victims.

Shenzhen-Denpasar flight route to boost tourist visits: Ministry

Spokesman Report

JAKARTA: The Indonesian Transportation Ministry is buoyant that the opening of the Shenzhen-Denpasar flight route would increase tourist visits to Indonesia.

"We welcome this inaugural flight. This shows that Indonesia, especially Bali, is still a favorite tourist destination," the ministry's Director General of Air Transportation, Maria Kristi Endah Murni, noted in her statement received here, Monday.

Moreover, she said, this is a form of support from the ministry's directorate general of air transportation for the Proud to Travel in Indonesia Program to encourage tourist mobility to Indonesia.

The Directorate General of Air Transportation also welcomed the inaugural charter flight of Lion Air PK-LSU JT2648 type Boeing 737-900ER aircraft, with the flight route Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, China (SZX)-I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport, Denpasar, Bali (DPS) on Sunday, January 22.

Murni stated that the new policy of the Chinese government, which has opened the border gate since January 8, 2023, will provide a positive value for Indonesia and be able to revive the country's aviation industry.

"We will provide full support for airlines that have complied with existing regulations and rules by granting flight permits

to them. Of course, we will continue to implement strict health protocols in Indonesian tourist destinations," she remarked.

Murni noted that future challenges for the aviation industry include the opening of all international borders, including China.

"As a result, requests for opening flight paths will continue to grow and services must continue to be improved. (This is) of course, by always implementing safety, security, and services as well as compliance with applicable regulations," she remarked.

The direct flight from Shenzhen to Denpasar on January 22 carried 212 foreign tourist passengers from China comprising 193 adult passen-



gers, 17 children, and two toddlers.

Earlier, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy

Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno expressed optimism that the

return of tourists from China would support the 2023 target of foreign tourist visits of 3.5 million to 7.4 million.

"We hope that the arrival of Chinese tourists would accelerate recovery of this sector and create more jobs," he stated.

He explained that China is one of the largest market countries for tourism in Indonesia. This year, the ministry is targeting 255,300 Chinese tourists to visit.

"We are also still implementing the health protocol that has been regulated by the COVID-19 Task Force and the Ministry of Health for the arrival of Chinese tourists, and as of today, there is no need for additional checks for tourists from China, (and) all follow the existing standards," he affirmed.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 38,443.59 | 38,407.98 |
| Day's High | Day's Low: |
| 38,553.12 | 38,135.53 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 2,466,073,144 | +35.61 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.09% | Jan 23, 2023 5:00 pm |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 7,784.67 | +14.08 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.18% | 23 Jan, 4:35 pm GMT |
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 33,694.58 | +319.09 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.96% | 23 Jan, 11:58 am GMT-5 |
| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 26,906.04 | +352.51 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +1.33% | 23 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

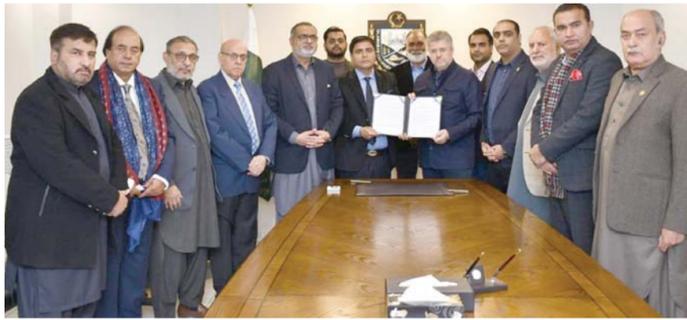
Open Market Forex Rates

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 174 | 175.25 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 613 | 617.5 |
| Canadian Dollar | 186 | 187.35 |
| China Yuan | 34.02 | 34.27 |
| Danish Krone | 33.42 | 33.77 |
| Euro | 270 | 272.5 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 29.36 | 29.71 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.81 | 2.89 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.51 | 2.55 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 750.3 | 755.3 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 52.59 | 53.04 |
| New Zealand \$ | 148.33 | 149.53 |
| Norwegians Krone | 22.43 | 22.73 |
| Omani Riyal | 596.4 | 600.9 |
| Qatari Riyal | 63.08 | 63.58 |
| Saudi Riyal | 66.4 | 67.1 |
| Singapore Dollar | 178 | 179.3 |
| Swedish Korona | 21.78 | 22.08 |
| Swiss Franc | 250.23 | 251.98 |
| Thai Bhat | 6.98 | 7.08 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 68.8 | 69.5 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 308 | 311 |
| US Dollar | 237.85 | 240.1 |

ICCI signs MoU with Moscow Chamber to promote Pak-Russia trade relations

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has signed a Protocol of Intentions with Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) to work jointly for promoting business linkages between the private sectors of both countries and enhancing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Russia. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI and Stanislav Korolev, Chairman, Commission on Foreign Economic Relations with Partners in Pakistan of MCCI signed the document during a ceremony held at ICCI. Dr. Zahid A. Khan, President, Pakistan Trade House in Russia was also present in the signing ceremony.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that Pakistan and Russia have great potential to enhance trade relations as their current bilateral trade is far less than their actual potential. He said that both countries should make efforts to take bilateral trade to at least US\$ 5 billion within the next few years. He said that Pakistan can export many products to Russia including agricultural products, textiles, clothing, pharmaceuticals, rice, leather, sporting goods, surgical equipment and others. He said that Pakistan and



Russia should sign a free trade agreement to boost trade volume. He said that Pakistan is a huge market and Russian investors should invest in energy, oil & gas, infrastructure development, railways and other sectors in Pakistan. He said that ICCI would consider taking a delegation to MCCI in May or June this year for B2B meetings to explore new areas of bilateral trade promotion.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President, ICCI said that Russia had helped Pakistan in estab-

lishing Pakistan Steel Mills and we would like to revive similar flagship Russian projects in Pakistan in cooperation with Moscow Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Russia should encourage frequent exchange of trade delegations to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation.

Speaking at the occasion, Stanislav Korolev, Chairman, Commission on Foreign Economic

Relations with Partners in Pakistan of Moscow Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Russia wants to expand trade ties with Pakistan. He said that ICCI should lead efforts for promoting business relations with Russia. He said that he has been working since 2015 for an Islamic Bank in Russia to promote trade relations with Muslim countries including Pakistan. He said that Russia is quite advanced in the pharmaceutical sector and can cooperate with Pakistan in this field. He said that the Energy Ministers of Russia and Pakistan have signed protocols for boosting cooperation in the energy sector as the three-day Pakistan-Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation has examined the prospects for boosting cooperation in the energy field. He hoped that the signing of protocol between ICCI and MCCI would contribute to improving trade ties between the two countries.

Ameer Hamza, Humayun Kabir, Maqsood Tabish, Sheikh Ejaz, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful proposals for improving bilateral trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Russia.

Failure

KARACHI: A view of closed petrol pump during major power outage in Provincial Capital, A major power breakdown hits the country early Monday morning, affecting multiple cities, such as Rawalpindi, Lahore, Quetta and Karachi, due to a failure in the national grid for the second time in the last three months.



Photo: Online

KE teams closely supervising power supply to Karachi following tripping in national grid

KARACHI: K-Electric on Monday said that its teams are active and directly supervising the restoration efforts across Karachi. Teams are also in contact with relevant authorities to reestablish the link between Karachi and the National Grid, which will quicken the restoration of power supply to affected areas.

As per reports, a fault in the National Grid caused a sudden drop in the system frequency at approximately 7:34 AM on 23rd January 2023. This caused a cascading outage widespread across the country, affecting power supply to multiple cities including Karachi. Fortunately, our system's protective mechanisms were able to prevent any damage to our infrastructure. KE teams are active and directly supervising the restoration efforts across Karachi. Teams are also in contact with relevant authorities to reestablish the link between Karachi and the National Grid, which will quicken the restoration of power supply to affected areas.

Bariam D'Awari dedicated his life to the service of humanity and the name of Pakistan abroad: M. Akram Farid

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chairman of All Pakistan Hotel Association (PHA) and Chairman Capital of Employers Federation of Pakistan, Mian Akram Farid expressed regret over the death of well-known businessman Bariam D'Awari and said that the deceased spent his whole life to serve humanity. Ghazari, late Bahram D. Awari and I had a very old relationship and they were friends of friends.

Whether it was in foreign countries, whether it was in the field of sports or business, they celebrated the Name of Pakistan everywhere, they should have given a new innovation to the hotel industry. Be it Pakistan or Europe, he made the name of Pakistan famous everywhere.

And created a name in the hotels industry, today Awari Group of companies is



a brand and employs millions of people.

He made a name for himself by winning a gold medal in the sailing event of the Asian Games in 1982. The then President of Pakistan also gave him the Performance

Award at Pride of 1982.

He also won gold medals in the Asian Games twice. In sailing events, he won the gold medal in the Asian Games for the first time in Bangkok in 1978 with Muneer Sadiq and the second time in the 1982 Delhi Asian Games with his wife Goshpi Awari.

He also won a silver medal at the Enterprise World Championship in Canada in 1978. He was also Commodore of Karachi Yacht Club in 1976 and again in 1980.

He was one of the leading business and social personalities of Karachi and the country.

He was also Honorary Consul General of Canada. Mian Akram Farid, who worked for the welfare and service of humanity throughout his life, expressed his condolences to the bereaved family and dear relatives and attended his last rites.



Mastercard and ZoodPay join forces to launch first virtual installment card across EEMEA.

Minister Naveed Qamar stresses to resolve problems of stranded goods, opening of LCs



KARACHI: A meeting chaired by Federal Minister Commerce & Trade Syed Naveed Qamar and co-chaired by Federal Minister Maritime Affairs Faisal Sabzwari was held today at KPT headoffice in Karachi attended by top officials of Commerce Ministry, Customs, State Bank, Ports and other stakeholders to review the situation in order to facilitate the importers in terms of detention and other levies and expeditious clearance.

Federal Minister Commerce & Trade Syed Naveed Qamar emphasised that the procedures should be devised to solve the problems of stranded goods at the ports, steps to be taken to open LCs to facilitate business community and promote trade and effective implementation of policies to increase exports, reduction in current account deficit and better regulatory environment for economic growth to be implemented.

Import of goods' cases at port or in transit: SBP

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan on Monday withdrew the requirement of prior approval of imports and instead gave general guidance to the banks for prioritising import of certain essential items like food, pharmaceutical and energy. The business community, including various trade bodies and chambers of commerce, highlighted that a large number of shipping containers carrying imported goods are stuck up at the ports, due to delays in the release of the shipping documents by the banks, said a press release issued on Monday. APP

Saad Hayat Tamman selected as Young Global Leader, Representing the country at the annual meeting of World Economic Forum at Davos

Saad Hayat Tamman was selected by the World Economic Forum to represent the Young Global Leader community and Pakistan at the recently concluded 2023 Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum at Davos. Indeed, each year, the Forum of Young Global Leaders goes through a rigorous selection process to identify, select and commemorate remarkable leaders under 40 who come from different communities and industries worldwide. In their words: "These young leaders exemplify what we need most today: hope, empathy, authenticity, and driving solutions that change the world for the better."

Saad Hayat Tamman was one of only two representatives selected from Pakistan for the Young Global Leaders class of 2022. The other was Nighat Dad from the Digital Rights Foundation. Saad has been a member of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan's Strategic Reforms and Implementation Unit where he advised cabinet members on critical reforms in agriculture, civil services and climate change, alongside supporting the Prime Minister's Task Force on Institutional Reforms, also implementing the Prime Minister's Performance Agreements with the Federal Cabinet. Saad currently

serves as the National Coordinator of the Living Indus initiative by the Ministry of Climate Change for the ecological restoration of the Indus Basin and is also a member of the Punjab Protected Areas Management Board. A former Fulbright scholar of distinction, prior to his work at the Prime Minister's Office, Saad worked as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company with a focus on public and private sector transformation projects. He has also consulted for the World Bank and the United Nations.

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting witnesses the convening of leaders from govern-

ment, business, and civil society to address the global issues, premised on the theme of cooperation in a fragmented world. At the annual meeting, Saad interacted with global leaders; including heads of states, cabinet members and industry leaders such as Satya Nadella - CEO of Microsoft, among other powerhouses. Saad himself represented Pakistan's flagship initiative for investment in the ecological restoration of the Indus, which was presented by Minister Sherry Rehman to the Pakistan's Investor's Forum hosted by the Karachi Council on Foreign Affairs and Pathfinder Group.



Commenting on the visit, Saad Tamman said, "It has been an honour and privilege to represent Pakistan at the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader.

With critical areas such as climate change and food security under discussion by a diversity of international stakeholders, representing young Pakistan's point of

view was important in wake of the recent mega floods and current inflation crisis."

Saad Tamman continued to say, "We live in a fragmented world, marked largely by disharmony and polarisation. It is now time to invest in resilience, such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami, under the leadership of former Minister of Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam and Prime Minister Imran Khan. We must build greater areas for cooperation through initiatives such as Living Indus, which was conceived by the previous government and now led by Minister Sherry Rehman."

Sethi announces to attend ACC Board Meeting in February

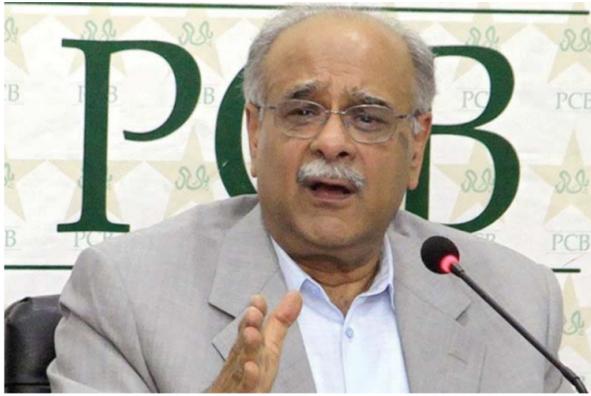
Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) management committee Najam Sethi on Monday, announced that he will attend the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Board Meeting in February.

Sethi addressed the media here and announced that he will be attending the board meeting of the ACC in Bahrain on February 4 and will discuss Pakistan's stance towards hosting the upcoming Asia Cup.

"The Asian Cricket Council board meeting was not being held for a long time and the decisions were being taken unilaterally and we also challenged some of those decisions," said Sethi.

"So, the good news is that we've



managed to convince the Asian Cricket Council [for the meeting] and now

on February 4 in Bahrain and I will be attending it.

"So, this is a very major development and there were a lot of issues that you guys were agitating, we will be taking up those," Sethi told the media.

It is pertinent to mention that the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) had announced that their national team will not be touring Pakistan to partake in the Asia Cup 2023.

According to the details, BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, who is also the president of the ACC, said that the Asia Cup 2023 may be played at a neutral venue instead of Pakistan.

Following BCCI's announcement, PCB wrote a formal complaint to ACC and requested to call an emergency meeting in light of the current situation.

Ludhiana Gymkhana second team qualifies for 20-K Cup 2023 semis

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Ludhiana Gymkhana emerged as the second team that qualified for the semifinal of the 20-K Cup 2022 after routing Ali Garh Club by 7 wickets in the second quarterfinal played here at the Model Town Greens ground on Monday.

Ali Garh Club, batting first, scored 160 runs for the loss of 10 wickets in 19.1 overs. Muhammad Faizan contributed with 38 runs while Ahsan Bhatti struck 32 and Faraz Ahmad 31 runs. Imran Ali and Muhammad



Junaid bowled extremely well for Ludhiana Gymkhana and clinched 3 wickets

replied strongly and chased the required target for the loss of three wickets in 18.5 overs. Fahad Munir was top scorer with 52 runs off 50 balls while Ahmad Ashfaq hammered 34 and Kashif Siddique 31 runs. Shahid Iqbal bagged two wickets and Bilawal Bhatti took one wicket for Ali Garh Club.

For his brilliant batting display, Fahad Munir was named player of the match. The third quarterfinal will be played between Model Town Club and Shahkamal Cricket Club tomorrow Tuesday (January 24) at 11am.

Nketiah winner sees Arsenal past Man Utd, Haaland hat-trick tames Wolves

Sports Desk

MANCHESTER: Eddie Nketiah's last minute strike earned Arsenal a thrilling 3-2 win over Manchester United to move five points clear at the top of the Premier League on Sunday after Erling Haaland's hat-trick fired Manchester City to a 3-0 victory over Wolves.

The Gunners remain on course for a first title in 19 years with a game in hand over City also to come.

United went in front at the Emirates after Marcus Rashford's thunderous strike opened the scoring with his ninth goal since the World Cup break.

Arsenal levelled within seven minutes as Nketiah's powerful header rounded off a brilliant team move.

Bukayo Saka's long-range effort that arrowed into the bottom corner put the home side in front early in the second half.

This time United bounced straight back when Lisandro Martinez, who had been a target for Arsenal before arriving at Old Trafford in July, headed in a loose ball from a corner.

Erik ten Hag's men were penned inside their own box for much of the final quarter as the post denied Saka a second and David de Gea saved from Nketiah.

Arsenal's pressure finally got its reward when Nketiah flicked home Martin Odegaard's shot and the goal survived a VAR check for offside. "Emotional, a lot of passion, a lot of quality. It doesn't get much better than that," said Arteta.

"To come here against this team and play the way we played. The second half especially, the performance was incredible."

A first defeat in 11 games realistically ends any hope of United's first title in a decade as they slip 11 points behind Arsenal in fourth, having played a game more.

Arthur set to return as Pakistan coach, says PCB chief

News Desk

LAHORE: Mickey Arthur is set to return as Pakistan head coach, the chairman of the country's cricket board Najam Sethi said on Monday.

Former spinner Saqlain Mushtaq has decided against extending his coaching contracts with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), according to media reports, and Sethi is keen to bring back Arthur.

"I am personally in negotiations with Mickey and we have resolved 90 percent



of issues," Sethi told a news conference. "Hopefully, we will very soon share the news that Mickey will be joining us." "I'd like him to build his own team of coaches once he is here."

Former South Africa, Australia and Sri Lanka coach Arthur was in charge of the Pakistan team between 2016 and 2019 when they won the 2017 Champions Trophy and became the top-ranked T20 team in the world.

The Johannesburg-born 54-year-old currently has a long-term contract with Derbyshire.

Sethi also appointed former batsman Haroon Rasheed as the chief selector, replacing former all-rounder Shahid Afridi who held the post on an interim basis.

Haroon Rashid appointed Chief Selector

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Former Pakistan batter Haroon Rashid has been appointed as Chair of the men's National Selection Committee, while other members of his panel will be announced in due course.

Haroon played 23 Tests and 12 ODIs from 1977 to 1983 and last held this position in 2015-16. Most recently, he was the Convener of the Interim Selection Committee after having previously served in administrative and coaching roles with the age-group and national sides.

Chair of the PCB Management Committee, Mr Najam Sethi: "I want to congratulate Haroon Rashid and hope

he will use his cricket knowledge, understanding and background while picking squads for the upcoming international assignments."

Haroon Rashid: "I am honoured to have been entrusted with this responsibility and look forward to working very closely with the team management and the National High Performance Centre so that we have clear pathways and can work collectively to select best available players for what will be a busy and high-profile year of cricket, including the ACC Asia Cup, ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and the tour of Australia for three Tests.

"One of the key aspects I will like to focus on my time will be improving



communication. This is a critical area as the players need to have absolute clarity on why they have been selected or not selected, which, in turn, will help them to deliver the desired results, work harder on their skills and remain motivated."

Pakistan FTP commitments from now until June 2024:
 • 13 Apr-7 May - NZ to Pakistan (5

- T20Is & 5 ODIs)
- July - Pakistan to Sri Lanka (two Tests)
- August - Pakistan to Afghanistan (three ODIs)
- September - ACC 50-over Asia Cup in Pakistan
- October/November - ICC Men's Cricket World Cup India 2023
- December/January - Pakistan to Australia (three Tests)
- February/March - West Indies in Pakistan (two Tests, three T20Is)
- May - Pakistan to Netherlands (three T20Is), Ireland (three T20Is) and England (five T20Is)
- June - ICC Men's T20 World Cup USA/West Indies 2024

Pakistan thump Ireland in ICC U19 Women's T20 WC

A Sports -

POTCHEFSTROOM: Pakistan put on an all-round performance to thump Ireland by seven wickets and scripted a winning start to their ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Super Six.

After opting to bat first, Ireland could accumulate 113/7 in their allotted 20 overs at the back of a gritty half-century by Annabel Squires.

Ireland had a frustrating start to their innings as both openers - Rebecca Gough and Joanna Loughran - perished cheaply for a combined score of just 12 in the fourth over.

stood firm and kept the scoreboard ticking single-handedly as she did not receive any support from the other end.

The right-handed batter remained unbeaten with 55 off 52 deliveries and smashed five boundaries.

Besides Squires, only Zara Craig (17) remained the notable run-getter while no other batter could hold on for long against a disciplined Pakistan bowling attack.

Anosha Nasir and Rida Aslam bagged two wickets each for Pakistan, while Areesha Noor and Mahnoor Aftab struck out a batter apiece.

Set to chase 114, Pakistan comfortably sailed through for



the loss of just three wickets with 17 balls to spare; courtesy of a combined effort from their batters.

Openers Shawaal Zulfiqar and Eyman Fatima led a solid foundation for the run chase with a brisk 44-run partnership

before both batters perished on consecutive deliveries.

Fatima scored a quick 25 off just 17 balls, while Shawaal struck a 20-ball 18.

Following their departure, skipper Syeda Arooba Shah led from the front with her quick-fire knock of 35 and top-scored for her side before walking back to the dugout in the 15th over.

She scored 35 off just 25 deliveries and hit four boundaries.

Following Aroob's dismissal, Warda Yousaf (24*) stitched an unbeaten 17-run partnership with Laiba Nasir (7*) and led her side to glory.

For Ireland, Zara, Freya Sargent and Georgina Dempsey struck out a batter each.

Shadab Khan ties the knot with Saqlain Mushtaq's daughter



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan has tied the knot with the daughter of veteran cricketer and incumbent head coach, Saqlain Mushtaq, ARY News reported on Monday.

Taking to Twitter, the 24-year-old cricketer announced his Nikah with Saqlain Mushtaq's daughter, saying that he was becoming a part of his "mentor Saqi bhai's family".

Naseem Shah shines on his BPL debut



A Sports -

MIRPUR: Pakistan's young pacer Naseem Shah lit up the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) on debut as he took four wickets for his side Comilla Victorians' fixture against Dhaka Dominators on Monday.

Naseem, who made his BPL debut with the Victorians, wreaked havoc over the Dominators' batting lineup with his threatening pace.

The right-arm pacer took four wickets for just 12 runs in his quota of four overs to dent the home side's pursuit.

Naseem's brilliance inspired the Victorians to restrict the Dominators to a mere 104/9 after posting 164/6, thus powering to a dominating 60-run triumph.

Despite Naseem's ruthless bowling performance, his country-mate Khushdil Shah was adjudged the player of the match for his all-round performance.

The all-rounder scored a brisk 30 off just 17 deliveries before taking two wickets in the Dominators' run chase.

T20 break for Kohli and Rohit, says India coach Dravid



Sports Desk

INDORE: India's omission of star Virat Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma from an upcoming Twenty20 series against New Zealand is only intended to give them a rest, coach Rahul Dravid said Monday.

The duo's absence from two successive series had stoked rumours that Hardik Pandya would take over as regular T20 captain.

Pandya led the team to a 2-1 T20 series win over Sri Lanka earlier this month and has been named captain for the New Zealand matches, starting with Friday's opener.

Speaking ahead of the final one-day international against New Zealand on Tuesday, Dravid said India would prioritise the 50-over format going into this year's Cricket World Cup.

"There are certain priorities we need to give to certain white-ball tournaments," said Dravid, whose team already have an unassailable 2-0 lead in the ODI series, told reporters in Indore.

India host Australia for four Tests starting February 9, followed by three ODI matches.

"So the priority after last year's T20 World Cup has been these six games and Virat has played all these six games and he will get a bit of a break along with Rohit," Dravid said, referring to the ODIs against Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Dravid was pressed further on India's plans for a split captaincy in different formats.

"That's a question you need to ask the selectors but as of now, I don't think so," the 50-year-old said.

FIFA suspends Sri Lanka after governance 'red notice'

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Football's governing body FIFA has suspended Sri Lanka's national federation, it said Sunday, a month after issuing it with a "red notice" over governance issues.

That warning came after the Ministry of Sports introduced a raft of regulations that reportedly compromised the autonomy and independence of national sports bodies, including the Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL).

This month the FFSL held an election, which reportedly fell short of standards agreed upon with FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), in which an ally of the sports minister became chair.

In a letter Sunday, FIFA said the FFSL was suspended "until further notice".

The suspension prevents Sri Lanka - which is in the midst of a major economic crisis, blamed partly on corruption - from taking part in international competitions.