



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
برآمدن عازب رضی اللہ عنہ سے کہا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے رکوع، حمزہ، رکوع سے سر اٹھاتے وقت اور دونوں سیدوں کے درمیان کا پیشینا تقریباً برابر ہوتا تھا۔
(حجج بخاری: حدیث نمبر 801)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Fawad Ch. to face consequences of threatening constitutional body: Tarar

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Interior and Legal Affairs Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that incumbent government did not believe in political revenge and victimization but those threatening the officials of constitutional bodies would have to face legal action.



Thailand offers to develop sustainable tourism in Pakistan: Envoy

Thailand's Ambassador to Pakistan, Chakkird Krachaiwong, suggested on Wednesday that his country was looking forward to working with Pakistan on sustainable tourism as they have a lot of experience in it. "We have a lot of experience in terms of tourism and would like to share it for sustainable tourism in Pakistan. We are looking forward now to working with Punjab and other provinces for it," he said. (Report on Page 8)

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Umrah sojourn

RIYADH: A group of 25 Pakistani bikers embarked on a spiritual journey to Makkah, and on Tuesday, they reached Riyadh to perform Umrah. They began their journey from Lahore on Jan 6 and after 18 days of travel, they arrived in Saudi Arabia.



Ishaq Dar appraises US delegation on govt's economic priorities

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday appraised the United States' delegation on the economic priorities of the government to fix the economy towards the right path while fulfilling its international obligations. Mr. Robert Kaproth, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Asia called on the said minister at Finance Division, said a press release, issued here. Senior Macro-economist for the Department of Treasury for Pakistan Ms. Eva Ghirmai, Financial attache' Ms. Larita Bolden, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Finance and senior officers from Finance Division attended the meeting. Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomed Mr. Robert Kaproth and apprised the former on the economic outlook of the country. He apprised the present government inherited a weak economic legacy and said that despite challenging economic conditions, the government was focusing on fixing things in the right direction and introducing reforms in all sectors including the energy sector and capital market to achieve economic growth and development. He said that due to pragmatic measures taken by the government, the country was destined for progress and development.

PM, Zardari discuss political situation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and former President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday discussed the overall political situation of the country. The former president called upon the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique and Senator Salim Mandviwala were also present.

Imran Khan accuses interim CM Punjab of 'witch-hunt' against PTI

LAHORE: After senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry's arrest, party chief Imran Khan not only condemned his arrest by calling it a "witch-hunt" against his party but also addressed Interim Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi of backing such actions against PTI. Addressing his party's workers and supporters, the PTI chief said that Mohsin Naqvi is not there to conduct the upcoming elections as a neutral supervisor as he was the one who "backed the regime change operation against PTI". "Mohsin Naqvi just did what was expected of him after his appointment (as CM Punjab), he cherry-picked those police officers who tortured PTI workers (in the past)," said Imran Khan. "Are such people going to conduct free and fair elections?", questioned Imran Khan. The PTI chief urged his party supporters to stop fearing "jails, trials and tribulations" and unite against the incumbent "imported government", who he claimed is bent upon taking country towards "destruction" and "chaos". Imran Khan maintained that such "oppressive tactics" cannot force him to accept a government led by "crooks and thieves" and that he will fight such people "till his last breath". The PTI chief said that he has given 26 years of his politics in fight against such politicians "loot poor people of Pakistan" and "stash their wealth abroad" so that they can flee the country when needed. He was of the view that such "leadership whose interests are abroad" cannot take the country towards progress but keeps the country and nation "enslaved" to their foreign masters. The PTI chief said that his struggle is for justice and rule of law while the current government wants to bring in the "law of the jungle" in Pakistan.

UAE President arrives in Pakistan holds talks with PM of Pakistan

Spokesman Report
RAHIM YAR KHAN: President of UAE His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan today arrived in the city of Rahim Yar Khan during his visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Upon his arrival at the airport, His Highness was received by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and a number of ministers and senior officials. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the historical UAE-Pakistan ties and opportunities of enhancing joint cooperation in a way that serves the mutual benefit of the two countries and their peoples across various domains, which falls within the framework of the two countries' strategic partnership. Prime Minister Sharif welcomed the visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed to Pakistan, stressing that it represents a strong drive towards



developing the relations of the two friendly countries. The two parties discussed various cooperation paths especially in the fields of economy, trade and development, which are in line with the two countries' sustainability objectives. They also discussed several issues of common interest, and exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern. For his part, Prime Minister Sharif reaffirmed his country's pride in the historical UAE-Pakistan relations,

expressing his appreciation to the UAE for its continuous support to Pakistan in various conditions, especially in the development fields. The meeting was attended by H.H. Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council; H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Adviser to the UAE President; Ali Mohammed Hammad Al Shamsi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for National Security; and Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan. In attendance from the Pakistani side were Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan; Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister of Pakistan; Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Interim Chief Minister of Punjab; and a number of officials.

Pakistan claims to have thwarted India's false flag operation in occupied Kashmir

News Desk
RAWALPINDI: In a blow to India, Pakistani intelligence agencies claim to have thwarted a possible Indian false flag operation in occupied Kashmir on the country's Republic Day on Jan 26. The operation was planned in Poonch district, which would have been executed through the Indian army and police. The intelligence agencies have also exposed three key facilitators, one of whom, Bashir, is associated with the 93 Infantry Division, and Alam and Aslam are his companions. Under the plan, Bashir had to use the locals of Azad Kashmir to try to enter IIOJK by planting bombs or IEDs from Jashkwal, Azad Kashmir side. "The operation will be shown to have failed near any mosque in the area under the supervision of DSP Preshana. The Indian army and police will also reveal the fake recovery of bombs and IEDs to malign Pakistan before the international community," it is alleged.

Fawad Chaudhry Arrest: LHC Summons Islamabad, Punjab IGs

Bureau Reporter
LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has summoned the inspector generals of Islamabad and Punjab police today at 6pm after the authorities failed to produce Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry before court. The former federal minister was arrested by Islamabad police on Wednesday morning from outside his residence for "inciting violence against a constitutional institution". The LHC ordered police to present PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry in court by 1:30pm in response to a petition filed by Fawad's lawyer, Barrister Ahmad Pansota, for the "recovery" of the PTI senior leader. The petitioner had urged the court to recover Fawad from "illegal and unlawful confinement" and produce him before the court. Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh heard the plea and ordered the authorities to present the PTI leader before the court by 1:30pm. As the hearing resumed at 3pm, Punjab Advocate General (AAG) Chaudhry Muhammad Jawad Yaqub told the Lahore High Court (LHC) that PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry was in the custody of the Islamabad police. At which, the judge summoned the inspector generals of Islamabad and Punjab to court. "The IGs of Islamabad and Punjab should appear in the court by 6pm," Justice Sheikh ordered. Police allowed to take Fawad Chaudhry to Islamabad. Meanwhile, a court in Lahore today allowed the police to take PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry to Islamabad. The PTI stalwart was presented before the court by the Islamabad Police in tight security to seek a transitory remand to transfer the former federal minister to the federal capital. At the outset of the hearing, the lawyers of Fawad Chaudhry objected to handcuffing the former minister. Police should tell on what ground my client has been taken into custody, Chaudhry's lawyer said in his arguments before the court.



سوی ناردرن گیس Sui Northern Gas Helpline: 1199
سردی آگتی ہے خیال رکھنا!
گیس ہیٹر کا استعمال
حفاظت کا حتمی
7 family members including 4 children killed in gas leakage in Toba Tek Singh
Six of a family die in Hangu due to gas leakage
گیس ہیٹر سے مصروفیت گیس کا اخراج آئے روز جان لیوا حادثات کا سبب بنتا ہے لہذا! سردی سے بچنے کے لیے گرم کپڑے استعمال کریں

Souvenir

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori receiving souvenir from Turkish Consulate General in Karachi Cemal Sangu during a ceremony at Port Trust in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

President for practicing Islamic teachings to ensure Inter-Faith harmony, global peace

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday called for practicing cherished principles of Islam which called upon everyone to practice one's own religion without interfering in other's religions.

Practicing such principles ensures political, social, cultural, legal and religious freedoms for the followers of all religions, respecting and protecting their places of worship and allowing followers of all religions to pray in their worship places, he added.

The President expressed these views while addressing the opening session of the International Inter-Faith Peace Conference titled "Respect for Humanity and its Importance", in Islamabad.

Chairman Inter-Faith Council for Peace and Harmony, Maulana Syed Muham-



mad Abdul Khabeer Azad, and Founder of the Community of Sant' Egidio, Prof Dr Andrea Ricardi, also addressed the session, whereas Secretary General of the Muslim World League, Muhammad bin Abdul-Karim Al-Isa, addressed the occasion through a recorded video message.

The Conference was attended by the national and international scholars of different religions, and people from different walks of life.

The President said that all the religions of the world preached peace, security and harmony in society but unfortunately, followers of different religions forget and neglect

these teachings and resort to war on the basis of vested interests, nationalism, racism, land, resources or politics.

He said that it was the duty of the Islamic society to protect the religious places of other religions, provide security and respect to their religious leaders and give equal rights to them under the law. He added that Muslim societies are responsible to protect the honor, dignity, life and properties of followers of all other religions.

The President said that human beings learn more from making observations in reality around them and less from the history and academic debates and in the same manner countries and nations do not learn from their past mistakes of waging senseless wars but repeat the same mistake again and again

like USA and USSR invaded Vietnam and Afghanistan and learned a bitter lesson, but soon forgot and invaded again in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Prof Dr Andrea Ricardi soaking on the occasion appreciated Pakistan's hosting of the Afghan refugees.

He said that dialogues among communities were essential for promoting peace and harmony, adding that different religions needed to coexist peacefully.

He said that minorities had a right to their identity as it strengthened the foundations of a nation.

Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad on the occasion called for establishing international laws preventing hate speech.

He said that Pakistan had been a flag-bearer of love, tolerance, hospitality, and had fought against terrorism and religious extremism.

Dharejo invites Turkish businessmen to invest in Pakistan

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Industries and Cooperatives Department, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo, on Wednesday, stressed on the need to further promote trade relations between Türkiye and Pakistan and said that there were enormous investment opportunities for Turkish investors in Pakistan.

He expressed the views while addressing a Turkish business delegation comprising representatives of 30 companies and on a



visit to Sindh for the promotion of bilateral trade ties between the two brotherly countries.

Jam Ikramullah said that

Pakistan and Türkiye have good trade relations in various sectors while an agreement had also been signed between the two countries in August 2022 for the promotion of bilateral trade.

He welcomed the increasing trade volume between the two countries and invited Turkish investors to invest in Pakistan, especially in Sindh.

He expressed gratitude to the government and people of Türkiye for helping the flood victims of Sindh and

said that the two Islamic countries had excellent brotherly relations.

He added that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a role model for the Muslim Ummah.

Consul General of Türkiye in Karachi Cemal Sangu also addressed the ceremony while Secretary Industries and Trade Rashid Ahmed Solangi and a large number of industrialists from Turkey and Pakistan also participated in the event.

Court Reserves Verdict on Zardari's Plea in Park Lane Reference

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court on Wednesday reserved a decision on a petition of former president Asif Ali Zardari in the Park Lane reference.

A petition filed by former president Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday stated that the case is not in the jurisdiction of the accountability court after the NAB law amendment in 2022.

The court should either send the reference back to NAB or acquit him, the petitioner told the court.

Thailand offers to develop sustainable tourism in Pakistan: Envoy

Spokesman Report

MULTAN : Thailand's Ambassador to Pakistan, Chakkird Krachaiwong, suggested on Wednesday that his country was looking forward to working with Pakistan on sustainable tourism as they have a lot of experience in it.

"We have a lot of experience in terms of tourism and would like to share it for sustainable tourism in Pakistan. We are looking forward now to working with Punjab and other provinces for it," he said while addressing the executive body at the Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) here.

Tourist police can also be formed to deal with tourists because normal police did not know how to deal with them

because they can only tackle robbery and other routine crimes, he said and added that he wanted more and more to visit Pakistan to experience for themselves the generosity and hospitality of Pakistanis.

The envoy regretted that this part of Pakistan has been represented in the eyes of international media, adding that tourists informed the country was quite different to what they had seen in the news. "I contribute some of my travel experience to Pakistan and will write an article about Multan too which will hopefully be published in Thailand too." Mr Chakkird noted that a Thai rubber was used in football made by Pakistan for the last world cup and added that his country was an expert in the



food processing industry for which good packaging. The envoy informed that they would share the information of a trade exhibition held in Thailand to businessmen here and added that they had visited some textile factories today to have first-hand knowledge. Thailand is also an agri-

cultural country as Pakistan is and facing challenges in this connection, he observed.

He ensured to forward proposals of business and other issues highlighted by MCCI to Bangkok for formal approval and redressal. Earlier, in his welcome address, MCCI president Mian Rashid

Iqbal shed light on the history of Multan and its popularity across the world for its matchless mangoes, sohan halwa, cotton and other products.

He stated that the agricultural strength of South Punjab makes it the most suitable region for investment in agrobased industries like fruits, vegetables, processing, dairy and livestock besides a sizeable industry of cotton ginning, spinning, weaving, fertilizers, cosmetics, glass manufacturing, oil mills, confectionery & beverages and juices etc.

VP Asim Sheikh, Women Roman Tanvir, Saleha Hassan, former presidents, Fazal Elahi Sheikh, Syed Iftikhar Ali Shah, Khawaja Farooq, Saqib Shah and others were present. Later, SVP, Nadeem Sheikh presented a vote of thanks to visiting dignitaries.

Fawad Chaudhry's arrest 'not politically motivated': Marriyum Aurangzeb

Chief Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry was not politically motivated as he was arrested for "threatening" Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) officials for "just doing their duty".

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that if the coalition government led by her party, the PML-N, were to take political revenge, "all PTI leaders would have been in jail by now" but the ruling coalition has no such desire.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that PTI leadership has attacked every state institution since their ouster in the center but the PDM-coalition has tolerated it and is still not taking any sort of political revenge, adding that this case against Fawad Chaudhry

was registered by an ECP official Omar Hameed not the government.

The minister maintained that PTI, during its reign in the center, not only victimised its political opponents but journalists and businessmen too for political revenge but the PDM government, despite enjoying the same power, is not interested in doing the same with PTI.

Marriyum Aurangzeb also showed media a clip of Fawad Chaudhry's presser claiming that the PTI leader openly threatened ECP officials and their families which led to his arrest.

The minister assured media that Fawad Chaudhry will be treated as per law.

Plea challenging Fawad Chaudhry's arrest dismissed

It is pertinent to note here that PTI Fawad Chaudhry, who was arrested in morning after registration of FIR against him in Islamabad's Kohsar police station.

Asif proposes comprehensive strategic cooperation with KSA

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday proposed an all-encompassing strategic cooperation agreement to deepen defence ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

"Building on a solid legacy, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are progressing towards a comprehensive defence relationship for the 21st Century," the minister said while welcoming Saudi Assistant Defence Minister Engineer Talat Abdullah Alotaibi, who called on him along with a delegation here at the Ministry of Defence.

Khawaja Asif expressed good wishes and prayers for the health of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz.

Asif proposes comprehensive strategic cooperation accord to deepen



defence ties with KSA

The Saudi minister stated that the KSA wanted to enhance defence-related collaborations with Pakistan, particularly in the field of defence production.

Secretary Defence Lt Gen (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan was also present during the meeting.

Commissioner, French CG agree to declare Karachi, Marseille as sister cities

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Consul General of France in Karachi Alexis Chahtahtinsky met with Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon at the latter's office.

They discussed a wide range of topics, including ways to enhance interactions in the fields of culture and education between France and Pakistan.

They also talked about the opportunities that Pakistani students can avail for higher studies in France.

The commissioner wished to have substantial cooperation for the transfer of research-based knowledge among the universities of both countries.

Mr Chahtahtinsky and Mr Memon agreed to declare Karachi and Marseille - a port city in France - sister cities.

The program to conceptualize the plan for the two cities also came under discussion. The consul general said he

would suggest to the government of France that Marseille be declared a sister city of Karachi in order to work for the cultural and economic benefits of the two countries.

He said Marseille was an old port city in southern France just like Karachi; both share similarities in trade and cultural diversity.

The consul general then briefed the commissioner about the services that the 'Alliance Française de Karachi' provided to the Karachiites.

The commissioner appreciated it saying the 'Alliance Française de Karachi' was doing a great job by harnessing cultural relations between the two countries through its programmes and language courses.

He also acknowledged the role played by the French government in providing opportunities in higher education to Pakistani students. He was of the view that an effective academic exchange plays an important part in strengthening cultural ties.

Iran shoes and bags exports at \$80mln in 10 months to Jan: TPO chief



News Desk

QOM :Chairman of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Ali Reza Peymanpak says the country has exported some \$80 million worth of bags and shoes in more than 10 months that has passed since the start of current calendar year in late March 2022. Peymanpak told IRNA late on

Tuesday that Iranian manufacturers have the opportunity to enter a \$10 billion bags and shoes market in Asia and Africa.

He made the comments on the sidelines of Iran's 6th Exhibition on Shoe, Sandal and Related Industries which is being held in the central city of Qom from January 24 to 27 with the presence of some 301 companies and 400 businesses from Iran and other countries.

The TPO chief also underlined that his organization has some robust plans to facilitate the presence of Iranian shoe manufacturing companies in international markets.

The official said Iranian brands will also be represented in a shoes and bags exhibition in Moscow in late February.

AKUH becomes the largest Programme of its kind in the world and the first in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University Hospital's flagship Pharmacy Trainee Programme has received the coveted American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) accreditation for International Pharmacy Practice Residency Programmes (IPPR), becoming the first academic medical centre outside the United States, the third international hospital and the first in Pakistan, to receive the prestigious three-year accreditation.

This accreditation helps raise the standards of training for pharmacists, who offer critical services in patient care. Well-dispensed medicines ensure their best use and efficacy with expert management of the patient's response as well as medicine interaction. With this accreditation, the AKUH Pharmacy Residency Programme has become an internationally recognized training site and will serve as a role model for producing exemplary practitioners,

who will positively impact the practice of pharmacy in Pakistan.

The one-year pharmacy traineeship programme, being offered at AKUH since 1990, has more than 800 alumni rendering professional pharmacy services, and acting as pioneers in the field in Pakistan. The accreditation also advances AKUH's traineeship programme to a residency model with international recognition, joining a community of over 2,000 sites across the world with accredited programmes.

As part of the accreditation process, AKUH's pharmacy traineeship programme complied with stringent competencies, educational goals, and objectives, including more than 100 ASHP residency learning objectives, and more than 200 measurable elements.

ASHP standards cover fundamental pharmacy practice areas such as Practice Foundation Skills, Drug Information Medication Policy, and Drug Safety,



Practice Management and Leadership, Patient care, Education of others, and Project management.

Congratulating the pharmacy team

on achieving this milestone, Dr Farhat Abbas, Interim CEO AKU Health Services Pakistan, said, "the ASHP accreditation is a testament to the fact

that our patients are at the forefront of everything we do," adding that, "this accreditation is not only a feather in the cap for AKUH but also for the country."

Lauding the teams for their dedication and hard work, Dr Adil Haider, Dean Medical College, AKU, said, "By getting ASHP-accredited, AKU has demonstrated its continuing commitment to advancing pharmacy practice and providing quality patient care," adding that the accreditation will serve as means to adopt and implement an even higher quality pharmacy practice and an enhanced residency programme.

Highlighting the impact of the accreditation, Syed Shamim Raza, Director of Pharmacy Services, Pakistan, said, "We set ourselves the goal to develop our pharmacy practices further to fulfill AKUH's vision of raising the standards of healthcare in Pakistan and we achieved this goal through the ASHP accreditation which marks us as a world-class institution for hospital pharmacy practice and training, ensuring that our patients benefit from international best practices of pharmacy."

Oath taking

Rawalpindi/Islamabad Photojournalist Association (RIPJA) Newly elected President Sohail Malik, General Secretary, Sohail Shahzad of Election 2023-2024. Finance Secretary Shahid Qureshi and other officials are taking oath from the leader of journalism, President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalist (PFUJ), Afzal Butt.



Photo: INP

DHO Tank Surprised Visits of Various BHUs and RHCs



Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: District Health Officer Dr Shair Khan Afridi along with Dr Arshad surprised visits of various BHUs and RHCs, he inspected the availability of medicines and attendance of medical staff including doctors.

During this visits on the Basic Health Centers, he inspected the facilities at the centers and checked the attendance of the staff including the supply of medicines.

On this occasion, He said that the provincial government and the health department are taking special measures to provide health facilities to the citizens.

"All medicines have been provided at the Primary Health Centers," said Dr Shair Khan Afridi. He added that in case of any complaints, the public can contact him directly and all the complaints will be resolved immediately. He inspected various parts of the health centers and instructed the staff and doctors to utilise all available resources to serve humanity.

India's claim of secularism and democracy is a white lie: Sardar Atiq

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan has said that India's claim of secularism and democracy is a white lie. India has no right to be called democratic country after the massacre and lockdown in Occupied Kashmir.



In his messages on the occasion of India's Republic Day that's Black Day of Kashmiris, he said that the Kashmiri people are fighting the oppression of India with courage. India's one million army has failed to subjugate and suppress the Kashmiris now at the global level.

The atrocities of Kashmiris are being exposed. World powers including America have seen the real face of India. The United Nations has also realized the seriousness of the problem. China and Great Britain are also convinced of the solution of the Kashmir problem.

He said that the repeated discussion of the Kashmir issue in the Security Council is a defeat for India's position. He said that India cannot enslave Kashmiris for a long time. India's Republic Day is a black day for Kashmiris because of India. He has implemented democratic values. They have suppressed the legitimate and democratic voice of the people of Occupied Kashmir by blowing it up. Such a country has no right to be called a republic. He said that all the veils of India have come off. He did not have the courage to commit war crimes against humanity.

SECP seeks comments on draft amendments to Corporate Restructuring Companies Rules

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to streamline investment processes for Corporate Restructuring Companies (CRCs) and provide greater flexibility for restructuring operations, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has proposed amendments to the Corporate Restructuring Companies Rules, 2019. The draft amendments have been placed on SECP's website for public consultation.

Key proposed changes include procedures for raising funds and extending financing for acquisition, trust liquidation, composition and governance of the Corporate Restructuring Board (CRB) and its functions and budgetary allocations.

The proposed amendments will simplify the process of rehabilitating distressed entities by providing greater flexibility for CRCs to undertake agency functions for recovery and restructuring. They will also streamline the process of getting regulatory approvals for Scheme of Arrangement from the CRB.

The amendments prescribe procedures for the composition, appointment, and governance of the CRB, including a Code of Conduct for its members and staff etc. These measures are aimed at ensuring a diverse representation of experts from relevant fields, transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.

Construction work at CBD Punjab Boulevard Project a step ahead

News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab), is working 24 hours in freezing weather and rain for the timely completion of its ongoing project of CBD Punjab Boulevard and Kalma Chowk Underpass remodeling. Even the recent rain, fog and harsh weather conditions have not affected the pace of construction work.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, Mr. Mohsin Naqvi and Commissioner Lahore Mr. Amir Jan, Deputy Commissioner Lahore, Mr. Muhammad Ali visited the project site of Kalma Chowk Underpass Remodeling Project. Assistant Commissioner Model Town Mr. Ibrahim Arbab, CTO Lahore Dr. Asad Malhi, SP Traffic Model Town, DSP Traffic Model

Town, DG PHA, Executive Director CBD Punjab Mr. Riaz Hussain and staff of CBD Punjab were also present during the visit. Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Technical of CBD Punjab briefed Deputy Commissioner Lahore, about the progress of construction work. The full workforce has been deployed on the clear instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr. Mohsin Naqvi and CEO of CBD Punjab, Mr. Imran Amin for the speedy completion of the project.

The technical team of CBD Punjab and the staff of contractor NLC are busy working day and night at the project site. Riaz Hussain further informed that along with complex piles, digging and slabbing of barrels will be completed soon and the work of retaining walls of the rainwater harvesting tank is also in progress.

CEO CBD Punjab Mr. Imran Amin is also visiting the project site on

daily basis to monitor the construction work. During his recent visit, he said that all institutions are cooperating fully to complete the project. All resources are being mobilized to complete the project ahead of time and soon the traffic flow will be improved.

Deputy Commissioner Lahore expressed satisfaction with the pace of the construction work. He said that the convenience of the people should be given first priority and the citizens should be relieved from the temporary commute problem. Dr. Asad Malhi along with the technical staff of CBD Punjab, also briefed Deputy Commissioner Lahore, about the alternative plan for traffic. With the completion of the CBD Punjab Boulevard and Kalma Chowk Underpass remodeling project, millions of people will be benefited on daily basis and this project will be a great comfort for Lahore.

Ombudsman Punjab seeks report about an incident of torture on a schoolgirl



News Desk

LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan has sought reports from the district education authority in Lahore and SP Cantt regarding departmental action on the viral video about the torture of a female student in a Lahore school.

In a statement issued here Wednesday, the spokesman said that DIG (Investigation) Lahore, ASP (Investigation) Lahore Cantt and chief executive officer (education) Lahore appeared before Ombudsman Azam Suleman Khan at his office on Monday and apprised him of the progress on the case.

The provincial ombudsman was told that the district education authority has set up a three-member committee under the district education officer (women elementary education) to investigate the matter and submit recommendations in three days. The meeting was also told that the education authority's rules violation may result in the imposition of fines, suspension and other penalties against private educational institutions.

The Ombudsman Azam Suleman Khan directed that the education department and the police should jointly devise a coordinated strategy to prevent drug abuse among adolescent children. In this regard, the scope of the district intelligence committee could be expanded to control this social scourge. The adviser (coord) of the ombudsman's office would also devise recommendations regarding the prevention of drug use in schools, concluded the spokesman.

Global Ride-Hailing Platform inDrive Partners SHIELD to Boost Trust and Fairness

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, the world's fastest-growing online ride-hailing service, today announced that it is utilizing global risk intelligence company SHIELD's Device Intelligence. SHIELD's technology is strengthening inDrive's defenses against fraud and helping it achieve the highest levels of trust, transparency and fairness for drivers and passengers worldwide.



With the second most downloaded mobility app in the world, inDrive provides for the mobility needs of users in over 700 cities and across 47 countries. Today, the inDrive app has been downloaded more than 150 million times. A people-driven business on a mission to challenge injustice, the platform uniquely empowers drivers and

passengers to negotiate fair price offers based on route or other factors.

SHIELD provides industry-leading risk intelligence which eliminates injustice and unfairness by ensuring that negotiations and prices are kept transparent. Dishonest and fraudulent users are kept out of the inDrive platform, preventing them from causing issues such as unwarranted price hikes.

SHIELD's Risk Intelli-

gence does this all without the need for Personal Identifiable Information (PII), ensuring that inDrive remains compliant with data protection and privacy laws around the world without compromising on security.

inDrive was rapidly launching in new markets and needed to account for the diverse and distinct fraud risks. SHIELD's Global Intelligence Network ensured that inDrive could stay ahead of emerging

threats while catering to the unique risk profiles of each region.

Arsen Tomsky, CEO & Founder, inDrive said, "inDrive is dedicated to challenging injustice and upholding transparency and fairness in the mobility and transportation space. Our partnership with SHIELD empowers us to stay true to our mission of helping people, as well as ensuring the highest standards of trust and fairness for all while maintaining our rapid pace of growth." Justin Lie, Founder and CEO of SHIELD, added, "inDrive's revolutionary price negotiation model is a breath of fresh air in the ride-hailing industry. Trust is a two-way street, and SHIELD is proud to be helping inDrive ensure fair prices and a level playing field for genuine drivers and passengers."



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:43 am
Zohr 12:20 pm
Asr 3:54 pm
Maghrib 5:31 pm
Isha 6:58 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

Elite should also swallow bitter pill of IMF strict conditions



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Wednesday said accepting strict conditions of the IMF is the only option available to Pakistan.

Instead of making the public a scapegoat, this bitter pill of IMF conditions should also be fed to the elite, it said.

All the unnecessary government expenditure and all privileges of the ruling classes should be abolished so that the people get a few sighs of relief, said Mohammad Aslam Khan, Chairman of PEW.

He said that the elites have completely hijacked the country's system, due to which Pakistan has been entering from one crisis to another.

Now the plunder of the elite has increased to such an extent that the country's integrity is in danger, he added.

Aslam Khan observed that not a single ruler of Pakistan has ever worked seriously to eradicate elitism, correct the direction of the economy, improve governance, eliminate corruption, reduce unemployment and get rid of debts.

Condolence reference of Abdul Latif Afridi



The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial and other Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court during a condolence reference held at the SCBAP Auditorium to pay tribute to Mr. Abdul Latif Afridi, former President SCBAP on 25th January, 2023.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial and other Judges of the Supreme Court expressed deep sorrow and grief over the assassination of Mr. Abdul Latif Afridi, senior lawyer and former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, during a condolence reference held at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBAP) auditorium on 25th January, 2023.

The Chief Justice termed the heinous crime as a matter of grave concern and a huge loss as the Bar and Bench that are vital pillars of the judicial system. He lauded the late President SCBAP as a professional of the highest caliber and extended heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family, praying that Almighty Allah shower his blessings upon the departed soul.

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Mr. Abid Shahid Zuberi thanked the Chief Justice for expressing the desire to hold the condolence reference in order to pay tribute to Mr. Abdul Latif Afridi. The condolence reference was widely attended by the representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, Pakistan Bar Council, Supreme Court Bar Association along with the family members of the late President SCBAP.

Govt to facilitate investment in technology, digital ecosystem: Syed Naveed



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar on Wednesday assured government's full support to facilitate trade and investment in the field of technology and digital ecosystem.

The minister was addressing on a USAID's U.S.-Pakistani Diaspora Conference on accelerating Silicon Investments in Pakistan.

Syed Naveed said that, getting the perceptible of the vibrant and well accomplished US Pakistani Diaspora of the Silicon Valley and of the local businesses and most importantly Government of Pakistan will certainly help in improving the technology and digital ecosystem of Pakistan.

The minister also congratulated USAID and OPEN Silicon Valley for initiating a Start up connect Program in Pakistan.

Syed Naveed said that investing in technology is critical to meeting Pakistan's goals, and that is why I am so pleased to hear that during today's conference, you highlighted the Diasporas' ability to leverage investments in the technology sector to grow and modernize Pakistan.

He observed that USAID is inking MOUs with the four Diaspora entities, who today are later signing partnership memoranda of understanding which will positively impact the development landscape of Pakistan.

Later he also thanked US Government on behalf of the Pakistan government for committing more than \$ 200 million to date to support flood relief disaster resilience and flood security.

Adding this includes their latest announcement of \$100 million at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva on January 9.

At the end the commerce minister assured that his office is open for all to facilitate trade and investment in technology sector.

President of APCOYF meeting with senior journalists



Group photo of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt with senior journalists.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation Aasma Ismail Butt said that culture is the identity of any state. Therefore, through culture, Pak-China friendship will further strengthen. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the President of China, Xi Jinping, and all the staff members of the Chinese Embassy for the well organized and successful organizing of China Festival 2023.

She said this in a special meeting with senior journalists associated with the English journal. Journalists highly appreciated Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt's efforts to strengthen Pakistan-China friendship and promote the education and skills of the young generation. They said that the future of Pakistan is the young generation. Providing modern courses along with their education and training will create better employment opportunities for them. We are happy that Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt is a well wisher of her young generation, and is playing a key role in providing the best education opportunities for their bright future through the platform of her organization.

Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt thanked the journalists and said that journalists are the fourth pillar of the state. With the help of all of you, IN SHAA ALLAH, we will take our breath by bringing our young generation to the sky of success. Aasma Ismail Butt said that the celebrations of China Festival 2023 are going on. On behalf of the All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, through the journalist community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the President of China, Xi Jinping, and all the staff of the Chinese Embassy. At present, many members of All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation present in all provinces of Pakistan are performing their duties with great responsibility. With the help of which various events are being organized on the culture of Pakistan and China. Culture is the identity of any state, therefore, through culture, Pak-China friendship will be further strengthened. All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation is acting as a bridge for the stability of Pakistan-China friendship. Aasma Ismail Butt said that as the president of the federation, I am trying hard to strengthen the friendship between the two countries with time. May the culture of both countries flourish and provide higher education opportunities for the young generation.

At the end of the meeting, Federation President Aasma Ismail Butt along with senior journalists chanted "Pak China Dosti Zindabad", "中巴友谊万岁", "long live China Pakistan friendship" and thanked the journalists for their arrival.

Educational Expo

Rawalpindi: AHZ Associates organized an educational expo on January 24, 2023 at Pearl Continental Hotel Rawalpindi. In which AHZ Associates Country Head MufijulHaq and Regional Head Liaquat Shabir specially participated. The purpose of the expo was clear. The aim was to provide guidance to male and female students who wanted to get education in the country. Representatives of British universities and more than 1000 male and female students participated in the expo. Will continue to provide free services and guidance to students. So that the youth can give their services to the country by getting education abroad and prove to be an asset for Pakistan.



Climate crisis has further increased poverty in Pakistan, Shazia Marri

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has said that Pakistan is among the most vulnerable and worst affected countries affected by the climate crisis despite of the fact that its contribution towards carbon emissions is less than 1%. While speaking to a World Bank Delegation in Islamabad on Wednesday, she vowed that we have to make Pakistan more resilient against the climate related disasters, which is increasing poverty in Pakistan.

A four member World Bank delegation comprising Amjad Zafar Khan, Senior Social Protection Specialist Ms. Melis U. Guven, Lead Economist, Zaineb Majoka,



Social Protection Economist and Mr. Gul Najam Jami visited Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to discuss various on-going initiatives and programmes.

Ms. Marri has said that Pakistan and particularly the BISP highly value its partnership with the World Bank (WB) and the Bank has always supported Pakistan during the crisis. She also welcomed the technical support offered by the World Bank for introducing Dynamic Registry Survey for BISP Beneficiaries.

Minister apprised the WB delegation that smooth and seamless disbursement of cash assistant is an evolving process and BISP is introducing new cash disbursement method through individual Bank Accounts. She informed that initially the initiative will be introduced on pilot basis in some selected districts which will be further expanded to the whole of the country.

Chairperson BISP while emphasizing the equal opportunities for the marginalized and vulnerable segments of the society said that to

empower the transgender community, BISP has brought them under Benazir Kafaalat net without the requirement of the PMT score. Formal launching of 'Inclusion of Transgender Community in BISP Kafaalat net' will be done by the end of the current week.

Mr. Amjad Zafar Khan, Senior Social Protection Specialist, lauded the programme work especially during the recent floods. Mr. Amjad further said that BISP safety nets have supported the economy in many different ways. Moreover, WB representative Ms. Melis U. Guven appreciated various initiatives of BSIP for social protection and urged that these efforts should be documented/published at a larger scale so that other countries from the developing nations can learn from this programme.

Prioritizing education is a key to human development: experts

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: On this International Day of Education, experts stressed on the need of prioritizing education especially in times of disasters so that learners are not deprived of their right to education and highlighted the role of political parties in ensuring quality education. These thoughts were expressed during a dialogue conducted by Awaz CDS and Child Rights Movement with the theme of "to invest in people, prioritize education".

This event was an effort to bring awareness to the intricacies of issues in the Education sector according to Chief Executive Awaz CDS Mr. Zia ur

Rehman, via panel discussions of both Development sector and government officials. The first panel discussion was aimed to address the challenges of provision and obtainment of education in times of disaster in Pakistan. National Coordinator, Pakistan Coalition for Education Ms. Zehra Kancez pointed out that even those who had educational resources such as schools, lost them instantly due to lack of disaster resistant measures and infrastructure hence there is a strong need to invest in disaster resilient systems and infrastructure.

Ms. Baela Raza Jamil, Chief Executive Officer of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi highlighted the

need of improved school infrastructures. She demanded more budgets and resources for education. Mr. Syed Ishtiaq Ul Hassan Gilani, Chief Executive of United Global Organization of Development emphasized on the added concern of child abuse and child trafficking that can significantly be resolved if Pakistan rigorously implement a free and compulsory education policy.

Ms. Ayesha Khan, Country Director of Hashoo Foundation segued into the next panel discussion by concluding the first one and by reminding everyone the importance of public-private sector collaboration and reasserting the effective role of civil society to collectively address this

nationwide educational disparity.

In the panel discussion on "Role of Political Parties in Education", Zubair Saifur representing Jamat-e-Islami reiterated the issue of education governance and government schools. He said that government schools have great infrastructural resources but quality of education needs to be improved to gain parents trust.

Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, Ex-MNA and member of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, reminded that education is the right of every child and one of the top priorities for her party and Malaiqa Raza, member of Pakistan People's Party agreed and informed that education is free in Sindh and 800 million Rupees



have been invested so far on the education of girls in particular. Raja Ateeq Sarwar, Senior Vice President of Pakistan

Muslim League (N) concluded the second panel discussion by emphasizing the dire need for provision of school infrastruc-

ture and resources especially on higher secondary level for girls in rural villages.

Concluding the session Mr. zafarullah Khan Executive Director Vision 2047 said Political party representatives have influence over their supporters and policy makers in jointly bringing the necessary reform needed in our education sector. Political parties must realize their ability to affect systematic change and act accordingly. The event was closed with a productive and thought-provoking Question and Answer session. Ms. Aqsa Batool from Workers Welfare School Rawalpindi presenting the Charter of Demand on Education.

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Violation of multiple resolutions of the Security Council in India

Pakistan has urged those who propagate the concept of responsibility to protect, or R2P, to reflect on the need for collective action to protect the people of occupied Palestine and of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

"For more than 7 decades, India has, through force and fraud, denied the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people, in violation of multiple resolutions of the Security Council prescribing a free and fair plebiscite," Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told a special meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 'Social and economic measures to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity'.

The Pakistani envoy also drew international community's attention to the "systematic

campaign" under way in India by the adherents of Hindutva where Muslims are murdered by lynch mobs, subjected to periodic pogroms and robbed of their livelihoods and citizenship, under the patronage and with the encouragement of the ruling BJP-RSS Government.

Most recently, he said, a BBC documentary has also examined the pogrom against Muslims during the riots in the western state of Gujarat in 2002, noting that the documentary, which was banned in India, underlined that the campaign had "all the hallmarks of an ethnic cleansing." Noticing this dangerous trend, Professor Gregory Stanton, the founder of Genocide Watch, has warned that a genocide of Muslims could very well happen in India.

"Such crimes fall squarely within the ambit of the World Summit's decisions on the responsibility to protect," Ambassador Aamir Khan said.

(The concept of R2P rests upon three pillars: the respon-

sibility of each State to protect its populations; the responsibility of the international community to assist States in protecting their populations; and the responsibility of the international community to protect when a State is manifestly failing to protect its populations.)

"One specific circumstance where provisions of the principle of protection should apply is in situations of foreign occupation or alien domination, which can easily spiral into genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity," the Pakistani envoy said.

"We would request the views of those who propagate the R2P concept on the need for collective action to protect the people of occupied Palestine or of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Aamir Khan added.

In conclusion, he said Pakistan looks forward to further discussion on the application of the R2P concept, adding that any collective action must

be authorized by the Security Council.

In her opening remarks, ECOSOC President Lachezara Stoeva highlighted how the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, together with global commitment on the responsibility to protect, underscore the need to uphold the dignity and worth of every person on the planet.

Ms. Stoeva said protecting fundamental freedoms and human rights, including socio-economic rights, underpins the 2030 Agenda, and is critical both to address the root causes of conflict and to make communities more inclusive and resilient.

However, she warned that promises were not enough in the face of current global challenges, which are undermining progress towards achieving sustainable development and reversing gains made.

"These challenges require reinvigorated multilateralism and a stronger United Nations. It requires us to engage with all

stakeholders, including young people and women, to promote social progress, better living standards and human rights for all," she said.

The President of the UN General Assembly, Csaba Korosi, spelt out that Genocide refers to acts aimed at destroying a national, ethnic, racial or religious group and "sad experience" has shown that it is a gradual process.

Hate speech, dehumanization of groups as "others", and recurrent violations of their rights are precursors to mass atrocities, he added.

"Like a weed, genocide has roots in discrimination and artificially aggregated ethnic, religious or social differences. The seedling of genocide breaks through when the rule of law breaks down," Korosi said.

Preventing genocide requires pulling out its roots, he added, as well as protecting at-risk communities, including minorities and especially women and girls.

ECC approve grants worth Rs. 3 billion

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Wednesday approved technical, supplementary grants of Rs. 3 billion to Cabinet Division for development expenditure under SDGs Achievement Programme (SAP).

The ECC also approved Rs. 844.389 million in favour of Ministry of Housing and Works for repair and maintenance of Supreme Court of Pakistan building, Judges Residences, Rest houses and Sub-offices in various cities, said a press release issued here.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi MNA/Ex-PM, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, SAPM on Government Effectiveness Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Coordinator to PM on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers attended the meeting.

It was informed that an exploration licence (EL) was granted over Guddu Block in 1999, operated by M/s OGDCL. Based on the results of seismic data, OGDCL has made a new discovery in the Guddu EL from the Habib Rahi Limestone and Pirkoh Limestone by drilling a well namely Umair S.E-1.

The ECC also considered a summary of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and coordination and approved increase in MRPs of one (01) drug as per recommendation of Drug pricing Committee.

The ECC granted approval to a summary submitted by Ministry of Commerce and allowed TCP to carry on pre-shipment inspection of imported Wheat at load ports by its already pre-qualified six (06) International Pre-shipment inspection agencies (PSIAs) to ensure quality of imported Wheat as per approved specifications. It was informed that a number of wheat consignments are due in the coming months.

The ECC considered a summary of the Ministry of Poverty alleviation and Social Safety on subsidy for wheat seed (Rabi 2022-23) and allowed the provision of Rs. 8.39 billion through TSG in favour of BISP for cash subsidy to farmers of flood affected areas instead of provision of wheat seeds as per recommendations of the Committee. Further, the ECC directed BISP to initiate cash disbursement through its partner bank as per eligibility criteria and the amount to be disbursed to each eligible person identified by Government of Sindh.

The ECC also considered and approved two summaries of the Ministry of Interior regarding grant of financial aid of Rs.10 million to the legal heirs of the deceased who died during the recent suicide blast at I-10 Markaz, Islamabad and Rs. 20 million for the legal heirs of the deceased who died during the recent long march of a political party.

The ECC discussed a summary of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research for Technical Supplementary Grant of PCCC Employees and formed a committee consisting of Secretaries of MNFSR and Commerce headed by SAPM on Government Effectiveness Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan to evaluate viable options for the financial sustainability of Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) and to submit report in 15 days.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi.

(Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Champion Girl: 'Zainab Siddique'

After 8 years of marriage and 2 kids, a girl secured the top position and won a gold medal. Isn't shocking? You must be thinking that who is that girl? How she could have achieved this milestone. Here I am going to introduce you all to such a person, who is actually the pride of Pakistan.

A daughter, sister, wife, daughter-in-law and mother who not only performed every role of a woman beautifully but also became a source of pride for her family, society and her country. In real sense, she is not just a mother's daughter but a nation's daughter. So here she is the high spirited, courageous person.

Meet Zainab Siddique, a young woman who decided to pursue her dreams of obtaining a college degree while balancing the responsibilities of marriage and motherhood. Her journey to success was not an easy one, as she had to juggle the demands of family life and her studies. But with the support of her husband and in-laws, she was able to persevere and ultimately achieved her dream.

Zainab's origin is from Islamabad, her mother and father are also teachers by profession. Her marriage took place in the town of Guliana in Kharian. She had always been passionate about her studies. Her journey began when she married her high school sweetheart and started a family. She had always wanted to go to college, but with two young children to care for, it seemed like an impossible dream. She thought that she had to put her dreams on hold. She devoted herself to her children and household

duties, but never forgot about her passion. Her husband and in-laws recognized her determination and encouraged her to pursue her goals. Her father-in-law also supported her a lot. This dream belonged to Zainab Siddique, but her father-in-law paved the way to make this dream come true. However, her husband was determined to support her in whatever way he could, and he encouraged her to pursue her education and got regular education after marriage.

With her husband's support, Zainab began taking classes at a local community college. She struggled at first, trying to balance her responsibilities as a mother with her studies. But with the help of her in-laws, who were more than willing to help out with the kids, she was able to make it work. They would take care of the children while she was in class, and they would also help her with homework and study sessions. Specially with her Father-in-Law's outstanding support, she began to train and compete again. She worked hard to regain her strength and skill, and soon found herself back at the top of her studies. Her husband and in-laws were there to cheer her on and provide her with the support she needed to succeed.

They also deserve a lot of praise for the roles their spouses have played, and still play, from the birth of the children to the maintenance of the household, and the role they continue to play. Finding such a life partner is definitely a great happiness and fortune.

In this regard, Zainab Siddique was also very lucky. May Allah grant every girl such a sincere life partner.

As the years went by, Zainab's dedication to her studies paid off. She was able to maintain good grades and eventually transferred to a four-year university. Her husband would often work overtime to help her with the finances and her in-laws continued to be her support system. After 8 years of hard work, sacrifice and dedication, Zainab finally graduated with a degree in her chosen field and secured the top position and won a gold medal. It was a proud moment for her and her family, and they all celebrated her achievement together. She felt a sense of accomplishment that she had never felt before.

On this wonderful success, major media groups of Pakistan reported this motivational story, millions of people from Pakistan and abroad congratulated, and thousands of families got motivated. Despite the challenges she faced, zainab never gave up. She knew that obtaining her degree would not only be a personal accomplishment but also a way to set an example for her children. She wanted to show them that with hard work and determination, anything is possible.

Zainab's story is a testament to the power of determination and the importance of family support. With the help of her husband and in-laws, she was able to overcome the obstacles in her path and achieve her dreams and become a champion. Even

her in laws set a remarkable example for so many other people. They all proved that even with the added responsibilities of marriage and motherhood, it is still possible for a girl to chase her dreams, pursue higher education and succeed.

Her journey is not stopped here, right now, Zainab is doing BS in Psychology from National Institute of Psychology, Quaid-e-Azam University, the largest educational institute of psychology in Pakistan. Zainab's character has motivated me a lot, and this is one of the reason that today I am writing this for her because I want every girl must know her story for motivation. The main thing is that she has been doing everything in hijab. If a girl considers hijab as a barrier to do something. Girls like you are an inspiration to other girls. There are examples. Sincere prayer that she goes further, that all her other dreams come true, and that she remains surrounded by the same love for the rest of her life. Amen

The purpose of this Article is to spread awareness among girls who, despite being able to do so much, are confined to household chores. Don't let your skills get rusty, do whatever you can, unless you can do it yourself, no one can help you. Don't let your dreams fade away, take steps to make them come true.

Those who say that a woman is weak are wrong. A woman may look weak but she is like a strong rock that can travel from earth to heaven if she wants to. And it is not enough to just want to take action. Destinations are pursued only by those who are not daunted by the difficulties of the paths.

Letter to the Editor

Karachi Biryani one of the best food of Pakistan

Robaisha Lisharbeen

Being an understudy of Mass and Communication, I will be respected in the event that I can get a potential chance to compose something point capable for local area. It's my most memorable semester with my university as it's just started and I am in First Semester. I'm in learning stage and have just started.

The subject which I have chosen is Karachi Biryani one of the most amazing foods of Pakistan.

At the point when we take the name of Biryani it's consistently mouth watering for the foodie individual. A rich taste can be felt at the tip of the tongue. Various flavors begin moving in our vision too. Karachi Biryani is rich in flavors whether it's Chicken Biryani, Mutton or Beef Biryani.

The color of onions while getting fried initially..... Then paste of Garlic and Ginger while frying the meat until it changes the color. On the other hand soak rice in some water after washing them. After the meat starts changing color

the whole Garam Masala and yoghurt will make the spices more eye-catching and mouth watering. The aroma of boiling rice has its own magnetism. The best part is the levels of dressing the whole Biryani. Now comes a big utensil first level the cooked oil presented in the Masala made for Biryani..... Then some quantity of boiled rice. Now a layer of beautifully cut tomatoes and lemons. Some more boiled rice added and some of masala with meat then a layer of some boiled rice now some mint leaves, coriander and the fried onions. At the end a yellow or orange food color on the top of White boiled rice. Cover the whole utensil with a clean cloth to absorb all the humidity from the utensil and cover with a lid as well.

Finally the Biryani is ready with its exclusive delicate scent, scrumptious flavor and rousing insignia.

I must say that its one of the most wanted food for every age. Even foreigners love to try this food from all provinces and cities and its one of the common food in Pakistan with variations from every single area of Pakistan. Just one Name and many tastes. (rlsharbeen@gmail.com)

Launch ceremony of Precursor Management System

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Narcotics launched its newly automated Precursor Management System – an online portal for registering and applying 'No Objection Certificate (NOC)' for importing controlled precursor chemicals by the industry. This newly automated system has been technically supported by UNODC, through funding support by the Government of Japan.

The formal launch ceremony was chaired by Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti – Federal Minister for Narcotics Control. Other high-ranking participants included Federal Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control, Chairman of Pakistan Chemical manufacturers Association (PCMA), and Representative of UNODC Country Office Pakistan (COPAK). Officials from various federal ministries and line departments, senior representatives from the indus-

try and the civil society and international donor representatives also attended the ceremony.

While warmly welcoming the participants, Dr. Jeremy Milson, Representative UNODC Country Office in Pakistan highlighted that the new web-based Precursor Management System has significantly enhanced capacities of these national authorities – to collect or receive, process, interpret data and approve requests related to import and legitimate industrial use of controlled precursor chemicals – in a more secure and real-time manner. "This technical capacity-building initiative will improve Pakistan's precursor control regime and improve 'ease-of-doing business' for the Pakistani chemical and pharmaceutical industry. Hence, this capacity development has paved the way for attaining objectives of Government of Pakistan's Anti Narcotics Policy 2019, and our shared aspirations under the

provisions of UNODC's Pakistan Country Programme III (2022-2025)", said Dr. Milson.

A comprehensive presentation on the PMS was delivered by Mr. Sabino Sikandar Jalal – Senior Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Narcotics Control. He apprised the participants design and functioning of web-based information management and application processing system, that has replaced manual processing system, focusing public companies' registration, requests for importing controlled precursor chemicals for industrial use, issuance of 'No Objection Certificate', and submission of utilization details of imported controlled chemicals.

In his remarks, Mr. Zafar Mahmood – Former Chairman of the PCMA expressed satisfaction over the newly automated Pakistan's Precursor Management System. He highlighted that one of the leading objectives of the



PCMA was to anticipate, suggest, and respond to Government of Pakistan's regulatory policy and practices.

In her remarks, Ms. Humaira Ahmed, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control highlighted that the newly automated Precursor Management

System is a manifestation of Government of Pakistan's broader vision, to automate the entire process of registration and issuance of 'No-Objection Certificate (NOC)' to the chemical and pharmaceutical industry for importing, exporting and utilizing controlled

precursor chemicals.

In his closing address, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti, Federal Minister for Narcotics Control thanked UNODC for its continued technical support, that led to design and automation of Pakistan's Precursor Management System. He highlighted that the upgradation is the centerpiece of Government of Pakistan's modernization drive, and it has greatly contributed towards Government's long-term goals and objectives. "The Government of Pakistan is committed to strengthening its precursor control regime – in pursuance of our commitments to address the World Drug Problem – under the principle of common and shared responsibility. This upgradation has enabled the Ministry of Narcotics Control in drug regulation, and countering drug abuse and associated health issues affecting the young Pakistani strata, particularly in educational settings", said Mr. Bugti.

Pak-Nepal bilateral relations

Islamabad: H.E. Tapas Adhikari Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan met with Senator Mr. Shahadat Awan, Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Justice of the Government of Pakistan at his office in Islamabad. During the meeting discussed Nepal-Pakistan bilateral relationship and ways to further strengthen it. The Ambassador and Minister also discussed the parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.



JKLF remembers Shaheed Hussain Hakak and Shuhada-E-Handwara

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: JKLF in a statement issued by party spokesman from central Information office has said that the party leadership remembers its senior leader shaheed Muhammad Hussain Hakak who was martyred on 25th January, 1992 at Nawabzar down town Srinagar in a cold blooded murderous attack by Indian forces.

The spokesman while remembering shaheed Hussain said that he vigorously worked day in and day out for ongoing freedom movement on JKLF platform and had earned a good reputation amongst the party cadre and the public as well.

For being vibrant and intelligent party leader, Hussain Hakak was an asset to rely upon, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile JKLF paid rich tributes to martyrs of Handwara massacre who were gunned down by trigger happy Indian forces on 25th January, 1990.

According to JKLF spokesman, 25 innocent people including a woman were killed and dozens injured when a peacefully protesting mob of thousands in



number were indiscriminately fired upon by Indian forces.

The statement read that the Handwara massacre took place soon after the Gawkadal massacre on 21st January, 1990 when hundreds and thousands of people on JKLF appeal peacefully demonstrated against occupation of their motherland Jammu Kashmir while raising high pitched pro freedom slogans.

While remembering the martyrs on their anniversaries, the JKLF spokesman vowed to continue the freedom struggle till independence of Jammu Kashmir for which unprecedented sacrifices are being laid down.

Pakistan strongly condemns the despicable act of desecration of the Holy Quran in the Netherlands

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the despicable act of desecration of the Holy Quran in the Netherlands on 22 January 2023.

It is undoubtedly a provocative Islamophobic hate crime committed under the guise of freedom of expression. Such offensive acts deeply hurt the feelings of 1.5 billion Muslims around the world and can create disharmony among the international community.

Pakistan has always maintained that freedom of expression comes with responsibilities. We also believe that it is the responsibility of national governments and the international community at large to prevent such vile acts, which are perpetrated with the ulterior motive to provoke and incite religious hatred and violence.

The international community should raise its collective voice against Islamophobia and work together to promote inter-faith harmony and peaceful coexistence. That was the spirit behind the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022 to mark 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

Pakistan's concerns are being conveyed to the authorities in the Netherlands. We urge them to be mindful of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and the Muslims around the world and take steps to prevent such hateful and Islamophobic acts.

Afghan Taliban asked for more exemptions to female NGO worker ban



KABUL: The United Nations aid chief said on Wednesday the humanitarian community was speaking with Taliban officials to try and gain further exemptions and written guidelines in Kabul over the last few days, his message had been: "If you can't help us rescind the ban, give us the exemptions to allow women to operate." Taliban authorities ordered NGOs, many of whom carry out operations for the United Nations, to stop most female staff working last month.

Griffiths said some exemptions to the ban had been granted in health and education and they were hearing signs of a possible exemption in agriculture. But he said much more was needed, with nutrition and water and sanitation services a priority to prevent severe illnesses and malnutrition during Afghanistan's severe humanitarian crisis.

A spokesperson for the Taliban administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment on its plans over guidelines.

Griffiths said that based on discussions with authorities in recent days UN and humanitarian agencies were hopeful they would create a set of written guidelines to allow NGOs to operate with female staff in more areas with certainty in coming weeks.

EU to take notice of HR situation in IJoJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

BRUSSELS: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the international community, especially the European Union, should take notice of the fast deteriorating political and human rights situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir. He expressed these views while briefing the European Parliamentarians about the latest situation in the held territory.

Member European parliament Hannes Heide, Member Belgian Parliament Latifa Ait Baala, MP and the chairman of human rights committee Willy Faute and other members of parliament were present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion

the president said that the stepped up human rights violations merit urgent attention of the world community.

"Especially the member countries of the European Union should come forward in a big way and play their due role to address the long drawn conflict that has been a major cause and consequence of bloodshed and violence in the region. Referring to the discovery of anonymous mass graves in north western areas of Kashmir including Uri, he said that the European Parliament passed the Baroness Emma Nicholson's Report on Kashmir by an overwhelming majority. Similarly, he said that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights had also issued a scathing report on the violation of human rights by Indian forces in Occu-



occupied Kashmir in 2018 and 2019.

President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry further said that the people of Occupied Kashmir were facing a difficult situation due to the

immense increase in the incidents of state sponsored violence. The massive troops' concentration in the region he said was one of the causes of the continued bloodshed in the held territory.

Terming the presence of a million Indian troops in Kashmir as a grave threat to the region's peace and security he said the international community should realize the ground reality that the key to peace in South Asia lies in the solution of the Kashmir issue. Stressing the need for early resolution of the Kashmir dispute, he said, "Since Pakistan and India both are nuclear powers, any misunderstanding or even a minor conflict between the two states can be a prelude to a major war that can jeopardize the peace of the entire region.

Pakistan-China red chili project to help uplift Pak agriculture sector

Misbah Saba Malik, Jiang Chao

MULTAN: On a fine January morning, Muhammad Sajjad was all smiles after seeing thriving saplings of the Chinese sweet chili at a nursery in a remote farming land of Pakistan's eastern city of Multan.

"These saplings are very close to my heart; in their blossom, I can see the future of Pakistan's agriculture industry, which will bloom just like my saplings when modern Chinese technology is applied to it," Sajjad spoke as the morning sun rose from the east behind him.

Launched in 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar Port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the new phase expands to the fields of agriculture, livelihood, etc.

Echoing the CPEC's cooperation in agriculture, China

Machinery Engineering Corporation and Sichuan Litong Food Group have established a company and carried out a red chili contract farming project in 2021, and one of six model farms of the project is in Multan.

Sajjad's nursery is among thousands of acres of model farms where the company teamed up with locals for contract farming of Chinese chili varieties, with an aim to export the crops back to China after harvest and earn foreign exchange revenue for Pakistan.

Talking to Xinhua, Muhammad Adnan, executive manager of the company, said that local farmers' interest in cultivating Chinese chili is increasing due to its better yield and strong resistance to diseases.

"Local chili is highly vulnerable to diseases, and farmers are hesitant to grow it, but the Chinese varieties are robust, easy to pick, and are sold at a higher price directly to Chinese companies from the farms, without any involvement of middleman, making it highly popular among local farmers," he added.



Adnan said that in the near future, primary and deep processing units for value-added services of the crop will also be established in Pakistan, adding more value and jobs for locals.

The most crucial time for the crop is in January as the seed-

ling process is underway in tunnels and the plants are easily rotten because of disease or low temperature.

However, local agriculture technicians at the project are handling the sowing process on the advice of Chinese experts.

In a conversation with Xinhua, Zhao Jianhua, a Chinese agronomist of the company with 27 years of experience in chili cultivation, said he has trained over 20 Pakistani agricultural technicians in the past years, who can help the farms inde-

pendently.

"We are not only bringing cultivation technology to local farmers, but also working together with Pakistani agronomists to promote the development of the chili industry by combining technology with the advantages of both Chinese and Pakistani chili varieties," he added.

Muhammad Irfan Ahmad, assistant executive manager of the company, told Xinhua that many techniques like nurturing the plants inside the tunnel, modern ways of transplantation, and providing sufficient nutrients to the crops are some of the methods that local farmers did not adopt previously, as they relied on primitive methods of farming in the past.

"With the assistance of Chinese agronomists, we tell people how to plant chilies and how to take care of them in a scientific way," he added.

Ahmad said that the yield time of the chili is around June usually. Still, due to early monsoon patterns in Pakistan which started in June 2022, some of the

plants got affected, so by applying new techniques, they will reap the chilies in May this year to avoid the monsoon season.

In a conversation with Xinhua, Muhammad Ejaz, a farmer who was preparing his land, located right next to the nursery, for transplantation in the coming days, said that their hopes are high regarding the project, and they believe it will bring socio-economic prosperity in the region.

"The best thing about this crop is that it takes only six months for yield, unlike local chili, which takes eight to 10 months, so by planting Chinese chili and following the experts' guidance, we can now timely harvest the chili and sow another crop following that to earn more money," Ejaz said while looking at the lush chili beds in the nursery.

Local experts and farmers believe that the project has a bright future as more and more farmers are getting interested in it, and it will gradually expand to other parts of the country due to increasing demand from farmers. (Xinhua)

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
39,784.90	39,055.65
Day's High	Day's Low:
39,945.62	39,055.65
Index Value	Change
9,114,038,932	+729.25
Percentage	Time
+1.87%	Jan 25, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,741.26	-16.10
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	25 Jan, 4:27 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,445.81	-288.15
Percentage	Time
-0.85%	25 Jan, 11:35 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,395.01	+95.82
Percentage	Time
+0.35%	25 Jan, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	176	178
Bahrain Dinar	615.68	620.18
Canadian Dollar	186	188.00
China Yuan	34.12	34.37
Danish Krone	33.83	34.18
Euro	272.50	275.00
Hong Kong Dollar	29.52	29.87
Indian Rupee	2.81	2.89
Japanese Yen	2.5	2.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	756.69	761.69
Malaysian Ringgit	52.59	53.04
NewZealand \$	148.33	149.53
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	600.37	604.87
Qatari Riyal	63.5	64
Saudi Riyal	66.40	67.00
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	68.00	68.60
UK Pound Sterling	308.50	311.50
US Dollar	240.60	243.00

IMF conditions are harsh but there is no other option: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said the IMF officials have become tired of promises and assurances and they will not act unless Pakistan takes action.

Government must take the required decision to initiate the ninth review of the international organization, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the finance minister of the former government delayed the agreement with the IMF until he was fired, but his delay led to the collapse of the economy. Now the current government is repeating the same mistake while delaying the agreement which is ruining the economy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the terms of the IMF and the proposed mini-budget will prove



a disaster for the people, but it is necessary for the survival of the country.

Apart from elitism and wrong policies, the economy has been damaged as a result of the epidemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, and to

get out of this situation, Pakistan has to abide by strict IMF conditions.

There is no option but to accept the conditions and get its financial support as Pakistan has almost exhausted its foreign exchange reserves. Attempts were made to run the economy without the IMF which achieved nothing but economic misery and public anger.

Now the friendly countries have also refused any kind of help and have made it clear in clear words that to get their help, Pakistan has to put its house in order.

In these circumstances, the government has decided to present a mini-budget while the determination of the value of the dollar will also be left to the market, which will see an immediate sharp increase in the value of the dollar and inflation may exceed 35 percent.

The IMF's stringent conditions are aimed at enabling our fragile economic system, but it is also a fact that due to the increase in electricity and gas prices, petroleum levies and other taxes, the hardships of the people will increase

while the lives of the business community will become bitter.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has been hesitating on the matter of accepting the terms of the international financial institution for several months due to the fear of political loss, but this hesitation has not reduced the economic problems but has increased issues.

Tough decisions have become necessary to avoid further losses and stabilize the economy, otherwise, the country will be completely bankrupt. In the event of an agreement, the international organization will release approximately 1.20 billion dollars immediately, while it will be easier to borrow from friendly countries, international organizations, the commercial market, and other sources, which will improve the country's conditions for some time.

And if the long pending agricultural, economic, and financial reforms are carried out during this time, Pakistan will become sustainable.

Cucumbers on display

ISLAMABAD: Wholesale vendors display cucumbers vegetable for selling purpose outside their shops at fruits and vegetable market in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

ICCI for fostering women entrepreneurs to accelerate economic growth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that women are almost half of the total population and government should make conducive policies to enhance their role in the economic activities that would pave way for their empowerment and accelerate the economic growth of the country. He said this while talking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs during their visit to ICCI. Beenish Iftikhar Qadri Founder President Hyderabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Rizwana Asif President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Samina Fazil Founder President, Naima Ansari former President IWCCI and others were in the delegation.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that women have reserve seats in the parliament and provincial assemblies, which is encouraging. However, he said that there is a great need to focus on fostering women entrepreneurship so that they could play more effective role in the development of the economy. He said that ICCI is taking many initiatives for women entrepreneurs and it would continue to work in collaboration with women chambers of commerce and industry for their better economic



empowerment. He said that ICCI would give awards to the enterprising women at the International Women's Day to recognize their contribution to the development of the country.

Beenish Iftikhar Qadri, Founder President, Hyderabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that women start-ups have to face great problems in easy access to finance and emphasized that the government should address this issue to facilitate the growth of more women enterprises.

Rizwana Asif, President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Indus-

try said that the government should help in organizing exhibitions of women products in foreign markets that would provide them international exposure and contribute towards exports promotion. She said that the government should set up separate and specific women markets in the country that would encourage more women to start businesses in them with confidence.

Samina Fazil, Founder President, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that IWCCI would organize a women expo in March this year to provide them a good platform for display of their products.

foodpanda brings pharmaceutical products, lab services and teleconsultation to its customers

News Desk

LAHORE: With the purpose of delivering convenience to its customers, Pakistan's leading delivery service, foodpanda, has added a wide range of pharmaceutical products and services to its shops platform. Users can now also avail lab services, like blood tests and x-rays within the app. Additionally, a new category has been launched in the Health & Wellness vertical that allows users to avail 24/7 teleconsultation services from doctors, dieticians, psychiatrists, and psychologists, a first of its kind to be offered by any delivery platform.

Commenting on the latest addition, Managing Director and Chief Executive Offi-

cer foodpanda, Muntaqa Peracha said, "It gives us immense pleasure to add to our list of 'firsts' with the new suite of digital solutions now available on our app. Embracing innovation and the adoption of new technologies has always been the cornerstone of foodpanda's commitment to elevating the quality of its service. We are extremely excited to have new products and services on board that will prove useful to millions of satisfied customers across the nation."

Customers in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad can now order a complete range of medicines from different retail and hospital pharmacies, with delivery within half an hour and at discounted rates.

Privatisation Board meeting held



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 207th meeting of the Privatisation Commission (PC) Board was held today; Federal Minister/Chairman Privatisation Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo chaired the meeting. Federal Secretary Privatisation Dr. Iram A. Khan, and senior officials of the ministry were also present.

The Board was briefed about the implementation status of different directions issued by the Board in its different meetings. The Board showed its appreciation for the status update and directed the management to resolve the pending issues besetting privatisation. It also advised that other government divisions should be approached

to help Privatisation Commission in its work.

The Board discussed various matters of importance including the pending issues relating to litigations in different courts. The approval of the PC Board was also solicited for the special audit report on receivables as on 30-6-2022 of PC's proceeds including the statement of aforementioned receivables. The Board proposed to form a sub-committee of its members to come up with viable solution of the matter including to ascertain the due amounts receivable from other parties. The board also approved the proposal to present before court the fresh audit report to decide the exact number of outstanding dues to be paid.

APCAA extend warm wishes on international custom day

Bureau Report

KARACHI : On the occasion of World Custom Day, Chairman All Pakistan Customs Agents Association (APCAA) Mr. Maqbool A Malik and Vice Chairman, Sheikh Muhammad Tariq, warmly expressed their wishes to the Officials of Pakistan Customs, throughout the Country. In a joint statement, Sheikh Tariq said, let us celebrate the occasion of International Custom Day, by thanking all the Customs Officials, for their good job. Had they all not been there, our country would not have been safe from various unpredictable threats, they are fulfilling all their duties and responsibilities day and night, so that our economy is and revenue is protected.

While giving a back ground and history of this day, Sheikh Tariq, stated that on December 15, 1950, the Custom Co-operation Council was established in Brussels. And later in 1994, it was approved as World Custom Organization. The International Custom Day theme is that the Word Custom Organization (WCO) has set a goal of scaling up Custom Digital Transformation by embracing a data culture and building a data ecosystem.

SAP highlights importance of data protection & digital transformation through cloud migration for businesses

News Desk

ISLAMABAD / KARACHI : Saquib Ahmad, Country Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, held a discussion with the media for highlighting the role of cloud migration and the transformation that it will bring to businesses.

Cloud migration is essential to ensure digital transformation and manage applications and data in the most cost-effective, efficient, and secure IT environment.

SAP has a strong presence in almost all business segments of

Pakistan. These digital solutions not only add ease of business and outreach but expedite the progress manifolds for their sheer evaluative data outlining the route forward most visibly.

Saquib Ahmad, while speaking on the essence of cloud migration and data backup for business enterprises, stated "The usage of technology by companies, had changed in the post-COVID-19 situation. It has now strengthened, making Cloud Computing the need of the hour. Pakistani companies from big auto-

makers to small-sized businesses are using the SAP software for the same. SAP is also working with government institutions to create time-efficient processes with evaluative options for the best foot forward." He elaborated on the strengths of SAP solutions for decision-making, stating, "Highlighting successful behavioral trends with the right set of data is important for CEOs for best decisions. SAP's predictive analytics is the perfect and most viable tool for it."

He further expanded on the



flexibility of SAP which is a tailored solution provider for its customers. Since the aim is to provide seamless digital transformation for organizations of all sizes, SAP ensures a unique solution to meet specific client needs to truly address the need of the

business for growth and expansion. When questioned on security issues, Saquib assured that the installation of software comes with the security paradigms in place. SAP is strong with secure digital environment to combat cyber theft and fraudulent activities.

He further said, "SAP Pakistan works with a clear vision to help the world run better and improve people's lives in the best possible ways. SAP ensures a design and workflow that impacts the lives of the users (company and custom-

ers) most positively."

Speaking of cloud solutions, he explained the infinite space available on the cloud and how companies need to make a focused migration to cloud solutions for the availability and security of data at all times. Cloud solutions provide a stronger network and make it possible for users to work on the same project with fewer glitches. It allows easy access, trackable data, and transparency. Along with cost-effectiveness, data security is one of the most significant factors addressed by

cloud solutions.

When opting for a cloud solution, the management has control over the cost as well as the scope of work. Chunks of solutions can be purchased by organizations according to their business requirement and duties can be assigned to team members as per their roles and responsibilities in the organization.

Pakistan is experiencing an increasing trend of cloud adoption due to its cost optimization and effective solutions for different sectors.

20-K Cup 2023: Model Town Greens thump Golden Star to complete semifinal lineup

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Model Town Greens thumped Golden Star Cricket Club by 7 wickets in the fourth and last quarterfinal here on Wednesday to complete the semifinal lineup in the 20-K Cup 2023 T20 Cricket Tournament.

Besides Model Town Greens, the other three semifinalist teams are Model Town Club, Ludhiana Gymkhana and Cricket Center. The fourth quarterfinal was to be played at Pindi Gymkhana, but due to wet outfield, the match was shifted to Model Town Green Ground. Golden Star Club, batted first, posted 175 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in 20 overs. Abdul Samad played the superb knock of 56 runs of 46 balls with the help of four boundaries and one six. Ali Raza also batted with author-



ity and cracked 34, Raees Butt unbeaten 31 and Azzam ul Haq 22 runs. Ateeq ur Rehman bowled brilliantly and clinched 4 wickets for 33 runs.

Outstanding batting performance by Bilal Dar helped Model Town Greens chase the target in 19.4 overs for the loss of 3 wickets. Bilal played impressive unbeaten knock of 72 runs off 52 balls that included four boundaries and three sixes.

Other notable performers were Abdul Wahab Dar (47 runs) and Muhammad Kashif (37), who helped the side reach home safely. From Golden Star, Sadaqat and M Naveed got one wicket each. Bilal Dar was declared player of the match for his superb batting performance. The first semifinal will be played tomorrow, Thursday.

Senior Golf Pro Manzoor Ahmed plays youthfully in Golf Match

Sports Reporter

LAHORE : The 13th Syed Manzoor Hussain Memorial Invitational Golf Match for amateurs, ladies and senior golf professionals (above 55 years age), was fostered and enterprisingly activated at the par 72, Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course yesterday. Conducted and veraciously scheduled by his righteous and upright son Syed Shaghil Hussain, this ardent and committed descendant of the Syed Manzoor Hussain family flew over to his hereditary home town from United States to hold this esteemed golf championship. In the process he honored his virtuous father Manzoor Hussain who played golf at Gymkhana for fifty years and also triggered competitive golf for senior golf professionals, consummate amateur golf players and motivated lady golfers of Lahore in a confrontation of golf playing skills. And after 18 holes of stroke play, the contest of golfing skills produced pocket boosting cash rewards for the top performing senior golf professionals and worthwhile mementos for formidable ones

of amateur category and the ladies segment.

In the race for supremacy in the senior professional section, the engaging professionals involved a sizeable number of former golf champions who still yearn for an opportunity to benefit through an exceptional display of golfing expertise. And on the occasion of the 13th Syed Manzoor Hussain Memorial Golf Championship former daunting ones like Ghulam Nabi, six times winner of Pakistan Open, M. Shafiq a dominant golf champion of the eighties, Akber Ali, Punjab Open Title holder for many years and M.Ilyas were all there hoping to replicate their animated touch and trounce their adversaries. All through the 18 holes, visible was their struggle to rise above the ordinary.

The superb and stirring one in this 2023 Syed Manzoor Hussain Memorial Golf Tournament turned out to be Manzoor Ahmed a retired one of Punjab Police and Pakistan Open Champion way back in 1991, who still retains a youthful physique. Manzoor Ahmed played remarkably well to bring

in a score of gross 68, four under par. Throughout the 18 holes he consistently produced shots of high quality and complemented this by putting with mastery touch. His outstanding score was achieved through 15 regulation pars two birdies and a hole in one and did not fall prey to errant shot making. By virtue of this performance he was awarded the Syed Manzoor Hussain Trophy and a cash prize of Rs 100,000. This certainly was a fortunate day for him as he came up with a hole in one on the par 3,12th hole for which Syed Shaghil Hussain rewarded him with a cash prize of Rs 50,000.

The runner up in Senior Professionals category were two competitors, Asghar Ali and M.Akram. They pursued victory by playing dependably and their score of par 72 represented an impressive effort.

Leading one in the competition for amateurs turned out to be Ahmed Zafar Hayat. His score over 18 holes was gross 74. Runner up gross was Mohsin Zafar and his score was gross 78. Net section winner was Atif Butt while second net winner was Col Ghaffar.

In amateur category longest drive was hit by Mohsin Zafar and nearest to the pin by Ahmed Zafar Hayat.

Ladies competition was dominated by Tehmina Ahmed. She won the first gross. Runner up gross was Sameea Ali. Minaa Zainab was first net and Sobia won 2nd net. Longest Drive was hit by Tehmina Ahmed and she was also winner of nearest to the pin prize.

Veteran Category winner was Shaukat Ali. Runners up prize was shared between Akbar Ali and Ifikhar Ahmed.

At the conclusion of the Syed Manzoor Hussain Memorial Golf Competition, the prizes were awarded to the winners by Syed Shaghil Hussain and his 78 years old sister Zil e Huma. The ceremony was attended by Aameen Taqi Butt a former amateur champion, Dr Aminurrehman, Mrs Asma Shami, Mrs Maimoona Azam the Organizer, Col (r) Syed M. Mazhar and participating golfers. Entire event operations were conducted by Col (r) Syed M. Mazhar. Chief Marshal of the game was M. Matloob a top ranked golf professional of Pakistan.

Palestinian team arrives for West Asia Baseball cup



City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Palestinian baseball team arrived here on Wednesday to participate in the West Asia Baseball Cup, scheduled for January 27 at the Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad.

President Pakistan Baseball Federation (PBF) Syed Fakhr Ali Shah told APP that seven countries were participating in the tournament.

Bangladesh, Nepal and Indian contingent would also arrive today (January 25) while Afghanistan and Sri Lanka baseball teams would reach tomorrow.

"It will be the 15th edition of the Cup. The event will be played in a round-robin system", he said.

He also appreciated Pakistan Sports Board and Sports Board Punjab for their cooperation in organising the international event successfully.

The PBF President also thanked the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination for issuing timely visas and permits to the participating teams.

Bangladesh thwart UAE but India, Australia reach U19 Women's T20 WC semis



A Sports -

POTCHEFSTROOM: Bangladesh bowlers decimated the United Arab Emirates (UAE) batting lineup for a mere 69/9 before Shorna Akter propelled her side to a thumping five-wicket triumph in their last fixture of the ongoing ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup.

Bangladesh's resounding victory over the UAE, however, turned out to be insufficient for the side as India and Australia advanced to the semi-finals despite having the same number of points (six) due to a better net run rate.

UAE batting lineup suffered a ruthless attack by Bangladesh's bowlers and could post 69/9 in their allotted 20 overs, after opting to bat first. Opening batter Lavanya Keny remained the lone warrior for UAE with the bat as she scored a fighting 29 off 46, while Mahika Gaur remained the notable run-getter with a cautious 17. The rest of the UAE batters, on the other hand, failed to amass the double figures.

Rabeya Khan led the bowling attack for Bangladesh with three wickets with Marufa Akter following with two. Dipa Khatun, Reya Akter Shika and Shorna made one scalp each.

Set to chase a mere 70, Bangladesh amassed the total in just the 10th over in a bid to get their net run rate past New Zealand but failed.

Shorna top-scored for Bangladesh in the run chase with a brisk 38 off just 19 balls, hitting four boundaries and two sixes.

Djokovic, Sabalenka roll into Australian Open semi-finals

MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic was two wins away from a 22nd Grand Slam crown after bulldozing into the Australian Open semi-finals on Wednesday, while Aryna Sabalenka was equally impressive in reaching the women's last four.

Serbia's Djokovic delivered a masterclass to crush Russian fifth seed Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena and set up a meeting with Tommy Paul for a place in Sunday's final.

Djokovic's quest to go level with great rival Rafael Nadal on a leading 22 major titles carries an air of inevitability.

The 35-year-old struggled with a hamstring injury in the early rounds at Melbourne Park but was dominant during his fourth-round demolition of Alex de Minaur and was equally clinical against the outclassed Rublev.

"Last two matches, playing against two guys who were in form and to beat them dominantly in three sets is something that I definitely want in this moment, something that sends a message to all my opponents," said a buoyant Djokovic.

"With this kind of game the confidence level rises, so I feel better on the court as the tournament progresses."

Pakistan Super League (PSL)

LAHORE: All six franchises of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) have strengthened their squads for the upcoming eighth edition in the Players' Draft held here today.



England's Adil Rashid, Harry Brook to miss PSL 2023



England leg-spinner Adil Rashid and aggressive batsman Harry Brook will not be a part of the eighth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) — set to start February 13.

Rashid, who was roped in by Multan Sultans during the draft in December, will miss the tournament due to his engagements with the English team.

Since the spinner will miss the country's biggest cricket festival, the 2021 champions will pick his replacement in the Replacement Draft on Wednesday (today).

Meanwhile, the defending champions Lahore Qalandars star batter Brook will also not be available for the team this year.

Teams strengthen rosters in HBL PSL 8 replacement draft

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The six HBL Pakistan Super League franchises beefed up their squads in the replacement draft that took place over a conference call on Wednesday.

The six teams added players to their squads in the third and fourth supplementary pick rounds before naming replacements for the players who were partially or fully unavailable. Each side could pick a maximum of one foreign cricketer in the two supplementary rounds.

Peshawar Zalmi, who had reserved their pick in the second supplementary round in the HBL PSL 8 Player Draft in December, picked fast bowler Khurram Shahzad.

In the first pick of the third supplementary round, Peshawar Zalmi picked Haris Sohail, who

recently made a comeback to the Pakistan ODI side.

Lahore Qalandars, who had the second pick, named Ahsan Bhatti, a left-arm spin all-rounder and product of their player development programme. Islamabad United and Karachi Kings picked Tom Curran and Ben Cutting, who played for Peshawar Zalmi last season, respectively. Quetta Gladiators and Multan Sultans, who had the fifth and sixth picks, included Qais Ahmed and Kieron Pollard, who has previously turned over for Karachi Kings.

The fourth supplementary round followed the reverse order in which Multan Sultans took Ammad Butt, who was with Peshawar Zalmi in the last edition. Quetta Gladiators picked Saud Shakeel. Karachi Kings and Islamabad United picked Musa Khan, who was previously in Islamabad

United, and Zafar Gohar, while Lahore Qalandars and Peshawar Zalmi reserved their picks.

The six franchises also named replacements for the players who are partially or fully unavailable.

In the Platinum category, Lahore Qalandars picked Sam Billings for Rashid Khan; Peshawar Zalmi replaced Rovman Powell with Richard Gleeson; Islamabad United picked Gus Atkinson and Tymal Mills for Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Alex Hales. Multan Sultan replaced David Miller with Izharulhaq Naveed. Quetta reserved their pick for Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga.

In the Diamond category, Islamabad United and Peshawar Zalmi reserved their picks for Fazalhaq Farooqi and Mujeeb ur Rehman; Quetta Gladiators picked Dwaine Pretorius and Will

Jacks for Odean Smith and Jason Roy. Multan Sultan reserved their replacements for Akeal Hosein and Tim David in the Gold category.

In the Silver category, Quetta Gladiators and Lahore Qalandars replaced Naveen ul Haq with Nuwan Thushara and Harry Brook with Shane Dadswell.

In the supplementary picks, Lahore Qalandars' Jordan Cox was replaced with Kusal Mendis, Multan Sultans' Adil Rashid with Wayne Parnell and Karachi Kings' Tabraiz Shamsi with Faisal Akram.

Rovman Powell, David Miller, Odean Smith, Akeal Hosein and Tabraiz Shamsi will potentially be unavailable to their franchisees from 8 March onwards due to bilateral limited overs series between the West Indies and



South Africa.

Adil Rashid, Moeen Ali and Jason Roy are potentially unavailable because of the England versus Bangladesh limited overs series to their franchisees from 26 February till 14 March. Alex Hales will join the HBL PSL 8 from 26 February onwards. Tim David will join the tournament from 3 March. Jordan Cox will be available to Lahore

Qalandars from 21 February as he is on the England Lions tour of Sri Lanka. Wanindu Hasaranga will leave the tournament from 3 March.

Afghanistan cricketers may become unavailable to their teams for brief duration due to potential international commitment.

Supplementary and replacements picks on Wednesday (25

January 2023):

Peshawar Zalmi – Supplementary: Khurram Shahzad and Haris Sohail. Replacement: Richard Gleeson

Lahore Qalandars – Supplementary: Ahsan Bhatti. Replacement: Sam Billings, Shane Dadswell and Kusal Mendis

Islamabad United – Supplementary: Tom Curran and Zafar Gohar. Replacement: Gus Atkinson and Tymal Mills

Karachi Kings – Supplementary: Ben Cutting and Musa Khan. Replacement: Faisal Akram

Quetta Gladiators – Supplementary: Qais Ahmed and Saud Shakeel. Replacement: Dwaine Pretorius, Will Jacks and Nuwan Thushara

Multan Sultans – Supplementary: Kieron Pollard and Ammad Butt. Replacement: Wayne Parnell and Izharulhaq Naveed.