كاذكر أثليا- پھر بلال رضى اللّه عنيه كويه حكم ا قامت میں ایک ایک مرتبہ۔

Barkat Rice Mills

Emotional Sania Mirza bids farewell to Grand Slam career

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza, who bid farewell to the sports earlier this month, was overwhelmed with emotions while giving a speech as she bowed out of her Grand Slam career. The 36-year-old athlete, who played her first Grand Slam 18 years ago, is in Australia for her last Australian Open event of her career.

First Muslim mayor elected in **Johannesburg**

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Power Shortage meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting, Friday, on issues pertaining to power shortage and infrastructure in Chitral.



PM confident of deal with IMF current month

👺 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed confidence that Pakistan would conclude a deal with International Monetary Fund (IMF) the current month in a bid to overcome the financial challenges.

Addressing here at the launch of the Green Line train service between Islamabad and Karachi, the prime minister said the headway in talks with IMF would help the country address the current economic situation.

The IMF delegation will be visiting Islamabad from January 31 to February 9 to continue discussions regarding the ninth and food as essential items. review of the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

The prime minister emphasized the adoption of austerity at a massive scale to tackle difficult economic problems.

He said the government had set its priority keeping in view its foreign exchange reserves, thus would soon regain its glory. allowing the import of medicine



IMF current month

challenges with resilience.

confidence that with dedication

He regretted that the Green

Shehbaz Sharif expressed

PM confident of deal with

He said courageous nations stand united while braving the

Line project, which was initiated during the tenure of then prime minister Nawaz Sharif. was delayed by the previous government in a mala fide.

He endorsed the concept of outsourcing Pakistan Railways to make it better equipped and and commitment, the country at par with contemporary servic-

The prime minister said Main

Line-1 (ML-1) railway track was Green Line is set at 22 hours, a top priority for the government which will be reduced gradually. and mentioned that China was Minister for Railways Khawacommitted to its early comple- ia Saad Rafig said the ticket

He pointed out that the previous government indulged in baseless accusations of corruption against Chinese companies, and stressed that the coalition government was working on restoring the ties.

The new train service comprising modern coaches imported from China was launched from the Margalla train station, Islamabad.

PM confident of deal with IMF current month

The prime minister visited various coaches of the train and appreciated the services provided for the travellers to make their journey comfortable.

The Green Line train will have stops at the stations at Rawalpindi, Chaklala, Lahore, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Rohri, Hyderabad and Drigh Road, Karachi stations.

The turnaround time of the

would cover breakfast, lunch, hi-tea, and dinner besides wifi. Apart from this, he said, high-quality bedding and utility kits will also be provided to the passengers.

He said around 2,200 passengers would benefit from the train service to be run between Islamabad to Karachi.

He said Pakistan Railways would formulate rules for the approval of the cabinet in the next few days regarding the collection of revenue from its land. He stressed

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had become the 24th largest economy in the world under the leadership of then prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said the delay in development projects by the previous government incurred irreparable losses to the country.

Weekly inflation up by 0.45 percent

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.45 percent for combined consumption group during the week ended on January 26, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 221.54 points as compared to 220.54 points during the past week, according to PBS

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, consumption group in the week under review

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Asif Zardari among those planning to kill me: Imran Khan

News Desk

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has alleged that former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari was among four people who were planning to kill him.

According to details, the former premier made these remarks while addressing a press conference over the country's economic situation, predicting 'more economic challenges' in days to come.

Imran Khan accused PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari of being involved in the assassination attempt, saying that the former president was among four people who were planning to kill him.

"Asif Zardari has given Sindh government's money to a terrorist organization to were being made to "assassi-alleged, adding that they were Imran Khan.



using Sindh government's 'looted money' against him.

He further said, "They think that the only way to get me out of the way is actually to eliminate," believing that efforts were underway to save those 'four people'. Earlier in the day, Awami

Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed claimed that former president Asif Ali Zardari has hired a "group of terrorists" to target PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

"Asif Ali Zardari is planning to target Imran Khan," he claimed, adding that plans

PPP to serve notice to Imran Khan over 'allegations' on Asif Zardari

News Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided to against Asif Ali Zardari. serve notice to former premier (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan against party co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari.

exclusively, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam to prove the allegation in court.

Memon said that PPP would serve a notice to Imran Khan for levelling 'false allegations'

The PPP leader strongand Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf ly criticised Imran Khan for 'creating conspiracies daily' for levelling 'false allegations' saying that the PTI chairman's politics was based on 'lies'. "He [Khan] levels allega-Talking to ARY News tions only to get attention," he said, adding that he will have

I am against Imran Khan's arrest despite his tall claims: Sanaullah

Spokesman Report

LONDON: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has asserted that he was against the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan despite the latter's tall claims.

According to details, the Interior Minister made these remarks while talking to journalists in London.

Rana Sanaullah noted that he arrived at Hussain Nawaz's office to take 'final instructions' from former premier and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam Nawaz will visit Punjab and then Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) from February 1," he added.

In response to a question, the minister maintained that PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry's arrest was not a 'political revenge'. "The FIR against Fawad Chaudhry was registered on the request of Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)," Rana added.

Responding to another question, Rana Sanaullah further said that he was against the arrest of PTI Chairman Imran Khan despite the latter's tall claims

It is pertinent to mention here that Islamabad police arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry from his residence for 'threatening' Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members.

Economic hitman' Imran Khan should be in jail: Marriyum

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was an "economic hitman" as his government's wrong policies had ruined the national economy, and caused extreme inflation and depre-

"Time has come to bring

the jail for his unforgivable crimes," the minister said in a news statement while reacting to Imran Khan's criticism of the coalition government's economic She said Imran Khan was

his home and send him to

a "liar" and "foreign agent", who had been trying to present himself as innocent. It was he who had caused extreme inflation by ruining the national economy during the economic hitman out of his government's tenure.

US dollar touches all-time high in open market

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee continued to depreciate steeply, as it hit a new all-time low of Rs269 against the US dollar in the open market.

According to data shared by the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP), the Pakistani Rupee was changing hands at Rs269 per dollar in the open market, equating to a depreciation of Rs7, or 2.67pc, over yesterday's rate of Rs262. Meanwhile, the Euro of

European Union (EU) rose by Rs7.50 to hit a high of Rs286.50. Moreover, UK Pound increased by Rs5 to reach Rs326.

On the other hand, UAE Dirham and Saudi Riyal witnessed an increase of Rs1 and Rs0.90 to reach Rs79 and Rs71, respec-

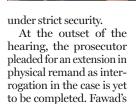
Court rejects plea to extend Fawad Chaudhry's physical remand was asking for Fawad

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The court of district and sessions judge on Friday rejected the police's plea for physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry in a case related to using 'threatening language' against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members.

Earlier, in the day the verdict was reserved by the court after hearing arguments from both sides. Judicial Magistrate Waqas Raja while announcing his reserved verdict ordered to send Fawad Chaudhry to Adiala jail on 14-day judicial remand.

Fawad Chaudhry was



lawyers Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry are also present in the court. The prosecutor said a

voice-matching test had been undertaken while e produced before the court photogrammetry test is

yet to be conducted. He said the suspect attempted to incite hatred against ECP officials through his speech. Chaudhry's lawyer,

Dr Babar Awan while objecting to the extension in demand of his client and said the prosecution wants to include everyone in the probe, while all the evidence is in Lahore Lab.

the

LHC

When

Chaudhry, he was shifted to Islamabad. He said the prosecution is unable to clarify want it wants from my client, Awan said and claimed no one present in the court has different views about ECP. The court after hearing

The case The former federal minister was arrested for 'threatening' Election

Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members. A case against PTi leader was registered at the Kohsar police station in Islamabad on the complaint of Secretary of

Hamid Khan.

arguments reserved the verdict.

the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Omer

the SPI for the combined witnessed an increase of 32.57 percent.

ciation of the rupee.

The Spokesman

Pak-Qatar Relations

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the State of Qatar in Pakistan, H.E. Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani calls on Prime



Senate adopts unanimous resolution against desecration of Holy Quran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate on Friday adopted a unanimous resolution to condemn the vile act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and the Netherlands which has hurt the religious sentiments of 1.5 billion Muslims around the globe.

The upper house of the parliament strongly protested the governments of Sweden and the Netherlands for allowing the extremist elements for this heinous crime in the garb of freedom of expression.

ophobia as hateful and contrary to the principles of internainstruments, including United Nations General Assembly 25th November 1981 which the Elimination of All Forms nation Based on Religion or Belief, Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and

the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights, the Europe-

disgraceful incident of Islam- and European Guidelines on Freedom of Religion or Belief which states that responsibiltional law laid down in several ity and freedom of expression go hand in hand and the latter should not incite hatred, shock resolution number 36/35 of or disturbance to any segment of society, the call of the World proclaims the Declaration on Conference on Human Rights upon all governments to take of Intolerance and Discrimial appropriate measures to counter intolerance, United Nations General Assembly resolution 56/6 of 9th Novem-Political Rights, Article 18 of ber 2001 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civi-

The Senate termed this an Court of Human Rights United Nations Commission ultimately it will prove to be on Human Rights 2005/40, and International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

> According to the resolution, the Senate, therefore, stands for upholding the universal principles highlighted above and expresses the collective will of the state and people of Pakistan against the act of desecration of the Holy Quran by racists and extremists.

It said this vicious crime is a calculated and deliberate attempt to harm interfaith harmony, social peace, lizations, Resolution of the and religious tolerance, and

divisive for peace and stability amongst countries, cultures and civilizations.

The Senate urges Muslims to maintain calm and composure, refuse to be intimidated by the hate-mongering Islamophobes, and promote Islam's message of peace, tolerance and universal brotherhood.

The Senate further asked to take up this highly important and urgent issue before the upcoming session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which is meeting in Geneva next week.

Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan increase by 4.60 percent

Example 2 Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's December 2022, against the export of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed an increase of 4.60 percent during the first half of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to Afghanistan were recordduring July-December (2022-23) against exports of US \$240.504 million during July-December (2021-22), showing growth of 2.83 percent, SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to Afghanistan under review were recorded

from US \$33.097 million in exports of US \$38.297 million in December 2021.

Meanwhile, on a monthon-month basis, the exports to Afghanistan rose by 2.77 percent during December 2022 as compared to the exports of US \$37.263 million in November 2022, the SBP data revealed.

ed at US \$251.580 million to other countries witnessed the first six months, from US \$ 15.242 billion to US \$ 14.211 billion, the SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from Afghanistan into the country during the period



Overall Pakistan s exports ${
m at}$ US \$13.253 million against US \$90.430 million last year, a decrease of 6.76 percent in showing a decline of 85.34 percent in July- December

On a year-on-year basis, the import for Afghanistan witnessed also decreased by 90.01 percent from US \$17.311 million in December

2021, against the imports of US \$1.729 million in December 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the imports from Afghanistan into the country increased by 25.92 percent during December 2022, as compared to the imports of November 2022, according to the data.

The overall imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 18.24 percent, from US \$36.094 billion to US \$29.509 billion, according to the data.

Based on the trade figures, the trade of goods and services with Afghanistan witnessed an increase of 58.80 percent in surplus during July-December (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The surplus during the period under review was recorded at US \$238.327 million against US \$150.074 million during the same period of last year, showing growth of 58.80 US \$1.373 million during percent, the data revealed.

Pakistan strongly condemns Israel's attack on Jenin, **State of Palestine** News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns Israel's brutal attack on the city and camp of Jenin in the State of Palestine, killing several innocent Palestinians, including an elderly woman, and injuring at least 20 others. Pakistan denounces the spate of reprehensible, cold bloodalready killed thirty (30) Palestinians this month.

Pakistan calls upon the international community to assume its responsibility in bringing these illegal incursions and actions by the Israeli

rights of the Palestinian people.

Pakistan reiterates its strong and unwavering support to the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for full realization of their fundamental rights-including the right to selfdetermination.

Government and the people of Pakistan extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of ed and murderous attacks that have victims and best wishes for full and swift recovery of the injured in this brutal attack.

Pakistan renews its call for a viable, independent and contiguous Palestinian State, with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capioccupation forces to a halt and ensur- tal, in accordance with the relevant ing adequate protection of the human United Nations and OIC resolutions.

KC-EU holds a protest camp on Black Day in Brussels



跨 Sohail Anjum Malik

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

It is important to mention that Kashmiris, who are suffering from Indian atrocities for last seven decades, observe the Indian Republic Day falling on 26th January as black day every year. The peaceful people are living in miseries under protest camp in Brussels was head- the might of the gun, he said. ed by Chair of KC-EU Ali Raza Syed. The participants in the camp holding demanded New Delhi to give right of placards called for freedom of Kashmiris from Indian occupation.

KC-EU Ali Raza Syed said, India claims of being largest democracy of the world but it refuses the demo-

cratic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir as atrocities against the people are continued. He said, peace in Kashmir is connected to the whole region. If Kashmir is witness of peace, the whole region would be witness of peace and prosperity.

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

On the Indian republic day, we simply want to convey a message to Indian government that there is no point in glorifying the democracy if

KC-EU's Chairman Ali Raza self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He empha-On the occasion, Chairman sized that India should end brutalities against the Kashmiris and fulfil its promise for right of Self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

Sanjrani, Achakzai discuss Balochistan development

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Friday discussed the status of Balochistan's development projects and other issues of mutual interest with Balochistan Minister for Finance Zamrak Khan Achakzai in a meeting held in the Parliament

Speaking on the occasion, Senate Chairman stressed that expediting the development projects was imperative for rapidly changing people's standard of living.

The provincial minister lauded the efforts of the Senate Chairman in



Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that the upper house will continue to play its full role for the development and prosperity of Balochistan.

Chairman said that solving the problems of the Balochistan people is his first priority and will continue to work for the development and solving the financial problems being prosperity of the province.

PHC grants bail to MNAAli Wazir

跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR :Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Friday granted bail to Pashtun Tahaffuz

Movement's (PTM) detained leader Ali Wazir.

Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim heard the plea for Mr Wazir's bail. Sher Afzal Marwat, the lawyer representing Mr Wazir, presented in the court and got the bail approved against surety bonds worth Rs500,000.

Earlier, Mr Wazir had been detained for delivering inciteful speeches against state institutions. A total of 19 cases have been lodged

PTI moves LHC against no announcement of election date in Punjab

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) on Friday moved the Lahore High Court (LHC) against no announcement of election date in Punjab.

A plea was filed by PTI lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar, which nominated Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman as respondent. The plea stated that over 10 days had elapsed since the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly but the governor, in contravention to the constitution, had still not announced the date for elections in the province. "The constitution binds the governor to announce the date soon after the dissolution," he

Gandhara festival to be held in Taxila from Sunday

Sometime Correspondent

WAH CANTT: The two-day Gandhara festival is scheduled to be held at Gandhara promote the rich Gandhara art village near Taxila from

by Rawalpindi Arts Council (RAC) in collaboration folk dance and a Sufi night. with Pak-Romina friendship association to highlight the ancient civilization of Taxila. Rawalpindi Arts Coun-

cil (RAC) Director Waqar Ahmed said that the main objective of the festival was to highlight the old civili- ty about their ancient heritzation of the region and to age spanning the province. inform the young generation He said the festival will help about the country's history, the province attract foreign art and culture.

as the ancient civilizations of

He said the exhibition of Buddha statues made by local sculptors would also be part of the festival in a bid to civilization.

He said that the Gand-The festival is organized hara festival will include an art exhibition, a book fair, a

Zaildar Ahsan Shah-Chairman Pakistan-Romania friendship association said that organizing the festival with aim to sensitize public as well as Islamabad based diplomatic communiand local investment in the He said festivals were tourism sector, adding that being organized to highlight Buddhist countries play a the culture of Punjab as well key role in upgrading their holy sites spread throughout

the province.

FIA rubbishes money-laundering case against Tarins



👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Friday while annulling the inquiry into laundering Rs2 billion against disgruntled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Jahangir Tarin and his son Ali Tarin closed the case.

District and Sessions court's judicial magistrate heard the plea. The FIA's investigation officer stated that no allegation of money laundering by Tarins was proved during inquiry. "It is a case of investment which should be proceeded in the civil court [instead]", he added.

PDMA issues alert for DCs in anticipation of heavy snowfall in Balochistan

News Desk

QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan on Friday issued an alert for deputy commissioners in anticipation of heavy snowfall, and rains forecast in most parts of the province from Saturday, Jan 28 to Jan 29.

The PDMA has directed all concerned authorities to remain alert during to the forecast period as predicted snowfall may disrupt normal life and vehicular traffic in mountainous/hilly areas.

The authority asked all concerned departments to be vigilant and take preventive measures in order to avoid any loss of human life



concerned was instructed to have all apparatus, including the availability of heavy machinery at-risk/vulnerable areas and points. Aside from that, the

administrations were advised to encourage citizens in mountainous areas to minimize their movements and avoid unnecessary travel.

Furthermore, residents in these locations were asked to notify the appropriate departments in the event of against him. an emergency.

or property. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi.

Azad Kashmir PM addresses worshippers in mosque on importance of Durood Sharif

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, on his way from Islamabad to Muzaffarabad, stopped at a place five miles away from the capital Muzaffarabad and offered Friday prayers in a local mosque where the local people welcomed the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir. Addressing the worshippers, Azad Kashmir shed light on the importance of Durood Ibrahimi and said that it is the act which is the best in the sight of Allah Almighty. As Muslims, we should make Durood Ibrahimi a part of our daily life.

Durood Sharif must be recited at the beginning and end of ceremonies and prayers. The preacher in mosques should preach and advise people on the importance of Durood Sharif in his speech. The Prime Minister of Azad

club, in Provincial Capital.

Protest

Kashmir said that our government ar Tanveer Iliyas Khan's also surprise has issued instructions to read Durood Sharif in government institutions and government functions. Sad incidents of Islamophobia have occurred in some countries of the world, which I strongly condemn. Our religion, Islam, is peaceful. Such incidents hurt the sentiments of Muslims all over the world. The Muslim Ummah will have to adopt an agreed plan of action to prevent such

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir said in his speech that he congratulated the people of the state on the unanimous approval of the Rahmatul Ulamain Authority Bill. To give is to counter the wrong impression spread about Islam at the global level, to provide guidance to the young generation in the light of good deeds and to protect them from social evils.

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sard-

KARACHI: Supporters of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan are hold a protest against Quran burning in Sweden, outside press

visited Central Jail Rara (Muzaffarabad). On seeing the Prime Minister suddenly inside the jail, there was great excitement among the prisoners, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan mingled with the prisoners. He shook hands with each person in the jail, inquired about their well-being, the prisoners expressed their personal problems and complaints before the Prime Minister. On Friday, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan arrived at Muzaffarabad Central Jail Rara in his own private car, and seeing the squad cars inside the jail, there was trouble at first, but later when the jail administration came to know

that the Prime Minister had arrived, the

prisoners were happy. And the feelings

welcome the imprisoned Prime Minis-

ter. On the arrival of the Prime Minis-

ter at the Central Jail, the jail administration gave a briefing regarding the internal parts of the jail. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan went to each barrack where he spent almost two hours with the prisoners. The Prime Minister sought information from each prisoner regarding personal problems and their cases.

The Prime Minister issued orders to compile a record of all persons entering the jails and install a biometric system. During a visit to the prison barracks, the Prime Minister paid a fine of Rs. Released with the advice of The Prime Minister also got information from the young prisoners regarding their education and skills, one of the young prisoners told him that his education had worked, so the Prime Minister asked of joy became prominent and those who him various questions and instructed would be mobilized in their barracks to him to continue his education. On the attention of the prisoners, the Prime Minister provided hot and quality food

Protest demonstration regarding restoration of 3G,4G & electricity in Ragzai



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Wana, the headquarter of Lower South Waziristan, a protest was held by the Raghzai Youth Society regarding internet service 3G, 4G and maintenance of two installed electricity towers in Raghzai area.

Tribal elders, youths, Ullamas, local elected representatives, business community and people belonging to every school of thought participated in the protest

The protestors said that the restoration of internet service 3G 4G and the above mentioned two towers is our constitutional right, until the state does not implement our demands.

Arshad Khan Wazir, president of Ragzai Youth Society, said that the suspension of internet service in the suburbs of Lower South Waziristan for a whole month is a violation of basic and human rights.

We have discussed this issue with the IGFC, apart from this, detailed discussions were held with Assistant Commissioner Wana and Deputy Commissioner Lower South Waziristan, but so far the higher authorities have not acted on our demands

If the work on 3G, 4G and above mentioned two towers and power line is not completed then we will be forced to protest.

He further said that we will take to the streets for our constitutional rights and block the Vana to Angorada main road Then the sit-in will continue until the state implements our demands.

Philosophy Day was organized at IQRA University North Campus



KARACHI: Iqra University celebrated Philosophy Day to raise awareness and understanding of the subject on a global scale. The event, held at Iqra University's North Campus, was attended by a diverse group of students, faculty members, and guests.

Dr. Shams Hamid, Dean of Social Sciences at Iqra University, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the importance of critical thinking and the role of philosophy in shaping our understanding of the world. He urged individuals to reflect on the meaning and purpose of life and the growing relevance of creative and critical thinking in today's rapidly changing world.

To prepare students for the demands of the 21st century, Iqra University has made philosophy and critical thinking a mandatory subject for both undergraduate and graduate students. The event featured a variety of student contributions, including posters, videos, drama performances, and thought-provoking discussions. The Director of Academics Dr. Syed Ali Raza, Senior Journalist Sameer Mendhro, Faculty Members Uzma Anees, Umme Sumaiya, Imran Raza, and other guests were also in attendance. The event was organized by Dr.

Christian community backs MPA for Faisalabad seat

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Christian community Al-Maqruz-e-Islami Chiniot Bazaar Faisalabad has announced full support for Jamaat-e-Islami candidate MPA PP-115 Mian Ejaz Hussain.

The Christian community said that we are with just and righteous people. We value Jamaat-e-Islami of this motto to support with

A large number of men Mian Atiqur Rehman and and women were present in this workers' convention and that associating with political parties that are crippled by human values is tantamount to hitting oneself

Jamaat-e-Islami Deputy Amir Sardar Zafar Hussain Khan from Workers Convention. Ameer Zone



others also addressed.

The leaders said that they expressed their views Jamaat-e-Islami will give equal rights to every citizen and especially the poor people will be provided 300 units of electricity free of cost as well as give a special budget for basic needs.

He further said that for the last 75 years capitalists and vaders have fooled the

nation for the sake of power and today the face of a whiteclad person looks withered power of vote. but there is no effect on these

so-called political idols. Jamaat-e-Islami protects and guarantees human rights and in this context, no effort has been spared to play with these people in the name of restoring the rights of minorities.

Mian Ejaz Hussain said

that he belonged to a poor family. The pain of the poor is better understood by the poor and I feel the pain of the poor', so these people are waiting for a messiah.

He further said that he was grateful to the local and central leadership of Jamaat-e-Islami who elected him in the Provincial Assembly PP-115 and they will always uphold its mani-

And the zealous people of Pakistan will force the pharaohs in politics to run away from the country by the

Seeing their mothers and sisters standing for flour, every jealous person cries tears of blood that what is happening here and if the workers and the people of the constituency give a chance, I will not disappoint them.

Ulema urge Sweden, Dutch govts for prompt action against desecrators of Holy Quran

ISLAMABAD: Ulema Mashavkh and religious scholars on Friday observed the 'Sanctity of Quran and Namoos-e-Risalat Day' and urged the governments of Sweden and Netherlands to take immediate action against those who breached the sanctity and prestige of the Holy Quran.

Addressing the public congregation at Friday Prayer across the country, they underlined the need to legislate against the perspective of international law from the forum of the United Nations against Islamophobia, besides heavenly religions and divine books.

Ulema said the desecrators had hurt the religious feelings of 1.5 billion Muslims on the globe. Islam was a religion of peace and security and the teachings of the Holy Quran was to promote peace, affection, tolerance, and harmony, they added. APP

Pakistan Youth Festival in Karachi

№ News Desk

KARACHI: On the fifth day of the ongoing Pakistan Youth Festival in Karachi, a special children's festival for special children was organized in the open-air theater. The students of schools, colleges and universities participated in the Paki-



stan Youth Festival from the morning while the boys and girls participated in the dance workshop.

Hadi Bux Kalhoro, Prof. Dr. Shagfat Shahzadi spoke, during the final results of the speech competitions, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmed Shah said that love and fear are two emotions that drive a person forward, if you do something with open mind then the whole world will be at your feet, we can go far in the world by controlling ourselves, he said, first of all we have to become a better person, father, son and a better husband, a breath of fresh air in our mind. Give, keep your ears and eyes open too, so get the blessings from wherever you get and move forward to acquire new knowledge.

Secretary Special Education Hadi Bux Kalhoro expressed his views and said that President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmed Shah always does something different, I congratulate him on the successful festival in Pakistan Youth Festival Battle of the Bands, singing, instrument, dance and acting finals will be held on January 28, while the musical program will be performed by Komail Anam and AUJ band.

IRC, PDMA launch disaster management information system in KP

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The 'Disaster Management Information System' (DMIS) has been launched in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to ensure quick access of disaster management authorities to accurate actionable information and better handling of disasters with modern management skills to minimize losses to human lives as well as infrastructures to much extent.

This system has been launched as a result of extensive collaboration and working between the International Rescue Committee Management Authority (PDMA) camp management information.

KP keeping in view the challenges encountered with information management previously.

While speaking at the concluding day of a two-day comprehensive training arranged by the IRC for 52 PDMA field assistants and divisional reporting officers from across the province here on Thursday, Director General PDMA-KP, Sharif Hussain explained that the DMIS system is developed as per geographic contextual needs and it entails comprehensive modules on incident reporting, relief management, monitoring of water levels in rivers, integration of weath-(IRC) and the Provincial Disaster er updates with MET office and

key innovation under the DMIS is the GIS component which will enable PDMA to plot all the incidences on a map and generate a daily situation report. "This information will support relief organizations in planning and implementation of humanitarian response. Moreover, the system can record public grievances, which is routed to the concerned district administration for corrective actions," the DG said.

Sharif Hussain said that these modules are designed holistically to address a pre and post scenario where the DMIS serves as an early warning system and in the aftermath of disaster provides

He further explained that the timely information for a speedy coordinated response based on real time information.

In her remarks on the occasion, Country Director IRC-Pakistan, Shabnam Baloch, said that the IRC is collaborating with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the national level as well. Such collaboration will pave way for policymakers and humanitarian agencies to make informed decisions during the phases of relief, early recovery and rehabilitation of populations that are impacted by calamities. She explained, "Pakistan is

particularly vulnerable to climate shocks but has little capacity to invest in preventative infrastruc-



ture. It is imperative that these resources are allocated towards initiatives are scaled up and a climate resilient Pakistan".

The two-day IRC training for PDMA field assistants and divisional reporting officers from across the province was aimed at providing hands-on training to these officials along with supplementary resources for DMIS. It will play an important role in capacity building towards furnishing as well as disseminating the accurate and latest information to all relevant organizations. Pakistan faces some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world. This risk is driven particularly by the nation's exposure to earthquakes and high exposure to flooding and some exposure to tropical cyclones and their associated hazards, and drought.

AIOU aims at achieving

ISLAMABAD: "We have to play a role to bring the 50,000 drop-out children of Islamabad into the educational network, all public and private sector institutions and non-governmental organizations should work together to achieve 100 percent literacy rate in Islamabad and register

all out-of-school children," said Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open

University (AIOU), Prof Dr. Nasir Mehmood in his address at the meet-

ing of Non-Formal Education (NFE) forum, Islamabad. He said that

AIOU will train the teachers of the institutions working to include the

dropout children in the educational network. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said

that the training courses for teachers of non-formal education institu-

tions are being updated and their duration is increased from six months to one year. All the services in regional offices of AIOU across the country

are available for the stake holders working for non-formal education.

In this meeting, Program Specialist of JICA, Bilal Aziz, Director

General, Pakistan Institute of Education, Dr. Zaigham Qadeer, Saqib

Farooq from Ministry of Federal Education, Chairman, Elementary

Teacher Education, AIOU, Dr. Fazal-Ur-Rahman, Chairman Department of Distance, Non-Formal and Continuing Education, AIOÛ, Dr.

Muhammad Ajmal Chaudhry, and representatives of private sector

100% literate. They introduced their respective institutions and briefed

about the educational and social services they are proving. Bilal Aziz

highlighted the educational services of JICA in detail, Dr. Zaigham.

Qadeer offered to host the next session of the forum. Saqib Farooq said that the Ministry of Education has included 12 thousand drop-out chil-

dren of Islamabad in the educational network, and they are making

efforts to bring the remaining children to schools. Dr. Fazal-Ur-Rah-

man said that there is a need to include dropout children not only from

Islamabad but from the entire country in the education net so that we

institutions and non-governmental organizations were present. All stakeholders reiterated to intensify efforts to make Islamabad

100pc literacy rate in Islamabad: VCAIOU





SERVI	CES
Namaz T	imings
Fajr	
Zohr	12:20 pm
Asr	3:55 pm
Maghrib	5:33 pm
Icha	7:00 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpin	di/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	e 1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
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COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316

Regional Aviation Cooperation: Pakistan takes over chairmanship of COSCAP-SA

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 30th Steering Committee meeting of the Cooperative Development o Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Programme - South Asia (COSCAP-SA) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from January 24-26.

During the session, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) Director General Khaqan Murtaza took over as chairman of the body for a term of two years, a PCCA spokesman said in a statement here on Friday.

"Apart from eight-member countries, representatives of ICAO Asia Pacific Office, EASA, FAA, France DGAC, Boeing and Pilots' International Association, IFALPA, participated in the three-day meeting," he

The COSCAP-SA Asia, a regional body of the International Civil Aviation Authority, is governed by the chairman of a Steering Committee, comprising members from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives. The body helps promote cooperation among the member states in the field of avia-

Murtaza Abbasi seeks Korean investment into Special Economic Zones of Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD, JAN 27 (APP): Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo on Friday called on Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi and discussed matters related to bilater-

While welcoming the envoy, the minister expressed his gratitude for the assistance provided by Korea during the recent devastating flood in Pakistan

Javed Murtaza Abbasi stressed the need for technology transfer in Pakistan as there was immense potential in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which needed expansion and increased investment.

This sector, he said, had an important role in improving the national economy and its full potential should be exploited for the development of the country. The minister said the ports of Kara-

better access to Korea to the markets of Central Asia. He praised the quality of Korean products, especially solar panels, and empha-

sized promoting the existing cooperation in the energy sector.

The two sides also discussed ongoing projects of Korean companies in Pakistan and agreed on their further expansion.

chi and Gwadar were available to provide During the meeting, they underlined the need for further promoting the cooperation and ties between the two countries at the parliamentary and government level.

The chief executive officer of Star Hydro, a company constructing a dam, was also present in the meeting

The minister assured that the difficulties being faced in the opening of LCs \(\text{Letters} \) of Credit would be resolved soon.

Javed Murtaza Abbasi also highlighted the country's potential in the tourism sector and stressed its development.

become an educated nation. Increasing poverty vanishing middle class in Pakistan

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Pakistan's elites are insensitive, merciless, and irresponsible.

Total responsibility for looting the country's resources and ruining the economy rests with the elites but the entire burden is always shifted on the people, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the policies designed to promote the ultra-wealthy are increasing poverty in the country and eliminating

The wealth of the elites is increasing at a rapid pace that is destroying the economy and society which must be stopped, he added.

Pakistani nobility is at the forefront of looting resources but they do not pay taxes to discharge their national obligation.

The elites know that economic inequality has terrible consequences and that paying taxes is necessary to bridge the divide between rich and poor and for the bright future of the country but they remains insensitive. They have earned billions of rupees from Pakistan and have set up businesses and properties abroad therefore, they don't care about the

people and their problems. He said that according to a recent report by a reputed non-profit, inequality has been going on all over the world for the past fifty years,

but it has accelerated during the outbreak of the Coronavirus. During the epidemic, the wealth of the ten richest people in the world doubled and other billionaires increased their fortunes while the income of ninety-nine percent of the people was hit and it became difficult for them to meet the necessary expenses.

The report states that since 2020, the wealth of billionaires is increasing at the rate of \$2.7 billion per day, while people are getting poorer

If developed countries taxed their billionaires and billionaires at just 5%, \$1.7 trillion could be saved, lifting two billion people out of pox but it is not likely as the influence of aristocracy is the process of decision-making has increased substantially.

KP business delegation calls on Chairman FBR

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of the business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa led by Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi, President of KP Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) on Friday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmed here at Peshawar

President of KCC&I and Chairman Council of Border Trade Chambers, Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi informed the Chairman FBR about the problems being faced by traders during clearance of goods through Pakistan Single Window System (PSW) and by different other departments including Animal Quarantine Department (AQD) and Plant Protection Department at Torkham, Kharlachi, Ghulam Khan and Angor Adda border crossings connected with Afghanistan.

Kazmi welcomed the construction of an international standard terminal in Torkham and said that due to undue delay in the project, the miseries of traders had been aggravated.

He urged to ensure early completion of the project through local employment to facilitate of traders and local people.

On this occasion, Chief Collector Customs KP Muhammad Salim, Director Transit Trade Arbab Qaiser Hamid, Collector Appraisal Muhammad Ashfaq, Collector Enforcement Burhanuddin Ahmad Wani, DGI&I and other senior officials of FBR. including Iranian Consul General and Commercial Attaché Peshawar, Afghan Consul General Peshawar Hafiz Mohibullah Sahib, Ziaul Haq Sarhadhi Sahib, Khyber Chamber Senior Vice President Sagheer Dad Afridi, Vice President Haji Zaheerullah Shinwari, Executive Director Mohammad Haroon Saber Sahib, Focal Person Pak Afghan Trade Wajid Ali Shinwari, Hazrat Ali Shinwari, Ali Faisal and other Customs officials were also present.

Bara Kahu Bypass

ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy in construction work overhead bridge during development project of Bhara Kahu Bypass Flyover, in Federal Capital.



PEMRA to grant FM radio licenses in FATA

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting to review annual performance of senior officers of PEMRA was held at the Authority's Headquarters in Islamabad. The meeting was presided over by Chairman PEMRA Muhammad Saleem Baig. Senior Director Generals, Director Generals and senior officers of all regional offices of PEMRA attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the Authority's performance related to the administrative and financial issues were reviewed. Recovery constraints being faced by the Authority due to recent floods in Sindh and Balochistan were analyzed. During meeting it was decided to grant FM radio licenses in FATA and merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Moreover, policy for cable licensing in underserved area and IPTV policy was finalized. Apart from this, various issues



while evaluating the performance related to the collection transmission should be strictly of revenue and a committee for revision of the tariff of cable TV was also taken into considera-

Chairman PEMRA while addressing the officers took a briefing on day-to-day affairs, recovery and emphasized on bution of Indian/illegal chan-

laws in light and spirit. Indian prohibited as the content viewed on them is harmful to our religious and social values and for the economy of Pakistan. Special instructions were issued to all Regional Directors for following zero tolerance policy on distri-

show exemplary performance for improving the image and prestige of the institution. He asked the PEMRA officers to ensure the implementation of PEMRA laws and emphasized to ensure strong communication and consultation with all stakeholders for development of media industry in Pakistan.

Pak students to visit Japan under the Japan-SAARC Network Program

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of nine Pakistani students accompanied by a supervisor will be visiting Japan from February 1 to February 7, 2023 on the invitation by the Government of Japan under the Japan-SAARC Network Program of Peopleto-People Exchange known as JENESYS. The students delegation comprises of five undergraduate students from COMSATS University Islamabad, Abbottabad campus and four high school students from Westminster Academy Islamabad along with a supervisor to visit Japan under this youth exchange

Youths (JENESYS) is a youth exchange program between Japan and the Asia Pacific region launched by the Japanese Government aiming to reaffirm and strengthen mutual trust and understanding among the people of Japan and participating countries. Under the JENESYS 2022 program, participants from SAARC countries during their stay in Japan will be provided opportunities to learn and deepen further their understanding of Japan's cutting-edge high technologies, economy, society and also experience Japan's traditional culture by participating in various lectures and visits.

The Embassy of Japan organ-Japan-East Asia Network ized a pre-departure orientation

of students to give them some necessary information and also to hand over travel documents to them before their departure On the occasion, H.E. WADA

Mitsuhiro, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, congratulated the young students upon their selection for visiting Japan under this youth exchange program which, he said, will be a life-time opportunity for the young minds to learn more about Japan. The Ambassador, while emphasizing the importance of peopleto-people exchange stated that exchange of people especially the youth is probably the most productive and fruitful way to further deepen the relations

of Exchange for Students and session for the visiting delegation between the countries. Expressing his best wishes, the Ambassador hoped that the visiting Pakistani students, besides fostering friendships with the Japanese youth, will find ample opportunities to learn and enjoy the life, culture and historical heritage of Japan during their stay in the country.

This year under JENESYS 2022 program, a total of 70 high school students and undergraduate students from SAARC countries have been invited by the Government of Japan to participate in this short term invitation. The program is expected not only to promote capacity building but also to develop mutual understanding among youths of Japan and that of SAARC countries.



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Green line train will boosting the revenue

inister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique Friday urged the masses to use the state-ofthe-art Green Line Train inaugurated by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for boosting the revenue.

"It is my appeal to all the citizens to travel in the newly inaugurated Green Line Train which has been equipped with modern facilities," the minister said while addressing the inauguration

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had personally inspected the Green Line Train which could help 2,200 passengers travel daily from Islamabad to Karachi in a cosy environment.

The minister said the train would leave Margalla Railway Station at 3pm and reach Karachi at 2:20 PM the next day. The train would stop at Rawalpindi, Lahore, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Rohri Junction and Hyderabad stations during the journey.

Saad Rafique said the train would provide state-of-the-art services to the passengers including comfortable sleepers, WIFI, quality meals, tea, bottled water, newspapers, standard bedding and air-conditioned rooms.

He said the passengers would have the facility of online booking and e-ticketing through which they can purchase e-tickets for their journey on the official website of Pak Railways or through the smartphone application which is available on the Google Play

The minister said the Green Line was first inaugurated in 2013 by then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. However, its services were suspended by the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He said the "gentry" services of Green Line Train had been outsourced with due diligence and after a competitive bidding process so that more revenue could be generated for the department. "The revenue of Pakistan Railways stood at Rs 18 billion when the last time Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) came into power in 2013, he said, adding it jumped to Rs 54 billion when the government completed its tenure in 2018," he

He said unfortunately, the previous PTI government totally neglected the department and appointed blue-eyed officers who damaged the department's revenue growth altogether.

Saad Rafique said concerted efforts were being made to boost the revenue of the department, however, financial support was imperative to undertake reforms for a revival of the Pakistan

The minister said Pakistan Railways had worked out a plan for branding several passenger trains and railway platforms to generate maximum revenue for the department.

He said the branding of the trains and platforms would not only address the increasing deficit of Pakistan Railways but also allow private firms to advertise their products for this purpose.

Saad Rafique said some Rs 200 million were required to run the day-to-day affairs of Pakistan Railways, but it was just generating Rs 155 million in revenue per day.

He extended gratitude to the apex court for allowing to use of its land for commercial purposes which would definitely boost the revenue of the department. Rules would be framed in this regard and sent to the Federal Cabinet for approval soon which would help exploit the commercial potential of Pakistan Railway

Saad Rafique urged the relevant stakeholders to give maximum business to Pakistan Railways for freight which would not only ensure cargo mobility at an affordable rate but also save road infrastructure.

Our Historical, Literary and National asset 'Urdu'

Javed Ullah Raja

stanis and according to the constitu-

tion, our national language is Urdu. The nations of the world have their own languages which is their identity. Whenever the leaders and delegations of different countries come together, they wear their own special clothes and speak their own languages. Every country and every nation is proud of its language. Urdu language is the most spoken and understood language in the world after English. According to the United Nations, Urdu is the third largest language in the world. This Urdu language is being taught in universities in many countries around the world including Germany, China, India and Turkey, and many other countries. The national language of our country Pakistan is Urdu. Immediately after independence, on February 25, 1948, it was officially given the status of the national language. After the establishment of Pakistan, it was declared the national language in every constitution. The Supreme Court was also given the decision to implement Urdu on Septem-

ber 8, 2015, by the Writ of Paki-

The founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, emphasized several times that Urdu should be the national language of Pakistan:

On March 12, 1849, in a large public meeting in Dhaka, Quaid-e-Azam said, "I want to make it clear to you that the official language of Pakistan will be Urdu and only Urdu, and no other language except Urdu." Anyone who tries to mislead you is the enemy of Pakistan. Without a common official language, no nation can unite or function. Look at the history of other countries. So as far as the official language of Pakistan is concerned, it will be Urdu."

Then once again: On February 13, 1941, on the second day of the Punjab Urdu Conference, Quaid-e-Azam said: "Urdu is our national language; we must use all our energy to keep it safe from all kinds of harm, free from pollution and from the aggressive intentions of the opponents. In addition, on April 10, 1946, in the All India Muslim League Council meeting in Delhi, Quaid-e-Azam announced that the official language of Pakistan would

We have made many prom-

been given the status of official language. A long time has passed since the 19th century but till today we have kept our language behind

Our real freedom is from our thoughts and concerns. Our identity is our language, and our dress. Make it clear to the nations of the world with our national language that we are Pakistanis and we are proud to have Urdu as the language of Pakistan. An intellectual says:

"We should never forget that a nation that does not have a language does not have a nation. Be a part of our struggle for the implementation of Urdu; make it the goal of your life. See, without Urdu, we are nothing, nowhere. Remember and always remember, Urdu does not need Pakistan, Pakistan needs Urdu. This is the only way to make Pakistan a nation, there is no other way. The obstacle in the implementation of Urdu is also being put so that the people living in this country do not become one nation so that this broken star does not become perfect. Stand united, united, and mobilized for the implementation of Urdu in Pakistan: it is essential for your progress and prosperity. It is necessary for the survival and

ises till today but Urdu has not of this country. Our freedom is government to implement the essential to stability and security."

> The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan Mr. Jawad S. Khawaja on 8 September 2015 not only wrote the decision in Urdu language but also specifically directed that Urdu should be used for expressing ideas in national events, thus the Constitution. And despite the clear decisions of the Supreme Court, not implementing these decisions in education, judiciary, government affairs, and competitive exams is a great violation of the country and the nation. We are still bound in the chains of slavery. Our appearance, dress, and language are all western. We have to change our mindsets so that our future generations can grow. We have to cultivate our generations. All efforts should be made in the implementation of Urdu. It is surprising when the person who is trying to implement Urdu is seen in a coat, tie, and pants. We are a free and independent country. We have to make our own decisions. If there is Urdu, we will see progress. Otherwise, we will see the development of the West.

Our representatives who are sitting in the parliament from every corner of the country should do their duty and raise protection of future generations their voices. It is the job of the al asset.

decisions of the high courts. Otherwise, the constitution and the decisions of the courts will be broken. For the implementation of Urdu the most influential source is the parliament. Until today, no political party has shown a positive attitude in this regard. Through seminars, people from all walks of life attempts should be made for the benefit of Urdu. And most importantly, our educational institutions can play an effective and important role in this endeavor. Because it develops the mind as today's child is tomorrow's leader. Teachers can play a vital role. It should also be implemented as the official language where other issues are to be changed. The previous government adopted national dress for the first time in history, during visits to all foreign countries, and highlighted the identity of Pakistan. Our rulers are independent. We should not forget that in fact, as Urdu, the language will be a breath of real freedom. The protection of the national language is a milestone for future generations. Let us all work together for the promotion and development of Urdu in every sector because Urdu is our historical, literary, and nation-



Kashmir's real rulers were its people and not its Maharajas: Mahatma Gandhi

Spokesman Report

r. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, 'World Forum for The comments of Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of Indian occupied Kashmir on India's Republic Day that 'Kashmir is marching forward on the path of progress' and that 'people of Kashmir are at the centre of governance' sound like nice words, sort of like you might have heard in the sixties in the West's hippie movement, with the Beatles crooning, 'All You Need Is Love.' Perhaps we should all go out and pick flowers and do some of that funny stuff. But in a city of Srinagar (The Capitol of Kashmir) where such speech was accompanied by tightened security measures with drones flying overhead, heavily armed men, camera fitted vehicles and CCTV monitoring the move of every single person that walks towards Sheer-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, have shut off all access of a common man. It's hardly reminiscent of a lovefest in Berkeley, nor does it reflect the spirit in which a constitution creating democratic process in the Republic of India would otherwise exhibit. One thinks more of the Bob Dylan song written during that era and made popular by Peter, Paul and Mary, "Blowing In the Wind," with the lyrics, "How many roads must a man walk down before you call him a man?"

The subsequent unilateral actions of India in refusing to permit a plebiscite and declaring then that Jammu and Kashmir and all its people were the property of the state has

Pakistan and led to hundreds of thousands of deaths. For what reason?

Peace & Justice' said that this historic day within its legal boundary. But according to all recognized UN resolutions and stated policy of the United Nations, Kashmir remains a disputed territory who future has to be decided according to the UN Charter and applicable UN Security Council resolutions. Therefore, India persists in allying itself with a position that has no legal, moral or constitutional authority to celebrate the Republic Day in occupied Kashmir. Its advocacy that Kashmir is integral part of India is no doubt the prime cause of continued suffering in Kashmir and persistent violations at the Ceasefire Line, sustaining the potential for more all-out war between India and Pakistan," Dr. Fai added.

Fai reiterated that India has defied United Nations Security Council resolutions for more than 76 years because she knows Kashmiris will never vote in her favor. The irony of the fate is that even Biden administration would like India to be the member of the Security Council whose resolutions have been blatantly violated by India right

"India also violates the basic right to the people of Kashmir, like freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, freedom of travel, freedom of assembly and above all freedom to choose their destiny. But that freedom to choose their destiny has to take place in an atmosphere that is free from coercion, intimidation and the military occupation by 900,000 Indian military and paramili-

since defined the conflict between India and tary forces who pillage and kill at will," Fai

Dr. Fai cited the reports of various inter-"India certainly has the right to celebrate" national NGO's which show that the killing fields in Kashmir continue to be sown with the blood of women, children and young boys. The United Nations cannot simply stand by and allow India to continue to kill and torture and maim the people of Kashmir in this way. This must not stand. Perhaps now is the time for President Biden to act on his vision of global peace. The United States should realize that the time to merely try to defuse the tension between India and Pakistan is over. Now is the time to address the root cause of the tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad — the unresolved

dispute over Kashmir. Fai reminded President Biden of his statement that he gave in 2022 that "As people around the world, including nearly four million proud Indian-Americans, celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence on August 15, the United States joins the people of India to honor its democratic journey, guided by Mahatma Gandhi's enduring message of truth and non-violence." President Biden should also know that Mahatma Gandhi has also said that Kashmir's real rulers were its people and not its Maharajas. "If the people of Kashmir are in favor of opting for Pakistan, no power on earth can stop them from doing so. But they should be left free to decide for themselves." (Gandhi's Passion by Professor Stanley Wolpert, Page 247)

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai can be reached at gnfai2003@yahoo.com

Pakistan urges additional non-permanent seats in UNSC

Research Wing

akistan, which firmly opposes more permanent members in the U.N. Security Council, has called for ensuring equitable representation on the 15-member body by adding more elected member to make it more democratic and effective.

"A regional approach which ensures 'equitable geographical representation' should be the central proposition around which agreement can be developed on the size, categories, and other aspects of Security Council reform," Ambassador Munir Akram told delegates when the deadlocked Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) aimed at restructuring the Council resumed on Thursday.

In this regard, the Pakistani envoy underscored the need for flexibility to achieve the required consensus among all UN member states to overcome the stalemate in the reform negotiations.

"Effective and meaningful reform can be achieved ... only through the widest possible agreement of Member States i.e. consensus," he said.

While there were deficits in Security Council's ability to fulfill its principal responsibilities, Ambassador Akram said that adding to the ranks of the "privileged" (permanent members) in the Council was unlikely to offer answers to those deficits of the collective security architecture. "The reform of the Security Council must redress these deficits ... by enhancing the Council's representativeness, accountability, transparency and democracy," he said.

Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five key areas — the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General

Progress towards restructuring the Security Council remains blocked as G-4 countries — India, Brazil,

Germany and Japan — continue pushing for permanent seats in the Council, while the Italy/Pakistan-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group opposes any additional permanent members.

As a compromise, UfC has proposed a new category of members — not permanent members with longer duration in terms and a possibility to get re-elected.

The Security Council is currently composed of five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year terms. "The UfC's compromise proposals for longer-term

seats, with the prospects of re-election, could provide the pathway to reconciling the positions of all sides including the G-4," Ambassador Akram said. The presence of more elected Members could

enhance the representation and influence of the entire UN members vis-à-vis the oligopoly of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the Pakistani

"The creation of permanent seats for a few countries is the worst option for everyone else," he said, as it will deny opportunities for more frequent periodic election to 182 mostly smaller, member states which are not accorded this 'permanent' status and violating the principle of sovereign equality as well as the principles of equitable representation and equitable geopolitical distribution. "It will also make the Council even more unequal between permanent and non-permanent members and also more unaccountable."

"Accountability is a critical component of Security Council membership since the Council 'acts on behalf of the general membership," the Pakistani envoy said. "A State occupying a seat 'permanently' is not

The reason for the slow pace of progress in the IGN process was not procedural, he said. "Progress towards consensus has been blocked by the inflexible position adopted by a few member states who insist on acquiring privileged positions as new 'permanent members' of the Security Council."

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan: A new level of comprehensive strategic partnership

👺 Spokesman Report

n January 26, 2023, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, along with his wife, has arrived in Bishkek on a state visit.

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr-Zhaparov and his wife welcomed the distinguished guests at Manas International Airport.

There were folklore and musical performances for the two leaders, glorifying the friendship of Uzbek and Kyrgyz peoples. Following a short talk, President of Uzbekistan departed to the Ata-Beyit memorial complex.

On January 27, the official welcoming ceremony of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who is in Kyrgyzstan on a state visit, was held at the Ala Archa State Residence, in Bish-

A guard of honor was lined up in honor of the distinguished guest. The national anthems of the two countries were played.

Presidents Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Sadyr-Zhaparov bypassed the guard of honor and introduced members of official delegations.

The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Kyrgyzstan SadyrJaparov have met at «Ala Archa» state residence Having expressed his gratitude for the invita-

tion and a warm reception, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that Uzbek-Kyrgyz cooperation has been developing fruitfully over the past two years.

"Kyrgyzstan is our major strategic partner, close neighbor and trusted friend", Shavkat Mirziyoyev has said.

It has been stressed that the parties have managed to raise bilateral relations to a completely new level during the last two years. The completion of delimitation of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border was defined as a histor-

The negotiations focused on the development of bilateral political, trade and economic, investment, transport and communication, water and energy and interregional cooperation.

The President of Uzbekistan underscored that the bilateral trade volume has increased sevenfold in recent years. Last year alone, trade turnover grew by 30% to \$1.3 billion.

The governments of the two countries have been instructed to further expand trade volumes and the nomenclature of goods in mutual

The issues of implementing new joint investment projects in industrial, textile, energy, mining and agricultural sectors were consid-

To this end, the potential of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz Development Fund will be actively exploited.

counteraction against contemporary challeng-

The Presidents confirmed their mutual desire to continue beneficial cooperation as part of the multilateral structures.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of the Kyrgyz Republic SadyrZhaparov continued the talks in the delegation level with the participation of members of official delegations, heads of several ministries and regions of the two countries.

The President of Uzbekistan, once again expressing deep gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality, emphasized that Uzbekistan is sincerely happy with the successful socio-economic reforms being carried out in Kyrgyzstan under the leadership of President SadyrZhap-

It was noted with satisfaction that bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are developing dynamically. Contacts at the highest level have acquired a systemic and





intensive character, which has made it possible to significantly strengthen interaction, identify new growth points and enhance practical

The parties expressed their firm commitment and readiness to work together to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership. It was emphasized that the concluded historic Border Treaty was received with great enthusiasm by two fraternal nations.

During the talks, special attention was paid to the development of trade and economic cooperation. It was noted that last year the trade The leaders of the two states have also turnover reached \$1.3 billion. More than 300 defined as strategically significant. An agreement discussed the cooperation in regional structures joint ventures were created. Industrial cooperand international platforms, the issues of secuation projects are being implemented in varirity and stability in Central Asia, and effective ous sectors of the economy. The Uzbekistan Kyrgyzstan Development Fund has started financing real projects.

As part of the business forum held the day before, a solid package of contracts worth \$1.6 billion was signed.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev outlined the main priorities for mutually beneficial cooperation. This is, first of all, increasing the volume and expanding the range of mutual trade.

To this end, the parties agreed to work out the issues of substituting imports from third countries with affordable products from manufacturers, as well as creating shopping centers in the capitals of the two countries.

Within the framework of industrial cooperation, it was proposed to work out new investment projects worth about \$500 million. This is the production of cars, modern household appliances, building materials, joint mining and processing of minerals.

The Leader of Uzbekistan highlighted the strengthening of cooperation in agriculture as another important area of cooperation in the

context of food security.

This will be served by the implementation of the agricultural cooperation program, which provides for the launch of joint projects for the development of intensive gardens and greenhouses, the supply of potatoes, fruits and vegetables and livestock products, the cultivation of agricultural products, and others.

The President of Uzbekistan also noted the importance of enhancing partnership and direct contacts between the regions of the two coun-

Interaction in transport and logistics was was reached to intensify work on the construction of the "China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan" railway, to maximize the potential of the "Andijan - Osh - Irkeshtam" highway, and to create a joint transport and logistics company for this

The main attention at the meeting was paid to cooperation in the energy sector. The need to intensify joint efforts to implement projects in the hydropower industry, including the construction of the Kambarata HPP-1, was

The President of Uzbekistan also noted the importance of enhancing collaboration in the cultural and humanitarian sphere. Several specific initiatives have been put forward aimed at strengthening the friendship between the people of the two countries, which are united by a common history and religion, language and culture.

Among them is a wide celebration of the 95th anniversary of the outstanding Kyrgyz writer ChingizAitmatov, staging a joint performance at the opening of the Osh State Academic Uzbek Music and Drama Theater named after Babur, creating a new format - the Dialogue of Generations with the active involvement of the intelligentsia and youth, holding student sports contests, joint festivals and concerts, creative

Following the talks within the framework of the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Kyrgyzstan, a ceremony of signing and exchanging documents took place.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President SadyrZhaparov signed a Declaration that brings bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level of comprehensive strategic partnership.

In the presence of the Presidents, an exchange of signed interstate, intergovernmental, interdepartmental and interregional agreements also took place. 25 documents were signed,

- Protocol on the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Treaty on certain sections of

Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan State Border;

cles in the Kyrgyz Republic; partnership for 2023-2025;

- Cooperation Agreement on organizing the production of automotive and commercial vehi-

- Program of strategic trade and economic

The Leader of Uzbekistan highly appreciated the results of the high-level meetings, held in a trusting and constructive spirit. He noted that the parties discussed in detail the key areas of multifaceted interaction and made specific decisions to deepen it.

It was emphasized that a truly historic event in bilateral relations was the conclusion of the Treaty on Separate Sections of the Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan State Border.

"A complete settlement of the border delimitation issue will certainly play an important role in the development of bilateral cooperation and border exchanges, will contribute to strengthening stability and security in our region", Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

One of the important documents adopted following the talks was the Declaration on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. As the President of Uzbekistan noted, this is the beginning of a new stage in the development of multifaceted cooperation in the interests of two countries and peoples.

The most important priority in collaboration is the expansion of trade and industrial cooperation. In recent years, the trade turnover between the countries has grown sevenfold, reaching \$1.3 billion.

The governments of the countries have been tasked with bringing the trade turnover up to \$2 billion, including through active import substitution and the creation of shopping centers.

The successful implementation of this goal will be served by the contracts and agreements signed during the previous business forum for \$1.6 billion.

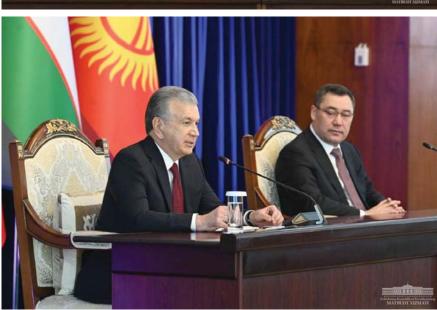
Among the major cooperation projects is the launch of the production of cars, building materials, textile products and yarn, electrical goods and electronic meters. The parties are interested in the implementa-

tion of large infrastructure projects in the energy and extractive industries, including the coal industry, with the participation of enterprises and investors from the two countries.

To organize this work on a systemic basis, the Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan Development Fund will be expanded, a comprehensive program of strategic trade and economic partnership for 2023-2025 and an Agreement on the development of priority areas of the industry will adopted.

As part of ensuring food security, the parties agreed to jointly grow and supply agricultural products, taking into account the needs of the







of citizens: - Protocol on introducing amendments to the Memorandum on the Establishment of the

Council of Heads of Border Regions. Cooperation agreements were signed between ministries and agencies in agriculture, energy,

customs, development of priority areas of industry, innovation and scientific research, youth support, as well as a Plan for celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplo-Comprehensive programs were also signed to enhance cooperation for 2023-2025 between

Jizzakh and Issyk-Kul regions, Andijan and Osh regions, Fergana and Batken regions, Namangan and Jalal-Abad regions. Presidents of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev

and Kyrgyzstan SadyrZhaparov held a briefing for media representatives.

The President of Uzbekistan sincerely thanked the President and the people of Kyrgyzstan for the traditionally warm and cordial welcome.

"It is symbolic that our state visit is taking place in the year of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan", Shavkat Mirzi-

Another strategic direction is the development of transport communications.

"The success of our efforts largely depends on the effectiveness of cooperation in transport", the President of Uzbekistan said.

During the talks, the leaders agreed to intensify efforts to build the China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan railway. The energy sector, in particular the issues of joint construction of the Kambarata HPP-1, also became a subject of detailed discussion.

"This mega-project will undoubtedly serve the sustainable development of not only Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, but also our entire region", the President of Uzbekistan emphasized.

The main attention at the talks was paid to the intensification of interregional ties. Regular meetings of the Council of Heads of Border Regions will serve to deepen them.

We have no analogue of such a unique platform with any other country", Shavkat Mirzi-

Special attention was paid to strengthening interaction in the cultural and humanitarian It was noted that the Uzbek Music and Drama

Theater named after Babur, the reconstruction of which is being completed in the city of Osh, will become a bright symbol of friendship between the people of the two countries.



Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
40,450.53	40,846.53		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
41,095.56	40,402.72		
Index Value	Change		
6,291,721,774	-396.00		
Percentage	Time		
-0.97%	Jan 27, 2023 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
7,759.79	-1.32		
Percentage	Time		
-0.0081	27 Jan, 4:28 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
33,980.98	+31.57		
Percentage	Time		
+0.093%	27 Jan, 11:32 am GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		

Open Market Forex Rates

+19.81

Time

27 Jan. 3:15 pm

GMT+9

27,382.56

Percentage

+0.072%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	178.5	180.9
Bahrain Dinar	644.19	652.19
Canadian Dollar	187.5	189.7
China Yuan	35.71	36.11
Danish Krone	35.38	35.78
Euro	275.75	278.5
Hong Kong Dollar	30.94	31.29
Indian Rupee	2.97	3.08
Japanese Yen	2.5	2.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	793.09	802.09
Malaysian Ringgit	57.02	57.62
NewZealand \$	156.69	158.69
Norwegians Krone	24.46	24.76
Omani Riyal	629.39	637.39
Qatari Riyal	66.54	67.24
Saudi Riyal	67.25	67.9
Singapore Dollar	184.38	186.38
Swedish Korona	23.51	23.81
Swiss Franc	263.01	265.51
Thai Bhat	7.38	7.53
U.A.E Dirham	69.75	70.45
UK Pound Sterling	313	316
US Dollar	264	266

FINCA Microfinance Bank Explores Merger with APNA Microfinance Bank

👺 Bureau Report



LAHORE: FINCA Microfinance Bank, Limited (FINCA Pakistan) is taking initial steps to explore the viability of a merger with Apna Microfinance

Bank, Limited (Apna). Both banks share the ambition of alleviating poverty throughout the country. The two banks have signed a non-binding letter of intent in this regard and have been granted approval by the State Bank of Pakistan to start the due-diligence

The combined entity would be one of the largest microfinance institutions in Pakistan and empower FINCA Pakistan to expand its mission to bring poor entrepreneurs out of poverty through access to financial services and education.

"FINCA Pakistan is committed to enabling more low-income entrepreneurs to achieve financial health and invest in their futures and their communities," said FINCA Pakistan's CEO Jahanzeb Khan. "If a merger is realized, we will improve our ability to saturate both rural and urban areas with microfinance services and expand our focus on women and rural customers. We are excited to learn more about Apna."

FINCA Pakistan offers an experienced management team and staff, a strong brand reputation, digital financial services, and a commitment to following internationally recognized banking standards. FINCA Pakistan is the first microfinance bank in Pakistan to receive client protection certification under the Smart Certification standards in the country.

FINCA Pakistan is part of FINCA Impact Finance (FIF), an international network of 16 microfinance banks that share information, resources, and best practices in microfinance and financial inclusion. For close to 40 years, FINCA's microfinance banks and institutions have empowered tens of millions of people to build their financial

ICCI shows concerns over falling forex reserves and depreciating rupee

Example 2 Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has shown great concerns over the falling forex reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan, which have tumbled down to a new low level of around US\$ 3.7 billion and sharp erosion in the value of rupee, which has fallen to over Rs.265 against a dollar in the open market on Friday. These indicators show that if immediate corrective measures are not taken, the economy of Pakistan would be heading towards a collapse.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that strong foreign exchange reserves of a country give confidence to the local and foreign investors, but the continuous fall in the forex reserves of Pakistan are shaking the confidence of the business community and the potential investors. He said that the government in consultation with the private sector should take war footing measures to boost exports and divert remittances through banking channels to improve the foreign reserves of the country. He said that over 9000 contain-



petroleum products, LNG and soybean are time to save the business community from stuck up at ports due to shortage of dollars. He further losses. stressed that the government should explore out of the box solutions to improve the foreign ed fall in the value of rupee in just two days exchange reserves to ensure that all essen- would not only trigger a new wave of inflation,

ICCI President said that the unprecedenters carrying essential commodities including tial imported consignments are cleared on the expensive loans after the interest rate hike social unrest.

would hit the industrial activities. He said that the weak rupee would also increase the landed cost of imported goods and industrial raw materials besides making the life of common man more miserable. He said that SBP had increased the interest rate to tame the inflation, but the latest currency devaluation would negate the SBP's efforts to check food prices. He stressed that the government should take solid measures to bring stability in the local currency to save the businesses and the people from its harmful consequences.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that the costly borrowings after the hike in interest rate and falling value of rupee would make it more difficult to run the industries and this situation would lead to closure of more industries causing further unemployment.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the declining value of rupee would increase the prices of all imported food items besides hiking the prices of locally made items. This situation would make it very difficult for low-income people to manage food expenditures and the country can experience

Full implementation of IMF conditions is in the interest of Pakistan

™ Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said over the last several decades there has hardly been a finance minister who after lashing out against the IMF hasn't agreed to their conditions.

Statements against the IMF do not harm this institution, but we have to face the music therefore this practice should be stopped, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the cost a routine and once the loan is granted, of the delay in the implementation of the program is paid by the country and the

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that all finance ministers always claim to run the country without the support of any lender which results in an economic collapse.



the program is not implemented, which increases mistrust, he added.

He said that we should know the fact that the IMF does not ask any country for lending, rather it is the countries in trouble that beg for loans.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Saudi Arabia has also done a favor to Pakistan Borrowing from IMFs is delayed as by advising it to make reforms instead

of getting more loans, which made the government realize the seriousness of the situation, and they restored contact with the IMF and assured to meet all their conditions which have increased the value of the dollar in Pakistan by 30 rupees and a further increase is expected but it will increase the revenue, exports, remittances, and loans from IMF and friendly countries.

Barriers to acquisitions and rollover of loans will be removed, and general inflation, petroleum products, electricity, gas prices, markup, and debt burden will increase but all this is inevitable in the current situation.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that no one has been able to make reforms in Pakistan whether it is a political party or a dictatorship. No government ends the privileges given to the elite, nor does the subsidies are removed.

Electricity, gas, and energy policies, the price of energy, continued losses of failed institutions, and attempts to administratively devalue the dollar continue to burden the country's economy, he said.

Ufone 4G expands its bundle portfolio by launching 'UPower 140'

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G has expanded its popular 'UPower' portfolio by launching a new denomination offering - 'UPower 140'.

UPower 140 has a validity period of 7 days. The new offering intends to bring ease and convenience to all Ufone 4G customers, who could choose from four different options including All-In-One, Internet, and All Network Calling Bundles.

With the ever-increasing need for connectivity be it for work, learning, or entertainment, UPower 140 offers aggressive resources at the best price in the market Focusing on keeping every student and low-income individual connected to their loved ones UPower 140 is built to suit all kinds of calls users more data quota, SMS bundles as per their



minutes, high-speed internet, glitch-free calls and a variety of affordable bundles to choose from.

Ufone 4G users may dial *1234# from their handset to subscribe to UPower 140. visit any Ufone retailer or use Ufone's digital assets including MyUfone App, UPaisa, Ufone website, or other digital apps to join the fun and enablement.

Don't settle for less. upgrade to UPower 140 and experience the best value in the market. Ufone 4G's UPower is reflective of the company's longstanding commitment to enable and empower its customers by letting them choose their and data needs by giving desired calling, data, and

Agreement

Karachi: Hamdard Pakistan COO Dr. Arshad Saleem and A2Z Senior management officers of both institutions including Chief Technical Taimur Nazir posing a group photo after the signing ceremony of agreement for develop the information system Aegis of Hamdard Matab between Hamdard Pakistan and A2Z Creatorz.



Faysal Bank Partners with Mercantile Pakistan to provide BNPL facility



跨 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Faysal Bank partnered with Mercantile Pakistan (Authorized Apple Distributor) to provide a facility of Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) at a zero percent profit rate to its customers using its

payment cards This is the first time in Pakistan that customers buy Official Apple prodoutlets. During the rollout phase, over 100 mercanstart offering Apple official cycles.

products on 3, 6, 9 and 12 months' easy instalment plans.

Mercantile products will also be available on Favsal Bank DigiMall, Faysal Bank's Online Marketplace and via PIP options through call centers.

This partnership will enable easy payments for Faysal Bank customers via Mercantile Pakistan can avail BNPL facility to authorized channels while simultaneously leveraging ucts from authorized retail on the Faysal Bank platform's capacity to empower its authorized businesstile registered resellers will es through faster payment

DRAP CEO meets PPMA members

Example 2 Commerce Reporter

KARACHI: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) is all set to digitize its entire systems by the end of the current year to ensure hassle-free approval and registration of new medicines in the country as per the international best pharmaceutical practices.

This was stated by DRAP Chief Executive Officer, Asim Rauf while meeting the Karachi-based drug the honor and dignity of the mediproducers at a meeting organized by the South Zone of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PPMA). Rauf told the drug the necessary international accredmanufacturers that digitization of the DRAP was one step forward towards modernization of the pharmaceutical sector of the country as per international standards.

adopted to such an extent that medicine producers wouldn't be required to physically visit the DRAP offices not even once for getting necessary approvals for pharmaceutical products in the country.

Rauf said that the decades-old obsolete drug inspection system $was\,gradually\,being\,done\,away\,with$ and in its place, a risk-based auditing regime for drug industries was being introduced by the DRAP to uphold cine producers.

He urged the large producers of medicines that already have obtained itations to help other drug manufacturers in the country to meet the same global standards for enhancing medicinal exports from Pakistan.

He told the audience that the the government against imports. He said the automation would be DRAP had recommended to the



drug manufacturers to meet after government to deal in the Chinese currency RMB for the import of every six months to review the raw materials for drug production process of removing bottlenecks for and medical devices for uninterenhancing pharmaceutical exports rupted pharmaceutical production from Pakistan. in the country that could otherwise He said the pharmaceutical indusbe halted due to drastic measures by

try of Pakistan had the ability and competence to compete with drug The DRAP chief offered to the producers from any part of the

market of medicinal products. Also speaking at the meeting, PPMA Chairman, Syed Farooq

world for capturing the global export

Bukhari said that pharmaceutical exports from Pakistan stood at around US \$ 280 million a year. He said the PPMA had been

making efforts to enhance it to \$10 billion in the coming few years to become one percent of the global pharmaceutical export market.

Former PPMA Chairman, Kaiser Waheed, suggested to DRAP end its traditional system of inspecting drug manufacturing sites as instead, it should launch an advisory service for medicine producers to overcome technical gaps in their manufacturing facilities.

He said the DRAP should simplify and speed up the approval process for drug exporters from Pakistan.

US envoy praises athletes set to represent Pakistan in Berlin Special Olympics-2023

Sports Desk

KARACHI: United States Consul General in Karachi Nicole Theriot on Friday appreciated the young athletes going to represent Pakistan in the Special Olympic World Games-2023 scheduled from June 17 to 25, 2023 at Berlin, Germany.

She said this while speaking at a dinner hosted to honor the team of special players who would be participating in the Special Olympic World Games in Berlin this year.

The US CG said that the special players were an inspiration for everyone and a shining example for Pakistani society.

"I am really proud of these young athletes, "It is a great experience to spend time with such talented athletes," she

The US CG recalled that the Special Olympics, Chairperson Lakhani and



Olympic Games originated in the United States. "Today I feel happy and proud to attend the event representing my country here. I am excited for your participation in the upcoming games as the United States strongly advocates for the rights and equality of persons with disabilities in every respect, including

The dinner was hosted by Chairperson Special Olympic Pakistan, Ronak Lakhani. In promoting the Special her team have prepared a competitive contingent from Pakistan through their sponsorship efforts.

Addressing the gathering, Ronak Lakhani said that the athletes who win the honors for the country are role models for one and all.

"They are differently abled and by no means are less than the others. I hope that this time too, like in the past, our athletes will win the medals at the Special Olympics and bring dignity and pride to Pakistan by securing medals."

Also present at the event were the many qualified coaches working hard to ensure these special athletes are well prepared for the Special Olympic World Games-2023.

On this occasion, the athletes said that they were making full-fledged preparations for the mega event in Berlin and hopeful of winning honors for Pakistan. 2023 at , Berlin, Germany.

Expressing good wishes for the Pakistani contingent at the Special Olympic World Games, to be held in June this vear, German Consul General Rüdiger Lotz said: "I wish all these players a great time in Berlin and sincerely hope that not only do they perform at their best with their abilities but also learn and gain experience by playing against special players from around the world while enjoying the game and make the victory podium by doing so."

Later, the guests of honor, flanked by the athletes, also enjoyed a musical performance on the occasion.

It is pertinent to mention here that 7,000 Special Olympics athletes supported by more than 3,000 coaches and 20,000 volunteers belonging over 170 countries to participate in 24 sports during in the event from June 17 to 25,

Nick Faldo series golf trials commence at Rumanza Golf Course

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The three days trials to select a three participation in the Nick of Defence Raya, Parkha Ijaz. Faldo Golf Championship As for Yashal Shah, he cardin Vietnam, began yester- ed a gross score of 71, one day at the most alluring under par and Parkha Ijaz Rumanza Golf Course in also came up with an impres-DHA, Multan. Concurrently trials also began for selection of two lady players to game on this Nick Faldo represent the country in the Nick Faldo Golf Champion- the greens played to a speed ship to be held in Vietnam. of 11.5 which entails self For boys there are three age controlled and measured categories, age category 21 use of the putter .His drives years and under, age category under 18 years, and age cate- and shot making from the Omar Khalid Hussain. gory under 16 years. For girls fairways were devoid of lapsthe age categories are two, es. And as Salman Sabir the under 21 years and under

At the end of the first day,the two players who

stood out overall irrespec- Parkha Ijaz was certainly Hussain of Margalla Greens one boy (under 21 years) Syed Yashal Shah of Garrisive round of gross 72. Yashal Shah was in control of his designed golf Course where were precise and faultless Tournament Director stated the young ones are yearning

tive of the age category is the sublime one and noteworthy was her command during the 18 holes resulting member boys team, for son Golf Club and one girl in a round of gross 72. Her adversary is the purposeful Humna Amjad who trails her by four strokes. Over the remaining rounds one is likely to see a stirring contest for

> In the age category under 21 years, the top one is Yashal Shah and his rivals in the race for selection are Damil Ataullah and Omar Khalid Hussain .Yashal Shah enjoys a lead of three strokes over Damil and four strokes over

The participants positions in age category 16-18 years are Saad Habib Malik of Rumanza Golf Club at a score of gross 72.Two strokes In the girls section behind him is placed Irtiza Course, DHA, Multan.

at a score of 74. Another one Laraib ur Rehman of Peshawar is at gross 77.All through the 18 holes on Friday Saad Habib looked apt and capa-

The young ones in 12-16 years age category have a leader in Shameer Majid .His first round score was gross 75 .Following him are Ahmed Ibrahim at 78, M. Haseeb at 79 and Abbas Niazi at 79.

The race in Girls category 12-16 years is between Amina Tiwana of Royal Palm and Bushra Fatima of Lahore Garrison .Amina is placed at a score of gross 79 and one stroke behind her is Bushra Fatima.

The second round will tee off at 930 am on Saturday at the awesome Rumanza Golf

Quetta Gladiators vs Peshawar Zalmi match in Quetta on February 5



Sports Desk

QUETTA: Before the formal start of the Pakistan Super League, the Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi will be playing their match at Bugti Stadium of Quetta on February 5, 2023.

A handout issued by the Directorate of Public Relations on Friday said that Babar Azam will lead Peshawar Zalmi while Sarfaraz Ahmed will be the captain of the Quetta Gladiators.

Former captain Javed Miandad, Shahid Afridi, Mohammad Yousuf, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Moeen Khan, Wahab Riaz, Kamran Akmal, Umar Akmal, Wahid Bangulzai, Bismillah Khan, Haseebullah will also be

DPR handout said, tickets for the match will be available at Mahmood Mart Airport, Gulzari Travels Murreeabad, Jan Mall, Daska Sports Store, Bugti Stadium and Bolan Cricket Stadium.

It may be mentioned here that Peshawar Zalmi vs Quetta Gladiator match will be telecast live on PTV.

Chairman PCB Najam Sethi and other dignitaries will also watch the match at Bugti Stadium, Quetta.



Pakistan High Commission organises Pakistan-Bangladesh Friendship Badminton Tournament



№ News Desk

DHAKA: High Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui today opened the first Pakistan-Bangladesh Friendship Badminton tournament by unveiling the Tournament's Trophy here in Dhaka.

The tournament being played at Sports Complex in Purbachal, Dhaka is being played between twelve badminton teams from various embassies and UN bodies based in

Commenting on the objective of the event, the High Commissioner said that the tournament was part of series of events and activities the High Commission has been arranging to celebrate Pakistan Day.

Interacting with players, the High Commissioner expressed hope that the sporting event will help enhance goodwill and connectivity among the diplomatic missions besides fostering bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Bangladesh. Pakistan High Commission will continue to organise such tournaments with increased participation of all, he said.

Mr. Siddiqui appreciated the active participation of diplomatic missions and other organisations and wished good luck to the participating teams and players.

Organizing sports workshop by Pakistan Sports Promotion Society and KMC



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Sports workshop was organized in collaboration Sports Promotion Society and KMC and Culture Department, which gave lectures on sports techniques, fitness, injuries and remedies, administrative and organizing issues.

The workshop was attended by other schools colleges in the city, as well as VM Fatima School, Karachi Public School, Mama Parsi School, Alberoni School, Smart School, Kids Academy, National College, Aligarh College, Sports teachers and physical instructors

In the workshop, Prof.Khalid Munir of National College gave lectures on sports administration, Dr. Nadeem Akhtar on injuries, SM Nasir Ali on fitness and technique, well-known sports organizer Murad Hussain and former deputy director of sports KMC Nadim Khan gave lectures on sports organizing.

At the end of the workshop, Chief Guest Senior Director Culture and Sports KMC Saif Abbas Hasni distributed certificates to all the participants. On the occasion, Kahaf Alwara, Director Sports Aftab Qaim Khani, and in charge Faisal Zafar

On the instructions of the Central President of Pakistan Sports Promotion Society Tariq Abbasi, Imran Ahmed Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan specially participated along with the Sports Wing.

Domestic cricket

ISLAMABAD: Youngsters are busy in playing cricket in a ground at Bhara Kahu area, in Federal Capital.



First 'KP Badminton League' begins in Peshawar Sports Complex

PESHAWAR: The first Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton League-2023 Friday got underway here at Peshawar Sports Complex in which six best teams of the province are participating. and competitions for special individu-

Badminton League is being organized for the first time with the cooperation of Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Provincial Badminton Association in which six teams of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar Falcon, Bannu Green, Deer Royal, KP Police, Future Champions KP, and JJ Sports Peshawar will participate. The Badminton League will continue till January 30.

Talking to the media, DG Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Khan said that the province was taking vigorous measures for the promotion and development of sports, 90 percent of the work on the Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium was completed and the rest

ports Complex football ground, apart from this, various sports competitions will continue according to the schemes, in which Inter-Schools competitions als will be held in February and March.



On this occasion, the organizing secretary of the league, Nadeem Khan and Havatullah, said that the purpose of the league is to prepare the players for the National Junior and Senior Championships to be played in February.

They said through such league the juniors players while playing side-bywould be completed by June this year. side learn more from their senior play-The rest of the work will also be ers in the League. After the success-

completed this way. He said work is also ful conduct of the Pakistan Badmingoing on the upgradation of Qayyum ton League will also be organized very soon. He also thanked Director General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Khan for organizing this league.

In this league, National Champion Murad Ali, South Asian Champion Qari Adnan, National Junior Player Mohammad Zaid, U19 Umar Jahangir, U15 Champion Fahad Ahmed, U13 Champion Najam Saqib, U16 Champion Taimur Khan, Shoaib Riaz, Abdullah Latif, Zuhaib Khan are in this league. Many junior and senior players including Khalil, Tahir Khan, Uzair Khan, Hamza Khan, Afnan Khan are Administrator Peshawar Sports

Complex Syed Jafar Shah, Provincial Badminton Association Secretary Muhammad Amjad, Administrator Hayatabad Sports Complex Shah Faisal, International Badminton players Murad Ali, Qari Adnan, international badminton coaches Nadeem Khan and Hayat Ullah and other important personalities were present.

Winter Sports Festival 2023



跨 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Winter Sports Festival 2023, being organised under the auspices of Sports Board Punjab (SBP), rolled into action with a colourful opening ceremony at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Musarrat Jabeen and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi unveiled the trophy of Winter Sports Festival on this occa-

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Musarrat Jabeen announced the beginning of Winter Sports Festival to be staged at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex from January 27 to 29, 2023.

Director Admin Sved Umair

Hassan, Additional Secretary Sports Noorul Ain Fatima, Deputy Secretary Planning Marhaba Naimat, Director Sports Chand Perveen, Deputy Director Tariq Wattoo, Chief Consultant SBP Hafeez Bhatti, Assistant Director Zahoor Ahmed, Assistant Directors Shaista Qaiser and Zareena Waqar, Assistant Director Youth Affairs M Sajid, District Sports Officer Tanveer Shah, Administrator NPSC Gymnasium Hall Mustafa Shah, senior coach Raees ur Rehman and all Divisional Sports Officers were also present at the grand inaugural ceremony.

All the participants stood in respect of the National Anthem in the opening ceremony. Young artists and performers also presented attractive tambora and sufi performances and won huge appreciation from sports enthusiasts

present at the venue. Badminton star Waseem Shaheen took oath from all the contingents on this occasion.

The colourful opening ceremony was also witnessed by a large number of male and female players and sports officials. The contingents from all ten divisions of the province took part in march past in the inaugural ceremony.

As many as 300 male and female top athletes, who performed excellently and won medals in 73rd edition of Punjab Games 2022, and 70 officials, are participating in the mega Winter Sports Festival.

The male and female athletes from all districts and divisions will exhibit their talent in six games - athletics, badminton, boxing, football, judo and table tennis during the 3-day Winter Sports Festival.